

The Houston Home Journal

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EDINGIAFAD

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1 Section, 12 Pages

WORD OF THE DAY

THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION; BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD. JOHN 16:33 (NKJV)

SPORTS



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GOT NEWS?

Submit your news tips to newsroom@hhjonline.com or call us at 478-987-1823.



PERIODICAL

'Nice to see the efforts'

HEMA reflects on recent Houston County storm

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
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HOUSTON COUNTY — Many places in Houston County were left picking up pieces after a recent storm swept through the area Monday afternoon.

Luke Culver, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, confirmed two EF0 tornadoes in the region, one in Centerville and one that traveled from northeastern Peach County into north Houston County. Peak winds were upwards of 75 miles per hour.

David Newman, deputy director for the Houston County Emergency Management Agency, said the northeast side of Centerville into northwest Warner Robins, along Elberta Road to Greenbriar Road, was most affected by the storm.

According to Newman, damage was not extremely catastrophic: mostly downed trees and power lines. The agency knew of some trees falling on houses but reported no entrapments or injuries.

See **STORM** page 3A



A fallen tree takes out powerlines near the intersection of Gawin Drive and Carl Vinson Parkway in Warner Robins as a severe storm sweeps through Houston County. Courtesy: City of Warner Robins

Houston County middle schooler named a finalist in National American Miss Georgia Junior Teen Pageant



Savannah MaLynn Chaney

By **OWEN JONES**
HHJ Staff Writer
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WARNER ROBINS — Savannah MaLynn Chaney, a student at Huntington Middle School, has been named a state finalist in the National American Miss Georgia Junior Teen Pageant, held on July 4-6 at the Crowne Park Perimeter in Atlanta.

According to a media release, the winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash reward, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses and air transportation to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California. The winner will also tour Hollywood and get the chance to represent the State of Georgia for the

whole year.

The release said contestants will compete in four categories: formal wear modeling, personal introduction, interview and community service project.

Chaney loves playing basketball, baseball, soccer and softball, and said that she never stops. Her mother, Wendi Worthington, said she is the only female baseball player in the Warner Robins area.

"Last year, she received the Coach's Award and she'll get an award this year for playing four sports in the school year," Worthington said.

Chaney found out about the pageant by receiving a letter in the mail that she had been selected. Worthington

See **FINALIST** page 3A

Warner Robins stabbing leads to one arrest, one in hospital

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
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WARNER ROBINS — A domestic incident resulted in a stabbing on Thursday that involved two victims, sending one person to the hospital.

According to the Warner Robins Police Department, on April 3, around 6:25 p.m., officers responded to the domestic on the 500 block of Leisure Lake Drive. There, they found two victims: a 24-year-old female with stab wounds and a 50-year-old female with slash wounds.

The 24-year-old was transported to a local hospital, while the 50-year-old was treated on scene.

The suspect, described as a 26-year-old male, was arrested near the scene shortly after.

As of Thursday night, police classified the incident as family violence and have not revealed the names of the parties involved. They said more information is forthcoming.

The Criminal Investigative Division and Identification Criminalistics responded to investigate and process the scene. Anyone with more information is urged to contact Det. Garcia or Det. Chittenden at (478) 302-5380 or Macon Regional Crimestoppers: 1-877-68CRIME.



Centerville honors former mayor, awards community housing point

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
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CENTERVILLE — "We want to take a moment to recognize someone who has been an important part of our city, who had quite a bit

of influence in the growth and all the good things that have been happening in Centerville. Many of the ideas and things that we see now were because of the work he did."

See **MAYOR** page 8A



Centerville City Council honors former mayor John Harley with a key to the city during the city's April 1 council meeting.



Police Chief Alan Everidge presents to council how the drone program will enhance public safety.

Perry Council discusses public safety drone program, vending machines

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY — The city of Perry discussed implementing a drone program during Tuesday night's city council meeting and put a stop to new vending machines.

Law Enforcement Drone program

During the pre-council meeting, Police Chief Alan Everidge presented the program to Mayor Randall Walker and the council. He believes the drone program will equip the police department with cutting-edge technology and help enhance public safety.

Everidge discussed how

See **PERRY** page 9A

She Means BUSINESS

Local women making an impact

Dr. Anjali Patel Nagar – breaking barriers in the medical field

By SANDRA HERNANDEZ
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WARNER ROBINS – Women’s History Month would not be complete without recognizing women in our community breaking barriers, one of them being Houston Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Faculty and Osteopathic Director Dr. Anjali Patel Nagar.

Nagar was born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Diagnosed with Amniotic Band Syndrome, she was born with one hand, but her parents instilled in her not to let it hold her back or be viewed as a difficulty. She became active in Indian classical dancing, attended swim classes, joined the swim team and eventually was on the soccer team as well.

She enjoyed Indian classical dancing the most; she started at five years old and danced for 12 years. Eventually, she became certified in teaching Indian classical dancing around the time she graduated from high school. In her culture, this is considered a big deal, she said.

She attended Michigan State University for undergrad and medical school. In college, she was admitted to the direct medical scholar’s program and joined a competitive Indian dance team: the Michigan State Raas team, where they competed nationwide.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, Nagar went on to attend the Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine. Shortly after, she met her husband during a trip to Iceland and he was joining the Air Force during that time. He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan during her residency in Chicago.

Nagar and her husband moved to Oklahoma City after she graduated from her residency. There, she joined a federally health-qualified center called Variety Care, which she described as a major health organization that helps underserved patients who can’t afford insurance.

While working at Variety Care, Nagar re-learned Spanish to communicate more effectively with her patients. She also spear-

headed efforts to bring Telehealth services to the center, allowing patients to receive care over the phone and online.

Eventually, her husband was stationed in Warner Robins, where she interviewed at Houston Healthcare.

“I felt right at home and I just felt like this is the place I need to be at,” she said.

Since she had the experience, Nagar applied for an outpatient clinic opportunity. Physician Recruiter Manager Michelle Colson told her about a faculty position available and asked her if she wanted to join.

Nagar was unsure at the time due to her recent graduate status and doubted her candidacy. However, she said she liked the challenge and decided to try it out.

“It’s been the best decision I’ve ever made. Working and teaching the residents at Houston Healthcare, working with them and just making sure we graduate great physicians that will take care of all of our friends and family in the community has been such a blessing,” she said.

Working in the outpatient side of care, she also works in residents’ didactics education and with marketing on social media. She also helps with incoming resident recruiting and serves as the Osteopathic Program Director.

Nagar shared that her parents and her doctor motivated her to pursue the medical field and family medicine. When she was born, her parents, who immigrated from India and Uganda, did not know she had one hand due to a lack of access to ultrasounds.

Confused by her condition, her parents met frequently with a primary care physician, who helped build confidence in them to take care of her. He then gave Nagar the confidence to be the person she is today.

As Nagar grew up, she worked with orthopedics to get a prosthetic hand, which helped her become more independent. She realized how impactful being a physician can be.

A lifelong learner, Nagar enjoys tackling

the challenging aspects of the field. She said family medicine physicians must know everything about their patients, as they may not be able to afford specialists, such as a cardiologist, nephrologist, ENT or endocrinologist.

“Being a family physician, you need to know every single thing in order to take care of the patient who can’t afford or have access to more care, which is a lot of our patients in this community,” she said.

Nagar’s favorite part of the job is getting to know her patients, especially as a family physician. She described the physicians as the anchor for their patients, one of her favorite aspects of the job.

“We are the ones that they see first. I’m not only their physician but I’m also their social worker. I’m also their care manager, I’m also a friend. I’m also a family member to some of them. I might be the only person that they talk to,” she said.

Nagar likes walking into the room and truly knowing the patient, their history, their family and what they have gone through. She said one of her patients asked about occasionally drinking alcohol, not just as their friend, but also as their friend.

“Just having that relationship with patients I think is what makes this job totally worth it,” she said.

Nagar shared that more females are becoming physicians and entering the medical field, but need to work more to be taken seriously. She praises these jobs and emphasizes their importance, but many believe she is either a medical assistant or nurse.

Nagar mentioned the assumption that the physician is an older male; many do not expect her when she walks into the room.

Nagar shared another instance of doubt placed on her. When she was in her third year of medical school, an anesthesiologist told her she could not intubate patients with one hand.

“I took that with me. If you tell me no, I use that as fire to prove people wrong,” she said.

Nagar went into the intu-



Dr. Anjali Patel Nagar

bation lab and practiced on simulated patients, developing a technique with a glidescope. She told the anesthesiologist to give her one chance and she intubated 10 patients.

During her residency, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many physicians were afraid of the virus, but Nagar said care is necessary, offering help whenever intubation was needed. She said many nurse practitioners called on her to do the procedure.

“I think that was one challenge that I can remember back and will never forget,” she said.

As Osteopathic Program

Director, she is in charge of leading the Osteopathic Medicine residency program. For that, two hands were also needed.

In medical school, she and her professor created new techniques to treat patients with her left hand. Now, she is looking forward to teaching others.

“I used it as an adaptation to create new techniques that I want to actually present at a conference,” she said.

Nagar advises those born with physical limitations to not take it as a challenge but use it as a tool to help.

“God made us in a certain way and wanted us to prove to others that this is not a handicap. It’s something that we were given and it’s a gift. Use it in a way that’s going to help you and empower you to do whatever you want to do. Don’t let it stop you,” she said.

She welcomes anyone interested to talk with her, offering support to those going through similar challenges.

“It’s helpful to have a mentor, so I would love to help anyone that needs it,” she said.

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CALENDAR

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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 qggtalenthunt@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.

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."

NARFE April Meeting

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees, NARFE Warner Robins chapter 1020 will meet at 11:00 Wednesday April 9 at the Senior Center 155 Maple Street Warner Robins. All active or retired federal employees from RAFB or any federal agency are invited for a sub sandwich lunch and a brief business meeting followed by a free presentation "THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN" by Toledo TJ Bradford. You are welcome to come and enjoy your lunch with NARFE members and visitors.

NARFE is the only national organization dedicated to protecting earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. As a member of NARFE, you can connect with other feds, participate in NARFE webinars, learn about legislative advocacy and gain information from our federal benefits experts.

Have a great day and join us Wednesday April 9 at 11:00 for the excellent presentation, "THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN."

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.

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.

Robins Air Force Base employee indicted in federal court



By OWEN JONES
HHJ Staff Writer
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MACON — The United States District Court Middle District of Georgia

Macon Division indicted a former Robins Air Force Base employee for exposing himself in front of a coworker in public.

The indictment said on July 7, 2024, Stacy S. Wood

performed a "lewd exposure of a sexual organ" in a coworker's cubicle, which was deemed a public place.

Wood was indicted on one count of public indecency on March 19.

Warner Robins shooting now a homicide, police say

By BRIEANNA SMITH
HHJ Managing Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — A 22-year-old man was arrested after a Friday night shooting in Warner Robins, and police say it has been updated to a homicide investigation.

According to the Warner Robins Police Department, officers responded to reports of gunfire around 5:45 p.m. on March 28 in the 100 block of Buford Drive.

When police arrived, they found a 21-year-old man, identified as Shaquez Head, with a gunshot wound to the head. He was transported by EMS to a local hospital



Nicholas Jenkins

and died from his injuries on April 1.

Police arrested one individual shortly after the incident, identified as 22-year-old Nicholas Jenkins. Investigation

revealed he and another party arrived at the scene, where Jenkins shot Head and fled.

The other party was taken into custody later during the investigation, but was released after police learned he was not involved nor knew of the shooting.

Jenkins is being charged with Homicide, Aggravated Assault and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Brankley or Detective Milam at (478) 302-5380 or call Macon Regional Crimestoppers at 1-877-68CRIME.

STORM

From page 1A

Crews worked after the storm on Monday to clear roadways and restore power. Newman said roadways were cleared in a few hours, and power was restored sometime later. Private property damage depends on the owner, so HEMA did not have an estimate on full restoration.

Newman highlighted a resilient community during the cleanup.

"[In] several of the neighborhoods that we went into, there were people already out that were not impacted by the storm assisting

their neighbors that were. You know the resiliency that Houston County has with our Public Works and roads and bridges divisions, as well as our local power companies getting out, getting quick access and getting power restored for everybody ... It was really nice to see the assisted efforts from everybody while we were out," Newman said.

Culver said tornadoes are common, especially in the spring, due to gulf moisture and strong southerly winds.

"You get strong southerly winds that bring in high dew points and moisture over the region. At the same time, you also

have the winds kind of turning clockwise with height, turning from south to southwest to west as you go up in the atmosphere. That's what allows storms to spin and that spin is what can eventually produce a tornado," he explained.

Newman advised to monitor weather conditions and be prepared in advance for storms.

When a tornado warning is issued by the NWS, Culver advised to seek shelter in the lowest and most interior part of a sturdy building.

Keep up with updates on HEMA's Facebook page: [facebook.com/HOUSTONCOUNTYEMA/](https://www.facebook.com/HOUSTONCOUNTYEMA/)

Community Calendar

Email your information to: brianna@hhjonline.com

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FINALIST

From page 1A

said her daughter was chosen to come to an open-call session.

"She went in, they told her about the pageant, had a brief interview with them and they chose finalists," Worthington said. "I believe she is one of two or three people in her age group who were chosen as finalists."

Chaney is looking forward and is excited about this new experience.

"I get to meet all of the other Misses, and they can give me advice on what to do, what to say and how to present myself," she said.

"[My pageant experience] has been awesome as I've met new people in a lot of different age groups. I feel like their maturity level is going to affect how I am in this pageant."

If she wins, Chaney said she wouldn't know how to represent the State of Georgia just yet, but she would be overwhelmed with excitement.

"I would like to shout out to the people that have helped me come so far, and I would also like to help my community out more," she said.

One of Chaney's pageant goals is to stay humble through the process.

"I don't want to get too

cocky because you know how that eventually ends out. I want to be chill, listen and pay attention," she said.

Worthington said her daughter is driven and unique.

"Whenever she puts her mind to something she gets it done, and we're super proud of her," Worthington said. "Doing this pageant is a little off the beaten path, but I think it'll be good for her to be around girlier girls to kinda tap into that feminine side because she's really tough. It'll be fun to see her get dressed up and do all the glitz and glamor, so we're excited."

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VIEWPOINTS

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Share Your Viewpoint

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.

P.O. Box 1910
1210 Washington Street, Perry, GA 31069
478-987-1823

Recent women's panel left me feeling empow-her-d

Some of my favorite stories to cover highlight meaningful milestones in our community, but it's rare that one personally impacts me. Recently, however, an assignment resonated with me as a woman and a leader.

As managing editor, I play a key role in determining what news makes it into print. Sifting through scores of events, tips, phone calls, emails, and breaking news to narrow it down to just six stories per issue is no easy task, but it's essential.

With our She Means Business series underway, the city's Empower Her Women's Panel for Women's History Month felt like a perfect fit. And as a leader navigating the corporate world, I had to cover it.

The panel featured an hour-long discussion on balancing life, career, and motherhood. While I'm not a parent, I know firsthand that juggling professional and personal responsibilities is no small task.

I have no idea how my mom managed it, and I was in awe of the incredible women in that room who do. They deserve all the props.

One of the panel's key discussions that truly resonated with me was overcoming doubt from others and from within. I've certainly felt it, as I'm sure most women have.

At my first news job, there was an anchor who almost made me quit journalism altogether. As a production assistant, I was still learning the ropes, but instead of offering guidance, he fixated on every mistake I made.

His criticism was relentless, and I dreaded every shift with him. But rather than let his words break me, I reminded myself that even though I wasn't in front of the camera, I was exactly where I was meant to be: part of something bigger.

Thankfully, he was the exception, not the rule. Most people at the station

The Editor's Experience



Brianna Smith
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fostered a culture of support, and that made all the difference.

Megan Montgomery, the morning meteorologist, embodied resilience. My production manager, Jasmine Waples, gave me my first leadership opportunity as a technical director.

Mark Talley, the weekend sports anchor, encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and try anchoring. And morning anchor Krista Spadaccini entrusted me with my first news writing role as an associate producer.

I may not be in front of the camera—nor do I want to be—but thanks to them, I never doubted that journalism is where I belong.

That's not to say I have always been a journalist. My career path wasn't exactly traditional. Fresh out of college, I bounced between odd jobs: a print shop, a peach orchard, a call center. Even in news, I started at the very bottom as a production assistant.

When I moved to Georgia, I spent eight months working at a vape shop before landing at The Journal. For me, it was always, “Well, I need money now, so I'm okay with not fulfilling my calling for a little while. Gimme the DOUGH.”

Every time I found myself in a rut, the mindset that got me out was simple: I'm gonna be great at this. That mentality propelled me into leadership, as technical director and managing editor. I didn't always feel that drive in those in-between jobs, but in news, I wanted to be the best at whatever role I was in.

See SMITH page 9A



You've been spammed

Columnist



Kelly Burke

www.kellyrburke.com

Did you know there is a tie-in between SPAM, the meat product, and spam, the intrusive emails or texts? SPAM is a portmanteau of “spiced ham.” The intrusive “spam” originates from a Monty Python sketch where the word “spam,” referring to the canned meat product, was used repetitively, mirroring the intrusive nature of unwanted emails.

If you get an email or text saying you are in trouble for not showing up for jury duty, it's false. It is always false. Trash it. Don't bother reporting it. Whatever you do, don't respond in any manner. The clerk of court will send snail mail if you miss jury duty. If the judge is mad, a nice deputy may

knock on your door. But there will be no email or text.

If you get an email or text that your EZ Pass owes a toll debt to Florida, Michigan, or even Nutty California, it's false. Every single time. Trash it. Don't report it. You are wasting everybody's time if you start calling around trying to figure it out. When you get a flyer that says ABC

Yard Service will mow your unsightly yard, and your yard is immaculate, do you call the Sheriff? You just throw it away, right?

If you get a phone call from a deputy saying your son has been arrested and can be bonded out under a special program if you will go get a Green Card at Walmart, it's a scam. I'd suggest you call the sheriff on that one. By the way, fraudsters can clone the sheriff's number. Hang up and call the sheriff yourself.

If a 2015 Ford F-150 is on Marketplace in excellent condition, with low miles, and can be yours for \$4,500, it's fraudulent. Every time. Don't bother responding. Facebook could do more to prevent fraud

if they wanted to, but they don't care.

If the buyer of your listed item has a certified check for more than the purchase price and wants you to refund the difference, it's fraud. Every single time.

Help your elderly (over 45 years old) parents by offering to be a sounding board all the time on every single thing. It's what you do. They protected you for years, it's your turn to help them. Tell them there is nothing to be embarrassed about.

Computers make fraud so easy! If the fraudsters send out 100,000 text messages and ONE pays off, it's a big win (for them).

See BURKE page 9A



Trump must balance mandate versus rebellion against prior administration

Five Georgias



Charlie Harper

Columnist

harpercb@gmail.com

If you get confused about where you're going, it's good to reflect on how you got here. But since self-reflection is never the party in power's strong suit, we'll start with how the 46th President campaigned — and then governed.

The entire premise of Joe Biden's candidacy was a return to normalcy. There were specific promises to return to norms after four years of “mean tweets.” As a Senator, Joe Biden was the consummate deal maker who could work across the aisle, and get things done.

There was overt outreach to centrist Republicans who had grown tired of erratic swings of direction within the White House. Too many of the President's “Best Men” were “total losers” when they resigned or were fired, sometimes just days

ily had lost about \$9,000 in purchasing power due to inflation.

The normalcy voters expected became extended school closures due to teachers' unions overriding original medical guidance. Jobs were lost and military service members separated when they refused vaccine mandates. When schools reopened, many found men on their women's sports teams and in girls' locker rooms.

Build back better gave billions for EV chargers that resulted in less than a dozen operational units, billions more for rural broadband that didn't connect a single home, and even more billions for high speed rail that was sent to the California desert to die a slow death. It now seems the only thing the past administration

was good at building were hyper-partisan NGOs.

Not only were former Executive Orders aimed at curtailing illegal immigration rescinded, but the Biden Administration began flying undocumented individuals directly into the country, then ensured they were able to jump to the front of the line for full taxpayer funded benefits.

The American people saw a justice system that was hypervigilant on anything that appeared right wing, including the prosecution of people praying outside abortion clinics and the FBI dispatched when parents organized to protest their local school boards. They noted that violent criminals — including many who had been allowed into

See HARPER page 9A

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

History of the Bible

The history of the Bible starts with a phenomenal account of history! It's not one book like I always thought — It's an ancient collection of writings, comprised of 66 separate books, written over approximately 1,600 years, by at least 40 distinct authors.

The Old Testament contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC, and the New Testament contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD. The original Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the original New Testament was written in common Greek. The history of the "Bible" begins with the Jewish Scriptures. The historical record of the Jews was written down on leather scrolls and tablets over centuries, and the authors included kings, shepherds, prophets and other leaders. The first five books are called the Law, which were written and/or edited primarily by Moses in the early 1400's BC.

Thereafter, other scriptural texts were written and collected by the Jewish people during the next 1,000 years. About 450 BC, the Law and the other Jewish Scriptures were arranged by councils of rabbis (Jewish teachers), who then recognized the complete set as the inspired and sacred authority of God (Elohim). At some time during this period, the books of the Hebrew

Parables to Ponder



Billy Powell

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Bible were arranged by topic, including The Law (Torah), the Prophets (Nebiim), and the Writings (Ketubim). The first letters of these Hebrew words - T, N and K — form the name of the Hebrew Bible - the Tanakh.

Beginning as early as 250 BC, the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. This translation became known as the "Septuagint", meaning 70, and referring to the tradition that 70 (probably 72) men comprised the translation team. It was during this process that the order of the books was changed to the order we have in today's Bible: Historical (Genesis - Esther), poetic (Job - Song of Songs), and prophetic (Isaiah - Malachi).

Although the Jewish Scriptures were copied by hand, they were extremely accurate copy to copy. The Jews had a phenomenal system of scribes, who developed intricate and ritualistic methods for counting letters, words and paragraphs to

insure that no copying errors were made. These scribes dedicated their entire lives to preserving the accuracy of the holy books. A single copy error would require the immediate destruction of the entire scroll. In fact, Jewish scribal tradition was maintained until the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400's AD. As far as manuscript accuracy, the recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has confirmed the remarkable reliability of this scribal system over thousands of years (I'll get back to the Dead Sea Scrolls later).

After 400 years of scriptural silence, Jesus arrived in 4 BC. Throughout his teaching, Jesus often quotes the Old Testament, declaring that he did not come to destroy the Jewish Scriptures, but to fulfill them. In the Book of Luke, Jesus proclaims to his disciples, "all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." From 40 to 90 A.D., the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, including Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, wrote the Gospels, letters and books that became the Bible's New Testament. 2 Timothy 3: 16 states: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

The Savvy Reseller's Secret Weapon: Time Travel (Your Inventory, That Is!)

Imagine this: while everyone else is basking in the summer sun, you're quietly stockpiling the treasures that will light up holiday wish lists months later. Sound crazy? For online sellers and resellers, it's a strategic masterstroke. The key? Buying out of season.

Forget chasing fleeting trends during peak times. The real goldmine lies in the post-holiday clearance racks, the dusty corners of spring yard sales, and the hidden gems at estate sales. Think deeply discounted Christmas decorations in July, or Halloween costumes in March. Retailers are desperate to clear space, and their loss is your potential gain.

The Hunt for Hidden Treasure: Beyond the Obvious

It's not just about holiday decor. Consider the overlooked potential of toys and collectibles. After the festive rush, retailers often purge their inventory to make way for summer merchandise. This creates a prime opportunity to snag items that can appreciate significant-

All About Antiques



Jillinda Falen
Columnist

ly over time. Vintage Star Wars figures, rare anime collectibles, or limited-edition movie memorabilia — these are the treasures coveted by collectors and convention-goers.

Think of it as investing in the future. A Hallmark ornament that gathers dust in your attic today could become a sought-after piece next year. That seemingly ordinary toy might become a nostalgic relic in a decade.

The Storage Factor: A Reseller's Achilles' Heel (or Advantage!)

Of course, this strategy hinges on one crucial element: storage. If your living space resembles a Tetris game of boxes, this might not be for you. And let's be honest, we've all experienced the "where did I put

that?" moment after months of storage.

However, for those with the space and discipline, the rewards can be substantial. Imagine flipping a \$5 yard sale find for \$50 during the holiday rush. It's the kind of profit margin that makes strategic storage a worthwhile investment.

The Trend Tracker's Edge: Staying Ahead of the Curve

To truly maximize your out-of-season bounty, stay attuned to market trends. What's hot in the collector's world? Which movie franchise is generating buzz? By anticipating demand, you can target your purchases and ensure a swift and profitable turnover.

In essence, buying out of season is about playing the long game. It's about seeing value where others see clutter. It's about transforming forgotten treasures into profitable opportunities. So, next time you see a discounted Christmas ornament in July, don't dismiss it — see it as a future goldmine. Happy Collecting!

'Sign' here for a better you

Herein is a challenge for you. If you're brave enough to take it. A test. A test of character. A test of who you are. Maybe on a small scale. Maybe on a large scale. Maybe on the grandest scale. Maybe somewhere in between.

I was in one of the local department stores a few weeks back when I happened upon a sign. It's all wood, about 24 inches wide, 18 inches high, brown half-inch border around a white-painted background, with words in black.

It was the words, of course, that sold me. Instantly. I'd been looking for them my entire life. Thinking I had them here, but it turned out I was wrong. Never more alive here. Or so I thought until they slipped through my fingers again, like water. This journey. That season. Stumbled. Fell. So close and yet they remained elusive.

Now, here they were. Captured. My prisoner. Perfectly summed. Ingrained, nowhere to run this time. They announced with all clarity: Who I want to be. How people know me. How I am defined. How I am known. What I want to work toward. What I want to strive for, fight for. What they would say about me in my eulogy. "Well, you know. There's a sign he had hanging on the wall in his office ..." My words. My life story. Not others' I found out. They found the words ... well, not so inviting.

I watched from behind my desk as the first person encountered/noticed them. He began by reading them out loud. He was clear as day until midway through the first sentence. Then, his voice began to lower and trail off. He looked away as if I had placed a nude picture on my wall.

The second person read to himself. It took about the same amount of time — enough to get midway through the first line — before they quickly looked away and turned to me. Their approach feinted; I don't have time for all this reading signs on the wall stuff. I've got business to attend to ... "Hey. I came in to ask ..."

There was shuffling of feet from one other. Body language from another that said their mind felt like it had inadvertently stepped on a rattlesnake. Eyes wide open by all. Shocked by what the words had revealed to them about themselves.

I'm telling you. They're hard words to want to live by. (You'll get your chance at them in a minute.) Hard as steel. Not just for me,

Publisher



Don Moncrief

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the people at my job, but across all walks of life. I'm no judge — just passing on what I've witnessed — but I've met plenty in the church who find them foreign. Even though they've read variations of them in scripture over and over and over again.

And just because I told you I welcomed them doesn't mean I didn't know what I was offering myself up to. To want to live your life like the words prescribe is to be like Atlas carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. To open your arms to them — especially, and specifically, in the world we live in today — is about like opening your arms to a snarling, viscous grizzly bear that wants to tear your limb from limb. And probably will. Many will see them in your life as a weakness. Many will think they can take advantage of you because of them. To claim them as your own will leave you in the smallest minority, not the vast majority. There will be no parades if you succeed. No fanfare. Only silence. Unless you fail. You fail and there'll be shouting in the streets.

The words: "Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people. A heart that forgives the worst, A mind that forgets the bad, And a soul that never loses faith in God."

So, what do you think? Well, you may think I've been being melodramatic this whole time, but here's where I think it hits people the worst. Line one, just imagine you're bebopping along thinking you're a pretty good person ... "I do this, I don't do that, I this, I that ..." You can rattle off a thousand things here to justify/convince yourself you're a "good" person and then suddenly you're confronted with seeing the "best in people" and you know for a fact you don't, and then suddenly you're also left feeling exposed because you know you're not such a good person after all. (I believe these were the opening thoughts of those folks I referred to, but they are in good company, including me. See: Who I want to be.)

And why aren't you? Well, because it's counter to our culture, for one, and two,

because you learned pretty early in life to see the worst. To even look for the worst. "I know it's in there somewhere. I know he (or she) is hiding something ..." We definitely don't spend our time looking for the best.

Because you've been through a period — a season, years, when you were young, a teen, an adult, whatever — in which you tried to see the best in people and got betrayed and got hurt and thought, "Well, that'll be enough of that. From now on ..." And you built walls and borders and became guarded, because seeing the best in people meant you have to trust them. Believe in them. It meant you must be at least somewhat vulnerable. It meant the vicious cycle could repeat again ... and again ... got betrayed ... got hurt ...

It's tough. It's made even tougher when you consider there really are some bad people out there, evil people.

If that weren't hard enough, there are lines two and three. "Forgive! Forget! Are you kidding me! Do you know what he (or she) did to me! Do you know how hard I've tried. Do you know ..."

There are people we just don't like. There are those who don't like us. There are those who have offended us. There are those we have offended. They are our enemies. We are their enemies. Forgive. Forget. Bottom line. We can't. We won't. (Here's where you insert your thousand line-item list as to why.)

That's my sign. "You need to throw that sign in the trash."

Nah. I meant everything I said about it in the beginning. What it meant to me, how I wanted it to be how I lived my life, who I was, how difficult it would be — not in the words, but in my thick skull and stubbornness.

In the end I will win. I will succeed. Why? Because I'm all that. Not. It's also because of the words. Their secret is hidden in plain sight. One, "Always pray ..." So, I'll be diligent to ask God to enable me, to give me the strength, to give me the grace, to give me whatever I need, to live out the words. And two, "... never loses faith in God." I will remain steadfast in believing — even when I fall short, fall, stumble, et cetera — that in the end I will be able to see the best in people, forgive and forget.

Here's that whole challenge, test thing come full circle: Will you "sign" up, too?

From the land: A few scattered fruit trees

In the end most of the trees died. It was a solid plan, but the execution just didn't pan out like I had expected. I'm more of an idea guy. It is in the follow through that I often falter and fall short.

Starting an orchard was one of my grandest plans, albeit a terrible one in hindsight, when I returned to the soil in my native Laurens County. The back side of my property has a nice open field area, perfect for a few rows of trees to create a small-scale, homestead-type of operation one

New Southern Dad



Kyle Dominy

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man could maintain.

After several trips to the local extension office and garden shops and reading multiple books on gardening and homesteading, I performed the first planting of about 10 trees, a sampling of different types of

peaches, pears and a type of apple that could allegedly produce in the Middle Georgia climate. My assistant at the time was my 1-year-old baby boy, playing in the holes, splashing in mud and tugging at the trees lined up and spaced, at intervals prescribed by University of Georgia guidance. Parenting a little child and digging holes don't exactly go well together, so in the end the rows were more staggered lines.

The spread would be called Crooked Row Orchard.

See **DOMINY** page 9A

STOP CRIME NOW
742-2330

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 F.V. 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, DAMARION 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

Go about your business, and let progress be your calling card. A professional change or position that helps you raise your income or offers more clout is apparent. The specifics of the transition are up to you. Go after whatever makes you happy, and fulfillment will be yours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Put more energy into what you do and how you present yourself and your attributes. Take the high road and don't look back. Letting go of the past is half the battle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Tidy up; take a stab at streamlining your life and decluttering your space. Put your energy into altering your lifestyle to encourage peace of mind and more time for purposeful pastimes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Bide your time. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't want or need. Reach out to connections, get the lowdown and make choices based on what is easiest for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Get your facts straight before you share information. Put more time and thought into how you use your energy and skills to get things done and raise your profile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Keep your mind motivated and moving in an innovative direction. Learn all you can and adapt your findings to service your skills. It's up to you to find ways to stand out in a competitive world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Introduce yourself to people and pastimes that excite you. Participate in community events and be receptive to adopting changes that can benefit you personally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Take in the atmosphere. The inspiration you receive from interacting with people who are unique, creative or knowledgeable about subjects that spark your curiosity will spur you to dig deeper.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't hide when you should be out and about. Social events will change your perspective regarding someone of interest. Participation is your passport to better options, new beginnings and positive lifestyle changes.

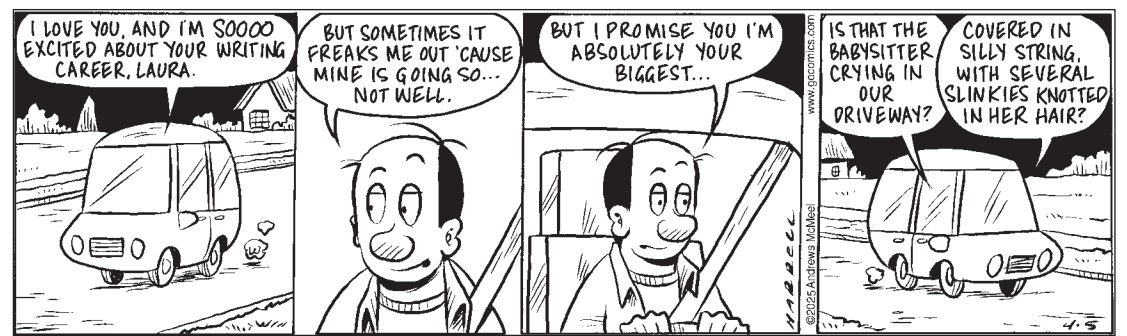
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Think big, but don't go over budget. Someone will interfere or try to persuade you to take on responsibilities you don't need or want. Protect your money, possessions and reputation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You are sitting in a better position than someone would have you believe. Listen to criticism, but decide for yourself what's best for you. Be passionate about the process, journey and overall outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — A financial opportunity is apparent. Buying, selling or investing more time or money in yourself or your future is encouraged and will send you down a rewarding path.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Live life your way. Follow your heart, live in the moment and participate in events and activities that pump you up. Say no to temptation, excessive behavior and overspending or paying for others' mistakes.

Adam@Home, by Rob Harrell



The Born Loser, by Chip Sansom



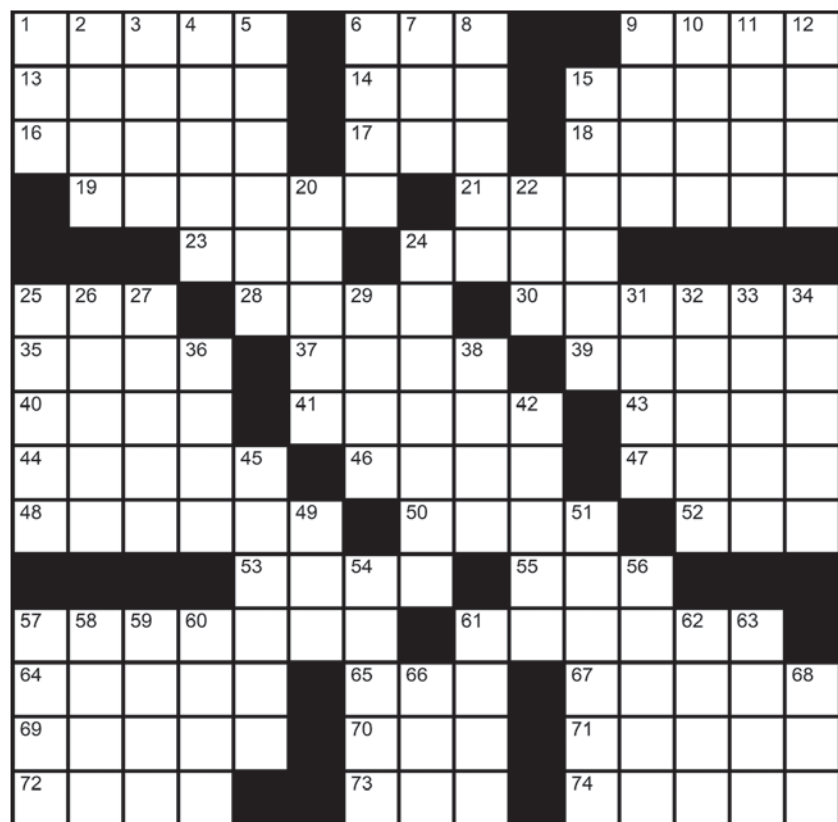
DeFlocked, by Jeff Corriveau



Rip Haywire, by Dan Thompson



CROSSWORD 4-5-25



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Newton of science
- 6. Over the top, in text
- 9. *Monica Geller's brother
- 13. Eurasian antelope
- 14. Public health org.
- 15. Add together
- 16. Underground worker
- 17. Put down
- 18. Modify
- 19. *Mitchell Pritchett's sister
- Claire
- 21. *Alex P. Keaton's sister
- 23. Lao-tzu follower
- 24. ___ it like it is
- 25. Banned insecticide
- 28. Wolf, in Mexico
- 30. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
- 35. Nevada's ___ 51
- 37. Passionate dislike
- 39. What scribes do
- 40. Lime-rich soil
- 41. Rocky ridge
- 43. Flying saucers, acr.
- 44. Certain "razor" creator
- 46. Skier's aid
- 47. Sicilian mountain
- 48. Activity of the intellect
- 50. Rush job notation, acr.
- 52. Stitch

- 53. Belted out
- 55. Mad Hatter's beverage of choice
- 57. *Wednesday Addams' brother
- 61. *Richie Cunningham's sister
- 64. Palate lobe
- 65. Jersey call
- 67. Notches made by saw
- 69. Olympic 4x4 race, e.g.
- 70. Public house, for short
- 71. Fill with optimism
- 72. Wholly engrossed
- 73. Store posting, for short
- 74. Slow on the uptake

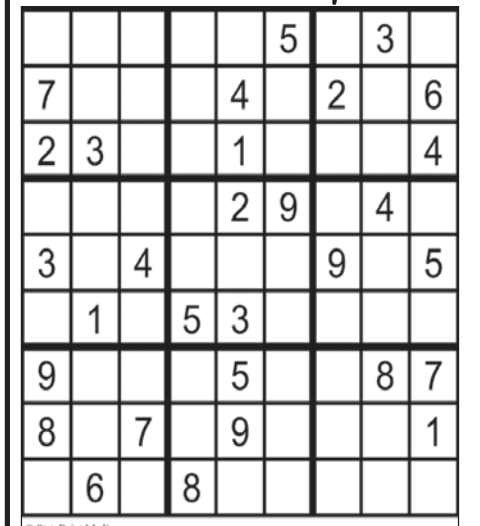
DOWN

- 1. Any doctrine
- 2. "He ____, She Said"
- 3. Hokkaido language
- 4. Actor's representative
- 5. ___ tunnel
- 6. "___ the Lonely," song
- 7. *One "Sister, Sister"
- 8. Bouquet garni ingredient
- 9. Sushi choice
- 10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
- 11. Court petitioner
- 12. Light on one's feet
- 15. Rendered suet
- 20. Tumult and commotion
- 22. Any high mountain

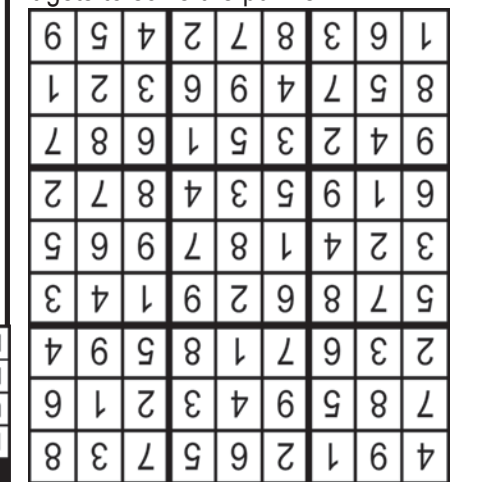
- 24. Carryall (2 words)
- 25. *Vampire Stefan Salvatore's brother
- 26. Harry Potter's antagonist
- 27. 9 a.m. prayer
- 29. *Lisa and Maggie's naughty brother
- 31. *Phoebe and Piper Halliwell's sister
- 32. British elevators
- 33. Repent
- 34. Redo, to a carpenter
- 36. "Sad to say ..."
- 38. J.F.K. postings
- 42. Muse of love poetry
- 45. Lose
- 49. Famous frat house letters
- 51. Reached culmination
- 54. Naiad or maenad
- 56. Anoint
- 57. Make like a cat
- 58. Part of an eye
- 59. Mouthful, swallowed
- 60. Fence board
- 61. Apple co-founder
- 62. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit
- 63. Newts in terrestrial stage
- 66. Belonging to us
- 68. Be a witness



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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DOING WHAT IS RIGHT AND FAIR ALWAYS MATTERS.
EVEN WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING.

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2024 HOUSTON COUNTY GA – WATER QUALITY REPORT

Feagin Mill 1530021 Haynesville 1530004 Henderson 1530005

www.houstoncountygga.gov/business/water.cms

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year’s Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year’s water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Cretaceous Sand Aquifer supplies Groundwater to Houston County Water Systems. The largest system is **The Feagin Mill System (1530021)** with sixteen deep wells and 11 Water Treatment Plants. (WTP’s): Woodard, Sandy Run, Sandefur, Quail Run, Dunbar, Elberta, Houston Lake, Hwy 96, Piney Grove, Lakeview, and Bear Branch. **The Henderson System (1530005)** is served by the Henderson and Hodge Road WTP’s and their respective wells. **The Haynesville System (1530004)** also has two WTP’s: Haynesville and Pyles Road, each with their own well. **The Haynesville system now also serves the Elko Community.**

Source Water Assessment and its availability.

Water sources are inspected on a schedule determined by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). To obtain information concerning the latest report available, contact John Bell, or Matthew Scott M-F 9:00 - 5:00, at the Houston County Lakeview Water Treatment Facility, located at 1601 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088, (478) 953-1110.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

The Houston County Commissioners meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Additional information regarding these meetings can be obtained by calling (478) 542-2115. Your participation is welcome.

Additional Information for Lead

County Water Systems show no lead service Lines to date. Evaluation of materials was done by Houston County Public Works employees in collaboration with *Carter and Sloope* and *120Water*. See the chart of service lines below:

LSL Inventory	1530021	1530004	1530005	All
Connections	19,063	687	464	20,214
Lead	0	0	0	0
Non-Lead	14,428	388	250	15,066
Galvanized	11	0	3	14
Unknown	4,624	299	211	5,134

The link listed below displays more information concerning the lead service line inventory. The blue link at the top of the initial page shows an enlargeable map of service of the areas with the connections that have been submitted to the EPA/EPD in the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). <https://www.houstoncountygga.gov/business/servicelineinventory.cms>.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Houston County Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Houston County Water Department, (Public Water ID’s GA: 1530021, 1530004 and 1530005) by calling 478-953-1110 or emailing jbelle@houstoncountygga.gov or mccott@houstoncountygga.gov. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

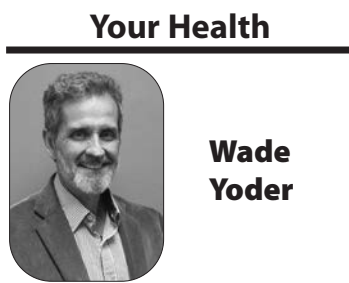
2024 CCR – THE FEAGIN MILL WATER SYSTEM 1530021																						
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source														
				Low	High																	
DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS																						
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)																						
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.00	.75	1.19	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes														
Haloacetic Acids and Total Trihalomethanes were not detected in 2024.																						
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS																						
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.85	.11	1.3	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories														
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) 11 Tests	10	10	.78 (Avg.)	ND	3.2	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits														
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS																						
Due to the Revised Total Coliform Rule and no Level 1 or Level 2 Assessments, microbiological reporting is not necessary. 2024																						
RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS																						
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	4.63 (AVG)	0	8.83	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits														
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	2.94 (AVG)	0	4.81	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits														
1,2, -Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	0.57	0	0.57	2024	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories.														
LEAD AND COPPER CONTAMINANTS																						
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90th % 0.13 ppm	0.0071 ppm	0.74 ppm	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems														
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0 ppb	15 ppb	90th % 0 ppb	0 ppb	12.0 ppb	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits														
PFAS Initial Monitoring																						
We first monitored Three Entry Points for PFAS for 2023 and 2024 for UCMR5 and there were no detections. In the first quarter of 2025 PFAS sampling to complete PFAS initial monitoring for ALL 11 entry points showed only one detection for one of the six regulated analytes. This PFOA of 1.6 PPT was below the EPA established trigger level of 2.0, and below the established EPA MCL of 4.0. Results for the remaining quarters will be available after analysis.																						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Additional Contaminants</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Your Water</th> <th>Violation</th> <th>Explanation and Comment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Lithium (Lithium is not currently regulated so there is no MCL)</td> <td>2023</td> <td>10.43 ug/L</td> <td>No</td> <td>The Reported value from the initial 2023 UCMR5 is an average of three results: 7.5, 7.9 and 15.9.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>10.6 ug/L</td> <td>No</td> <td>The Reported value from the 2024 UCMR5 is an average of three results: 7.5, 7.5 and 16.8.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>									Additional Contaminants	Year	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment	Lithium (Lithium is not currently regulated so there is no MCL)	2023	10.43 ug/L	No	The Reported value from the initial 2023 UCMR5 is an average of three results: 7.5, 7.9 and 15.9.	2024	10.6 ug/L	No	The Reported value from the 2024 UCMR5 is an average of three results: 7.5, 7.5 and 16.8.
Additional Contaminants	Year	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment																		
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	2024	10.6 ug/L	No	The Reported value from the 2024 UCMR5 is an average of three results: 7.5, 7.5 and 16.8.																		

2024 CCR THE HAYNESVILLE WATER SYSTEM - 1530004								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.01	0.77	1.27	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.78	.60	0.99	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper-Action level at consumer taps (ppb or ug/L)	1300 ppb	1300 ppb	90% 320 ppb	8.9 ppb	360 ppb	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb or ug/L)	0 ppb	15 ppb	90% 6.0 ppb	0 ppb	14 ppb	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
There were no detections in all Microbiological Samples for the Haynesville System in 2024.								

How processed food is similar to cocaine

Neurological studies have shown very similar activity in the brain with salt and sugar as with cocaine (can you think of many packaged foods that are not loaded with one or both of these). Add to this, much of our fast food, packaged food, and food additives now have monosodium glutamate (MSG). MSG excites the tongue and is considered an excitotoxin (neurotoxin) when too much of it crosses the blood brain barrier. Have you ever noticed that foods in their most basic simple form do not seem to stimulate a crazed appetite and over consumption? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand why foods loaded with sugar, salt and MSG have so much value to the food industry!

With the massive surge in obesity, diabetes, heart dis-



Wade Yoder

ease, and mental illness, (and other neurological brain disorders) there should be some pretty easy dots to connect between what we consume and inactivity. Processed sugars, salts, sodium nitrates, MSG, and aspartame (artificial sweeteners) are all major changes in the western diet, so we should be looking at these as something that may be feeding the problems of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and very possibly brain/mental illness related disorders.

For the record: this chapter is to address the over usage of refined sugars, salts, MSG and other food additives, not sugar and salt in its raw natural state. Also if you cook and prepare your food from scratch, there are a lot of health benefits from adding in some natural salt, (however most of us get too much in the typical western diet and most of it is refined).

Salt: salt helps your body to retain fluid, some is good but a continuous over consumption can create too much volume in your blood causing a higher blood pressure. Over consumption of salty foods (without its potassium counter partner) can cause water retention and this done long enough will distort our shape as well!

Sugar: sugar in our drinks and candies (without soluble fiber like fruits have) can absorb too rapidly into the bloodstream causing a spike in blood sugar. This in turn causes a big burst of insulin from your pancreas to help transport sugars to cells throughout the body, (vital tissues first, fat cells second). A constant intake of sugar and foods that rapidly break down into sugars is the primary corporate in creating and continuing type two diabetes. Can you imagine how tired and fatigued our pancreas is from constantly pumping out insulin to counter our sugar and starch consumption?

MSG: most of us appreciate foods that taste good, but when we are constantly eating foods that are made to taste really good with food additives such as MSG, and if we are feeling neurological issues, such as brain fog, low energy, etc., it may be connected to food additives such as MSG or sugar substitutes. MSG can be found in many food products ranging from seemingly healthy foods, such as seemingly

healthy frozen meals, protein powder, chicken and noodle soup to fast food, salad dressings, and potato chips. When there is too much continued excitotoxins continuously, stimulating neurons in the brain, it can cause harmful side effects, such as: excessive calcium influx, activation of destructive enzymes, oxidative, stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, neuronal cell, death, and inflammatory responses. The name is MSG comes in under our: mono, sodium, glutamate, sodium glutamate, MSG, and can also be a trickier injection of MSG under names, such as natural flavors/flavoring, bouillon, broth, or stock, malt extract, and malt flavoring.

Whether it's an eventual heart attack or stroke that makes so we can no longer perform like we used to, or diabetes (which can cause circulatory problems that in turn brings on awful things such as amputations and blindness), brain fog, fatigue (or more serious brain conditions), and we start connecting our intake (what fuels our

body) with either good or poor performance, these carbonated, caffeinated, sugar – salt – MSG loaded food and drink products (that stimulate overconsumption, will probably not look so good to us!

It takes 90-120 days for our blood supply to be replaced by a new blood supply, it takes around 6 months for our soft tissue to be replaced and around 12 months for a complete cellular regeneration all the way to our bone and tooth enamel! The above is affected by the lifestyle choices we make such as food choices, drink choices (etc.), as well as the environment we have been exposed to during this time period! Keep in mind that new cell generations are mutations from the prior generation of cells, so restoring complete vibrancy and health on a cellular level does not happen overnight. A healthy and active lifestyle done with consistency is key to maintaining or returning to good health.

We not only are what we eat but we also become what we do with what we eat!

MAYOR

From page 1A

Those were remarks from Councilman J. Micheal Evans as the City of Centerville honored John Harley during their City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 1.

The city issued a proclamation designating April 4 as "John Harley Day," to honor and thank the former mayor for his 15 years of leadership. Harley also received a key to the city, celebrating the moment alongside his family and the city council.

"It's been a great time I've had here, a lot of wonderful people, and I think we have a great team carrying on," Harley said.

Following his celebration, the council appointed a new mayor pro tem to fill the vacancy left by Harley's retirement at the end of 2024. Evans had been serving in the role, but the position has now been entrusted to Councilman Edward Armijo.

Armijo's appointment comes as the city prepares for a special election to fill the mayor's seat. So far, Evans

and Councilman Justin Wright have announced their candidacies.

"Some of us may be qualifying to run for office. So in the event that happens, we need to make sure there is still current leadership available in the city, to represent the city as necessary," Evans said.

The city awarded a Georgia Initiative for Community Housing point to a proposed senior housing development on Gunn Road.

According to a presentation from the city's March 18 meeting, the development, named "The Villas on Gunn," would be a \$21 million, nine-acre complex featuring up to 75 one- and two-bedroom units.

The awarded point strengthens the applicants' bid for funding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs but does not guarantee approval from the city, as Wright clarified.

Council members emphasized the city's role in guiding land use. Evans noted that city officials want to have some influence over potential developments, while Wright highlighted the city's regula-

tory process.

"They'll have to go through the design review process, like everything else, to make sure everything they're building is conforming to the design plan for the town center district. This is just us saying that we think this is an acceptable project," Wright explained.

"When a piece of property has that much road frontage on Gunn Road, someone is going to develop something there sooner rather than later. I think of the things that have been proposed, this is a more palatable project to the immediate neighborhood."

If approved, construction is expected to begin in March 2026, with occupancy anticipated by late 2027, developers said at the March 18 meeting.

A full livestream of the meeting and supporting documents are available on the city's Facebook page: "City of Centerville, Georgia-Government."

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 5 p.m., at Centerville City Hall, 300 E. Church Street.

2024 HOUSTON COUNTY WATER REPORT AVAILABILITY

DOWNLOADABLE

<https://www.houstoncountyga.org/business/public-works.cms>
<https://www.houstoncountyga.org/business/water.cms>

HARD COPY

Perry Ho. Co. Utility Office: 2020 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, GA 31069
 Ho. Co. Water Treatment: 1601 Feagin Mill Road, W.R., GA 31088 953-1110
 Ho. Co. Water Billing Office: 200 Carl Vinson Pkwy, WR, GA 31088
 Henderson Fire Department: 225 GA Hwy 26E, Henderson, GA 31013
 Elko Post Office: 2601 Elko Road, Elko, GA 31025
 Haynesville Fire Department: 3004 S Highway 341, Haynesville, GA 31013
 Clinchfield Post Office: 2620 South US Highway 341, Clinchfield, GA 31013

2024 HOUSTON COUNTY GA – WATER QUALITY REPORT

Feagin Mill 1530021
Haynesville 1530004
Henderson 1530005

CONTINUED

2024 CCR THE HENDERSON WATER SYSTEM 1530005								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.01	0.50	1.25	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.82	0.52	1.16	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	ND	NA	NA	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper-Action level at consumer taps (ppb or ug/L)	1300 ppb	1300 ppb	90% 200 ppb	31 ppb	300 ppb	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead - action level at tap (ppb or ug/l)	0 ppb	15 ppb	90% 1.8 ppb	0 ppb	4.1 ppb	2022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Compounds								
Bromodichloromethane ug/l (or ppb)	NA	80 ug/l	0.30 ug/l Avg.	0 ug/l	0.89 ug/l	2024	No	A byproduct of adding chlorine to drinking water to kill bacteria.
Dibromochloromethane ug/l (of ppb)	NA		0.21 ug/l Avg.	0 ug/l	0.64 ug/l	2024	No	A byproduct of adding chlorine to drinking water to kill bacteria.
Xylenes, Total mg/l	10	10	0.87 ug/l Avg	0 ug/l	2.6 ug/l	2024	No	Discharge from petroleum or chemical factories; The reported value of .87 is based on three tests: 2.6, ND, ND.
Microbiological Contaminants								
There were no detections in all Microbiological Samples for the Henderson System in 2024.								

CCR UNIT DESCRIPTIONS AND TERMS	
Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm (= mg/L)	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb (= ug/L)	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
ppt (=ng/L)	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
LSLI	Lead Service Line Inventory
MDL	Method Detection Limit – The lowest value that can be detected
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MRL	Method Reporting Limit
RTCR	RTCR: Revised Total Coliform Rule
TC	TC: Total Coliform (Bacteria group)
EC	EC; Escherichia coli (A Fecal bacteria)
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
U	Analyzed for, but not detected at or above the MDL
J	Estimated concentration above the MDL and below the adjusted Reporting Limit
For more information, contact John D Bell or Matthew Scott 1601 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088, Phone: 478-953-1110	

PERRY

From page 1A

drones can assist in search and rescue. He cited missing persons cases in the past few weeks, which he said are becoming more common.

Another way drones can assist the department is in traffic management, which will allow police to monitor traffic flow during large events or accidents. Everidge said during major events, especially at the fairgrounds, the department sees traffic issues throughout the community.

He said drones will give them an overhead look and view of critical incidents. It will also help the department in crowd management and monitoring during large events.

Drones can also help the department in crime scene documentation, disaster response and investigations, he mentioned.

Everidge said the drones will not be used to answer calls but will be used to gather information on certain types of calls, leading to more efficiency. If approved, the department will begin training authorized Public Safety Operators.

Everidge said there will be a limited number of drones, stored at the police department and only used by licensed operators. The fire department can also use them during fires or severe weather.

Everidge said the cost of a drone is approximately \$15,444, fund-

ed entirely by forfeitures with no impact on taxpayers. This includes a \$2,200 Certificate of Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Councilmember Dan Peterson asked if drones could track down and observe suspects. Everidge mentioned emergency scenarios, such as a suspect doing something illegal in their backyard, but said there are limitations and the department will respect privacy until they receive a search warrant.

City Attorney Brooke Newby said the program will be presented as a resolution in the next meeting for the mayor and council to approve.

Self-service vending moratorium

On the pre-council agenda, City Planner Emily Carson presented a 120-day moratorium on self-service vending machines, approved during the regular council meeting.

Newby said there's questioning of the current ordinance's definitions, realized with an ice vending unit recently placed outside a store on General Courtney Hodges Boulevard, which the city believes violates code. Carson gave the owner a notice of the potential violation; if not removed, code enforcement may issue a citation.

Carson said the city felt the need to clarify intent and the ordinance's verbiage, leading to the moratorium. The department will also determine how to regulate size, zoning and height restrictions.

Walker clarified the moratorium would affect all vend-

ing units, not just ice vending machines.

Urban Redevelopment Plan Moving on to the council meeting, Carson presented a resolution to adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan, approved unanimously.

According to Carson, the plan guides the Community Development Department's uses in grant funding distribution. It also outlines the revitalization strategy for renovating homes and infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks and sewers.

The plan also includes a revitalization area strategy map update, to include the Hilltop Road community and subdivisions in Keith Drive.

End of Meeting Reminders

Community Development Director Bryan Wood said the Perry Trash Dash community cleanup will be on Saturday, April 5, at the Perry Events Center, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are welcome.

Public Works Superintendent Ansley Fitzner reminded mayor and council of a Spring Cleanup from April 21 to April 25, open to all residents. She encourages everyone to visit the city's website, perry-ga.gov/spring-cleanup-2025, or call Public Works at (478) 988-2732 for more information.

Mayor and council will meet again for their pre-council starting at 5 p.m. and regular council meeting at 6 p.m. on April 15. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings, and the agenda can be found at <https://perry-ga.gov/escribe-agendas-minutes>.

BURKE

From page 4A

Don't let the fraudsters win. Ever. It's almost impossible to un-ring the bell, as they say. Prevention is the key.

P.S. You know I've never used "portmanteau" before! Don't know I've ever heard of it until this week, but it's a morphing of two words into one. Motel comes from "motor" and "hotel." Brunch

comes from "breakfast" and "lunch." So where does the word "portmanteau" come from? The French, of course. A portmanteau is a large, two-part suitcase. It combines the words "porte," which means "to carry," and "manteau," meaning "cloak." Like the suitcase, a portmanteau word holds or carries the meaning of two or more words.

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.

HARPER

From page 4A

this country illegally – seemed to have a revolving door in far too many jails.

Polling from the 2024 election makes many of these issues clear. Prices were too high. Americans want a secure border. Women shouldn't be forced to give back gains under Title IX for sports, nor their privacy. Violent criminals need to be detained after arrest and prosecuted fully. And the government needs to quit taking tens of billions of taxpayer money for projects that only enrich and entrench bureaucrats.

That is what got us here. MAGA world has every right to claim a mandate. Those willing some self-reflection need to understand that rejecting the excesses of the party in power is now the default position for many voters.

Social media is filled with voices saying "I absolutely voted for this." The base, at least for now, is content.

A mantra in this space however is an axiom taught

by a friend and political mentor, and here serves as a caution to excess: It is the base of a party that gives it its soul; It is the moderates who give it power.

The moderates want to live their lives and be mostly left alone. They mostly agree or can tolerate the proposed solutions to the problems mentioned above. Were the President and Republicans in Congress to laser focus on those, they could have a "permanent majority".

(Those are air quotes. Nothing is permanent, especially in politics.)

Swing voters again rolled the dice on their best shot to return to normalcy, knowing some abnormal things would come with it. They generally voted for less government, lower prices, a secure border, and a feeling of safety in their homes and when out in public.

Very few had taking over Greenland by any means necessary on their voter guides. While tariffs were certainly mentioned often by President Trump in his campaign, few thought that meant a 25% lift on

everything imported from Canada and Mexico, who operate under a trade agreement negotiated by.... President Trump. Awkward.

I've noted and understand that the window for incoming administrations to effect change is often short, and that the new Trump administration would "move fast and break things." This only works politically if the public believes more is fixed than was broken in the process.

There's a lot of work to be done. A lot of the process will be messy. To keep swing voters in line and behind these efforts, the new administration would be better served in the long run if it put some of their far reaching goals on the back burner and deliver the successes on the consensus problems first. That would buy them more goodwill to move on to other subjects that need more development, and a lot more explanation.

SMITH

From page 4A

More than that, I wanted to build relationships. I made sure to connect with my team, to be approachable and supportive, so that if I ever stepped into leadership, they'd know they had someone who listened. That's a value I carry with me in my current role every day.

I know that female leaders often struggle with being perceived as too intense. But because of my approach, I don't think I come across as intimidating, I like to think

of it as quiet confidence.

Outside of work, I'm undeniably quirky. My love for Tokyo Machine, surrealist art and Pixar movies is solid proof of that.

But I see it as a strength. It reminds people that I'm a real person beyond my title, and I bring that same energy into the office.

I want it to be a fun, engaging place to work, one where we get things done but enjoy the process along the way.

Overall, the panel gave me perspective on my strengths and how much further I want to go. I have ambitious goals, but making it this far

has to count for something. I also really love the atmosphere of women supporting each other, something I saw on full display at the panel, and that I strive to do every day.

Oh, and to answer the final question from the panel? My superpower is creativity. My favorite superhero (or at least superhero-adjacent) is Edna Mode from The Incredibles. To me, she embodies pure creativity.

If the city needs a speaker next year, call me. I'd love to be on the other side of the panel.

DOMINY

From page 5A

Everything started wonderfully enough. With proper care the trees made it through the year. More trees were planted. Persimmons added to the mix. Each new row just as crooked as the last. By the third year problems began. Right when I should have begun seeing some literal and figurative fruits of my labor, blight set in. Some of the trees looked as if they had been burned, what I would learn is called fire blight.

Then the wildlife moved in.

Deer, birds and insects ate at the small fruit and nibbled away at the tender shoots of new growth. I've tasted only a handful of peaches and pears from my own land over the years. The apples and persimmons never stood a chance.

I don't know how many trees I had when I got tired of fighting and gave up. I was spending too much money on treatments and repellants, too much time building deterrents for too little reward. Now only five scraggly trees survive, a handful of peach and pear trees, and only one from the original planting a decade ago. They dot a small

section of what is now an oversized backyard.

Every year I consider just digging them up, especially when I cut the grass around them, as I did recently when I fired up the mower to start the cutting season. But then I look at my son, half-grown yet standing tall enough to look me in the eyes, and I remember that little boy splashing in the mud as I planted trees at our new home. A child and his father bonding over an ill-fated endeavor but having the time of their lives.

I suppose I'll just let them stay for now.

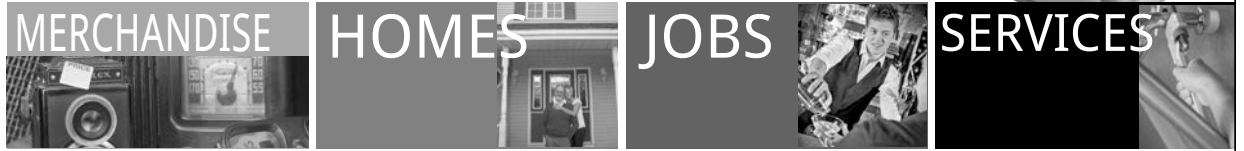
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Clean Control Corp. named March Business of the Month



A cleaning company with 45 years of history was recently honored by the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce. Clean Control Corporation, best known for its OdoBan products, was named the Chamber's March Business of the Month. Founded in 1980, the company has grown from offering basic cleaning and disinfecting products to a versatile line of environmentally-friendly solutions for both residential and commercial use, including disinfectants, air fresheners, and odor eliminators.

SunMark Community Bank announces three new members



Zach Giddens



Shane Rogers



Deia Horne

Special to The Journal
SunMark Community Bank is pleased to announce the addition of three new members to our growing team. Zach Giddens as Executive Vice President/Senior Lender, Shane Rogers as Commercial Lender, and Deia Horne as Personal Banker. These new appointments reflect the bank's continued commitment to providing exceptional service and fostering long-term relationships with our customers and communities.

"We are excited to welcome Zach, Shane, and Deia to the SunMark team," said Brad Collins, President and CEO of SunMark Community Bank. "Their extensive experience and strong leadership will be instrumental as we continue to strengthen our position in the market and enhance our customer experience. Each of them brings a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to excellence that aligns with our values."

Zach Giddens joins SunMark as Executive Vice President/Senior Lender. In his new role, Zach will oversee the bank's lending

operations, driving the growth of the loan portfolio while ensuring the continued delivery of exceptional lending services to our customers. Zach brings over 19 years of banking experience, having worked in various leadership roles with a strong focus on commercial lending. His leadership and expertise will be an asset to the SunMark team.

Shane Rogers has joined SunMark as Commercial Lender. Shane's extensive background in commercial banking will allow him to work closely with businesses in our community, helping them achieve their financial goals. With a deep understanding of the unique needs of businesses, Shane will focus on providing tailored financial solutions to help local companies grow and succeed.

Deia Horne joins the bank as Personal Banker, bringing her passion for customer service and expertise in retail banking. Deia will work directly with individuals, helping them navigate their personal banking needs and offering financial solutions that support their goals. Her dedication to providing a high level of customer service will make

her an essential part of our retail banking team.

"We are confident that the experience and talents of Zach, Shane, and Deia will contribute to our ongoing success and growth," said Collins. "We look forward to their contributions and are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our customers and communities."

Please join us in welcoming Zach, Shane, and Deia to SunMark Community Bank.

About SunMark Community Bank
SunMark Community Bank is a full-service community bank dedicated to serving the financial needs of businesses and individuals in Central Georgia. With a commitment to excellence and a focus on building lasting relationships, SunMark offers a wide range of banking services, including commercial and personal loans, deposit services, and more.

For more information, visit www.sunmarkbank.com. SunMark is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC.

BBB Tip: What to include in your home improvement contract

BBB Tips



Kelvin Collins

BBB of Central Georgia

So, you've planned your home improvement project. You've done the research, interviewed candidates, and found the general contractor you'd like to hire – the only thing left is to sign the papers and get to work. But here's where you run into this sage advice: Get everything in writing.

Your home renovation contract is a big deal from this point on. This will be the shared starting point between you and your general contractor for the project. It will also be useful if any follow-up service or issues arise in the future. A detailed contract is your best resource for keeping timelines, budgets, responsibilities, and relationships on track.

The question is: What exactly do you need to get in writing?

Before you put ink to the page, here are 10 questions to answer when writing your home improvement contract:

1. What is the project scope?
Start by defining the scope of the project. This will ensure everyone understands what the project is aiming to achieve. End with a review of the scope to eliminate any confusion.
Make sure these elements are clearly defined. This way, everyone can understand the work being done, including you, general contractors, subcontractors, lawyers, and dispute resolution specialists.
Your project scope section in your contract should clearly define:
•What type of work (demo, install, finishing, removal, disposal)
•Materials needed (manufacturer, brand name)
•Subcontractors needed
•Completion date and/or targeted milestone dates for different project stages
•Budget expectations (this may not be binding, but a target budget should be identified)
•Design specifications with accompanying design drawings or blueprints, if applicable
2. What are the payment terms?
Never pay in full upfront. Stagger your payment schedule so your final payment isn't due until the work is complete and you thoroughly inspect it. Do not pay cash; make sure your check is written to a company, not an individual, or use a credit card. Paying with a credit card will provide some recourse should the job not be completed, as stated in the contract.
3. What is the renovation

schedule?
There's nothing like having a deadline to keep expectations on track. After discussing the scope and projected labor with your general contractor, work together to identify how the following elements fit into the calendar:
•Overall project timeline with the start and completion dates
•Milestones: especially for larger projects like home additions, it may be beneficial to chunk out key milestone dates
•Other deadlines (for permits, acquiring materials, project inspections)
•Contingency timelines if work falls behind schedule
•Penalties/incentives for early completion

4. What is included for insurance and liability?
Who's on the hook for accidents like injuries or property damage? If you're working with a trustworthy, BBB Accredited contractor, you may not be concerned. But do take the time to inquire about insurance and liability for your project, and make sure this language is outlined in the final renovation contract.
Insurance and liability details to be included:
•Types and amount of insurance coverage required
•Waivers of liability
•Who is responsible for damages or losses that may occur during the project
5. Have you asked about a lien waiver?
A lien waiver is a statement from your contractor that says all suppliers and subcontractors have been paid for their work.
6. What permits and approvals are needed?
Your contractor should have the correct permits before starting your project. The contractor should obtain the permits because the person pulling the permits is responsible for meeting local codes, but you will probably pay for them. Request that all final inspections be completed by the local building official prior to final payment.
7. What provisions should be made for project terminations or disputes?
It's not fun to think about before you've even started, but some projects can go south for a variety of reasons. Do not pay a contrac-

tor for poor work. This could mean stopping a project, debating if the contract was completed, or dropping the contract.

For your part, this creates a need to plan in advance by including the following provisions for a contract:

- Termination clause for failure to meet scope, schedule, payment, quality or expectations
- Termination clause for convenience
- Specifications on how disputes will be resolved (mediation/arbitration)
- 8. Are there any warranties, guarantees or future service agreements?
Ensure you know your warranty coverage and how to deal with service issues. Specify exactly what is expected of contractors. Explain how to address product defects. Outline acceptable timeframes for revisiting unfinished or unsatisfactory work.
This section should include language that addresses the following:
•Warranties and guarantees for all work performed
•Length of the warranty period
•What's covered under warranty (labor, products, materials)
•Guarantees of work such as quality or performance
•Future service agreements
- 9. Do you have signatures from the homeowner and the contractor?
The name and contact information of the contractor and the homeowner should be included. Additionally, both parties should sign the document on the "dotted line."
Both parties must sign and date all documents before work begins. Copies of the signed contracts should be given to everyone.
- 10. Have you requested a receipt?
Technically, this won't be part of your contract, but make sure you request a receipt marked "Paid in Full" when the job is completed and your final payment made.

This will be another reference point to keep on file for legal and tax purposes.

Final thoughts: Keep your contract
Lastly, be sure to hold on to your contract for future reference. One of BBB's Standards for Trust is to "Honor Promises." This is, after all, a trusted document forged between you and your contractor.

If any questions arise after the work is complete, you want to ensure that every promise made is fulfilled.



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Northside Baseball

Eagles trounce Sumter County in spring break doubleheader

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

WARNER ROBINS — The Northside Eagles (6-16) started their second win streak of the season in a doubleheader sweep of the Sumter County Panthers (4-15) to snap a five-game losing streak and get ready for their last leg of region play.

They won Game 1 18-3 in three innings, and Game 2 15-0 in four.

Three observations from Tuesday's non-region contest:

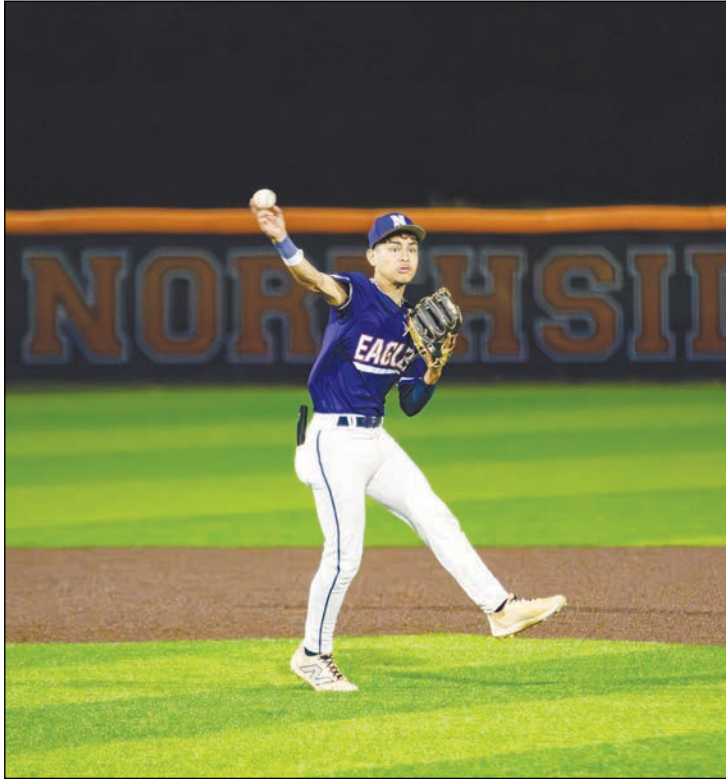
Staying away from "selfish swings"

Sumter County's pitchers didn't have a lot of command over their pitches, and there wasn't a whole lot in the strike zone worth going after for the Eagles.

Northside also went up by double digit runs in the first two innings of each game; It would've been easy to swing for the fences like many do with little to no consequences.

However, coach Joey Walker stood at third base and coached his team on their approach at the plate, using the phrase "selfish swings" in reference to those big swings (and misses) as each batter attempted to be patient.

"We're trying to establish a standard here, and one of those standards is that we're not trying to over-swing. We're trying to pass the baton to the next guy," Walker said. "Scripture is really big on doing your



Emerson Rugama slings the ball to first base.

Clay Brown/HHJ

job and staying steady and just doing what's expected of you and trusting the guy behind you."

Although the Panthers did drop a few fly balls, Walker wanted his team to focus on getting on base and doing damage from there. They did well moving runners without putting the ball in play, and while some of that was from errors and poor fielding by Sumter County, the patient approach is what allowed Northside to pull away in both games.

"You can't hit a five-run home run, so if we can get a single take it. Let the next guy hit a single. Somebody might come up, hit a double and we score

two runs," Walker said. "We're trying to score two runs an inning. Sometimes that works out for us, sometimes it don't. But when we talk about selfish swings, we're talking about guys who are just taking these massive hacks for their stats instead of just passing it to the next guy."

Stealing bases

The Eagles have some speed on the roster, particularly with Emerson Rugama and Elijah Rozier at the top of the lineup, and they've been trying to take advantage of that in recent weeks.

Northside had 15 total stolen bases on Tuesday, though some of those were because of bad throws



Northside outscored Sumter County 33-3 in their non-region doubleheader.

Clay Brown/HHJ

across the infield.

Regardless it put more runners in scoring position; Some of those stole home as wild pitches came across the plate.

Time will tell whether or not this is something the Eagles can do consistently against better competition now and in the future.

"That's been a big emphasis of ours for the last two weeks. We've been preaching it really, really hard. We had a whole practice where all we did was stations working on small ball stuff because we haven't hit the ball to the

wall very often," Walker said. "So we told our guys if they would buy into that mindset of, we can pass it to the next guy, let's move the runners, let's try to catch the defense off guard and get them frustrated."

"They've been buying in and they've worked really hard at it, and it's worked really good for us," Walker added. "We played really well last week against Veterans. We had a couple of close games that defensively [we] let it get away from us. Tonight we were able to see it come to fruition a little bit."

Army of arms had their moments

Northside threw five pitchers out on the mound throughout the doubleheader, and some had some pretty solid results.

The most notable performances, while not lighting up the stat sheet in their short time, were from Jehibar Vivas, Taylor Hall and Kyle Baker.

Vivas went for two innings to start Game 1, saw eight batters, struck out four and walked one. His command was iffy at times, but he had some nasty outside curveballs to strike out a couple of batters.

Hall and Baker pitched a pair a piece in Game 2 with two and three strikeouts respectively. They also had their moments locating pitches and coaxing swings out of batters.

They don't have high velocity or big breaking ball guys on the mound, but they have put together some solid outings recently even outside of this doubleheader.

"Our guys know we're not a big strikeout club. We're not pumping it in there [at 90 miles per hour]," Walker said. "So we preach in the zone and being able to mix our pitches up, like Vivas was able to do there. He's a freshman, we're excited about him. But just being able to keep guys off balance and if they do put it in play, trusting the defense to make plays behind them."

UP NEXT

Northside will get back on the region road for the last series of the season on Tuesday, April 8 against Thomas County Central at 4:30 p.m. on Dyson Field.



Addison Dwight runs in to score at home plate.

Clay Brown/HHJ

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More shots from **Dyson Field**

Photos by Clay Brown



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Jehibar Vivas started Game 1 on the mound for Northside against Sumter County.



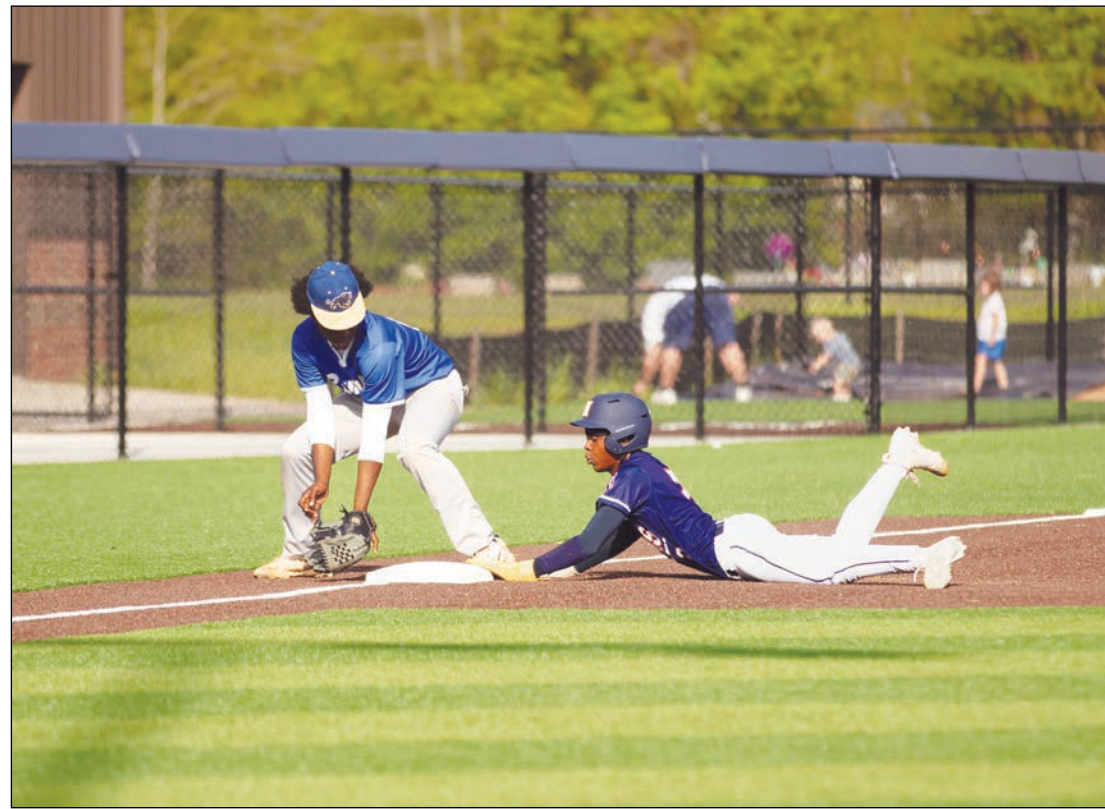
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Elijah Rozier (right) pats Jeremiah Rozier (left) on the helmet after he scored against Sumter County.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Northside beat Sumter County 18-3 and 15-0 in their doubleheader.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Elijah Rozier slides headfirst into third base, narrowly avoiding the tag.

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