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EDIMGIAFAD

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2 Sections, 18 Pages

WORD OF THE DAY

STRENGTH AND HONOR ARE HER CLOTHING; SHE SHALL REJOICE IN TIME TO COME.
 PROVERBS 31:25 (NKJV)

This is... Robins



Check out this month's edition of **This is Robins**

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PERIODICAL

'We are truly unstoppable'

Empower Her Women's Panel gives unique perspective on womanhood

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
 HHJ Managing Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — As part of Women's History Month, local leaders gathered at the North Houston Sports Complex on Wednesday for a candid discussion about balancing work, life, and motherhood. Organized by the City of Warner Robins, the Empower Her Women's Panel offered an inspiring and meaningful morning of conversation.

Mayor LaRhonda Patrick served as the moderator, joined by an esteemed panel of women leaders: Justice Verda Colvin of the Georgia Supreme Court, Dr. Anjali Patel Nagar of the Pavilion Family Medicine Center, Christina O'Brien, CEO of Robins Financial Credit



Local industry leaders speak during the Empower Her Women's Panel on Wednesday March 26. (Left-right): Mayor LaRhonda Patrick, Jessica Walden, Monica Diaz-Meek, Christina O'Brien, Dr. Anjali Patel Nagar, Justice Verda Colvin.

Union, Monica Diaz-Meek, anchor at 41NBC/WMG, and Jessica Walden, CEO of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce.

To kick off the discussion, the panelists shared stories of overcoming barriers

placed on them by others.

O'Brien noted that executive positions in her industry are still primarily held by men, making it crucial to block out negativity from naysayers.

"Don't ever lose sight of

what's important to you, your journey, what you need to do to be successful, and block out as much of that," she advised. "Don't let them take your sunshine."

Nagar, born with only one hand, recalled being

told by an anesthesiologist in medical school that she wouldn't be able to intubate a patient. It was the first time in years she had heard someone say she couldn't do something—so she set out to prove them wrong. She encouraged women to use doubt as motivation rather than discouragement.

"I went to the simulation lab and practiced intubating with one hand," she recalled. "I figured out a strategy that worked for me and went back. I told them, 'I can intubate. I just need a type of instrument called a GlideScope.' It's a video where you can actually see where you're going. And I think that day, I intubated 10 patients."

Colvin recounted applying for a judgeship and

See **PANEL** page 3A

City of Warner Robins moves forward in next phase of Operation Reawaken

By **OWEN JONES**
 HHJ Staff Writer
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WARNER ROBINS — Another step in Operation Reawaken is in the books as the City of Warner Robins demolished the second vacant property on Commercial Circle, Tina's Barber and Style Shop.

"There's a lot of memories right here at Tina's, when this Commercial Circle was thriving and bustling with visitors and businesses," Mayor LaRhonda Patrick said. "As we move forward with revitalizing our downtown, demolition is required by removing the old and bringing something new and thriving to breathe life back into this very area that many years ago was the center of our city."

Patrick said this is the sixth demolition as a part of Operation Reawaken.

"These efforts are critical to preparing downtown for a vibrant, modern commu-

nity that our residents and businesses deserve," she said.

To make the efforts of Operation Reawaken possible, Patrick mentioned they have invested approximately \$5.4 million into revitalizing the downtown area.

"The funds that we paid to purchase land, remediate ground and demolish buildings came solely from SPLOST funds, CDBG grants and also EPA grants," she said. "All forces came from sources outside of our operating funds, which again shows us we are great stewards of your tax dollars."

Patrick emphasized the importance and impact Tina's has made on the community.

"To those, Tina's means a lot to a lot of people and it means a lot to the City of Warner Robins as well, and the future that will come means even more," she said. "My heart goes out to the family and I sympathize



The next phase in Operation Reawaken results in demolishing the second vacant property on Commercial Circle, Tina's Barber and Style Shop.

with any of the landowners who sold to the city for Operation Reawaken."

Owner of Tina's Barber and Style Shop, Tina Chumacero, and her daughter Maritza shared a few words.

"This little shop held so

many memories and wonderful families for so many years. Thank you for supporting and being there for us as it means so much to us," Maritza Chumacero said.

Tina Chumacero said her

See **PHASE** page 3A

13-year-old cold case closes with guilty plea

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
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WARNER ROBINS — Dendrick Devonte Solomon, 31, was sentenced to life in prison, with the possibility of parole, for one count of rape in a case deemed cold for 13 years.

According to the media release, the incident happened in May 2010 when Solomon was 17. At the time, he lived a few minutes away from the victim, but the two were strangers.

The victim was 40 years old at the time. On the night of the incident, the victim woke up to use the bathroom and noticed someone in her living room. The media release says she called out to him, he told her to shut up and he approached her in the bathroom.

The victim attempted to fight him off but he bit her finger and punched her in the face multiple times. Solomon beat the victim to the point where she briefly lost consciousness. When she regained consciousness, Solomon was raping her. He forced her to perform various sexual acts before he fled the victim's home.

The media release says when Warner Robins Police Department responded to the victim's house, they found her beaten and bloody. They observed multiple facial injuries and an injury on her finger. Evidence of the brutal crime was found in her bathroom and she was taken for medical care at Houston Healthcare.

As part of her medical care, the victim's fingernails

See **CASE** page 7A

Houston County Sheriff's Office responds to traffic stop allegations

By **OWEN JONES**
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HOUSTON COUNTY — The Houston County Sheriff's Office is speaking out after a traffic stop earlier this month led to allegations made against the department.

On Saturday, March 8, at 2:02 p.m. the Houston County Sheriff's Office Traffic Division began initiating a traffic stop with a vehicle going on I-75 South.

According to a media release, the vehicle was going 63 miles per hour in the left lane, impeding the flow of traffic and in violation of Georgia law.

When the Sheriff's Office

deputy made contact with the driver, Jalil Lofton, and explained the reason for the traffic stop, the release said the deputy smelled the odor of raw marijuana coming from inside the vehicle.

"A second deputy was requested to the scene of the traffic stop. Upon arrival of the second deputy, Mr. Lofton and a rear seat passenger, Keywon Mitchell, were asked to exit the vehicle," the release said. "Mr. Lofton and Mr. Mitchell both complied with all lawful requests made by the deputies."

However, when the deputies made contact with the front seat passenger, Omar Wright, and requested him to step out of the vehicle,

Wright refused to comply. After multiple attempts to lawfully get him out of the vehicle, the release said deputies opened the door and assisted Wright out of the vehicle and placed him under arrest for Obstruction of Officers. He then refused to put his hands behind his back at the officer's request.

"In an effort to gain control Mr. Wright, he was tased and taken down to the ground where he was subsequently handcuffed without further incident," the release said. "The search incident to arrest resulted in the discovery of an amount of green leafy material believed to be marijuana on Mr. Wright's person." Wright was then trans-

ported to the Houston County Sheriff's Office Detention Center. He was charged with two counts of Obstruction of Officers and Possession of Marijuana Less than One Ounce. Lofton was given a citation for impeding the flow of traffic. The release said Lofton and Mitchell were released at the scene.

Following the incident, the release said Wright's mother Juana Ash made allegations on social media that deputies brutally attacked her son. She then filed a complaint against the deputies involved.

"Allegations of this nature are taken very seriously,

See **STOP** page 3A

She Means BUSINESS

Local women making an impact

Perry Chamber President brings an empathetic approach to leadership

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
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PERRY — The Perry Area Chamber of Commerce has a long history of growing a strong business community and supporting its members. At the helm of these efforts is the Chamber's President and CEO Maggie Schuyler.

Originally from Moultrie, Schuyler earned her Bachelor's in Public Relations and Master's in Higher Education & Administration from Georgia Southern University in 2007. Interestingly, her first job out of college brought her straight to the Perry Chamber, where she spent two and a half years as an events specialist.

"I didn't know anything about a Chamber of Commerce. I thought it would be really fun to plan events," she admitted. "Little did I know what all that was actually going to entail."

Wanting to put her Master's degree to use, Schuyler built a career in higher education, working as an admissions recruiter at Middle Georgia Technical College, an outreach specialist for the Georgia Student Finance Commission, and later as Assistant Director of Admissions at Middle Georgia State University.

When her husband, a football coach, took a job in Canton, she became Director of Admissions at Georgia Highlands College. But after three years—and a restructuring at the college—her position was dissolved.

"I always thought I was going to be in higher education. That's what I had put 14 years of hard work and dedication into," she said. "When they dissolved my job, I was just devastated. But I came home, my husband and I talked, and he said, 'It's all going to be fine. It's all going to work out.'"

Within two weeks, her husband accepted a coaching job in Forsyth, bringing them back to Middle Georgia. While in the middle of moving, Schuyler received a call from Ashley Brown, then treasurer of the Chamber's Board of Directors. He encouraged her to apply for the Chamber President position.

"I humored Ashley and said, 'Sure, I'll apply, but only if I get to talk to the Chairman of the Board,' who was Scott Cox at the time," she recalled. "Scott called me, and we talked on the phone for almost an hour. I was like, 'I really like him.' ... He's a great guy, and he put me at ease about the position and what it would entail."



Maggie Schuyler

Schuyler officially came full circle, returning to the Perry Chamber—this time as President and CEO in August 2021.

Schuyler's passion for leadership was inspired by the strong women in her family. Her mother served as director of the Moultrie County Public Library for 36 years, while her grandmothers paved their own paths: one as a teacher and the other in the lumber industry.

She also draws inspiration from women in her professional network, including Margo Woodham, director of administration at Middle Georgia State University, and Sheila Jones, former executive director of the Perry Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Initially content in her role as Director of Admissions, the sudden job loss forced her to consider her next steps, if she was ready for a bigger leadership role. While the uncertainty was daunting, she quickly realized her years of experience had prepared her well.

She said one of the biggest hurdles was perception; at just 38 years old, she had to overcome doubts about her experience and capability. But as she leaned on her mentors and a network of business professionals, she found the encouragement she needed to step forward with confidence.

"I was in admissions, but I had to work with academic affairs, financial aid, recreation, sports. I had to work with the president's office. I was constantly having to work with all kinds of different people. That helped me be prepared for working with all the different types of people that I work with now," Schuyler said.

As a woman in leadership, Schuyler leads with friendship, passion, and empathy. She strives to make difficult decisions with compassion and ensure her role doesn't create distance between her and those she works with.

"I like to build a friendship, camaraderie, partnership, type of a relation-

ship with people because I want people to see me as the leader that they can come and actually talk to, not the leader that they're concerned or worried about talking to," she said.

Schuyler leads an all-female office staff, a team she fully supports while encouraging each member to leverage their strengths for the betterment of the Chamber. A recent example was the Chamber's Annual Meeting; Schuyler led the event with her overarching vision, while office manager Jara Hurt brought the creative elements to life, and membership and operations director Joiretta Harris handled logistics.

Beyond their internal teamwork, the Chamber fosters an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, where camaraderie extends beyond their office walls.

"One of the things that I've seen is they genuinely love their jobs. I love my job. We all love helping the community, and because we're all friendly, warm and welcoming, people want to be a part of that," Schuyler said.

Through her leadership journey, Schuyler has learned the power of delegation and the importance of considering every perspective. For aspiring leaders and entrepreneurs, her biggest advice is to do their homework, to truly understand what their goals require and where they fit into the bigger picture.

She also emphasizes that leadership isn't limited to executives or CEOs—it's for everyone.

"You can be a leader on your marketing team. You can be a leader at your church. You can be a leader at your kid's school. There's all different types of leaders out there. It doesn't mean just being the boss or being the CEO or the President. I think anybody can be a leader. You've just got to figure out where in your life you need to be one," she said.

Proud of her tight-knit community, Schuyler encourages Houston County to support local businesses and entrepreneurs. She's especially grateful for the strong network of women supporting women in Perry, recalling multiple times after family losses when the community rallied around her with unwavering kindness. That same compassion fuels her leadership style.

"I love how the community comes out and supports each other, and that's one of the biggest things about being a leader in general, but [also] a female leader," she said. "They have that compassion and they're going to help you out in your time of need. I think that's great."

Multi-business owner achieves dream of starting a tattoo and piercing studio

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
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WARNER ROBINS — Savage Art Tattoo and Just Lobes Piercing Studio is a safe place to get a sentimental tattoo or to get a shiny piercing for all ages and owner JoAnna Sabrina Harper, otherwise known as Sabrina Savage, is committed to achieving her dream of becoming a multi-business owner.

The tattoo and piercing studio is Harper's first in middle Georgia and she considers herself a multi-business owner. Savage Art and Just Lobes are at the same location on 114 Constitution Drive. Just Lobes was at a separate location, and Harper hopes it will have a storefront by the end of the year.

Harper also runs the Ink Nation Expo, a tattoo coalition and event company. She looks forward to the coalition's first event in May.

With her dream starting at 12-years-old, Harper has been working for herself since 2008 and has been tattooing since 2012. Her business is now approaching its fourth anniversary.

Harper said her business journey came with challenges. She tried starting a business when she was younger, but it did not work out. It wasn't until she met her husband and was able to move her best friend to middle Georgia that she felt she had a strong support system and found out her best course of action.

Growing up, Harper was always interested in art. She remembered the first time she saw a girl at school with a tongue piercing, which was considered taboo back then. She said she knew from the moment she stuck her tongue out at her she wanted to perform body piercings.

Harper started in body piercings and said her cli-

ents started to ask her when she would start tattooing. However, at the time, she felt intimidated by the craft and told her clients she didn't think it was for her.

In her early 20s, she lost both of her parents; as an only child, she felt alone in the world. At 27, she had three children. Working multiple jobs, she believed she could start tattooing and face her fears.

"I knew in my bones and in my heart and soul and I felt compelled to do it. I knew that I could do this thing that was the scary thing. So, I began to learn as much as I could about it," she said.

Harper shared she had the pleasure of working with a lot of amazing professionals because of her background in piercing, learning more about tattooing in the process.

Harper moved to Florida, where she was more hands-on in her tattoo career and developed a lot of strength. Eventually, she moved back to Georgia and worked at studios before she met her husband. They were able to take a financial advantage which allowed them to open a studio and mark their place in middle Georgia.

Harper's favorite part of owning a business is creative and fun things she can do for her clients and the community. She also loves making treat bags, hosting celebrations, talking with people and using her craft to generate a form of contribution to the community.

Every year, the studio hosts a charity drive for foster children in Houston County, and Harper said people have come to rely

See **TATTOO** page 7A



Courtesy: JoAnna Sabrina Harper

JoAnna Sabrina Harper has developed her skills over time. Now, she is able to do any tattoo, big or small.

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2025 Talent Hunt Competition

Calling All High School Performers!

The Omega Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. invites Houston County high school students (grades 9-12) to showcase their talents in our Annual Talent Hunt Competition! Whether you sing, dance, act, play an instrument, or create visual art—this is your stage!

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Location: Fellowship Bible Baptist Church, Reid Building (Warner Robins, GA)

Cash Prizes: 1st Place - \$500; 2nd Place - \$350; 3rd Place - \$200

Categories: Music (Vocal & Instrumental), Dance, Theater (Drama, Comedy, Spoken Word), Visual Arts

Application Deadline: April 23, 2025, at 11:59 PM

How to Register: Download and submit both the Talent Hunt Application & Parental Consent Form to qggtalent-hunt@gmail.com.

For more details, visit qggques.org. Encourage your students and friends to participate—let's celebrate the talent in Houston County!

Houston-Peach AAUW Meeting

Meredith S. McGowan, LPC, NCC, MS, MBA, will be the featured speaker at the Houston-Peach AAUW meeting on Tuesday, April 8. Her specialties are Behavioral Health/Addiction services and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Life Line. She is employed with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Guests are invited to her program which begins at 6:30 PM. Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 129 S. Houston Road, Warner Robins, GA, 31088. A lighted parking lot in the rear of the three story building provides access via double doors where an AAUW member is available to provide further direction to the meeting room.

PHASE

From page 1A

shop had given her a lot of good friends and customers.

"I appreciate everyone from the bottom of my heart for those that supported me. This is breaking my heart that this shop is going to be gone. Thank you so much to everyone in Warner Robins," she said.

With being one step closer to providing the citizens of Warner Robins a new downtown area, Patrick said their immediate next step in Operation Reawaken is seeing remediation taking place.

"We've already shared the renderings of Commercial Circle, and once we finish that project of rolling out the plans and continuing our demolitions, we will then go into an

20th Annual Old Book Sale

Houston County Friends of the Library is hosting the 20th Annual Old Book Sale at the GA National Fairgrounds in the Georgia Grown/Baby Barn Building from Thursday April 24th to Saturday April 26th.

Over 90,000 books in 60 categories will be in the building ready for sale.

Admission will be \$5.00 on Thursday going from 10AM to 8PM.

Admission will be free on Friday and Saturday going from 9AM to 8PM Friday and 9AM to 3PM Saturday. All items half price on Saturday!

Cash, Check, Credit, and Debit all accepted. (Convenience fee for electronic transactions.)

For more information, please call (478)-923-0128 or visit <http://houpl.org>. Click "Support the Library," then click "Friends of the Library."

Queen Elizabeth's Royal Ball

Welcome to Queen Elizabeth's Royal Ball! Join us for a night of elegance and grandeur at the Anderson Conference Center. This is a Bridgerton theme event. Get ready to dance the night away in a setting fit for royalty. This in-person event promises to be a night to remember, filled with live music, live performances, food, and unforgettable memories. Don't miss your chance to experience a taste of the royal life at this majestic ball. Get your finest Victorian (Bridgerton) attire ready and come celebrate in style at Queen Elizabeth's Royal Ball!

The Ball will take place April 26th, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the 5171 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon.

CGGS April Meeting

The April 14 monthly meeting of the Central Georgia Genealogy Society will feature a treat for Georgia history followers. Sandersville physician Dr. William Rawlings is a noted author of multiple fiction and nonfiction books which explore rural Georgia and how the crash of the cotton economy in the late 1920s changed the state's demographics, economics, and politics. One of his books, "A Killing on Ring Jaw Bluff," is set in that era and is the account of Charles Graves Rawlings, a successful businessman and landowner who was criminally charged after the murder of his cousin. Dr. Rawlings' combination of family history and southern suspense will be a treat for those genealogists searching for historical clues in their family histories, especially during those challenging 1920s in Georgia.

For this meeting, we will meet in person at Trinity United Methodist Church in Warner Robins at 7:00. Members and guests who prefer to attend virtually can register for the Zoom link at www.cggs.org. Trinity UMC is located at 129 South Houston Road, 31088, at the corner with Pineview Drive. The lighted parking lot can be entered from Pineview Drive. Enter the three-story building through the double doors. A CGGS member will be stationed at the entrance to guide attendees to the meeting.

Ed Barker

Former Georgia State Senator Ed Barker passed away March 23, 2025 at his home in Clayton, GA. He celebrated his 90th birthday in February. He had been in Hospice care for many months.

Born in Augusta, GA, he was raised in Warner Robins, GA. He was the eldest of six children who began working at a young age including operating a gas station in high school. After graduating from Warner Robins High School and briefly attending Mercer University, he took over the family furniture business founded in 1944. He got involved in the growing community including serving as President of the Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce and Air Force Association.

Ed represented the 18th Senatorial District in middle Georgia for nine consecutive terms; 1973 until retirement in 1991.

Upon leaving state politics, he and Janet moved to Highlands, NC where they



owned a successful furniture and decorator showroom for twenty plus years, eventually retiring to Clayton in Rabun County, Georgia.

Preceding him in death, parents C.W. and Bertha Barker, son Eric Joseph Barker, brother Carlton and sister, Barbara.

He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Janet Belflower Barker; sons; Eddie Barker (Debi Ledford) and Billy Barker; daughter Jackie Barker (Paul Monroe); grand-

children William Barker (Jess), Kaylie Barker (Josh Walsh), Eric Barker (Allison), Dustin Monroe (Emily), and Sherri McCracken (Russ); five great grandchildren; and siblings Alvin (Ellen), Marshall and Jerry (Gayle) Barker.

Ed leaves behind many friends from across the state, especially the members of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church where a Life Celebration will be held 3:00pm Saturday March 29, 2025 with a reception following. Burial will take place at 2:00pm on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at Magnolia Park Cemetery in Warner Robins.

Memorial contributions honoring Ed may be made to Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church or to Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements and is honored to serve the family of Ed Barker. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

PANEL

From page 1A

being told by a respected judge that she wouldn't get it. Rather than dwell on it, she trusted in her own path.

"They put a cloud over your sunshine, and so you just have to move past it. And my thought was, 'What God has for me is for me. So, I'm not going to worry about it.' ... Regardless of what has happened, regardless of statistics, if it is meant for you, it is yours," she said.

Diaz-Meek faced discouraging comments in college from professors who suggested that motherhood would limit her career. Later, in her first news job, a director made similar remarks after she became a parent. She had to constantly advocate for herself, using those comments as fuel rather than setbacks.

"It seems as if we're in this spot where we have a lot of people - naysayers, per se - putting you in this box where if you want to have children, you can't have a career, and that has been discouraging. But also you use it as fuel to keep fighting, to show I can be a great mom, a great wife and a great employee," she said.

Walden agreed that proving naysayers wrong is often the best response to negativity. When she ran for public office, she encountered political opposition that sought to discourage her. She noted that community issues shouldn't be partisan, yet women in leadership often face different standards than their male counterparts.

"When it comes to our communities, we're not Democrats or Republicans. We're Macon; we're Houston County; the pothole does not care. It's frustrating, because I have male counterparts who I know their politics, and it doesn't seem to get in their way, but as a

woman who had put herself out there, I had exposed myself to that. Again, it's been satisfying to prove that wrong," she said.

Patrick reminded the audience that women striving for their goals will inevitably face challenges, but they don't have to face them alone.

"Sometimes you feel like you're by yourself, depending on what your career field is or what your story is, but if we come together, we really do encourage and inspire each other, so you feel a little bit stronger," she said.

Another key topic centered on the balance between authenticity and perception—how women navigate being seen as "too intense" or "too intimidating" in leadership roles.

Walden reframed intensity as a strength rather than a drawback, calling it a superpower among women. She described it as the drive for excellence and the ability to connect with others on a deeper level.

"We care, but we also strive for that excellence, and we see the excellence in each other that enables us to connect. Our stories matter in these situations," she said.

Diaz-Meek recalled how she was encouraged as a child to speak her mind, only to find that confidence discouraged in college. She emphasized that assertive women are often unfairly labeled and encouraged women to surround themselves with a supportive network.

At the same time, she acknowledged the importance of adapting communication styles to ensure the message resonates.

"I want to communicate with you, but I also want to connect with you, so I have to understand what it's going to take for you to hear my message, and sometimes that does absolutely mean delivering it a little differently," she said.

Nagar shared her experience training residents, where her direct approach was initially misinterpreted. While she also learned to adjust her communication to match different learning styles, she stressed the importance of honest and passionate dialogue, especially in medicine, where patient care is at stake.

"This could be my mom, this could be my dad, this could be my grandmother. This could be your grandmother. So why would I not be as vocal or communicative with you as you would want to be for your family member?" she said.

Colvin recounted a moment when she wanted to formally complain about a sexist and racist comment but received an unexpected piece of advice from a colleague: sometimes, actions speak louder than words.

"[He said,] 'No, we don't need to do any of that. When you walked in that room, the way you performed said everything we could ever say with a complaint. That's what you do. You show people excellence, and you show it with grace,'" she recalled. "That one incident taught me more than anything else I've carried throughout my career. Read the room. Do what you do. Do it well, leave an impression, and then move on."

Patrick, as mayor, has faced comments from men telling her not to be "too intimidating." She hasn't stopped wearing power suits, but she focuses on connection rather than perception, encouraging women to embrace their authenticity rather than dilute it.

"We can continue to break barriers and set standards for ourselves and do great things. Being a woman isn't a barrier," she said.

Patrick closed the panel by calling on women to face challenges with strength and resilience: "Everyone here is bold. You're brave, and together, we are truly unstoppable."

Community Calendar

Email your information to:
brianna@hhjonline.com

Houston Home Journal

1210 Washington St. Perry, GA 31069

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RFP process with a master developer to build the very downtown we have dreamed of," she said.

Patrick is feeling great about another phase in Operation Reawaken being completed. She said she remembered hearing a lot about redeveloping a downtown back when she was in middle school.

"I never would have thought that the person that would actually make downtown come to be would be me," she said. "It's a real full circle moment and it's pretty surreal actually to think back of the thoughts I had being excited as a kid to know being an adult in my 40s with a seven-year-old kid knowing that there's something that I'm doing that's going to leave an imprint to make sure that a downtown comes here in the City of Warner Robins."

STOP

From page 1A

and this incident was thoroughly investigated," the release said. "Ms. Ash and Mr. Wright submitted written statements which documented their accounts of the incident. The results of the Internal Investigation and Use of Force Analysis for this incident were turned over to the Houston County District Attorney's Office. Charges of False Statements and Writings are forthcoming in this case against Omar Wright and Juana Ash."

The incident is still under active investigation and prosecution and no more information has been released at this time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

March 2025

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS:
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Houston County School District, Student Services Department, intends to destroy specific records that were collected, maintained, or used in the provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities. This notice is in compliance with all policies and procedures that were approved as part of the Georgia Special Education State Program Plan and are consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (20 U.S.C. 14111420)

Special Education records scheduled to be destroyed include records which are no longer needed for educational purposes for prior students enrolled in special education programs who have birthdays that fall between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997. This includes Speech records for students who were enrolled in speech only programs. The system plans to destroy these records on April 22, 2025, unless there has been a request for a due process hearing. If you, as the student or parents of the student, want copies prior to destruction, you should contact the office of Dr. Dana Wiggins, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at 478-988-6200 X 3370.

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Our Goal

The Houston Home Journal is published for the citizens of Houston and surrounding counties by a division of The Georgia Trust for Local News. Our goal is to produce quality, profitable, community-oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty and a strong dedication towards printing the truth.

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There are three ways to submit a Letter to the Editor: Email it to brianna@hhjonline.com, mail it to Houston Home Journal at 1210 Washington St., Perry, GA 31069, or drop it off at the same location between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number (the last two not to be printed). The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject letters for reasons of grammar, punctuation, taste and brevity.

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Crazy Uncle Kyle's ABCs part 3: A literacy

Gather 'round chillun, Uncle Kyle is about ready to put these literacy lessons out to pasture so let's dive back into the alphabet, the very backbone of the language we destroy daily. Now, we've already covered most of the ABCs, at least enough to construct some of Uncle Kyle's favorite four-letter words. Remember, though, only use those words on the playground or baseball field. Don't say them in front of grandma or if the preacher's come to visit.

The back part of the letters is kind of hit or miss. There are a few good ones in there, but there are others about as useless as math. Do you remember where we left off? Neither do I, but let's dive in and hope for the best ...

Crazy Uncle Kyle's ABCs (cont. again)

O is for obstreperous. That means noisy and unruly. You can be very obstreperous, particularly when I'm trying to take a nap. I know it's a big word, but it is good to know a few long words because it makes you sound smart. I bet your dad doesn't know what obstreperous means. Go use it in a sentence. Parents love to be outsmarted.

P is for popsicles. The next best thing to ice cream is a popsicle, especially the red ones. They can get a little messy, so always eat them over something to catch the drips. Like the sofa. P is also for paint. That white wall in the hallway would be perfect for a mural. It's a blank canvas for your masterpiece. Mommy will be so proud of you.

Q isn't for anything. It is one of the letters you'll never use. It used to be for queen, but there was a war a long time ago and now we

New Southern Dad



Kyle Dominy

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don't have to care about queens and kings anymore.

R is for rats. Rats make great pets. If you get enough of them, you can train them to do your bidding.

S is for snakes. Also, good pets. Catch one in the yard and bring it inside. You can feed it your least favorite rats. Now your little sister will be too scared to come into your room and mess with your stuff, and so will your mom.

T is for trouble. You may find yourself in this from time to time, but remember, Uncle Kyle always has your back. Except for the Nigerian prince thing. You didn't get that from me.

U, V, W, X, Y and Z: You may or may not use these letters much. They appear in words commonly misspelled, and there's no sense in you correcting anybody. When Uncle Kyle was in school, they taught us that Y was sometimes a vowel. But no one can give you any example of that. They also taught us phonics, and that's why Uncle Kyle is a terrible speller. I still can't spell tearadaktly, you know, that flying dinosaur.

And that's it kids, now you have the foundation for lifelong literacy. You can thank me later when you are a best-selling author of training manuals for dental hygienists. Uncle Kyle's got to go away for a while, but when I come back, I'll teach you some Spanish swear words I learned on the landscaping crew.



Good Golly Miss Molly

Columnist



Kelly Burke

www.kellyrburke.com

This is meant to be a light-hearted look at human nature. If people irritate you, you should probably skip this column.

“Cockles and Mussels” is the official name of the song, but it is better known as “Sweet Molly Malone.” It is a traditional Irish folk song that tells the story of Molly Malone, a young woman who sold cockles and mussels from a cart in Dublin. However, she died of a fever and her ghost still haunts Dublin, where the song has become the city's unofficial anthem. There is little historical evidence that Molly Malone ever hawked her wares on the sidewalks of the city, but Ireland is a country shrouded in mystery. What is true is that a

bronze statue of Molly was placed on a Grafton Street sidewalk in 1988 during the Dublin millennium celebration and the statue went unmolested by regular Irish folks for 26 years. She was then moved to Suffolk Street in front of the Tourism Office so that work could occur at the Grafton Street location. That location gets lots of visitors. Molly's statue sports a low-cut dress, giving onlookers a peachy view of the woman who inspired Dublin's

famous anthem.

It seems that Molly's lifelike statue, at street level, affords pedestrians the opportunity to enjoy her wares, and I'm not talking about fish. Molly has attractive assets that are the perfect size for picture taking, fondling, gawking, whatever you please. They have been caressed so much that the bronze patina has worn off. Men are the worst offenders apparently. Duh! But even women get in on the act. Where else can you get your picture taken between two glorious globes and not get arrested? OK, Jamaica maybe. But generally, it's harmless fun, say some.

Well not so fast. Tilly Cripwell is a student at the famed Trinity College in Dublin. It's an incred-

ibly beautiful college and houses the Book of Kells. Look it up. She is offended (as am I, despite the slightly comedic tone of my column) and wants people to stop molesting Molly. She points out that male statues are almost always elevated—a good point. Ms. Cripwell also wants a plaque to accompany the statue, explaining Molly Malone and her song. Another good point. I wish her well in her endeavors.

One last request! She wants the patina on Molly's statue to be restored, since the constant fondling, caressing, cupping, dare I say nuzzling, has worn Molly's gorgeous gratuities down to a creamy white color,

See BURKE page 8A

What's Legal?



Yeh...I Know It's Not Legal To Gamble In Georgia... Yet I'll Bet Kapernik Takes A Knee !!

Good Choice... You Know, We Can Still Use My Phone To Place That Bet !"



If we can't be happy, can we just annex Finland?

Columnist



Dick Yarbrough

dick@dickyarbrough.com

Perhaps you are not familiar with the World Happiness Report that ranks countries on how happy their citizens are. The release of the 13th edition of the annual report this year coincided with March 20, United Nations International Day of Happiness, which probably made a lot of people unhappy because they don't like anything having to do with the U.N.

Anyway, Finland has been the happiest country on the globe for eight years in a row. Bless their hearts. Frankly, there are not that many people to keep happy in Finland: 5.6 million. Metro Atlanta has twice that many and most are stuck in traffic.

from people in more than 140 countries and looks at six key variables to help explain life evaluations: Gross Domestic Product per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The top four countries are Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden. Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan are at the bottom.

You will notice that Red, White and Blue is not listed. They are trying to keep a low profile, hoping we forget they are there lest we annex them and make them as unhappy as we seem to be.

The report draws on Gallup World Poll data

United Nations called me to see if I was happy or not. As if they even care. Besides, it would have depended on when they called. If it was right after the Sugar Bowl when Notre Dame knocked the scholar-athletes from the University of Georgia out of the College Football Championship, I would have dragged our happiness index somewhere south of Zimbabwe.

On the other hand, if they had contacted me after a barbecue sandwich, a glass of sweet tea and an ample helping of banana pudding, we would have been rubbing elbows with the Finlands of the world. As an aside, I am told Finns like to munch on

See YARBROUGH page 8A

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

Mosaic Law couldn't save Man

On the third month following the exodus from Egyptian bondage (circa 1450 B.C.), God commanded Moses to assemble the Hebrew people at Mount Sinai to hear His laws. The thunder and lightning on the mountain coupled with God's voice frightened the Israelites so badly that they said to Moses, "You speak to us and we will hear, but let not God speak with us, lest we die." Thereafter, God spoke to the people through Moses. The rules and statutes imposed on the Israelites became known as the Mosaic Law.

The laws that God gave Moses can be grouped in two major categories: (1) the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and (2) 613 individual ordinances that are sprinkled throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Numbers. This corpus of rules became collectively known as the "Law." Paul made references to the Law in his epistles on faith. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Law.

After 1400 years of living

Parables to Ponder



Billy Powell

billypow@aol.com

under the Mosaic Law, the Jewish people had failed miserably. All the various laws became impossible to keep, causing the Israelites to go through endless cycles of sin followed by animal sacrifices for forgiveness. Thus, redemption became a temporary thing that lasted from one day to the next. But God had a solution: "In the fullness of time," He sent His son. Consequently, "What the law could not do due to weakness of the flesh, God did by sending His own Son" (Romans 8:3).

In one fell swoop, Jesus achieved eternal redemption for all mankind. He did so, "not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all to obtain eternal

redemption." (Hebrews 9: 12-14). "If the blood of bulls and goats sanctifies the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who offered Himself without spot or blemish, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" One drop of Jesus' divine blood was sufficient to pay the price for all of mankind's sins from creation to the end of the age.

If salvation could be achieved through obedience of the Law, Christ died for nothing.

Since the scripture states that "man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ," shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! The real question is "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" The fact is that a person who is truly saved has no desire to break God's commandments.

To summarize, the "Law of Moses was not meant to save men, but to show them their need to be saved, and thus to lead them to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

Waco's sweet legacy: Dr. Pepper

If you get the chance to go to Waco to see Chip and Joanna Gaines complex at Magnolia Table and Silos Baking company, you may also want to check out the Dr. Pepper Museum! I do enjoy a cold diet Dr. Pepper on occasion and I thought our readers might enjoy the story of this Texas born beverage.

Long before the era of mass-produced sodas, a unique flavor was born in the heart of Central Texas. Keurig Dr. Pepper, the company behind the iconic beverage, proudly proclaims its status as the oldest major manufacturer of soft drink concentrates and syrups in the United States, with the creation of Dr. Pepper in 1885.

The story begins at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store in Waco, where pharmacist Charles Alderton, seeking to capture the aromatic blend of fruit syrups permeating his workplace, concocted a novel drink. Alderton's experiments, meticulously recorded in his journal, culminated in a distinct blend of 23 fruit flavors.

All About Antiques



Jillinda Falen
Columnist

Initially dubbed "Waco" by soda fountain patrons, the drink was eventually christened "Dr. Pepper" by store owner Morrison, though the name's precise origin remains shrouded in mystery. The period in the name was dropped in the 1950s.

The drink's popularity quickly outgrew the drug store's capacity. Recognizing the potential, beverage chemist Robert S. Lazenby, along with Morrison, established the Artesian Mfg. & Bottling Company in 1891, later becoming the Dr. Pepper Company. Alderton, focused on his pharmaceutical pursuits, relinquished his interest in the burgeoning beverage.

In 1923, Lazenby and his son-in-law, J.B. O'Hara relocated the company to Dallas, expanding its

reach. The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair proved a pivotal moment, introducing Dr. Pepper to an estimated 20 million attendees, alongside other iconic American culinary debuts like the hamburger and ice cream cone.

Throughout its history, Dr. Pepper has cultivated a rich tapestry of iconic slogans and imagery. From the early 20th century's "King of Beverages" to the "Old Doc" character and the famous "Drink a bite to eat at 10, 2, and 4" campaign, the brand has consistently resonated with evolving cultural landscapes.

The "friendly Pepper Upper" of the 1950s transitioned into the rock-and-roll era, featuring on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand." The 1970s saw the emergence of "the most original soft drink ever in the whole wide world" and the iconic "Be a Pepper" campaign. That is the one I remember most. I'm sorry but the "little sweet" character was just kind of annoying! Excuse me, while I finish my Dr. Pepper, it's already 10:30. Happy Collecting!

Dealing with a death sentence

Around the 15th Century, Western Culture (John Wayne and Roy Rogers and Gene Autry and Audie Murphy and Maureen O'Hara and ...) became obsessed with death. Just joking. About the cowboy/girl actors, that is. The obsession was true. According to Michael Kerrigan, in his book The History of Death, it began in Europe - spread here - mostly in response to their reeling and dealing with the effects of the Black Death.

In response to death's popularity ("they love me, they really, really love me ...") an unknown Dominican friar wrote a book: The Craft of Dying. It was first written in 1415 and has since, Kerrigan said, had some 240 revisions made by others; shortened (the Reader's Digest version), lengthened (War and Peace) and everything in between.

It has six chapters (P.S. You can buy it on Amazon for Kindle for a whopping .99 cents): 1) Commendation of death and of cunning to die well; 2) The Temptations of men that die; 3) Interrogations that should be asked of them that be in their death bed, while they mat (sic) speak and understand; 4) Instruction with certain obsecrations (supplications) to them that shall die; 5) Instruction unto them that shall die and 6) Prayers that should be said to them that be "a-dying," of some men that be about them.

The introduction: "Her beginning the book of The Craft of Dying.

"Forasmuch as the passage of death, of the wretchedness of the exile of this world, for uncunning (Ignorance) of dying - not only to lewd men (Laymen) but also to religious and devout persons - seemeth wonderfully hard and perilous, and also right fearful and horrible; therefore in this present matter and treatise, that is of the Craft of Dying, is drawn and contained a short manner of exhortation, for teaching and comforting of them that be in point of death. This manner of exhortation ought subtly to be considered, noted, and understood in the sight of man's soul; for doubtless it is and may be profitable generally, to all true Christian men, to learn and have craft and knowledge to die well."

Ah Life. You had a good run. I was dashing here and there and everywhere and shouting and jumping off the bridge and plunging into the muddy waters of Echeconnee Creek and doing 100 down I-75 in my

Publisher



Don Moncrief

publisher@hhjonline.com

daddy's 1967 Chevy Impala and then the next thing I know I'm sitting at the hospital bedside of brothers and sisters from the church walking them home and doing eulogies (I gave one Monday for one of the sweetest ladies you'll ever meet, Carol Lee), and then there are doctor's visits and creaks and aches and pains and vitamins. (I don't take any "prescribed" medicines - knock on wood - but in the same vein as Will Rogers' "I never met a man I didn't like," I never met a vitamin I didn't like.)

"Okay Death. I see you." The nerve. Hiding around every corner, affecting everything I do. My conscious: "Alright. Alright. Slow down. Slow down. I know the speed limit's 70, but don't you think 55 is a bit safer?" ... "I know the storm left a lot of limbs up here, but do you really think you should be on top of this roof?" Split-personality side of me: "I can answer that. Heck no! Get down now!" ... "Do you really think 'four' Twinkies is a good idea?" (Note: Sometimes I ignore my conscious.)

Dr. Chris Thurman, in his best-selling book The Lies We Believe, offers that the Five Stages of Grief - developed by Swiss psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in 1969 and widely referred to today - would help. If you're familiar, and I'm sure you are, these are the stages our loved ones arguably go through "after" we pass. He argues they would help each of us individually if we applied them to our own lives "before" we pass.

In order of how they reportedly occur and how they should be applied, again while we're still alive: (Note: My commentary, not his; read the book for his, which is much better. I mean, he is a doctor.)

"Denial." Stop denying you are going to die. Accept it and hence actually live before you die.

"Anger." Yep. Life gives us so many, many, many reminders. Sickness mostly, but any kind of change we can't do anything about, can have the same effect. I think this is the one that gets me the most. I get angry. I am angry. I don't want to die! Yet, getting

angry about it just causes more stress and anxiety. It does nothing. It won't change anything. I can't afford to be angry. I need to live.

"Bargaining." "Hey. Look God. I know. I promised a million times I would be good and kick this bad habit and stop doing this and stop doing that, but this time I mean it. If you would just, you know, give me another year or two? Pretty please. In Jesus name?" Yeah. We can't bargain. When the time comes, the time comes. Live until the time comes.

"Depression." "But I was going to do this. I was going to do that. I wanted this. I wanted that. I have a thousand line-items on my bucket list. I have crossed off maybe five. I need to deal with this. I need to deal with that." And on and on. Thinking about the things we haven't done or want to do can lead to the biggest pity party of the century, but it won't change a thing. As the New Yorkers say (apparently its origin: "Forget about it." Live.

"Acceptance." There you go. It's as sure a thing as my hair is not going to grow back. My gall bladder is not going to magically reappear and my "dad bod" is never ever going to make it fun to flex in front of a mirror again. Ever. I'm going to die. I have to accept it so that I can live.

I'll go you one more. There is only one way to truly accept death and to live. Thurman speaks often of it in his book but it is after all the most popular opinion of millions.

It is to believe that Jesus conquered death and that death is truly just the beginning. There is still an eternity to come.

Revelation 1:17-18 - (Jesus) "I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

1 Corinthians 15:26 - "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death," alluding to what His resurrection accomplished.

John 14:30 - (Jesus again) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me (heaven) that you also may be where I am."

Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:8 - "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

That's your key to dealing with death. Believe that and you'll be able to live out your days with happiness and joy and contentment and probably above all, peace.

Trust me. Your "life" will thank you for it.

Your body: a self-contained gym

We get bombarded throughout the year with ads promoting super supplements, weight loss pills, weight loss plans, and exercise machines, so it's no wonder that it has a psychological effect on what we feel is necessary for health and fitness. Though some of these are effective, the problem is when these ads make someone feel they have to have it to increase their level of fitness.

What each of us needs to know is that we have

Your Health



Wade Yoder

enough body weight to give us the resistance we need to get a good exercise routine—wherever we're at, whenever we want—the only cost is your time. When we move our body weight at a faster pace, it increases

resistance. Done consistently over a period of time, these muscles used for the movement will build and develop to accommodate the new stress, (this is the strengthening and toning process in a nutshell).

When you use functional exercise movements (that you use in everyday living) for your exercise, you strengthen and condition this part of your life. When we do something like stooping or squatting to pick

See YODER page 7A



AMBLER, JAMES
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING.



ATES, LAWRENCE
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER AND CHILD MOLESTATION.



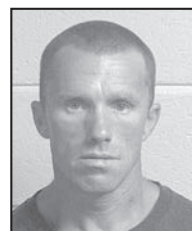
BANKS, KYMRICK
WANTED BY THE U.S. MARSHAL'S TASK FORCE OFFICE FOR 2 CTS. OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT FV. AND TERRORISTIC THREATS AND ACTS.



BENNETT, SONNY
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SUP. CT. VOP. O/C BEING GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO L.E. AND THEFT BY TAKING (M).



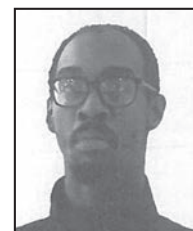
BLACKMON, DARRYL
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/ OPERATION OF UNREGISTERED VEHICLE/ ST. CT VOP.



DUPREE, JIMMY SCOTT
WANTED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CRIMINAL ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A FELONY AND POSS. OF SCHEDULED II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. ALSO WANTED BY THE BYRON PD FOR TRAFFIC OFFENSES.



FULLER, BRANDON
WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO REPORT AS A SEX OFFENDER.



GORDON, JAMAL
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BATTERY - FAMILY VIOLENCE/ CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - 2ND DEGREE/ CRUELTY TO CHILDREN - 3RD DEGREE



HIGHTOWER, TAYLOR
WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING.



JONES, JESSICA
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BURGLARY WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A FELONY



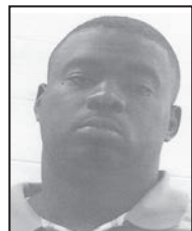
KNOLTON, DAMARIO
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/ AGGRAVATED BATTERY/ POSS. OF A FIREARM DURING CRIME/ POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OF CONVICTED FELON/ SUP. CT. VOP.



MORRISON, RUDOLPH
WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO REPORT AS A SEX OFFENDER. ALSO, THIS FUGITIVE IS WANTED BY THE W.R.P.D. FOR DRIVING WHILE LIC. SUSPENDED AND IMPROPER HEADLIGHTS VIOLATION.



MOSS, CURTIS
CRUELTY TO PERSON OVER 65/SIMPLE BATTERY/TERRORISTIC THREATS AND ACTS - FELONY



MURPHY, ELIJAH
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTION CARD FRAUD.



SAMAYO-GOMEZ, OSBELI
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CHILD MOLESTATION



TOMS, BRITTANY
WANTED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING - FELONY.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PULL CRIMINALS OFF OUR STREETS! Macon Regional Crimestoppers is a local non-profit serving the Bibb, Baldwin, Houston, Jones, Twiggs, Crawford, Monroe, and Peach regional areas. Through our deployed systems as well as the cooperation local law enforcement agencies and the 911 Center, citizens in our community have a safe, secure, and confidential means to report crimes. IF A "TIP" RESULTS IN AN ARREST - A REWARD WILL BE PAID TO YOU CONFIDENTIALLY AND ANONYMOUSLY!!

If You Have Information On The Whereabouts Of An Above Shown Individual, Call Our Tip Line at 478-742-2330 or 1-877-68CRIME

ENTERTAINMENT

The Astrograph

By Eugenia Last

Set your sights on personal progress and lifestyle changes centered around activities, people and projects that make you feel good about yourself. Look for openings that help you move into positions that allow you to make a difference and overcome pitfalls. Let your mind wander and encourage your creativity to lead the way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Share your thoughts and feelings. You must do the legwork to achieve something new or make positive lifestyle changes. Reach out to people in the know and pick their brains.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Handle matters personally. Pay attention, and you'll recognize when someone or something is excessive or exaggerated. Make your surroundings aesthetically pleasing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Turn your attention to learning, gaining experience and connecting with people who share your concerns and interests. Explore what's available, and adjust your routine to include what resonates with you most.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Put your energy where it counts. Rethink your financial strategy and look for investments or budgets conducive to helping you achieve your long-term plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Bang on doors to get answers. It's your responsibility to look out for your interests and to ensure you make good choices. Put your thinking cap on and fend for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A direct approach will deter others from trying to take control. Emotions will surface over joint ventures or shared expenses. Think before you act to avoid insult or a blow to your ego.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Look, and you will find the path that leads to solidarity. Unleash your persuasive powers using charm, insight and intelligence. Listen, analyze and choose to take the path that suits you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A change will do you good. Welcome challenges and discussions that help you help yourself. A social occasion will lead to a change of perspective and direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You'll be torn between what you want to do and what you should do. Protect your home, reputation and meaningful relationships from loss. Keep your eye on investments, medical issues and anyone trying to exploit you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be careful who you partner with and what you agree to do. Talks can lead to situations that back you into a corner. Misinformation is apparent; verify what you hear and get what you want in writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Take control of money matters. Don't change what's not broken. Take time to summarize intricate details before reviving a plan that lacks substance. Smart moves require thought and precision.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Review your options and back the change that makes the most sense. Refuse to leave what matters to you most in someone else's hands. Put your energy behind the plan that suits you best.

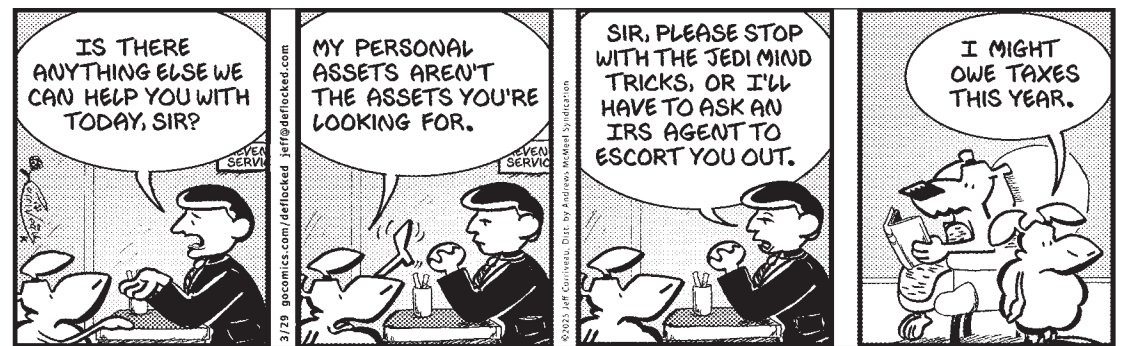
Adam@Home, by Rob Harrell



The Born Loser, by Chip Sansom



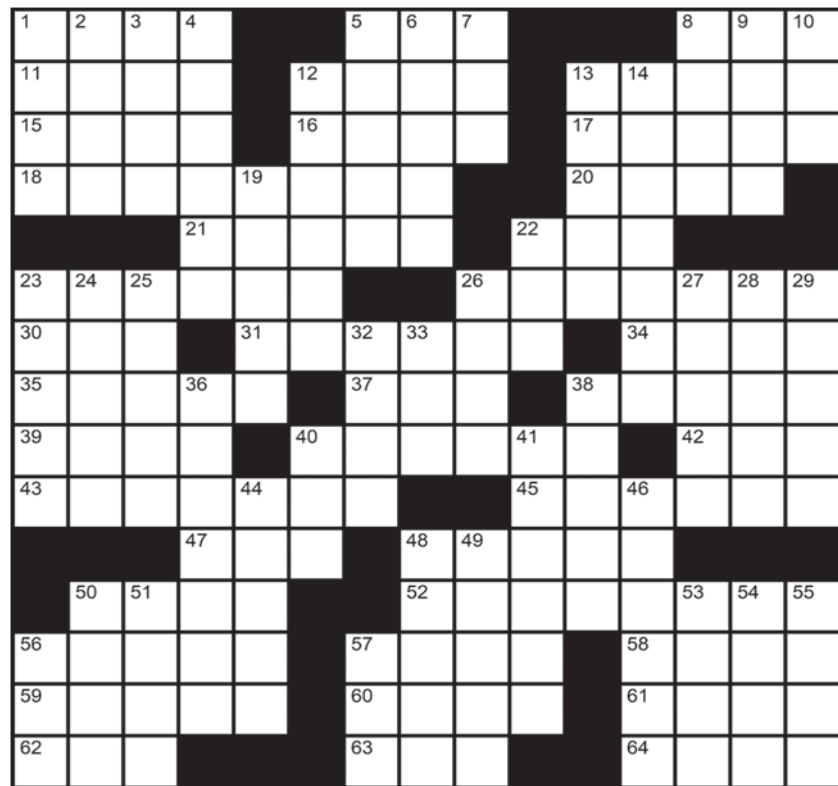
DeFlocked, by Jeff Corriveau



Rip Haywire, by Dan Thompson



CROSSWORD 3-29-25



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Like some champagnes
- 5. Undergarment
- 8. Dashboard acronym
- 11. Poison ivy woe
- 12. Took to court
- 13. Milan's La ____
- 15. Afresh
- 16. Globes and such
- 17. SNL's fortÉ
- 18. *Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
- 20. Grammy of sports
- 21. Jeweler's unit
- 22. *Like walnuts on ice cream

23. *Thin Mint or Carmel deLite

- 26. *Apple dip
- 30. Nelson Mandela's org.
- 31. Profoundness, pl.
- 34. Frost-covered
- 35. Ticket leftovers
- 37. Pathet ____
- 38. Lazybones
- 39. Samoan money
- 40. A in AU, Alabama
- 42. Heidi Samuel ____ Klum
- 43. Contaminating punch
- 45. Flammable anesthetics
- 47. a.k.a. acid

- 48. Military group
- 50. Jezebel's deity
- 52. *Espresso+gelato
- 56. Forgo
- 57. Palo ____, CA
- 58. Sacred image
- 59. Southern cuisine pods
- 60. Show the guns
- 61. Small stream
- 62. "The Star-Spangled Banner" author
- 63. Toni Morrison's " ____ Baby"
- 64. Adeline or Addison, for short

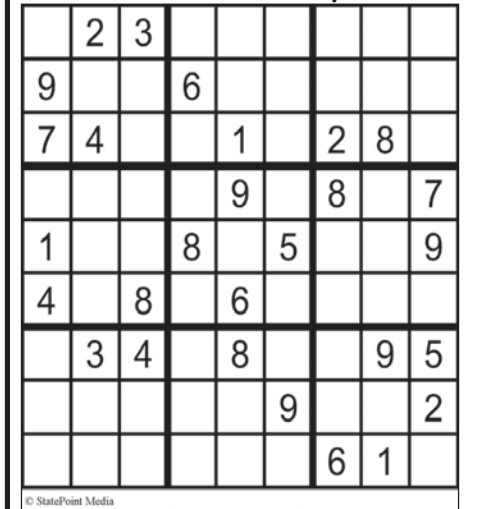
DOWN

- 1. Troublesome child
- 2. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- 3. Olympic cast-out
- 4. Smack
- 5. Anatomical sac
- 6. Overthrow by argument
- 7. Marketing creations
- 8. Wild onion
- 9. Clever tactic
- 10. Spanish sea
- 12. Evening party
- 13. See-through
- 14. *Eggs+milk+sugar
- 19. Old ____, or unpopped popcorn kernels
- 22. Be, singular past tense
- 23. Uses a fishing reel
- 24. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)

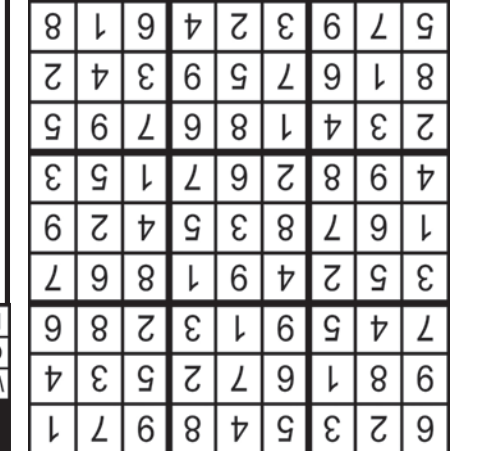
- 25. Round openings
- 26. Cabbage, in France
- 27. "The House at Pooh Corner" author
- 28. African chieftain
- 29. Ancient Greeks' harps
- 32. Socket counterpart
- 33. Bar bill
- 36. *Filo dough+nuts+honey
- 38. Book opener
- 40. Uniting conjunction
- 41. Robin Hood in Disney's "Robin Hood" (2 words)
- 44. Keys
- 46. Mecca to Medina exodus
- 48. Type of lily
- 49. Happily ever when?
- 50. *Make Alaska
- 51. Gossamer
- 53. Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef
- 54. Communicated
- 55. James Bond's "For Your Eyes ____"
- 56. Asian cuisine pan
- 57. Astern



SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Sudoku answer featured above. Crossword answer featured to the left.

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CASE

From page 1A

were swabbed for potential DNA, according to the media release. The swabs were then sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Department of Forensic Sciences. However, law enforcement was unable to develop a suspect and the case went cold.

The case was cold until August 2023, when Lt. Justin Clark with WRPD received notification from the GBI they discovered a CODIS match in the case. The CODIS match determined the suspect's DNA potentially belonged to Solomon.

After 13 years, law enforcement finally had a suspect. Clark reexamined the case and obtained a sample of Soloman's DNA, which was then sent to the GBI for comparison. After analyzing both specimens, the GBI confirmed the DNA belonged to Solomon.

The case was investigated by Clark and Sgt. Shane

Mann of the WRPD. The case was prosecuted by Houston Circuit Assistant District Attorney Justin Duane.

Duane said: "What happened in this case is every woman's nightmare—a complete stranger breaking into a house and brutally beating and sexually assaulting a woman. It's horrifying. Although it took us a while, I am grateful to be able to say today that justice has been done. Mr. Solomon will spend the rest of his life in prison and the victim in this case now gets the vindication she deserves. Thank you to the GBI, Sgt. Mann and Lt. Clark for their work in this case and thank you to the victim advocates and medical personnel who do everything they can for sexual assault survivors."

District Attorney Eric Z. Edwards also shared his comments in the media release:

"This case is a powerful reminder that justice does not have an expiration date. For thirteen years,

the victim in this case lived with the trauma of what was done to her, not knowing if her attacker would ever be identified. Thanks to continuous advancements in forensic science and the perseverance of law enforcement, today she has an answer—and justice has been served."

Edwards also gives thanks for the efforts of those involved in solving the case and remembers victims of sexual assault.

"I have the utmost respect for the victim's courage in facing this process so many years later. I am grateful to the Warner Robins Police Department and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for their relentless work in bringing this case to resolution. I also want to recognize ADA Justin Duane for his efforts in ensuring that this violent offender will never again have the opportunity to harm another person. To all survivors of sexual assault: know that our office will never stop fighting for you, no matter how much time has passed."

YODER

From page 5A

something up, we would really be surprised if we could see the muscular mechanics going to work to make this movement possible. When we repeat this same movement several times at a faster speed or add extra resistance or weight, we strengthen the muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments used to do this and it becomes easier!

Example: Many times when a person falls, it's the first time in a long time that they were actually laid out on the floor, and now the person is possibly hurt and is faced with having to get back up from a position they are not used to being in. If a person would get down on the floor and then get back up several times, (slowly at first) and gradually pick up the pace, it could give someone a pretty good workout.

When we mimic the movements, we use in real life (in our exercise routine) it makes our activities of daily living (ADL's) easier and whether a young athlete or a senior, it simply helps us handle our day better.

Take away: Find an exercise or 2 that gets most of your skeletal muscles moving, (such as a squat thrust). Do this by squatting and then rising to the front of your foot with arms thrusting upward. Do the movement slowly and don't squat too deep. As you get used to this, do a deeper squat and speed up the movement.

The 3 main things you want to work toward are:

1. Range of motion.
2. Speed of movement.
3. Length of time that you can go before resting.

A good short workout to intensify the above would be to go from the squat-thrust exercise and then lay down on the floor and do pushups, (beginners can

keep the knees against the floor to decrease resistance). The speed of movement in most any exercise you do increases the resistance and it results in increased muscle strength, size and bone density. So whether confined to your office, home or on the road, you carry your gym with you wherever you go if you have a few basic movements that activate the large muscle groups of the body! Try getting down flat on the floor, stomach or back and get back up lifting your arms above your head and see how many times you can do this, it's like a full body power jog!

Full body movements done with intensity = results! The key to getting results and at the same time preventing injury is "gradually" increasing the range of motion, speed, and length of time doing the exercises.

Remember: steady wins the race!

TATTOO

From page 2A

on the event. At the event, people are encouraged to donate anything from socks, book bags, combs, blankets and school supplies. After donating, participants receive a raffle ticket and have the chance to win a \$500 or \$300 gift certificate.

A lot of Harper's clients participated in the event and she gave a tattoo to the one lucky person.

"Because of that, it's able to help generate a more massive amount of donating power than I would really be able to generate on my own, so that's been incredible," she said.

The charity event's support and her love for hosting events are what inspired Harper to start Inked Nation. Over time, she started vending at the Perry Fairgrounds during the Georgia National Fair with her business Just Lobes. During this, she learned she liked doing that type of work.

Early in her tattoo career, Harper remembered clients refusing her because she was a woman and faced the same discrimination searching for apprenticeships. She said the owners would always tell her "maybe" or "we'll see," and gave an apprenticeship to a man with only two months of experience. Harper also shared there was a point in her career where she was told she would never be a tattoo artist.

As a female business owner, Harper faced a challenge in being taken seriously. She said she is often mistaken for the secretary or a representative by other business owners. However, they quickly see she is the one operating the business, calling the shots and making moves with her support

team. "I cannot stress that enough. As much as I've worked for myself, I wouldn't be able to have the amazing business that I have if it wasn't for our team: my husband, my best friend, my nieces who all work there to make it work together," she said.

Other hardships Harper faced was her financial situation. For the majority of her career, she was a single parent. Before she met her husband, she worked for a commission.

Harper considered it a massive hurdle. Her husband also tattooed, but didn't have much experience. She helped him get licensed and, together, they accomplished their dream of owning a business.

Despite the challenges, Harper continued to persist.

"It's been an amazing journey and we've met and worked with so many incredible artists, especially here in middle Georgia. Even though there were times that may not have worked out at a studio," she said. "I truly believe it's because I was always meant to have my own [business]. I've never really fit in a box and it was definitely the course that was going to always be taken."

The best advice Harper gives to female entrepreneurs is to blaze their own trail and continue pursuing it. She said there will always be people with different opinions.

For example, when she first started Just Lobes, there was a good response from the community. Clients enjoyed the fact the business didn't use piercing guns, however, some clients would describe the business as the opposite. She said there is a difference between someone believing a place isn't a good place to

invest money versus a person being unfairly critical. "Tattooing gave Harper the foothold she needed to support her family and work for herself. She encourages other female entrepreneurs to put themselves out there and ignore the naysayers."

"Stick with it. They can only tell you what they see from their point of view. If someone has a business idea, make the business cards, give them out and tell everybody what you do," she said. "Don't ever stop telling people what you do because your clients are going to come from the most unexpected places."

Harper said throughout this journey, she has felt a lot of grace, humbleness and pride as she not only supported support herself but also the families of those working alongside her. She gives thanks to God for her journey and considers her business a blessing.

"Sometimes you can do everything right and things still go wrong. But, then there's times when God smiles on you. We've been blessed to make it through those hardships and to make good choices consistently; to steer the ship in a different direction," she said. "Now, we're able to help others with our platform. That's very important to us, especially coming from the background that I came from with such trials. It's really important to me to show that gratitude by trying to be who I needed."

Savage Art Tattoo and Just Lobes piercing studio is located at 114 Constitution Drive. It is open Wednesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. The business opens early on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

See more of the studio's work at savagearttattoo.glossgenius.com.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Culver's comes to Warner Robins



Robins Regional Chamber

Culver's, a beloved fast-food chain, famous for its ButterBurgers, fresh frozen custard, and Wisconsin cheese curds, celebrated its grand opening with the Robins Regional Chamber on Wednesday, March 26. Located at 780 Highway 96, this marks Middle Georgia's second Culver's, joining the Macon location. Hungry for more? Keep an eye out for our full review in an upcoming edition of The Journal.

Now open: The Woodford Townhomes



Robins Regional Chamber

The Woodford Townhomes, located at 110 Peach Blossom Road, are open and ready for future residents. The neighborhood celebrated its grand opening with the Robins Regional Chamber on Tuesday, March 15. The complex, composed of 93 three-bedroom, two bathroom townhomes, also offers a dog park and playground.

BURKE

From page 4A

inconsistent with the rest of Molly's bronze appearance. Ireland is full of pale, and beautiful, women, but realism isn't for statues.

The presumption, absent a study delving into the demographics of the offenders, is that most of the maulers are not Irish. The British, Americans, and Germans are the biggest tourist groups to the Emerald Isle, and I

know that Americans have no social graces. The Germans are reportedly worse than us. So Molly is probably getting caressed by multinational offenders. But men are men, and women aren't much better, when it comes to Molly Malone.

I remain a sexist. And I might have felt obligated above to say I was offended.

Kelly Burke was born in Knoxville where he spent his younger years,

followed by high school years in Atlanta where he graduated from Georgia Tech. He then graduated from Mercer Law School. He has been in private practice, a magistrate judge, and an elected district attorney. He writes about the law, politics, music and Ireland. He and his wife enjoy gardening, playing with their Lagotto Ramanolo named George Harrison, and spending time with their grandchildren.

YARBROUGH

From page 4A

reindeer meat, turnips and cloudberrries. Surely, there has to be something else that floats their contentment boat besides their cuisine.

As to why the U.S. dropped like an unhappy rock (we were 20th last year), one expert says the decline "is partly attributable to Americans younger than age 30 feeling worse about their lives. Today's young people report feeling less supported by friends and family, less free to make life choices and less optimistic about their living standards." Oh, cry me a river.

If the whiners stayed off social media, thought about somebody other than themselves and spent a couple of months shoveling camel dung in the

middle of the Gobi Desert, they might appreciate how good they have it. Then they would feel more optimistic about their living standards and friends and family might be more inclined to support them in their life choices. That would make us all happier. (As usual, I have to think of everything.)

If I were Finland, I wouldn't be high-fiving just yet about how good you have it. If we can't be naturally happy in the U.S., Donald Trump might just decide to annex the whole country and import their happiness long with the Aurora Borealis after he gets through absorbing Canada and Red, White and Blueland. There is also the real possibility that Georgia Cong. Buddy Carter will introduce legislation changing Finland to Protruding Appendage Land. Don't say I didn't

warn you. Enjoy your cloudberrries while you can.

It is obvious that the Gallup pollsters and the poohbahs at the United Nations didn't call anybody in the Great State of Georgia to check on how we feel bout things. If they had, we would have told them about our Blue Ridge Mountains, the Golden Isles, Vidalia onions, pecan orchards and apple orchards, peanut farms, world class olive oil and the greatest state song in the history of the world, "Georgia on My Mind," as sung by Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia. Let them have Finland. I am happy to be in Georgia, y'all.

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

BBB Study: Impostor scammers target consumers and businesses

Buying an automobile or heavy equipment of any kind is a major purchase. Don't let scam groups fool you into handing over your cash. Since 2022, Better Business Bureau (BBB) received over 200 reports of consumers attempting to purchase a vehicle or other heavy equipment online, only to run into a scammer impersonating a reputable seller.

Additionally, BBB collected another 140 complaints reported directly to us, to attorneys general, tip lines and other sources. When pooled together, the reports revealed a pattern of fraudulent websites, where scammers claim to sell all kinds of vehicles - sedans, trucks, SUVs, classic cars, boats, ATVs and even farm equipment - at attractive low prices.

These websites can look especially legitimate by cloning the original websites of real business in the auto and equipment sales industries. Businesses may have their pictures, design and products copied wholesale, with only the contact information swapped out with the scammer's information.

Those who are in the market for one of these vehicles need to be extra vigilant, as these supposed sellers always claim their vehicles and equipment must be shipped, not allowing buyers to check the legitimacy of the vehicle or equipment in person. And once money is handed over, the fraudsters disappear.

Many of the reports to BBB show scammers creating increasingly realistic, believable websites. And many of these websites appear to be tied together, indicating organized groups may be behind these frauds.

By examining the scam websites and registration, BBB was able to track clusters of websites with shared domain name servers. One server, located in Lithuania, was home to nearly 30 different websites reported to BBB. These fakes claimed to be located throughout the



BBB Tips

Kelvin Collins

BBB of Central Georgia

United States, impersonating businesses in Alabama, Minnesota, North Dakota and Ohio. They claimed to be typical auto sellers as well as purveyors of classic and vintage cars, farm equipment and general agricultural machinery.

Another name server, located in Iceland, was home to almost 20 more fraudulent sites, with additional locations in Tennessee, Nevada and South Carolina. While many of the websites appeared to sell similar products, some also claimed to sell heavy machinery and construction equipment.

When a shopper stumbles upon one of these sites, the losses can be significant.

Greg in Wyoming told BBB he was planning to buy an RV online from a seller in Minnesota. The vehicle was for sale for a great deal at \$14,000, and the seller, calling himself Marcus, promised to ship the vehicle across the country for free. Greg paid half of the price, planning to pay the other half upon delivery, which was never made.

As people may lose thousands of dollars to scammers, business reputations are at equal risk. The impersonation can lead to poor reviews from customers who believe that the legitimate business is stealing. Over the last few years, businesses have spoken out about being impersonated, recounting the harsh effects it can have on their livelihood.

One business owner, Doug, whose business was impersonated recounted his experience with BBB. In September, Doug and his wife, who repair and sell parts for motor homes, received messages from

people who said they were showing unusual inventory online compared to what Doug's business usually stocked. The couple realized that someone was impersonating their business, stealing pictures of the shop, their address and nearly everything else about their business.

Doug reached out to search engines in an attempt to stop the website from showing up when customers looked for his business, but he struggled to get the website taken down.

In the following months, Doug received thousands of emails from frustrated customers who believed he had scammed them. The scammers also inundated him with threatening messages and calls.

Doug said it is impossible to calculate the loss of business and is now planning to close the business, in large part due to the stress and difficulties related to the incident.

Know the red flags of vehicle and equipment seller scams:

- The price is significantly below market value

- Owner cites an overly personal reason they need to get rid of a vehicle

- A seller will not allow you to see the vehicle and insists upon vehicle delivery

- Money must be sent to a third-party recommended by seller

BBB tips to avoid vehicle and equipment seller scams:

- Be wary of too-good-to-be-true prices

- Pick up a vehicle yourself whenever possible

- Call a business and ask if you can see the car in person

- Resist high-pressure tactics urging quick action

- Use secondary sources to research a business' legitimacy

- Avoid sharing personal information with unknown sources

Visit BBB.org to check out a business or register a complaint, or to report a scam and BBB.org/scam-studies for more on this and other scams.

If your pet goes missing please contact your local animal shelter, also provide a picture.

Pet News

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Stevie Wonder
DSH (Blind)
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Tabby

Making Easter Celebrations Fun for Everyone, Including Our Pets!
by Town & Country Veterinary Associates

As Easter approaches, the air is filled with excitement and anticipation for the joyous celebrations ahead. From colorful egg hunts to delightful feasts, Easter is a time for families to come together and create cherished memories. However, amidst the festivities, it's important for pet owners to remain vigilant and ensure the safety of their furry companions.

With a little foresight and precaution, we can enjoy Easter to the fullest while keeping our beloved pets safe from potential hazards. Join us as we explore some common Easter items and how to keep our pets out of harm's way during the holiday season!

Chocolate
Ah, chocolate – the quintessential Easter treat! While delicious for us, chocolate can be toxic to our pets, especially dogs and cats. The theobromine and caffeine found in chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, rapid breathing, increased heart rate, seizures, and even death if ingested in large quantities. Keep chocolate treats safely out of reach of curious pets and opt for pet-friendly alternatives instead.

Flowers
Beautiful blooms add a touch of elegance to Easter celebrations, but certain flowers can be harmful to pets if ingested. Lilies, azaleas, rhododendrons, daffodils, and tulips are all toxic to pets and can cause symptoms ranging from gastrointestinal upset to more serious complications including kidney failure. Keep these flowers out of reach and consider pet-safe alternatives like Easter cacti or non-toxic flowers such as roses, sunflowers, or orchids. All parts of the lily are extremely toxic to cats so keep these out of the house, as even a bit of pollen on fur can potentially be fatal.

Hot Cross Buns and Uncooked Dough
Hot cross buns are a beloved Easter tradition, but the raisins and currants often found in these tasty treats can be toxic to pets if ingested, even in small quantities. Additionally, uncooked dough can cause alcohol poisoning and can expand in your pet's stomach, causing bloating, discomfort, and potentially dangerous complications. Keep these treats securely stored away from curious pets and dispose of any uncooked dough safely.

Easter Feasts
Easter feasts are a highlight of the holiday, but some traditional foods can be harmful to pets if consumed. Ham and turkey bones, for example, can splinter and cause choking, gastrointestinal blockages, or internal injuries if ingested by pets. Chewing on bones can cause painful tooth fractures. Avoid feeding bones to pets and be mindful of other festive foods that may be too rich or fatty for their digestive systems, potentially landing them in hospital with a case of pancreatitis. And don't forget to keep food waste away from your curious pet!

Plastic Toys and Easter Grass
Easter wouldn't be complete without colorful plastic eggs and toys, but these can pose a choking hazard or risk of an intestinal blockage, if ingested. Similarly, Easter grass used for decoration can cause intestinal blockages if swallowed. Like ribbons, Easter grass is particularly tempting to cats and can be easily swallowed once they start chewing it. Opt for pet-safe toys and decorations made from natural materials and keep small objects out of reach of pets to prevent accidental ingestion.

As we prepare for Easter celebrations, let's not forget about the safety and well-being of our furry friends. By taking a few simple precautions – such as keeping chocolate and toxic plants out of reach, avoiding harmful foods, and opting for pet-safe decorations – we can ensure that Easter remains a joyful and festive occasion for everyone, including our beloved pets. Here's to a safe and happy Easter filled with love, laughter, and wagging tails!

Westfield Baseball

Hornets stave off Southland Academy comeback for the win

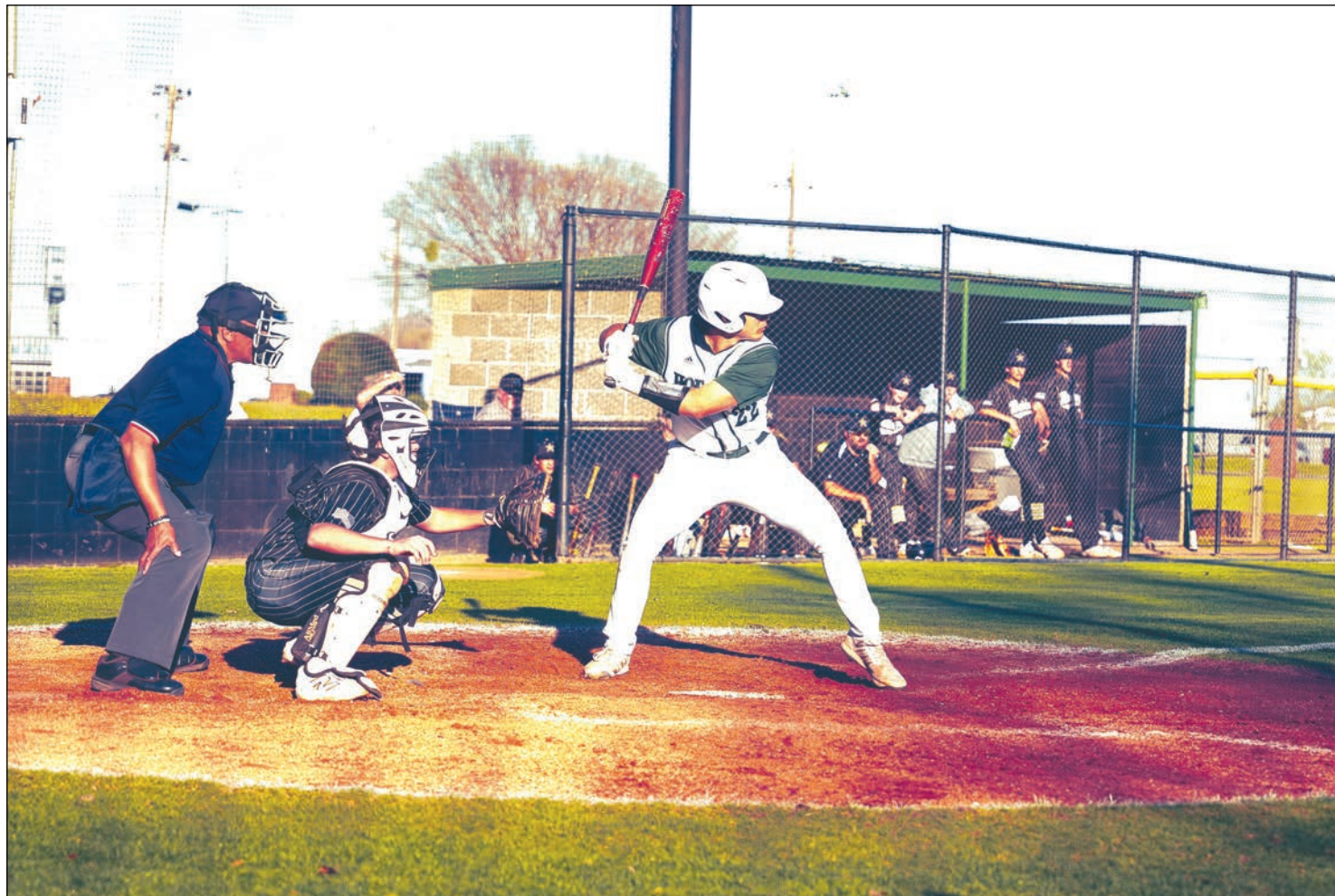
By **HAYDEN MARTIN**
hhjsports@gmail.com

PERRY — Looking for a tune-up before a big district matchup, the Westfield Hornets found themselves on the defense against the Southland Academy Raiders as they held on to win the game 7-5.

Westfield (5-6) put together a string of scores in the fourth inning, culminating with a two-RBI triple to the centerfield wall by Neil O'Brien that gave the Hornets a 5-1 lead.

"I thought we hit the ball pretty well. The first pitcher had us out on our front side a little bit and then we made some adjustments and we were able to make better contact," said Westfield coach Ryan Wetherington. "When [Southland] brought out their second pitcher, we made some adjustments a little bit faster, which was nice to see the team do. I like how we finished the game out and hopefully we can keep it rolling the rest of the week."

"I tell our guys all the time, 'let's make our opponents earn everything they get, so we have to cut down anything free, and make them earn every-



Hayden Martin/HHJ

Matt Molina steps up to the plate during Westfield's non-district win over Southland Academy.

thing. If you do that, you have a really good shot at being successful."

Southland Academy (1-8) did not bend over so easily as they battled back against the Hornets until the final out. The Raiders put runners in scoring position frequently, but could not generate any momentum.

Brock Johnson got the

scoring started quick and early in the bottom of the first inning as he stole second and home enroute to a 1-0 lead for Westfield.

In the second inning, the Hornets had a baserunning double-play blunder.

Michael Easom stole second and was ruled safe. In an effort to create more confusion, Mason Easom attempted to steal home

and was promptly thrown out. The Raiders' catcher then fired back to second where Michael Easom was tagged out to end the inning.

Johnson grounded to shortstop and beat the throw to first, putting the Hornets on base to start the fourth inning. Grayson Waller slapped an RBI single to the outfield as Johnson advanced from second base to home.

Waller made his way around the bases and stole home on a wild pitch, giving Westfield a 3-1 lead. Mason Easom and Luke Davidson hit back-to-back singles in between short-

stop and third base, which put runners at the corners.

O'Brien closed out the inning with his two-RBI triple, driving in both runners.

In the fifth inning, Waller hit a ground-rule double that bounced over the left centerfield fence, driving in Win Hoots to put the Hornets up 6-3.

Hoots came through with the final Westfield score as he drove in Madon Sanders, who walked earlier, to put the Hornets up 7-4 in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Johnson had a solid night on the diamond,

where he went 2-for-4 with three stolen bases and two runs.

Southland Academy started their comeback bid in the fifth inning when they loaded the bases and drove two runs across the plate. In the consecutive innings to follow, the Raiders were able to score one run apiece, but it was not enough to prevail.

Westfield rotated through six pitchers during the game, who combined for 9 strikeouts and 4 walks over the course of seven innings. At the top of the seventh inning, Sanders closed out the game as he struck out three out of four Raiders sent to the plate.

Wetherington was pleased with the way the team executed the game plan.

"We had a solid game plan going into today. We have a pretty big region matchup coming up tomorrow and Friday, so we were using it as a way to get our pitchers some innings today," Wetherington said. "We changed pitchers every inning except for that last inning. It's hard for a pitcher to get momentum and be consistent with strikes when you're changing everything in that manner. I thought we did a decent job with what our guys were doing there."

UP NEXT

Westfield will host the St. Anne-Pacelli Vikings (7-9) in a district matchup on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.

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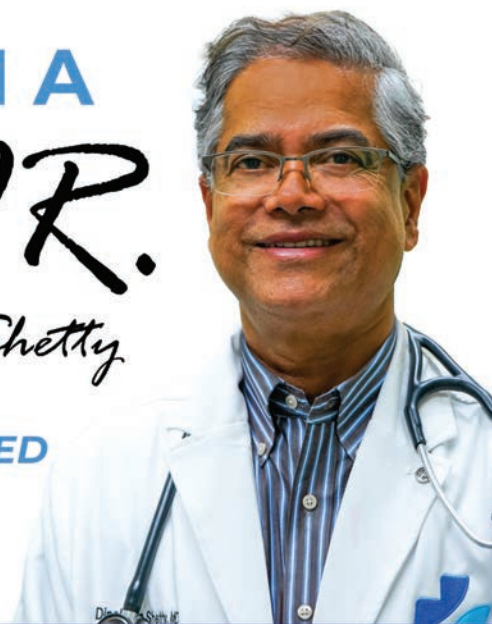


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Houston County Baseball

Bears put Coffee away early in home-run happy performance

By **CLAY BROWN**
 HHJ Sports Editor
 clay@hhjonline.com

WARNER ROBINS — The Houston County Bears (17-3, 10-0 Region 2-5A) caught themselves in a similar situation last week, only needing one run to end the game, but this time they delivered as they sent the Coffee Trojans (9-9, 6-4 Region) home in five innings on a night where three home runs soared over the fence.

Three observations from Tuesday's Game 1:

Hungry, hungry Bears

HoCo hit three home runs against Coffee, the most they've hit in any game this season.

That's not for lack of trying, either. The Bears have had a (not great) habit of swinging for the fences after going up big on opponents, but this time they saw some success as Isaiah Galason, Kendall Jackson and Vick Gann each went yard.

Jackson demolished the first pitch Coffee threw, and it sailed over the left field fence to put HoCo up 1-0 and set the tone for the rest of the game.

In the bottom of the second inning Gann came up to bat with Jackson on, and both of them came home as the third pitch left the field to put HoCo up 3-0.

The final home run came in a fitting fashion for the RBI king Isaiah Galason, who destroyed the 3-0 count for a grand slam to put the Bears up 9-0.

Although HoCo hit some bumps on the way to a run rule, they still got it done in



Kendall Jackson (top left) and Isaiah Galason (top right) celebrate Galason's home run against Coffee.

great part due to this hungrier offensive approach according to coach Matt Hopkins.

"I think that we started to see it a little bit on Friday last week...it was the first time I saw our offense start getting hungry," Hopkins said. "As a whole we've been hungry off and on, but you felt like something might have started clicking a little bit. And for Kendall to come out and set the tone like he did, I think it just put everybody at ease a little bit."

"The top of our lineup's been swinging it all year. So when those guys came out, I'm not gonna lie them seeing that flag makes 'em a lot happier," he continued. "We've been playing with headwinds coming

straight in all year so the ball doesn't carry. But I'll say this, all three of those balls, I don't think it matters if the wind's blowing or not. They were just absolutely crushed."

Turning the corner

HoCo has had struggles with the second game of doubleheaders dating back to last year, but they might have turned a corner last week against Thomas County Central.

Game 3 against the Yellow Jackets looked a lot like the Bears' first two games of other series in the fact that it was a 14-2 win where they continued to pour it on.

TCC threw Reid Gainous, considered their best on the mound, and HoCo got him out after only three



Will Allen barely holds on to an infield popup as he stretches out his arm.

innings.

They put up crooked numbers for four straight innings, and only needed five and a half innings total.

Time will tell if this actually is the turning point, but it's a good start for a team that had otherwise not shown much progress in that area.

"I think the other thing was TCC challenged us,"

Hopkins said. "They threw their best arm, Game 3 and they were very loud, very motivated, and we came out and we saw it and we kind of fed off of it. It's the first time we've been in a Game 3 and felt like we needed to step our game up. Once our guys did, it was contagious and they just absolutely took off."

Region championship series approaching

See more photos at hhjonline.com

HoCo still has to take care of business in Douglas, but what will likely be the region championship series against Lee County is approaching in two weeks.

The Bears are still undefeated in region play to this point, and their closest game was a 5-2 final against Veterans. Two other close games were a 4-0 win over Veterans and a 9-5 win against Thomas County Central.

Other than that, they've dominated the competition and have not faced much resistance they haven't put on themselves.

Coffee will be no pushover with Michael Strickland and Ben Fussell left on the mound, but the Bears are still very much hopefuls to reclaim the region throne.

"Well they've got all their pitching left. They're gonna throw their Mercer commit Game 1 probably, and then throw their other Mercer commit Game 2," Hopkins said. "So we're gonna see two really good arms on the road. We knew that's probably what was gonna happen, but we let Will take care of business here at home and then worry about the two there."

"At the end of the day we're trying to win the series. We're going down there for a sweep, but we've gotta make sure we win one out of the two."

UP NEXT

HoCo will travel down to Douglas for the series finale on Friday. The doubleheader starts at 4:30 p.m.

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Volume 7 Number 4

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1 Section, 8 Pages

Musings with Morales Command Chief MSgt. talks Robins' past, present and future amid Project 2041



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Morales, 78th Air Base Wing command chief, gives words of encouragement to Airmen attending a senior master sergeant release party at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 14, 2025. Morales encouraged the Airmen to continue trying to climb the ranks.

By **BRIEANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
brianna@hhjonline.com

Robins Air Force Base is preparing for the future, spearheaded by key leadership on base, including Command Chief MSgt. Lloyd Morales.

From a military family, Morales was first stationed at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, in 1998 and has since risen through the ranks at bases in Georgia, South Korea, The United Kingdom, Kuwait, Oklahoma, Utah, Hawaii, Florida and Ohio. Now he provides support to over 22,000 personnel at Robins Air Force Base.

Morales talked with This is Robins, musing about his current career and the future of Robins Air Force Base.

Brianna Smith: Just from hearing about your history it seems like you've been able to continue an amazing journey as Command Chief MSgt. here at Robins Air Force Base. So, tell me about your current assignment.

Command Chief MSgt. Lloyd Morales: As the Command Chief here at Warner Robins' 78th Air Base Wing, it's all about readiness development, and making sure that the enlisted force is ready to execute everything that our senior

leaders are asking for. It's a pretty robust duty. I could discuss what's written on paper, but I don't think it quite defines everything we do, especially for me.

I make sure that I can advise the Installation Commander, Colonel [Deedrick] Reese, and make sure that his perspectives, his vision and his intent are clearly defined, so folks can go out and execute what he's trying to get after for our mission and Team Robins' over 54 mission partners on the base. To figure that all out and corral all those individuals, to make sure that we're all in this together and making sure that we're executing big senior leader decisions is not an easy task. So that's one of the things I do.

On top of that, the professional development piece is huge for Team Robins, and then the quality of life and readiness rose into what I do from the command chief's office. It's very holistic, but ultimately, the intent with me and the staff here is just to make sure everybody has what they need, so they can be dedicated and focused on executing the mission that's always evolving and changing.

Smith: I like that, setting them up for success. So how does Robins Air Force Base compare to some of your

previous assignments?

Morales: Every base is unique. I'll tell you that much. Every one has their personality and own dynamics. What I love about being at Robins is the integration of the team, not just on base, but outside of it in the community. It's absolutely, probably one of the best I've ever seen. That relationship makes this base probably my top installation because everybody is supporting each other, and everybody is kind of on the same mindset that we need each other to be successful across the board. So I love that patriotism. It's just amazing.

I typically talk about the heroes that work on base, but there are a lot of heroes outside of the base, making sure that all stakeholders are involved in making sure that everything's successful. Robins is very unique, especially when it comes to the Air Logistics Complex. That's also a driver that helps move Team Robins forward. It's not the only driver, but it's a big one. It's been here since the base was actually created. There are such unique missions on this base and there continues to be more transformation on installation. We recently lost the JSTARS before I got here, but now we're bringing in brand new mission sets that are

going to just continue to make Robins the base of the future.

It's really cool stuff. Robins is just an incredible location. You can talk about installations and locations, but the people drive the success. And I've never seen one like that since I've been here. It's a Georgia thing, I guess.

One thing I'd like to highlight is that the base is full of heroes, both on and off of it. To be in the Air Force, 26 years, is a long time. The reason I continue to serve, and so does my favorite boss, Colonel Reese, is the people. People drive everything. And you know, a lot of people tell me the mission is easy, but people can be hard. What I'll tell you is the people here are absolutely amazing.

Regardless of what's going on across the world stage, they're so dedicated, so involved, just resilient and just so innovative. They're the reason that we continue to be the greatest Air Force on the planet.

For me and for a lot of my peers, that drives us to serve. And I can't wait to see how they continue to make us the best Air Force in the world.

Smith: For sure. So we've talked a little about the past, about the present. Now I want to talk about the future. One of the things Col. Reese spoke about that has stuck with me is Robins

2041, and as we both know, the year 2041 will be the base's 100th anniversary. What exactly is the purpose of Robins 2041?

Morales: Robins 2041 has been a very strategic priority for Col. Reese. It's making sure that the base continues to evolve, to meet the demands of not yesterday, but what's coming up, to the 100th anniversary of the base. We talked about that earlier, the evolution of the base, and new missions. How do we continue to make sure that Robins is the base of excellence across the Department of Defense?

That brings us into discussions of making sure that everything that has made us what we are today, we continue to do that and be more deliberate on how we make sure that we focus on not just what got us here in 1941, but what's going to get us into the future as we get into 2041. That's about making sure we continue to be resilient and innovative, and then having the perspective to continue to develop, transform, evolve, and ensure that just because the base was open in 2041, doesn't mean we need to continue to operate like we're in 2041.

That's where Colonel Reese and the rest of the team here want to shape the perspective on how we continue to do what we do, to foster the greatest Air Force on the planet, but not

remaining in infrastructure that might not be up to par, or doing development that may have been good a couple of years ago, but doesn't give us the strategic perspective we need today.

All those things are what we're looking at to make sure that Robins in 2041 is ready for the next fight. Those born in 2023 will be serving in 2041. They'll be 18, ready to be the next heroes that we talk about and that we're proud of. We've got to make sure that as they join our military, our servicemen and women are provided with the right tools to be successful.

Smith: It begs the question of how the base's mission has already evolved since its establishment in 1941.

Morales: Yeah. Without taking too much from my favorite museum, the Museum of Aviation, the base originally was opened to support World War II to create aircraft and everything else that we needed at the time to support the war efforts. As we've continued to evolve, and the base has changed names, new missions have continued to come onto the installation, which continue to this day.

As the base continues to evolve, it's evolved with the demands of the times. From an Air Logistics Complex perspective, that's changed.

See **MORALES** page 2B



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Morales, 78th Air Base Wing command chief, makes opening remarks at a senior master sergeant release party at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 14, 2025. Morales stressed the importance of Air Force values to the Airmen at the event.

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New Horizons panel discusses operationalizing artificial intelligence

By **Capt. Adam Livermore**
66th Air Base Group
Public Affairs

NEWTON, Mass. — U.S. Air Force, industry and academic leaders held a panel to discuss operationalizing artificial intelligence at the annual New Horizons event March 11.

Panelists from the Cyber & Networks Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Raft discussed the future of AI and its various applications and capabilities.

“The thing that gets me excited is seeing progress in closing the gap to making artificial intelligence real for warfighters,” said Mike Foster, chief data engineer of Raft.

While Foster emphasized the progress being made, others highlighted the expanding capabilities of AI and the challenges that remain.

“What I’m most excited about is the models we’re training are able to do a lot of different things,” said Ann Rumshinsky, associate professor at Miner School of Computer and Information Science, University of Massachusetts Lowell. “There are a few things that we’re still trying to figure out, such as reasoning and generative capabilities. That’s probably going to be close to being solved in the next year or two.”

Success stories highlighted AI’s role in contracting, natural language understanding and mili-



U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Maki

Dr. Ann Rumshinsky, associate professor at Miner School of Computer and Information Science, details how the U.S. Air Force can operationalize artificial intelligence and its status with reasoning and generative capabilities in Newton, Mass., March 11. Hosted by AFCEA’s Lexington-Concord chapter, New Horizons 2025 featured briefings, panel discussions, and business opportunities on numerous U.S. Air Force programs, all to ensure the service remains ahead of global competitors.

tary applications. The need for high-quality, pre-trained data was emphasized by using examples of AI improving efficiency in tasks like search and customer support.

Alexis Bonnell, chief information officer and

director of the Digital Capabilities Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, discussed the increase in efficiency in relation to coding.

“On average, we’re seeing a 25% to 85% increase in productivity of our cod-

ers,” she said. “When you think about how hard it is to find, keep and retain coders, if you have a leader out there who’s not allowing your coders to use artificial intelligence, they will leave.”

Bonnell contends this is

an opportunity to change how people think about technology budgets.

“Don’t think about it as my normal tech budget, or my data budget, and then my artificial intelligence budget over here,” she said. “Instead, we really

have to demand the fact that whatever we’re using should be optimized with the best technology available.”

New Horizons is sponsored by the Lexington-Concord chapter of AFCEA.

MORALES

From page 1B

When they first opened up the Air Logistics Complex and organic industrial bases, there were more than what’s currently here across the Department of Defense. We’ve gone from a pretty big number down to three. For some reason, I’ve been assigned to all three of them in one shape or form. Those are a critical piece to ensure that what our mission partners need, to ensure the DoD has the weapons systems to perform their duties and continue on that.

We had the JSTARS. We have the 5th Combat Communications Group, which is a unique mission set. We have our Air Force Reserve Command, which is pretty amazing. They do some great work, and they’re a phenomenal mission partner. Then, the Defense Logistics Agency. There are so many folks who have continued to come here, and they’re all critical nodes in the strategic way of doing busi-

ness, especially here at Robins. Everything we do here supports the warfighter down range.

I’m almost intrigued and curious about what else is going to come to Robins because it seems to be the hub of innovation, transformation, and evolution of the Department of Defense. It’s come a long way. It’s pretty cool to see.

Smith: It really has come a long way. How does the base’s mission align with broader modernization efforts?

Morales: I think they align perfectly, to be honest with you. The Air Force, as a department, and the Department of Defense, continue to find ways to modernize. As you saw with the JSTARS platform, they’re figuring out there are probably different avenues we need to take to make sure we create a warfighter edge in a very dynamic global atmosphere.

What we’re doing here, as we continue to see everything else going on, is going to be critical in what the Department of

Defense and the administration are looking at, to make sure that we stay at the edge of what we need to be very competitive and remain continuing to innovate and figure out how we change some of the ways we’ve been doing business, and we continue to find ways to have that competitive edge in the fight.

As we evolve, Robins Air Force Base is going to be key to not just reinforcing where we’re trying to go as a Department of Defense and as a Department of the Air Force, but being a change agent, a pacesetter, to benchmark probably new processes that can continue to transform and integrate across the enterprise, where we can be a model for other installations.

I think it’s right where we need to be. I think we’re going to continue to be right at the front of a lot of these dialogues. And I think when it comes to modernization, Robins is just a prime example of what that looks like for the Department of Defense.



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Robins Air Force Base kicks off 2025 Air Force Assistance Fund



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — 2025 Air Force Assistance Fund installation project officer, Maj. Sara Silva, right, passes AFAF promotional material to volunteer, 1st Lt. Kara Dunlap, 78th Air Base Wing executive officer, during drive setup at the base exchange at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 17, 2025. The six-week annual set a goal of raising \$26,176 to provide installation-wide to support Airmen and their families in times of need.

By Jerry Foltz
78th Air Base Wing

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. —

The 2025 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign launched at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 17, 2025, aiming to raise \$26,176 to support Airmen and their families in times of need.

The six-week annual campaign, concluding June

13, highlights the official "Taking Care of our Own" slogan, benefitting four charities: Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village Charitable Foundation, LeMay Foundation and Air Force Enlisted Village. These organizations provide financial relief, housing assistance and other essential services to active-duty personnel, retirees, reservists, guard members and their families.

"Donating to the fund is a great way to show the dedication that we have for our airmen," said Maj. Sara Silva, Robins AFB AFAF installation project officer. "It provides a way to 'pay it forward' and creates a sense of unity and support for those most in need."

Col. Deedrick Reese, Robins Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Morales, 78th



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Col. Deedrick Reese, left, Robins Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Morales, center, thank Chris Smith, 78th ABW safety office occupational safety and health manager, for his charitable Air Force Assistance Fund donation at the base exchange at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 17, 2025. Reese and Morales greeted patrons and encouraged a spirit of generosity for the cause.

ABW command chief, were among other uniformed and civilian volunteer personnel at the base exchange to greet patrons and encourage a spirit of generosity for the cause.

"It's always amazing to see the amount of generosity that Team Robins has," said Reese. "Whether it's one dollar, or one hundred, Robins can always be counted on to help out where needed the most. It really drives home the meaning of 'Robins Proud.'"

"The Air Force Assistance Fund will always have a place in my heart," said Chris Smith, 78th ABW

safety office safety and occupational health manager. "As a younger Airmen, I too needed assistance. Over my years of service, I have contributed to this fund as it feels good to do my part to help other Airmen who may be in need."

With the generosity of Air and Space Force members and supporters, the AFAF campaign continues to make an impactful difference in the lives of those who have served.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Josephine Atkins-Cassidy, 78th ABW AFAF unit project officer, emphasized the importance of the

fund.

"Sometimes Airmen, through no fault of their own, may find themselves in a situation that can spiral out of control," said Cassidy. "This fund provides them with the avenues for help and to get them back on track, so they can focus more on the mission."

Donations to the Robins AFAF can be made directly at <https://secure.gqiv.com/event/afaf/classification/289028/>, through payroll allotments, or by scanning a QR code from one of the many posters or handouts around base.

Eglin engineers bring innovation to combat

By Michelle Gigante

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A small circuit board lights up as an engineer fine-tunes its code, bringing a prototype device to life. Nearby, another team connects wires to a palm-sized computer, testing its ability to process data. These hands-on projects are part of a rigorous 40-hour workshop to sharpen Airmen's technical skills and drive battlefield innovation.

A select group of Team Eglin Airmen gathered at the Emerald Spark Incubator March 10-14 to collaborate in the first-ever Combat Innovation Cohort.

The workshop brought together Airmen from diverse technical backgrounds, focusing on ways to enhance their expertise in computer-aided design, 3D printing, electronics, and rapid prototyping.

"Innovation is coded in every Airman's DNA," said Steven Bailey, 96 TW chief innovation officer, who led

the workshop. "I encourage all wings to embrace combat innovation and use this introductory knowledge to improve their mission."

The workshop's hands-on approach delivered immediate results.

Tech Sgt. Matt Melendez, 96th Civil Engineer Group's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight team leader, put this knowledge to use, designing and building a working prototype part for an industrial cutting tool.

Melendez explained EOD Airmen could remotely disassemble and remove fuses from ordnance, they lacked a precise method to cut through hazardous components. His prototype provides that capability, supporting continued development and testing.

The workshop's impact extended beyond EOD. 1st Lt. Alexandra King, research analyst with the 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron, shared how her team frequently uses sensors to test various equip-

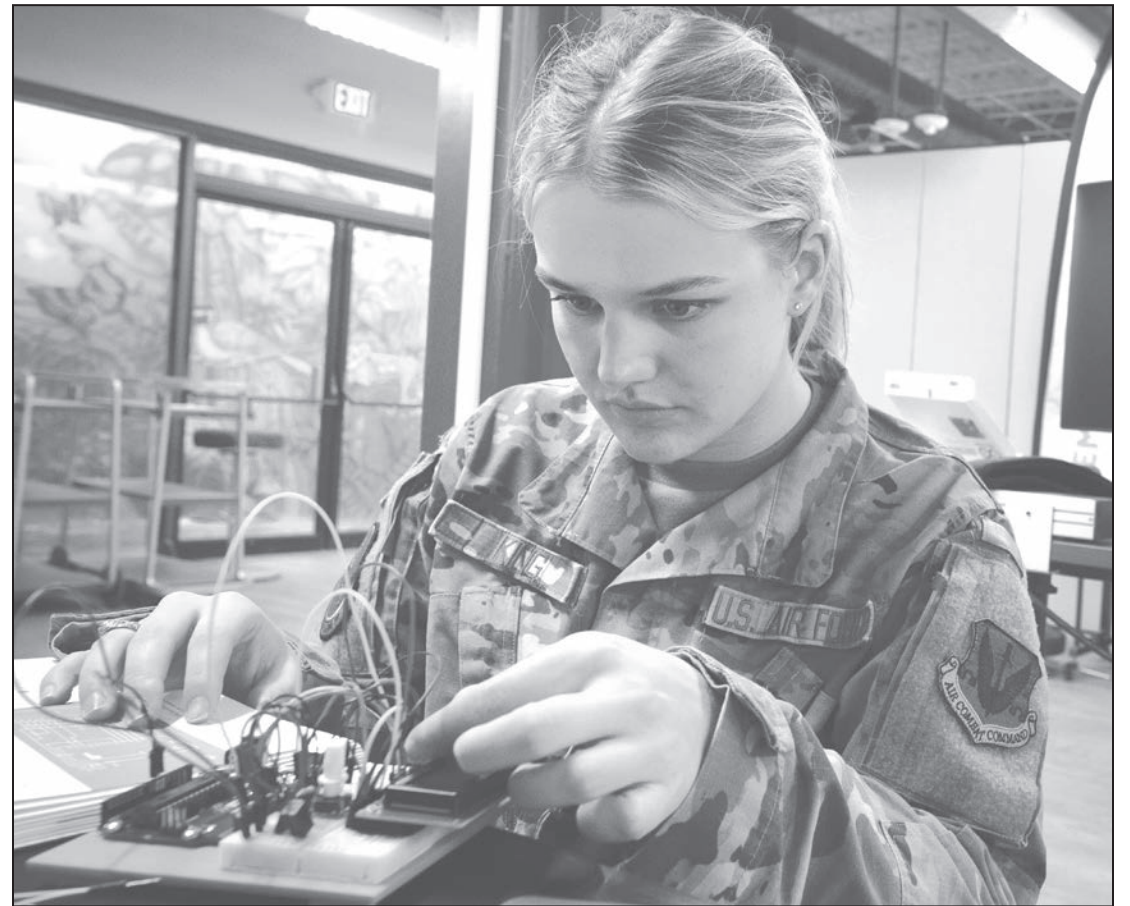
ment.

"If we have a last-minute need to gather more data, what we learned in this workshop could be incredibly useful," said King. "I think 3D printing is great because we can incorporate parts directly into our tests. This information expands my skill set and gives me new ways to contribute to testing."

The workshop equipped Airmen with skills that could prove critical in forward-deployed environments.

"It is incredibly validating to see people immediately using these skills on the job to enhance their capabilities," said Bailey. "I'm thrilled they're applying what they've learned to improve their operations while strengthening both our combat and test missions."

The Combat Innovation Cohort stemmed from a collaboration with AFWERX Air Force Research Laboratory.



U.S. Air Force photo by Michelle Gigante

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Alexandra King, research analyst with the 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron, builds a prototype sensor using a circuit board during the first-ever Combat Innovation Cohort workshop at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., March 12, 2025. The workshop aimed to equip Airmen with the skills to create mission-specific prototypes that can be rapidly deployed to meet operational needs.



U.S. Air Force photo by Michelle Gigante

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Matt Melendez, 96th Civil Engineer Group's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight team leader, displays a prototype design during the first-ever Combat Innovation Cohort workshop at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., March 12, 2025. The workshop welcomed Airmen with varying technical backgrounds and focused on foundational skills to support continuous development.



U.S. Air Force photo by Michelle Gigante

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lully Cruz Perdomo, 96th Force Support Squadron supervisor, connects resistors to a circuit board during the first-ever Combat Innovation Cohort workshop at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., March 12, 2025. The workshop gave Airmen hands-on experience with modular equipment, coding, and 3D printing—skills designed to meet mission needs faster than traditional acquisition processes allow.

This is... Robins

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OUR GOAL

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Stormwater Straight Talk: My car is clean, but what about my local waterways?



Around this time of year, we start to notice the grease, oil, pollen, dirt and grime that collect on our cars over the winter and early spring. This is the time many of us pick up our hoses and soap buckets and give our vehicles a much-needed washing. It is great to have a clean, fresh start. However, it is important to keep in mind the impacts that “do it yourself” car washing has on our local waterways and environment.

By 78th Civil Engineering Group

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Around this time of year, we start to notice the grease, oil, pollen, dirt and grime that collect on our cars over the winter and early spring. This is the time many of us pick up our hoses and soap buckets and give our vehicles a much-needed washing. It is great to have a clean, fresh start. However, it is important to keep in mind the impacts that “do

it yourself” car washing has on our local waterways and environment.

When we wash our cars at home, the wash water flows down driveways, parking lots, and streets to the stormwater system. The stormwater system discharges directly to rivers, lakes, and streams without treatment. Pollutants that accumulate on vehicles may include gasoline, residue from exhaust fumes, oil, grease or heavy metals. In addition, soaps that are used for car washing can contain pollutants, which affect water quality

and aquatic life.

Under the Houston County Water Resources Protection Ordinance, there are no prohibitions against residential car washing. However, utilizing commercial car-washing facilities can reduce overall water consumption and the concentrations of pollutants in our stormwater.

Car washing facilities must comply with regulations that are designed to protect the quality of water. Commercial car washes usually filter and reuse their water and eventually direct it to a water treatment plant before it goes

back into our water resources. These facilities also help to save water by using approximately 60% less water than a car wash at home. Next time you need to give your car a refresh, consider using a local car wash to save water and protect the environment.

For more information, contact Environmental Management at 478-327-9283.

Stormwater Straight Talk is a quarterly column intended to educate and inform base personnel and families about stormwater management.

U.S. Air Force business opportunities lead discussion at AFCEA New Horizons



U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Maki

Scott Hardiman, U.S. Air Force program executive officer for Nuclear Command, Control and Communications, headquartered at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., details how the U.S. Air Force can remain ahead of its adversaries during a presentation to government, industry, and academia leaders in Newton, Mass., March 11. Hosted by AFCEA's Lexington-Concord chapter, New Horizons 2025 featured briefings, panel discussions, and business opportunities on numerous U.S. Air Force programs, all in an effort ensure the service remains ahead of global competitors.

By Jennifer Parks
66th Air Base Group
Public Affairs

NEWTON, Mass. - Program executive officers from Hanscom Air Force Base discussed partnership opportunities with industry and academia during New Horizons March 11-12.

New Horizons is New England's leading defense sector event for partnerships and support to the nation's defense industrial base. This year's agenda centered on providing service members the strategic advantage necessary to maintain a lethal fighting force, ensuring national security. This aligns with the Department of Defense's intent of matching threats to capabilities.

"These hallowed locations [of the Battles of

Lexington and Concord] are the birthplace of American command and control," said Maj. Gen. Anthony Genatempo, program executive officer for the Cyber and Networks Directorate. "Paul Revere relied on a pre-planned network of many people with numerous nodes in place to ensure effective communication. Hanscom is taking the concepts of defined and resilient communications networks and honing them into weapons systems."

Genatempo said information is critical to mission success. Cyber and Networks is about putting that capability in place.

Ultimately, the directorate exists to scale command and control infrastructure to the entire Department of the Air Force, and to increase the speed at which

those capabilities can be delivered. One specific tool Genatempo mentioned was artificial intelligence.

"We need to be the directorate that brings artificial intelligence to the rest of the acquisition workforce," the general said.

New Horizons panelists and speakers highlighted missions and business opportunities with program executive offices to ensure the U.S. Air Force remains ahead of global competition. On the second day of the conference, leaders from Cyber and Networks and Nuclear Command, Control and Communications presented updates.

"I am really interested in building our resiliency. The more capability we procure, the greater our ability to deter," said Scott Hardiman, integrat-



U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Maki

Kristina Botelho, from left, Command, Control, Communications and Battle Management contracting officer; Lea Kirkwood, program executive officer for Electronic Systems Directorate; Maj. Gen. Anthony Genatempo, PEO for Cyber and Networks; Scott Hardiman, Air Force integrating PEO for Nuclear Command, Control and Communications (NC3) and director of the NC3 Integration Directorate, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center; Scott Owens, Strategic Services director; Lt. Col. Robert Goeke, Contracting Branch deputy director of contracts; and Andrea Panagoulas, small business programs director and panel moderator, stand for a photo during a panel event held by the Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., Small Business Programs office in Newton, Mass., March 10, 2025. One of the main themes of the discussion was pathways for small businesses to connect with the Department of the Air Force to showcase their capabilities and to learn about new business opportunities.

ing PEO NC3 and director of the Air Force Nuclear Weapon Center's NC3 Integration Directorate. "I also want these systems to be easy to operate and easy to deploy on the worst day. We need them to be intuitive."

He explained the directorate's overall purpose is ensuring communications work in degraded environments of a nuclear attack. Communication systems that call for this kind of resiliency also need to be easy to use when the warfighter is in duress. He added that resiliency can act as an insurance policy.

Lea Kirkwood, PEO Electronic Systems Directorate, and her directorate's senior materiel leaders delivered their update.

Kirkwood outlined the primary mission of the new Electronic Systems Directorate and the six divisions therein, and how industry can contribute to the immediate vision for the

future.

"We provide the sensing aspect of ground and air," she said. "We deliver the crucial 'observe' and 'orient' within the observe-orient-decide-act loop. We are constantly looking for adaptable, common solutions to address the evolving threat landscape. What capabilities do we need to deliver for tonight's fight and what do we need to deliver for tomorrow's fight? We need to be poised and ready to execute both."

Kirkwood emphasized the need for industry partnership to enable capability delivery and speed to the front.

Gordon Kordyak, deputy PEO Command, Control, Communications and Battle Management Directorate, presented a program overview and updates alongside the directorate's senior materiel leaders.

The DAF's PEO C3BM is responsible for delivering an integrated DAF

BATTLE NETWORK. DAF PEO C3BM architecturally drives, integrates, and programmatically leads more than 50 programs of record to deliver resilient decision advantage for the joint and coalition fight.

"As we pursue acquisitions, we are more than just delivering lethal capabilities," Kordyak said. "We need to have a mindset of winning tomorrow's wars today. We facilitate the warfighter in doing their job well, and hopefully deterring wars before they start."

The PEO expects to build on the successes of 2024 to shape the objectives for this year, Kordyak said.

"The more we can define the need, the more likely we can deliver those capabilities. We've had a lot of successes and a lot of challenges, and we continue to overcome those challenges, because the warfighters deserve it."

Robins AFB welcomes software directorate, appoints leader



U.S. Air Force photo by Tommie Horton

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Bobby Hager, Air Force Sustainment Center Software Directorate director, gives remarks during an appointment of leadership ceremony held Feb. 26, 2025, at the Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, Museum of Aviation. Robins AFB was chosen as the operating location for the newly stood up directorate due to the installation's focus on mission, people and culture and its efforts in recruiting the future software engineering force.

By Lauren Boggs
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, marked the beginning of an era as the Air Force Sustainment Center Software Directorate stood up and appointed its first official leader during a ceremony at the Museum of Aviation, Feb. 26, 2025.

Lt. Gen. Stacey Hawkins, AFSC commander, appointed Bobby Hager to lead the organization. He cited her mission-focused skills that make her the ideal fit for the directorate.

"We needed a leader who has the temperament to understand how to bring

this group together, the collaboration skills to build not formal, but informal teams, the vision to imagine what doesn't yet exist and the technical expertise to understand the business behind the technology," said Hawkins.

Before being appointed as director of the new software directorate, Hager was promoted to the ranks of Senior Executive Service. During her ceremony, Air Force and community leaders, AFSC Civic Leader Program members and software professionals from across the Air Force, heard appreciation for the trust and confidence placed in her to lead the directorate.

Hager is tasked with lead-

ing the over 5,500 software professionals across the three software engineering groups and 11 operating locations. It's a critical mission for strategic competition in the rapidly evolving cyberspace landscape.

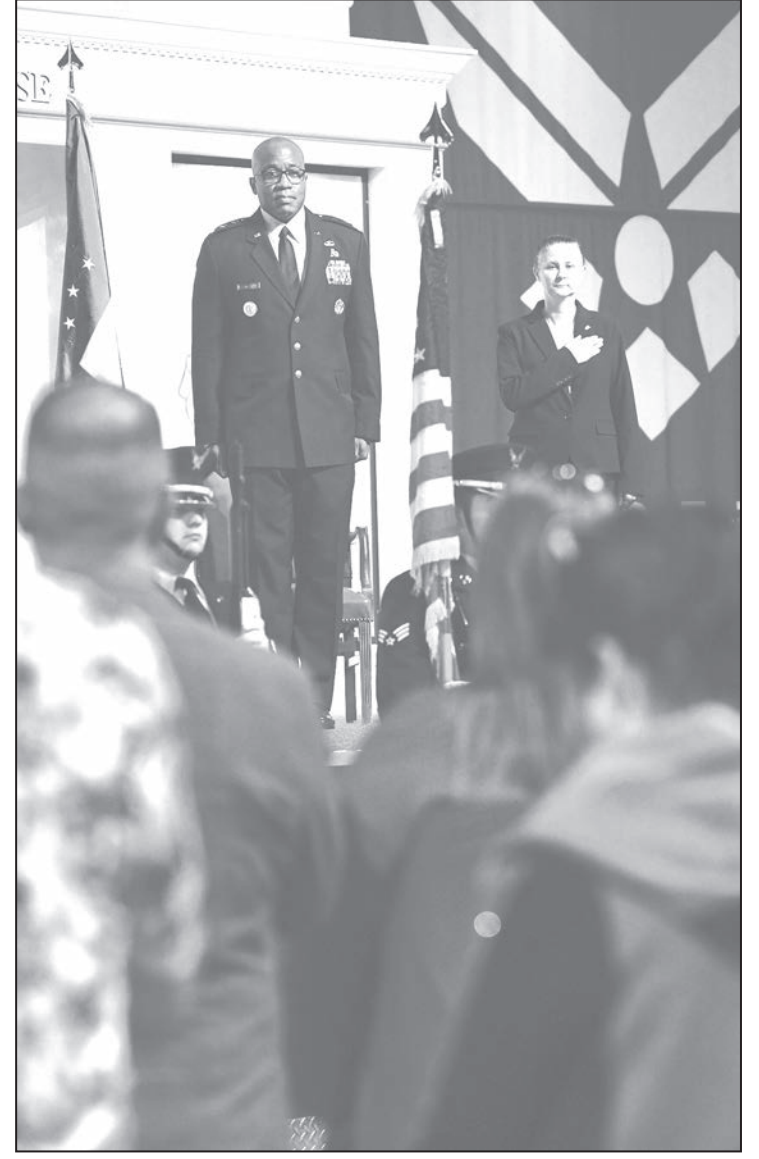
"Every system we develop, every line of code, every capability we enhance, directly impacts national security," Hager said. "As we look ahead, our mission is clear. We must continue to accelerate the software development for our agile technologies and leverage modern technologies to deliver cutting-edge capabilities."

The 76th SWEG at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, the 309th SWEG at Hill AFB, Utah

and the 402nd SWEG at Robins AFB, Georgia, are all joined under the AFSC/SW Directorate to create a unified software entity as part of the Air Force's efforts to achieve a more competitive posture through organizational alignment and enterprise solutions.

The reorganization focuses on mission readiness by eliminating stovepipes and delivering cross-functional and lethal combat capabilities in strategic environments.

"Our warfighters depend on us to provide software that is not only reliable but also adaptable to the ever-changing modern warfare landscape," Hager said, sharing her goals for



U.S. Air Force photo by Tommie Horton

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Lt. Gen. Stacey Hawkins, Air Force Sustainment Center commander, and Bobby Hager, AFSC Software Directorate director, stand for the playing of the national anthem during an appointment of leadership ceremony held Feb. 26, 2025, at the Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, Museum of Aviation. Hager was promoted to senior executive service before taking over the new directorate, which oversees 5,500 software professionals across three software engineering groups and 11 operating locations.

the directorate. "Together, what I set out is to drive innovation. I hope that we will push together and push the boundaries of what is possible."

Hawkins said Robins AFB was chosen to headquarter the directorate because of the base's focus on mission, people and culture.

"There's a movement hap-

pening in Middle Georgia where you're not just waiting for the next generation of talent to come to you, but you're going to it," said Hawkins, highlighting the community recruitment efforts by the 402nd SWEG. "It's a powerful model that we can continue to exploit here at Robins and also scale across the Air Force."

Air Force Awards Contract for Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Platform, F-47

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS)

The Department of the Air Force announced today the contract award for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) of the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Platform, marking a major milestone in the advancement of air superiority. The contract, awarded to Boeing, will lead to the development of the F-47, the world's first sixth-generation fighter aircraft.

"I'm thrilled to announce that, at my direction, the United States Air Force is moving forward with the world's first sixth-generation fighter jet," said President Donald J. Trump during a press briefing at the White House. "Nothing in the world comes even close to it, and it'll be known as the F-47."

This decision follows a fair and thorough source selection process conducted by the Air Force, reaffirming the NGAD Platform as the most capable and cost-effective solution to maintain air superiority in an increasingly complex and contested global threat environment. The decision reflects the Air Force's commitment to delivering cutting-edge technology to the warfighter while optimizing taxpayer investment.

"In terms of all of the attributes of a fighter jet, there's never been anything even close to it, from speed

to maneuverability, to what it can have, to payload. And this has been in the works for a long period of time," Trump added. "America's enemies will never see it coming."

In May 2024, the Air Force conducted a strategic pause in the program to ensure it was making the right decision for its warfighters and for the security of the nation. During this time, the Air Force continued collaborating with industry to aggressively mature critical technologies and accelerate innovation.

"Now we have the F-47, which sends a very direct, clear message to our allies that we're not going anywhere... and to our enemies that we can, and we will be able to project power around the globe, unimpeded, for generations to come," said Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Pete Hegseth.

Hegseth stated the F-47 represents a significant advancement over the F-22, which is currently the U.S. Air Force's primary air superiority fighter.

"This is a historic investment in the American military, in the American Industrial Base, that will help revive the warrior ethos inside our military, which we're doing--rebuilding our military," Hegseth added. "We know this is cheaper, longer range and more stealthy."

As the cornerstone of the NGAD Family of Systems, the F-47 is designed to integrate next-generation stealth, sensor fusion, and long-range strike capabil-

ities to counter the most sophisticated adversaries in contested environments. Its adaptability and modular design ensure seamless integration with emerging technologies, positioning it as a dominant platform for decades to come.

"With this F-47 as the crown jewel in the Next Generation Air Dominance Family of Systems, we believe that this provides more lethality," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin. "It provides more capability, more modernized capability, in a way that is built to adapt, along with our Collaborative Combat Aircraft."

Over the past five years, in strong partnership between the Air Force and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, X-planes have been laying the foundation for the F-47. These experimental aircraft have flown hundreds of hours, advancing stealth, range, and autonomous systems while refining operational concepts.

"Hopefully, these magnificent planes will be built and in the air during my administration. It's ready to go. They've already built much of what has to be built in terms of production, including the sheds," Trump added. "We will ensure that the USA continues to dominate the skies."

By leveraging cutting-edge digital engineering techniques and government-owned architecture, the F-47 benefits from a streamlined and accelerated development time-

line compared to previous fighter programs. These advancements enable rapid technology integration, ensuring the F-47 remains adaptable and upgradable to meet future mission requirements and counter emerging threats.

"Air dominance is not a birthright, but it's become synonymous with American airpower, but our dominance needs to be earned every single day," said

Allvin. "Since the earliest days of aerial warfare, brave American Airmen have jumped into their machines, taken to the air, and they've cleared the skies. That's been our commitment to the fight, and that's really been our promise to America, and with this F-47 we're going to be able to keep that promise well into the future."

The contract award funds the engineering and manufacturing development

phase, which includes maturing, integrating, and testing all aspects of the F-47. This phase will produce a small number of test aircraft for evaluation. The contract also includes competitively priced options for low-rate initial production.

Future basing decisions and additional program elements will be determined in the coming years as the Air Force advances the F-47 toward operational deployment.



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Robins Air Force Base participates in Macon, Georgia's 2025 International Cherry Blossom Festival



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

MACON, Ga. — Col. Sandra Bonney, 461st Air Control Wing deputy commander, salutes attendees from a Light Medium Transport Vehicle at the 2025 International Cherry Blossom Festival parade in downtown Macon, Georgia, March 23, 2025. The parade showcased local schools, civic organizations and area businesses and honored the men and women, past and present, of the armed services.

By Jerry Foltz
78th Air Base Wing

MACON, Ga. -- Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, personnel joined the 'Pinkest Party on Earth', when they traveled to Macon, Georgia, and participated

in the 2025 International Cherry Blossom Festival, March 23.

Thousands of spectators lined the streets as Col. Deedrick Reese, Robins Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander,

and Col. Sandra Bonney, 461st Air Control Wing deputy commander, led a contingent of Airmen through the heart of downtown Macon in two Light Medium Tactical Vehicles from the 5th Combat Communication Group, down Cherry Street, as the Robins AFB Honor Guard unit marched ahead of them, drawing cheers from the crowd.

While attending the parade showcased equipment and personnel of Team Robins, participating in the parade offered the chance of a lifetime for one special Robin AFB member.

"Being from D.C., and with my last name, I always wanted to go to their cherry blossom festival, but could never find the time," said Airman 1st Class Jazmine Cherry. "Now I have the unique opportunity, not only to go, but participate in my first cherry blossom festival right here in Macon."

The parade offered a unique opportunity for residents to interact with military members and share their appreciation for the impact Robins

has made on the local community, a feeling not lost on the uniformed participants.

"We can't turn a corner around Macon, or Middle Georgia for that matter, without being thanked for our service," said Bonney. "It is truly an honor to support our local community, and we thank them for inviting us to take part in this event."

The parade featured over 50 entries, including vibrant floats, energetic marching bands, as well as Middle Georgia and Japanese dignitaries. A patriotic atmosphere enveloped the streets as dozens of marching bands and Junior ROTC units from surrounding counties wound through a sea of pink, showcasing their precision drill movements and musical talents while passing under a canopy of blooming Yoshino cherry trees that have become synonymous with Macon each spring.

"Even though this is my third time marching in the parade, I always like seeing people enjoying themselves as we march by," said Senior

Airman Ta'Kera James, Honor Guard assistant flight sergeant. "The look of sheer admiration and respect we get can't be explained into words."

The following afternoon, guests were entertained by the visiting U.S. Air Force Academy Band's pop music group, Blue Delta, from Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs. In addition to a personalized rendition of America the Beautiful, the band covered a selection of songs from a variety of genres, including classic rock, top 40, R&B and country for the 'Heroes' Day' event, put together by the city of Macon as a community thank you to all active, retired, reserve and veteran military members, Department of Defense civilian employees, first responders and their immediate family members.

The ensemble group routinely tours across the nation and overseas, enhancing community relations and supporting the recruiting mission of the U.S. Air Force and USAFA by instilling the Air Force core values of Integrity,

Service and Excellence in our nation's youth.

"We're so excited to be here in a city deeply rooted in musical traditions and a community with strong military ties," said Blue Delta drummer, Tech. Sgt. Erick Eckstrom. "It's truly an honor performing on 'Heroes' Day', as we celebrate our countries veteran and active-duty members."

The city's connection to the cherry blossom dates back to 1949, when the late William Fickling Sr. discovered a Yoshino cherry tree in his backyard. The tree's uniqueness led him to propagate and share it throughout Macon, transforming the city into the 'Cherry Blossom Capital of the World.'

Macon's own Carolyn Crayton, inspired by Fickling's dedication, spearheaded the planting of 500 Yoshino cherry trees in 1973, laying the foundation for the festival and to celebrate the beauty of the cherry blossoms and the values of community, heritage and international friendship.



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

MACON, Ga. — A Light Medium Transport Vehicle, carrying uniformed service members from Robins Air Force, Georgia, rides down Mulberry Street as part of the 2025 International Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, Georgia, March 23, 2025. The annual parade featured over 50 entries, including vibrant floats, energetic marching bands, as well as Middle Georgia and Japanese dignitaries.



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

MACON, Ga. — Members of the Robins Air Force Base Honor Guard march down Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, March 23, 2025, in front of two Light Medium Transport Vehicles from the 5th Combat Communications Group at the 43rd annual International Cherry Blossom Festival. The parade offered Middle Georgia residents the opportunity to interact with Team Robins uniformed members in a patriotic and festive atmosphere.



U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz

MACON, Ga. — Col. Deedrick Reese, left, Robins Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Morales, center, 78th ABW command chief, ride down Cherry Street in a Light Medium Transport Vehicle while waving at spectators during the 2025 International Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, Georgia, March 23, 2025. The annual event drew thousands of attendees to view and share the outpouring of civic pride and communal esprit de corps displayed by military members.

General Officer panel offers ROTC cadets service insights, mentorship

By 1st Lt. Sarah Packard
Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- More than 100 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from universities across the Northeast region gathered to hear from Air Force Materiel Command senior leaders here March 12.

Hosted in partnership with ROTC Detachment 643 at Wright State University, four general officers shared their military experiences, offering the cadets a mentorship opportunity and insight to the future of the service. Panelists included Lt. Gen. Hurry, AFMC Deputy Commander; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. "Opie" Schreiner, Director, AFMC Air, Space and Cyberspace Operations; Brig. Gen.

Jason E. Lindsey, Director, AFMC Strategic Plans, Programs, Requirements, and Analyses; and Brig. Gen. Lindsay C. Droz, Director, AFMC Logistics, Civil Engineering, Force Protection, and Nuclear Integration.

"We're going to pass the baton to you for our Air Force and let you run with it," said Hurry. "But no matter what your career field is, you are never by yourself. Our Air Force is a team sport. Just know that we're your resource. Whatever you need, we got your back."

AFMC plays a critical role in maintaining the Air Force's dominance, specializing in the research, development, and delivery of cutting-edge technology and capabilities. This panel

aimed to bridge the experience of seasoned leaders with the fresh perspectives of the cadets, who are entering the military during a period of rapid change and evolution.

Throughout the panel, the generals talked about how the Air Force environment of today differs from the past and requires the cadets to start practicing their leadership skills now.

"Folks have asked me, 'what do I need to do to be successful?' It's character, competence and attitude," said Lindsey. "Character - always behave in accordance with your personal values and the Air Force's core values. That is rule number one and always will be. Competence - be really, really good at the thing we need you to be good at,

and don't ever stop getting better. And then, attitude - have fun. You are part of the greatest institution in the history of the world... what we do here is amazing, and it matters."

The senior leaders also explained why it is important to understand the future direction of the Department of the Air Force.

"By the time you become part of the force, we'll be using a deployable combat model," said Schreiner. "Instead of 'crowdsourcing' [Airmen] from different bases, we're trying to get it down to a single deployable combat wing that trains together over an 18-month cycle, to then be able to go fulfill deployment tasking for six months."

"Knowing each other's strengths, you become a

whole lot more effective," added Hurry. "That's really where we're trying to go when we deploy as a combat wing. You're going to go down range together much more effectively."

Agile Combat Employment and the Air Force Force Generation Model are two concepts reshaping how the service approaches readiness, force deployment, and operational flexibility in contested environments. These concepts are just two of the critical concepts the cadets were interested in learning about.

During the question-and-answer segment, the cadets engaged the generals on topics ranging from multi-domain operations to the challenges of leading in increasingly tech-driven environments.

"Hearing from the generals, their insight and their ideas on how the future is going to be, and what they've seen with all their experiences really is going to resonate," said Cadet Adrian Sok, Det 643. "We're going to be second lieutenants. We're going to be in charge of individuals, and they entrust in us to ensure that we take care of them and take care of the mission as well."

The panel served as a powerful reminder of the importance of investing in the next generation of Air Force leaders. By fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and providing guidance, AFMC is ensuring these future officers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mentorship they need to lead with excellence.



A Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet asks a question to Air Force Materiel Command general officers during a panel at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on March 12, 2025. The panel included topics such as the Air Force Force Generation Model and leadership lessons.



Lt. Gen. Linda Hurry, Air Force Materiel Command Deputy Commander, responds to a question asked by a Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet during a general officer panel at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on March 12, 2025. The panel included topics such as the Air Force Force Generation Model and leadership lessons.



Four Air Force Materiel Command general officers shared their experience and mentorship with Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets during a panel at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on March 12, 2025. The panel included topics such as the Air Force Force Generation Model and leadership lessons.



A group of Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets thanked AFMC general officers with a round of applause for sharing their mentorship during a panel at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on March 12, 2025. The panel included topics such as the Air Force Force Generation Model and leadership lessons.

Historian's Corner: 5th CCG embodies a legacy of innovation, excellence

By Patrick Sullivan
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

Since its activation July 1, 1964, the 5th Combat Communications Group, based out of Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, has crafted a legacy of innovation and adaptability.

Only one month after forming, personnel went to Gila Bend, Arizona and supported drone operations – a technology that was seeing its first large-scale military use in the then-ongoing Vietnam War. By the end of their first operational year, the 5th CCG had accumulated over 2,100 temporary duty days, establishing its early reputation for rapid deployment.

In late 1965, the group introduced the AN/TSC-28 communications van, significantly improving its field communications capabilities. These vans supported 100 telephone stations and multiple teletype circuits, providing comprehensive communications capabilities on a mobile platform. 5th CCG technicians later modified the vans by lowering their axles and wheels, allowing them to fit onto C-130 Hercules aircraft for transport in order to support global operations.

In 1966, the group imple-

mented the "Talking Bird" airborne command system, designed for rapid response during emergencies or bare-base conditions. The self-contained system was installed into select C-130s, turning them into airborne command posts with global communications. At the time, this package was only available with the 5th CCG at Robins and at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

George "Ted" Engelmann, a 5th CCG veteran, served with the group during the Vietnam War and provided a first-hand account to the CCG's role and impact in the conflict.

Arriving to Vietnam in March 1968, he served as a forward air controller attached to the U.S. Army's 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

"We had rocket attacks, mortar attacks, satchel charges coming in... anywhere from 50 to 150 rockets per attack," said Englemann, describing the conditions they operated under.

Engelmann also recounted practical adaptations, such as carrying spare fuses to fix radios used by Army personnel.

"We always carried these fuses in our pockets...it was a long-standing joke among Air Force person-

nel, we would never tell the Army guys the secret because they would give us free phone calls back," said Engelmann.

After Vietnam, the 5th CCG continued to support notable missions, including air traffic control operations for the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969 and Apollo 12 later that year.

During the 1980s, the group's adaptability was tested once again during Operation Eagle Claw, the attempted rescue of American hostages in Iran in April 1980. Personnel from the group swiftly established critical communications and navigational systems in austere desert conditions. While the operation was ultimately cancelled, their readiness and capability in setting up essential infrastructure under pressure was clear.

In the early 1990s, the 5th CCG deployed more than 600 personnel during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The group provided essential command, control and communications support throughout the Middle East, ensuring effective coordination among coalition forces. They established communication networks in austere and hostile environments, enabling rapid military



U.S. Air Force photo by Tommie Horton

Staff Sgt. Anthony Coe, RF Transmission Systems supervisor (front), and Senior Airman Zachary Blucker, 51st Combat Communications Squadron, render self-aid and buddy care to Staff Sgt. Austin Simons, RF Transmission Systems supervisor, following a simulated attack Dec. 7 at Savannah, Ga., Air National Guard Base's Combat Readiness Training Center.

action and earning widespread recognition and commendation for their efforts.

Into the 21st century, the 5th CCG has maintained its innovative edge, using and adapting modern technologies to address emerging threats and changing operational demands. Initiatives include the establishment of the Combat Communications Engineering Integration Center in 2016, which validates combat commu-

nications modernization efforts across the total force. The center is one of numerous modern-day programs that demonstrate the group's ongoing commitment to integrating new technologies, industry partnerships, and continuous improvements in combat communications capabilities.

In 2024, the 5th CCG moved under command of the 461st Air Control Wing, bolstering the Wing's oper-

ational capabilities and making it the first active command, control and communications, or C3, wing in the Air Force.

Through historical records and firsthand accounts, the legacy of the 5th CCG emerges as a history defined by adaptability, innovation and operational effectiveness. Today, Robins Airmen take up that mantle to carry the group's legacy and define its future.

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6:30PM	AGES 0-4
7:30PM	AGES 5-9
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