

The Houston Home Journal

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Weekend, December 6, 2025

'Repainting the picture into a positive light'

City of Perry lifts ban on Perry alumni group, organizer preparing to move forward



Courtesy: Kirenski Wilkerson

Attendees gather at Heritage Oaks Park for a Perry High School alumni tailgate on Nov. 1.

See BAN page 7A



Councilmembers vote to approve a sewer connection fee with an amendment added by Councilman Dan Peterson during the City of Perry City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Perry Council approves sewer connection fee

By SANDRA HERNANDEZ
HHJ Staff Writer
sandra@hhjonline.com

PERRY — A sewer connection Fee was approved in a 3-2 vote during the City of Perry's regular council meeting Tuesday night, but not without developers and

a resident expressing concerns.

Sewer connection fee explained
During a previous work session on Oct. 6, council members heard from Raftelis, a national consulting firm

See PERRY page 8A

DAR chapters honor service of local Vietnam veterans

**See more photos at
hhjonline.com**

By OWEN JONES
HHJ Staff Writer
owen@hhjonline.com

PERRY — On Wednesday, Dec. 3, chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored local Vietnam Veterans at their quarterly meeting.

"I want to thank all of you for joining us in thanking and honoring our Vietnam War Veterans and their families," Sukey Hart Chapter Regent Cynthia Davis said. "This commemoration is focused on specifically thanking our Vietnam veterans and the nine million families of those who served during the Vietnam period."

Davis added that over 44 million American men and women have sacrificed and

See HONOR page 8A



Vietnam veteran Harley A. Crosby (on phone screen) was recognized via FaceTime for his service to our country.

Owen Jones/HHJ

County hears from Senior MSgt. Williams, honors former Commissioner

By OWEN JONES
HHJ Staff Writer
owen@hhjonline.com

PERRY — Houston County Commissioners welcomed back a member of Robins Air Force Base to Tuesday morning's meeting: Senior MSgt. Darryl Williams, of the Robins Air Force Base Lifecycle Management Center, the Senior Enlisted Leader for the F-15 Systems Program Office.

Williams joined the military in 2010 after graduating from Coastal Carolina University.

"I decided to come into the military to look for purpose as well as to do something that was bigger than myself," Williams said. "I always enjoyed the military style and atmosphere."

Williams manages over 700 people between himself and the commander. He

said they manage all F-15 fighter jets in the entire Air Force, which goes from the sustainment and modernization aspects.

"We maintain these aircrafts by keeping them safe, lethal and mission ready for all the pilots that rely on them everyday," he said. "So, every time you see a F-15 fighter jet take off, just know that there are countless hours and countless amounts of people whether they're maintainers, engineers, analysts, logisticians, program managers; the list goes on as everybody is putting their hands to the plow to accomplish that mission."

Williams has been at Robins Air Force Base for about three years. He said that Robins is a little different than other bases he has been at due to them being mostly civilian.

See COUNTY page 8A



County Commissioners honor MSgt. Darryl Williams (third from left), who talked about his military career and his time at Robins Air Force Base.

Owen Jones/HHJ

Word of the Day

*God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
— Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)*

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THE INSIDE

Macon immigration lawyer seeing 'most rights violations' of her career



Protesters gather out front of Sabor Latino Venezuelan restaurant February in Warner Robins during a rally against deportation and increased ICE presence. Stephanie Hernandez of Warner Robins organized the protest.

By EVELYN DAVIDSON
Georgia Trust for Local News

MACON — Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman has practiced immigration law for more than a decade, operating offices in Macon and Cordele. She said her immigration caseload has doubled since the beginning of the year.

Less than a year into his presidency, Donald Trump's crackdown on unauthorized immigration has shocked much of the country and sparked a growing sense of fear in Middle Georgia and elsewhere.

"I've built my whole life and career around this type of work," Deadwyler-Heuman said, who has handled 215 cases since January. "What I'm seeing is, in my professional career, the most rights violations I've ever seen."

Viral videos circulating online depict federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents

detaining unauthorized immigrants outside of courthouses and targeting individuals in the streets.

Supporters of Trump's immigration policies and mass deportations cite a need to remove noncitizen criminals from the streets and preserve more jobs for Americans.

ICE took hundreds of workers into custody at a Hyundai Plant in Bryan County in September.

Deadwyler-Heuman pointed to an unprecedented "disregard for due process" as the Trump administration ramps up enforcement.

In the past, noncitizens who entered the country illegally and remained for at least 10 years might qualify for bond if they had family legally residing in the U.S. and no criminal record, the immigration attorney said.

However, under Trump, these individuals aren't granted bonds and are detained while their cases

remain active.

Many immigration cases are also being reopened, Deadwyler-Heuman said, such as those involving noncitizens whose children are ill but legally residing in the U.S.

Some of her clients received bold red-and-blue email notices from the federal government offering two options: self-deport or risk being fined or detained.

The notices warn of a \$998 per day fine for an individual who refuses to deport after being ordered to do so and an even larger fine for someone who doesn't self-deport after promising they will.

People who entered the country and sought asylum under the previous Biden administration are receiving notices to self-deport and those in the country under victim-based relief are also being exiled, Deadwyler-Heuman noted.

The executive branch

has too much control over the immigration system, she said, noting that ICE operates as a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Board of Immigration Appeals and Executive Office for Immigration Review courts operate under the Department of Justice.

"We need independent judicial immigration courts," Deadwyler-Heuman said. "Not immigration

courts that are doing the bidding of the DOJ under this administration."

She said that the Middle District of Georgia recently ruled against the government preventing bond eligibility in certain immigration cases.

The ICE presence in Georgia is much smaller compared to blue states, Deadwyler-Heuman said, but she advised individuals to avoid traffic violations and minor run-ins with law enforcement that could result in ICE being called.

Some individuals are avoiding travel while others have chosen to self-deport or leave the country voluntarily, she added.

A culture of intolerance is "not just causing fear, it's causing disdain for our country," Deadwyler-Heuman said.

Warner Robins resident Stephanie Hernandez — the daughter of Honduran immigrants — organized a protest against mass deportation and increased ICE presence in February.

But a lot has changed since earlier this year. Hernandez said more people were standing up and speaking out in February. Now, many people have lost hope and have decided to lie low and ride out the rest of Trump's time in office.

"I don't know if the people that were out there that day with me would want to come out anymore," she said of organizing future protests.

Hernandez said she's also struggling to find time to organize a movement as her efforts have shifted toward attending court or going to doctor's appointments with members of her community who are too afraid to go alone.

Her uncle went to a scheduled ICE check-in in Atlanta to confirm that he was still in the country under asylum, she recalled.

ICE officers detained everyone in the waiting room, including him. He spent five months at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin before being deported.

Deadwyler-Heuman also pointed to mounting concerns amongst immigration lawyers. She said one lawyer was detained at an airport earlier this year and had their phone — containing potentially confidential client information — confiscated.

ICE agents detained the Michigan attorney, Amir Makled, at the Detroit Metro Airport in April. The agents coerced him into giving up his phone's contact list, before releasing him, according to NPR.

"If we're not giving due process to immigrants anymore, my concern is that a lawless administration... is then going to, possibly, violate the due process of citizens or their political opponents," Deadwyler-Heuman said.

Editor's Note: this article originally appeared in The Macon Melody.

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CALENDAR

OBITUARIES

Warner Robins Aglow Free Conference Call

Warner Robins Aglow warmly invites you to Share the Joy of Jesus with Random Acts of Christmas Kindness!

Warner Robins Aglow Free Conference Call open to all! December 10, 2025 at 10:30 am - Noon

Call in Number: (605) 313-5146, Code: 204 807#

Carolyn Williams, President of the Georgia State Aglow Leadership Team will be sharing creative ways to show the Love of God to our neighbors near and far. A delightful speaker, Carolyn brings years of experience in practicing the command of Jesus to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

You are invited to share the Joy of Jesus on the call. Prepare to limit your idea or comment to two minutes so that ALL callers may participate. Let's encourage and equip one another to reach out to those waiting to hear this good news.

Carols & Cookies On the Lawn

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church invites the community to join us Friday, December 12 from 6:30 - 8:00 on the lawn between the church and annex at 336 Carl Vinson Parkway in Warner Robins. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a time of fellowship and listening to some of our musicians. Join us in singing Christmas carols and savor some Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider.

Community Calendar

Email your information to: brianna@hhjonline.com

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Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church

Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church invites the community to its Christmas events.

Lessons and Carols will take place Dec 17th, 7PM.

Midnight Mass will take place Dec 24th, 11PM.

Christmas Morning Mass will take place Dec 25th, 11AM.

Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church is located at 2815 US-41, Fort Valley, GA.

All Saints Christmas Services

All Saints Episcopal Church, located at 1708 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins invites all to our annual Christmas Services.

Advent Program: Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18. Starting at 5:45PM with a service in the Sanctuary, followed by a light potluck and our program "The Will to Dream" in our Parish Hall at 6:00PM.

Christmas Eve Services: 5:30PM Family Christmas Eve Worship. 8:00PM Musical Introit followed at 8:30PM Festal Christmas Eucharist

For more information, please contact the church office at 478-923-1791.

Lions Interest Meeting

The Houston County Lions are sponsoring an Interest Meeting for community-service minded people who would like to join hands with others to solve problems and help people in our community. The Interest Meeting is at 7:00 pm, Monday, December 15th at the IHOP restaurant at 2710 Watson Blvd. in Warner Robins.

Thomas J. "Tom" McMichael

Late on the evening of Saturday, November 29, 2025, Thomas Jefferson "Tom" McMichael, 89, joined his Lord and Savior in heaven where he was reunited with his beloved wife, Dianne.

Born on April 27, 1936, Tom was raised in Jackson, Georgia, where he grew up on his family's farm during the Great Depression. Those early years shaped his life-long values of hard work, humility, and service to others.

Tom graduated from Jackson High School in 1954, where he played football and was active in the Future Farmers of America. His academic dedication earned him a scholarship to the University of Georgia, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1958. He continued his education at Louisiana State University, completing his master's degree at the LSU School of Banking.

Tom began his banking career in Atlanta with C&S Bank, managing several branches throughout the metropolitan area. In 1979, he moved to Warner Robins to serve as Vice President of C&S. He continued through the bank's transitions to Nations Bank and later Bank of America, retiring before eventually returning to work with Liberty Bank, which became BB&T, where he retired a second time.

A proud American with a deep love for the military, Tom served in the Army Reserves as a tank



driver and served at Fort Knox. His admiration for the Air Force and for those in uniform remained constant throughout his life.

A dedicated public servant and respected community leader, Tom served as the Houston County Commissioner for Post 5 for 24 years. He was particularly proud of his work on the Russell Parkway extension and the development of the Houston County landfill. His leadership extended throughout the state as President of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and as a member of the Georgia Public Safety Post Council. One of the great honors was having the Thomas McMichael Multipurpose Room at the Houston County Courthouse named in recognition of his service.

Tom's service to his community reached far beyond public office. He served on the Board of the Museum of Aviation and was a member of the Air Force Association. He was honored with both the Sam Nunn Award and the Sherrill Stafford Award. A longtime Rotarian and former President of the Warner Robins Rotary Club, he also served on

the boards of Middle Georgia State University, Central Georgia Technical College, and United Way. Tom received the Charles Jones Lifetime Achievement Award which is given by the Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce and was also recognized with the Georgia Small Business Leader Award, and named Optimist of the Year, and was a longtime member of the Warner Robins Noon Day Optimist Club. He was most recently a member of Bonaire Church and a former longtime member of Christ United Methodist Church.

Among Tom's greatest joys was caring for and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Widely known as "The Muffin Man," Tom delighted in baking muffins and delivering them to his grandchildren's schools and to his bank employees. He and his wife proudly followed their grandchildren to countless sporting events, cheerleading competitions, and FFA activities.

Tom loved cooking and had a gift for making sure everyone around him was well-fed. He taught his children and many friends how to water-ski on Lake Allatoona, was an excellent tennis player, and an avid gardener. He enjoyed refurbishing furniture with his wife and treasured his trips to Sanibel Island with his longtime friends and colleagues from C&S Bank.

Tom will be remembered for his determination, generosity, devotion to his family, and his steadfast sense of prin-

ciple. His life was one of service, faith, and love, and his legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched.

Tom was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dianne Holland McMichael, parents, James and Bessie Cook McMichael and sister, Jane McMichael Saunders.

His memory will forever be treasured by his children, Gregg McMichael (Debbie) and Gail McMichael Brown; grandchildren, JR McMichael, Thomas McMichael, Haley Stuckey and Caitlyn Brown; brother, Harold "Doc" McMichael (Dorothy Strawn) and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation with Tom's family will be Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at McCullough Funeral Home. The funeral service celebrating his life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025, in the chapel of McCullough Funeral Home with Reverend Jason Dickerson officiating. Following the service, Tom will be laid to rest in Magnolia Park Mausoleum.

The family will accept flowers or donations may be given in memory of Thomas Jefferson "Tom" McMichael to the Museum of Aviation at www.museumofaviation.org.

Go to www.mcculloughfh.com to sign the Online Registry for the family. McCullough Funeral Home and Crematory has the privilege of being entrusted with these arrangements.

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Our Goal

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

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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.

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Rating our Thanksgiving holiday

The appetizer: My wife and I went to Biloxi, Miss., for Thanksgiving to gamble.

Aside from playing some poker with my Air Force buddies, I hadn't gambled a day in my life. (Not even when I was in Las Vegas last year and was in an ocean of game machines.)

My wife on the other hand loved to play the machines in the Rod and Gun Club when we were stationed in England. (She came home ecstatic one day when she had won \$32 whole dollars!)

She normally spends a trio of days preparing the Thanksgiving meal for everybody. I thought this time I would give her a break and a treat. ("Sorry kiddos. You're on your own!")

The rating: One star. The Scarlet Pearl casino wooed us, teased us, promised us. Misled us. Suckered us! ("Oh. This is it! You're on a winning streak now!")

It took all of our money, or about \$300 of it that is.

The main course: We

HHJ PUBLISHER

DON MONCRIEF



stopped at the Cracker Barrel in Evergreen, Ala., on Thanksgiving Day on our way down.

We had the turkey meal, as if we had much of a choice. ("Wait? What? Where's the rest of the menu?")

The rating: Two stars. The meal was actually pretty good. (Minus the green beans that looked like somebody ran over them in the parking lot first.)

The lower rating came from seeing all the seniors. (Not Cracker Barrel's fault, obviously.) I mean a sea of senior citizens! (Us included, of course, but we chose this. I'm pretty sure all of

those people weren't headed to the Hard Rock, Harrrah's or the Margaritaville Resort.)

I couldn't help but think: "What's up with their children that they would find this acceptable? "No way mom and dad! You're spending Thanksgiving with us!"

Then there were the homeless, one on each of the four turns it took to get from the Interstate to the 500 or so yards it took to get to the restaurant. We helped two of them, but there it is again.

Another sad commentary about who we are that on

See MONCRIEF page 10A

Andrew Moore, Agent



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COLUMNIST

KELLY BURKE



Thinking of dying? Here's a few helpful tips. You should do a will or trust, but some of you just assume that doing a will means you are going to die.

Newsflash! Everyone born in 1900 who did, or didn't do, a will, died. So you might as well hire an attorney to do it right. Do your own brain surgery if you insist, but leave legal matters as serious as estate planning to a qualified attorney.

But if you are looking to avoid lawyer fees, follow my helpful Law School 203 course, "Economical Brain Surgery Explained."

Georgia has a relatively new option for the transfer of real estate upon your death. There is now the option to record a deed that says Dovahkiin Watkins (I hope that's no one's real name) gets your real property upon your death. I imagine that should be recorded before you die, but I don't know if that's been litigated yet.

See O.C.G.A. Sec. 44-17-2. Upon your death, the beneficiary(ies) then files or will file an affidavit and, voila, it's theirs! You can change your mind too. Again, before you die, since you can't tell anybody after you die.

You can do that same thing with your bank account, IRA, 401(K), and pretty much any financial account. Whether it be a designated beneficiary or a POD (Payable on Death) form, it is a relatively simple procedure accomplished by filling out a form. The money then passes outside

of probate.

Your family can take title of your car(s) by a form filed with the local tag office after your death, if there is no will—that's an Affidavit of Inheritance (Form T-20).

So with that, in Georgia, you can now dispose of your real estate, financial

accounts, and automobiles without ever having done a will.

Relax. Estate lawyers won't go hungry as a result of these options. But still, leave a little something in your lawyers stocking this year. You do have a stocking for your lawyer, right?

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, and 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. To see this column or Kelly's archives, visit www.kellyburke.com. You can email Kelly at dakellyburke@gmail.com.



Dozing on the couch during a timeless Christmas special

Now that the halls have been decked, the mistletoe hung and the tree is fully trimmed, it's time to start another annual tradition – binge watching Christmas programs.

Fifty-six years ago this week, the holiday classic "Frosty the Snowman" first hit the airwaves. The 25-minute cartoon, based on the 1950 Gene Autry song of the same name, was the first seasonal show watched in my house this year. About half an hour is all I can seem to stay awake after I sit down on the couch. Yes, I've reached that stage of fatherhood where I near-instantly fall asleep when I

try to watch television.

So don't ask me if I've seen the latest buzz-worthy program, but I have seen the intro seven times.

"Frosty" is probably the last of the great network television Christmas specials, with "Rudolph the

Red-Nosed Reindeer," "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and the original production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" all debuting within the previous eight years. After the 1960s, small

See DOMINY page 10A

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LIFESTYLE & FAITH

Christmas at the Square

It's a special weekend in Perry, Georgia. The annual Christmas Parade rolls out on Saturday morning, December 06 at 10AM. Due to a pending construction project on General Courtney Hodges Boulevard, this year's route will be different than normal. Weather permitting, the parade will leave from New Hope Baptist Church, located at 1300 Washington Street, then continue down Washington Street, turn left onto Main Street, and conclude at the new VA Clinic. Hopefully, this paper will reach your hands before all the floats reach their destination. For more details contact the city of Perry.

Then on Sunday, December 07 at 6:00PM there is the annual "Christmas at the Square." For decades, Perry peeps have gathered downtown to celebrate the splendor and wonder of Christmas. Again, weather permitting, we will meet on the old courthouse lawn to celebrate Christmas as a community.

This year, Perry Ministerial Association President, Don Caulley

COLUMNIST
PASTOR LEWIS KIGER



will begin by offering some opening remarks. Then, Mayor Randall Walker will welcome everyone in behalf of the city. The birth narrative of Jesus will be read from various Scriptures by Thomas West from First Baptist Church. Rob Ray, assistant pastor at Perry Methodist, will sing and lead us in some well-beloved Christmas carols. Then Pastor Daniel Stanphill, from Perry Presbyterian will preach a short message about the birth of the Christ child. We will then be dismissed with a word of prayer and blessing over our community and your family.

The entire service will take no longer than about 30 minutes. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy some hot chocolate provided by our friends from Christ Lutheran Church. Come

out and bring your family and help celebrate God's greatest gift to the world – the gift of saving grace found in the Lord Jesus Christ. In an ever-changing world, Christmas is about honoring the never-changing God who loved His creation so much that He sent His Son to be the Savior of sinners. Gathering with people from all walks of life, singing songs, and praising Jesus is a worthwhile way to spend a Sunday evening.

Events like this is Perry at its best ... reminding its citizens about the best gift ever given: the gift of God Himself. Make plans to join us and take part in an event that is food for your soul – Christmas at the Square. (If the weather is uncooperative, the service will be moved indoors to Grace Church, located at 1736 Houston Lake Rd.)

Mystifying character in Old Testament

Without a scriptural hint that a mysterious personage was about to make an appearance in scripture, he suddenly appeared in Genesis 14. Abraham had just returned from a hard fought, but victorious battle against four Canaanite kings who plundered the land and captured Abraham's nephew, Lot. In retaliation, Abraham and his fighting men overwhelmed the enemy kings and rescued Lot.

Following the battle, the King of Sodom went out to greet the triumphant Abraham. At that moment, a mystifying figure appeared. He was identified as the 'King of Salem' (pre-Israelite Jerusalem) and the 'Priest of the Most High God.' This impressive priest-king presented bread and wine to Abraham and his weary warriors. Then, he bestowed a blessing on Abraham in the name of the Most High God and praised God for giving Abraham a victory in battle. To return the gesture, Abraham presented the priest-king with a tithe of his possessions. Abraham then returned all the confiscated food supplies and captives to the kings.

This priest-king who blessed Abraham

later returned to scripture when an unknown author brought him back into focus in the Book of Hebrews. The Hebrews author refers to him as the 'King of Righteousness' and wrote that he had no father or mother, no birth, no death, and no genealogy. He was likened to the 'Son of God.' The king-priest was greater than Abraham because the scripture declares that "the one who blessed another is greater than the one who is blessed."

Not only was the priest-king greater than Abraham, he was greater than Levi, the leader of tribe of Israel chosen to lead the Levites in the priesthood. The tithe that Abraham presented to the priest-king was a precursor to the tithe that was later instituted by the Law of Moses, which required the Levitical priests (descendants of Levi) to collect from the

PARABLES TO PONDER
BILLY POWELL



Israelites a tithe amounting to 10 percent of their crops and animals. This tithe was used to support the Temple and the tribe of Levites, who inherited no arable land in God's division of Canaan.

The mystery character who blessed Abraham was named Melchizedek, who was the prototype of the High Priest who was to come, namely Jesus Christ. No earthly priest can "remain a priest forever," and no mere human is "without father or mother." If Genesis 14 described a theophany—and some scholars believe it does—then the pre-incarnate Christ came in the person of Melchizedek to bless Abraham. Centuries later, this same Jesus shed His sinless blood at Calvary to reconcile sinners back to God so that we might have an eternal home with Him—a place where there will be no sorrow, crying, pain, or death.

Our holiday season calorie furnace

Most of us probably store more calories (in the form of fat) than we would like to over the holidays, but then most of us probably didn't intend to under eat at the events scattered throughout this festive time of year!

There are two things that usually seem to happen during the holidays: An increase of calorie intake and a decrease in intense physical activity.

When we have a decrease in physical activity but an increase in caloric intake over an extended time period, it simply tells our body to store this energy

YOUR HEALTH

WADE YODER



until later in our fat cells and fatty deposit areas.

Muscle is our body's fat burning furnace. The more you have of it and the more toned and conditioned it is, the hotter your thermogenic (fat burning) fire will be! We too often relate a decrease

in metabolism to aging, but it's not nearly so much the aging factor as it is a decrease in quality muscle mass.

The two primary causes of this is our decrease in physical activity and our diet! These two factors

See YODER page 10A

A brief history of Hallmark ornaments

When I was a young newlywed, I loved to go to the Hallmark stores and look at all of the beautiful ornaments. I would hope that some would be leftover for the half off sale the day after Christmas so that I could possibly afford to buy one for us and then when the kids came along, I tried to buy them each one for their own trees one day. These also sell very well at estate sales! I thought that our readers might enjoy a brief history of these treasured ornaments.

Before the 1970s, decorating the family Christmas tree was a relatively straightforward affair. For most Americans, the options were limited to costly, imported German blown glass, simple glass or plastic balls in solid colors, or handcrafted pieces. Then, in 1973, everything changed when Hallmark Cards, Inc. entered the holiday market, not just with ornaments, but with a cultural revolution.

Hallmark's entry into the space redefined the Christmas ornament, transforming it from a general decoration into a unique, year-dated, limited-edition collectible. This innovative approach made them an instant, massive hit with consumers and gave birth to the powerhouse known as Hallmark Keepsake Ornaments.

The groundswell began quietly. According to Hallmark historian and archivist Samantha Stephens, the company first tested the market in December 1972, placing four decorated glass ball ornaments in select stores. "They flew off the shelves," Stephens explained.

The official launch arrived in 1973 with a

ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



line featuring six decorated glass ball ornaments and 12 distinct yarn ornaments, including "Mr. Santa," "Mrs. Santa," and an "Angel." This initial line set the stage for what would become an archival collection of 10,000 ornaments and counting.

Today, the Kansas City-based giant releases an astounding approximately 450 new ornaments each year. These pieces capture everything from notable life events (graduations, new homes) and personal interests (hobbies, sports) to beloved licensed merchandise from the world of pop culture. The first licensed characters—Peanuts and Disney—debuted on Hallmark ornaments in 1977.

As the line expanded, consumers needed a way to track and anticipate the annual releases. Hallmark initially began publishing product catalogs in 1979, sharing photos and decorating ideas. This promotional material evolved in 1990 into the cherished Dream Book, a direct response to collectors who told artists they were "dreaming" of the next year's line.

The collectible community grew so passionate that the National Keepsake Ornament Club was established in 1987, boasting over 50,000 members across the United States and Canada. Exclusive,

limited-edition pieces—such as the first in a new series or highly sought-after "repaints" (new colorways)—are often reserved for these club members or convention attendees.

Hallmark's longevity is rooted in its memorable series, many of which are now vintage collector items. The longest-running series, The Frosty Friends, began in 1980 with the introduction of "Cool Yule."

Other highlights include:

• 1979: The "Here Comes Santa" series, starting with Santa's Motorcar.

• 1981: The "Rocking Horse" series, which ran for 16 years.

• 1984: The "Nostalgic Houses and Shops" series, which remains in existence today.

The company is constantly looking forward. Senior Merchant Director Theresa McGeehan notes that the ornaments are an "intersection of art and science," with a development process that works multiple years in advance. Modern releases poised to become future collectibles include miniature lines, Young Santa figures, gnomes, and pieces celebrating cultural hits like Hocus Pocus and Star Wars imagery from the 1990s.

Some of these ornaments can sell for hundreds of dollars on ebay so check your closet! Happy Collecting!

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WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR VIOLATION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDER.

CROSS, KENNETHY
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BATTERY FAMILY VIOLENCE/ CRIMINAL TRESPASS/DAMAGE/ VIOLATION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE ORDER.

COLEMAN, RANDY
WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SALE OF METHAMPHETAMINE, VIOLATION OF THE STREET GANG TERRORISM AND PREVENTION ACT.

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WANTED BY THE FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPOS POLICE DEPT. FOR BURGLARY- 2ND DEGREE, CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY-2ND DEGREE, AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS.

DUMAS, BILLY
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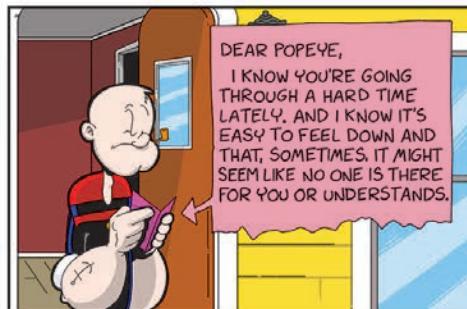
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WILSON, CEDRIC
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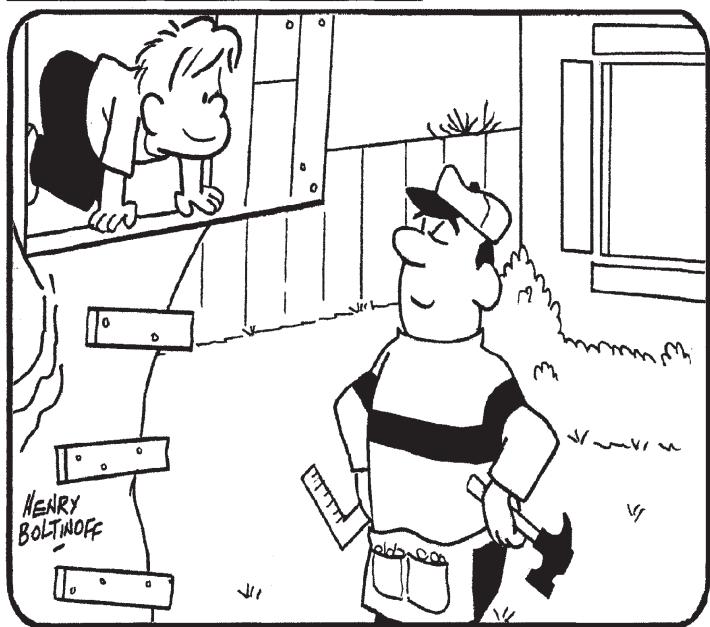


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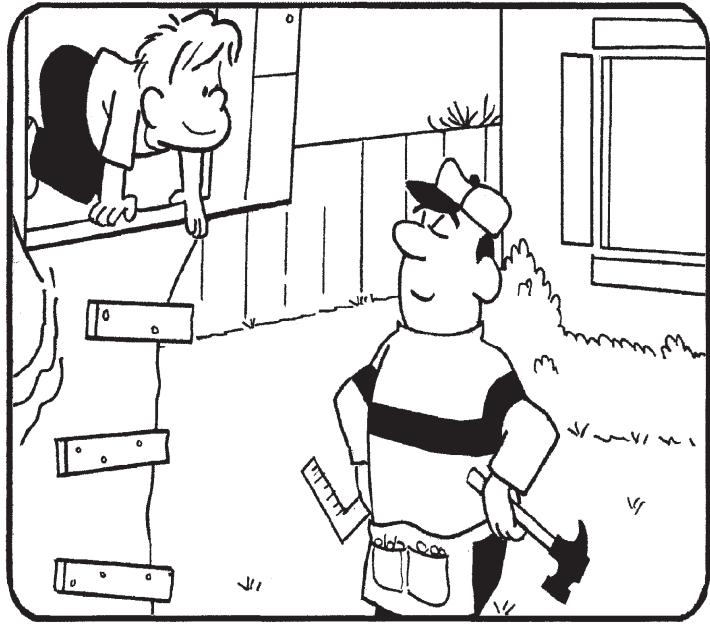
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Out on a Limb

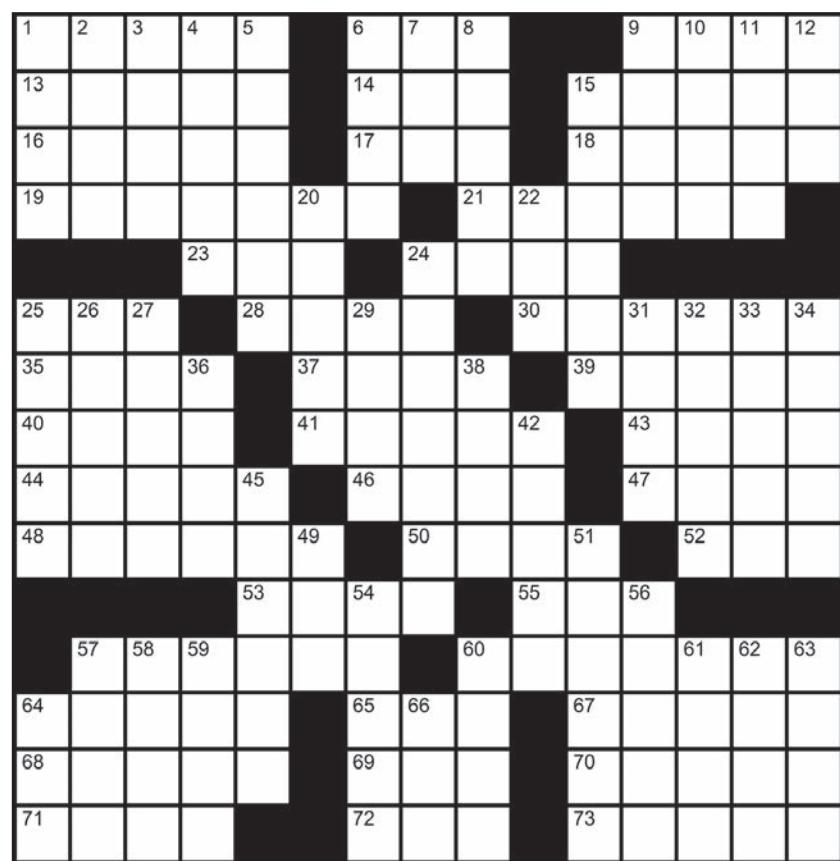


by Gary Kopervas

BUSTER ASKS
SANTA CLAUS FOR
THE SAME THING
EVERY CHRISTMAS

KOPERVAS

CROSSWORD 12-6-25



CLUES ACROSS

1. Slovenly ones
6. To do this is human?
9. Not flip
13. Mistress or lover, arch.
14. Precedes de Rivoli
15. Lift a hefty load
16. Sheep-like
17. Invoice qty.
18. Republic on Arabian Peninsula
19. *Aromatic additives
21. *Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
23. Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
24. Clarified butter
25. Although, for short
28. Distressed cry
30. Bamboozled
35. What a willow did?
37. J in B. J. King
39. Raspberry drupelets
40. Pelvic bones
41. Birch family tree
43. Banned apple spray
44. Impolite dinner sound
46. Left, Latin prefix
47. Dissenting clique
48. a.k.a. chickadee
50. Four seasons
52. Abode for #1 Down
53. Do, re or mi
55. Buddy Holly's "Peggy"
57. *Measuring tool at a bar
60. *Not shaken

64. Dough or cabbage

65. "Gross!"

67. Lacking guile

68. "The Day the World Still"

69. Intelligence org.

70. Ruhr's industrial center

71. Job for a body shop

72. Finish

73. Condemn

CLUES DOWN

1. #1 Across, sing.
2. Jeans maker Strauss
3. Leave out
4. Swahili and other languages
5. One of the seven dwarfs
6. Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.
7. *Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
8. *Verb related to hangover
9. Fine print add-ons
10. Feeble
11. Above and beyond
12. Mightier than sword
15. Shenzi of "The Lion King"
20. *Spanish dry red wine
22. "For ____ a Jolly Good Fellow"
24. Seductive stare (2 words)
25. *Citrus peel
26. Greeting

27. Laudanum ingredient

29. *Same as rail at a bar

31. South American wood sorrels

32. Trickeries

33. Roleplay

34. *Like martini with olive brine

36. Queen of Hearts' pastry

38. Campbell of "Scream" fame

42. Cook in the oven

45. Sent a modern message

49. Ballerina's support

51. Decayed or disintegrated

54. Cease-fire

56. Use other end of pencil

57. Burlap fiber

58. Desktop picture

59. Small cave

60. Herring's cousin

61. Microprocessor design, acr.

62. ____ and anon

63. Controvert

64. Psychedelic drug

66. *Liquor in Tom Collins and Gimlet

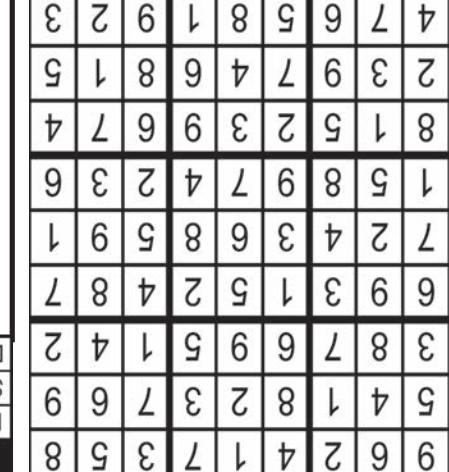
SUDOKU



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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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1181

Lawmakers seek Lottery money for need-based college scholarships

By TYTAGAMI
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A record number enrolled in Georgia's public colleges and universities this fall as the state's lottery continued to produce a windfall for academic scholarships, but a bipartisan legislative committee thinks too many students are still being left behind.

More than 2 million have received a HOPE Scholarship since the public lottery that funds them was established three decades ago.

To qualify, they had to graduate high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average. They also had to maintain their GPA in college to keep the money.

Many have slipped below that line, especially students from lower-income families. They must work while they take classes, leaving less time for studies. When they lose HOPE, they fall further behind, often failing to improve their grades enough to recover the scholarship. Many then drop out.

So, a state Senate com-

mittee adopted bipartisan recommendations this week calling for Georgia to provide financial aid based on need and not just merit, like 48 other states.

"This is about affordability and about opening doors," said Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who led the study committee that concluded its work Tuesday.

Republicans joined Democrats to unanimously approve the final recommendations. Their report, released Wednesday, said Georgia should adopt a \$126 million need-based financial aid program that could be funded from \$1.7 billion in Georgia Lottery Corporation reserves.

Converting the recommendations into law could be a tough sell though.

Some are dubious about need-based financial aid, dimming prospects for such a measure in a General Assembly dominated by conservatives.

For instance, the Selig Center for Economic Growth, a business think tank at the University of Georgia, wrote in a 2019 report that need-based financial aid "sometimes

has been cast negatively as a social welfare program."

It said the state could face a shortage of skilled labor if nothing changes. A growing pool of highly skilled workers attracts employers that offer more skilled jobs, in a "virtuous cycle" of growth that the state should promote by spending more on financial aid, said the Selig Center report, which was co-authored by former UGA president Charles B. Knapp.

"Whatever views are held on this matter, the reality is that without a need-based financial aid program, Georgia is leaving potential economic growth on the table and shortchanging its citizens," said the report, which was cited by Orrock's committee.

But the HOPE Scholarship has produced a treasured legacy, and many lawmakers could be wary of drawing from its foundation in lottery funding.

On Monday, the day before Orrock's committee approved its recommendations, Gov. Brian Kemp

lauded HOPE, noting that more than 2.25 million students had received one of the scholarships in the past three decades. The announcement came as the Lottery Corp. surpassed \$30 billion raised since its start, a portion of the proceeds paying for both pre-kindergarten and college.

"Since 1993, Georgia students from Pre-K to college have been set up for success through the programs funded by the lottery, expanding access to high-quality education in our state," Kemp said in a statement. "We look forward to seeing that legacy of impact continue for years to come."

On Wednesday, Gretchen Corbin, president and CEO of the Lottery Corp., said at a legislative hearing that the lottery returned \$1.47 billion — a quarter of all proceeds — to education for the fiscal year that ended in July.

The money paid for HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships and also subsidized pre-kindergarten attendance, helping to drive enrollment in both.

Sonny Perdue, a former Republican Georgia governor and now the chancellor of the state university system, told lawmakers at a hearing last month that a record-breaking 382,000 enrolled this fall, surpassing projections of 379,500 by 2029.

"So, we are really beating the numbers," Perdue said.

But the premise of Orrock's committee is that Georgia could be enrolling even more students if they could afford college. Four-year college recipients of the Pell grant, a federal subsidy for students from low-income households, had an average \$11,883 in unmet need in 2020, Orrock's committee report said. That was a few thousand dollars more than the funding gap for all four-year students.

Kamore Campbell, who was a high school salutatorian, told the committee that he had received Pell and Zell funding, yet he still left the state for college.

"There were no public four-year schools that offered me enough aid to make staying in state

affordable," Campbell said. He had wanted to attend Georgia Southern University but had a \$10,000 gap. "I enrolled at American University and left Georgia," he said.

Ray Li, a lawyer with the Legal Defense Fund, a racial justice group, told the committee that Georgia is suffering a "brain drain" as talented students find better deals in other states and never return to contribute to Georgia's economy.

Georgia has the lowest home state college attendance in the region, he said, with 78% of high school graduates staying here.

Compare that to 91% in Mississippi, 86% in Florida and 85% in South Carolina, he said. "We are losing a ton of students simply because they cannot afford to go to college here."

This article is available through a partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Association's nonprofit, tax-exempt Educational Foundation.

BAN From page 1A

sure class representatives were comfortable.

The day after the meeting, Smith sent an email letting everyone know the prohibition was reversed and Wilkerson is allowed to reserve rentals moving forward.

In the email, Smith included the reasons for the decision, including:

• Willingness to work with the city in rectifying rental issues that occurred at Heritage Oaks Park.

• Proactive and good-faith efforts on behalf of Wilkerson and group representatives to engage with the city.

• Administration's perception that the event hosted by the Perry Alumni group was well-intentioned and positive.

Wilkerson also felt their transparency led to the decision. He said the event meant a lot to the community and still receives positive feedback from people who attended the tailgate.

However, he wants to change the negative narrative of the event given its

success.

"We're trying to figure out how we can move forward, and working with the city and also changing the narrative," he said.

During the meeting, Wilkerson said Smith is willing to move forward.

Wilkerson did not like that he was banned in the beginning, but he's glad it was resolved. He felt lifting the ban was needed because the tailgate brought the community together.

"[With] the ban being released it was a lot taken off of me because I literally planned this event," he

said.

Wilkerson said he is prepared to show the city they can work together and make sure the previous allegations are not repeated. He hopes that next year's alumni tailgate will have more resources from the city.

"I kind of look at it as a lesson learned from both. On my side and also the city's side," he said.

Wilkerson also hopes to "repaint the picture" surrounding the negativity of the event and the city's help to change the narrative.

He shared that he is

unsure of who decided to ban him, but he believes the city realized they went too far. Moving forward, he hopes to make the alumni tailgate an annual event and have the city be a support system.

"I just really want to make sure there's a positive light to it now. There's different things on [social] media that I constantly see that's negative. I can always respond to certain things but I no longer want to do that," he said. "I feel like once we move forward I really think the city should really be able to help out in

repainting the picture into a positive light."

Wilkerson is currently in the process of planning next year's alumni tailgate. The city has offered alternative locations, but he hopes to still host the event at Heritage Oaks Park.

He said it is going to take more in-person conversations to make sure the event is successful once again.

"I think we can definitely, as an organizer and the city, we can really work together in making this successful for the years to come," he said.

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Bonaire man pleads guilty to attempted meth smuggling into Dooly State Prison

By BRIEANNA SMITH
HHJ Managing Editor
brieanna@hhjonline.com

MACON — A Houston County man is due for sentencing after attempting to bring drugs into a state prison, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Julius Deshawn Williams Jr., 29, of Bonaire, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in federal court on Dec. 1. He faces a maximum penalty of life in prison, and will be sentenced at a later date.

According to court statements, Williams was a cadet in training to become a correctional officer at Dooly State Prison. On June 24, 2024, during a required security check, Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) officers found four packages of methamphetamine wrapped in black tape and hidden in Williams' pants.

A search of his vehicle found four more packages of

meth wrapped in tape and a pistol. Williams admitted to trying to bring the drugs into the prison to give to an inmate.

In total, the packages contained 640 grams of 100% pure methamphetamine.

Representatives from several agencies commented on the case.

"Highly addictive, illegal drugs inside a prison only increase the potential for chaos and violence for everyone on the inside, and can never be tolerated," U.S. Attorney William R. "Will" Keyes said. "Correctional officers have a vital role in ensuring community safety. We appreciate the collaboration across all levels of law enforcement to protect people."

"Contraband in the hands of inmates gives them the ability to continue their criminal enterprise, so the efforts of our dedicated officers in stopping those who attempt to introduce these items is paramount in our commitment to public safe-

ty," GDC Commissioner Tyrone Oliver said. "We are pleased to see that justice has been served on this individual for his role in jeopardizing the safe and secure operations of our facilities."

"Keeping narcotics out of our correctional facilities requires strong, united efforts across agencies," Robert J. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Division, said. "This guilty plea is the result of that collaboration. DEA will continue to stand with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that anyone attempting to introduce dangerous drugs into a prison faces the full force of the law."

Williams appeared before U.S. District Judge C. Ashley Royal and the case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Travis Lynes.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Georgia Department of Corrections.

As a leader, Williams said he aims to never forget the people behind the mission, not just the military, but in our daily lives as well.

"I learned that leadership means to serve and serve others, and we have to remember that," he said.

"I always want to stress to get to know the people you lead or work around and get to know them on a personal level and see what they want and what their goals [are]. If they know that you care, then it will help them when it comes to making that mission a success."

Commissioner Shane Gottwals pointed out that Williams' military anniversary coincides with National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

"May we not forget and

we are reminded every time our military heroes come into these meetings. It means a lot," he said. "You thanked us, but my goodness, we are all thanking you, and we just appreciate everything you do every day."

Commissioner Tal Talton expressed that he always enjoys meetings where military personnel come and speak. He said we are reminded of how blessed we are to live in the United States of America.

"We all know that freedom does not come free so we appreciate your sacrifice, service, passion, dedication and commitment to this country," he said.

Towards the end of the meeting, Commissioners honored the life of former County Commissioner,



Sukey Hart Chapter Regent Cynthia Davis speaks during the meeting.

Owen Jones/HHJ

HONOR

From page 1A

served in their time of war.

"Your collective service and individual sacrifices have safeguarded the cherished concepts in our Constitution," she said. "Whether deployed in harm's way all while watching over your buddies as they watched over you or training and serving in home stations, you sacrificed. Our country, community, families and children owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude."

The chapters recognized a few living members who served such as William Larry Mitchell—Air Force, Master Sergeant E-7, James Winbon Golden—Army, E-5 Sergeant, Edward Blount—Marine Corps, Corporal E-4 and Harley A. Crosby—Army,

First Class E-7.

"It is really an honor that the [DAR] took the time to put something on like this, and we are very appreciative," Mitchell said. "Vietnam Veterans are very under-appreciated, so it's always an honor when they are recognized," Blount said. "I think it's an honor of what these ladies do all over the United States, and I think it's very important to keep the history going," Golden said.

Each veteran was given a Certificate of Honor and a special bronze lapel pen. Davis described the meaning of the lapel.

"We can never be thankful enough for what they did for us. If it wasn't for them, we would just be a different country," Davis said. "Because of them, it's a reason we have our freedom, our future and America."

Tom McMichael, who passed away over the weekend. McMichael served Post 5 for 24 years, serving alongside Commissioner Gail Robinson.

"He was a great public servant," Robinson said. "He loved serving the county. He loved being a County Commissioner. He loved helping people. I just wanted to express my appreciation for his service, and I just really enjoyed serving with him, being his friend and [I wanted] to thank Tom McMichael for all that he did for this county."

Commissioner Mark Byrd said Tom McMichael was a large part of why he decided to run for County Commissioner.

"He encouraged me to run over the years preceding his retirement and as it got closer to time, he leaned in pretty strongly and encouraged me that it was time to step up and go, and I appreciate it," he said.

In new business, the county and the City of Warner Robins are collaborating to build a new senior center. In the agenda, the county had requested the Middle Georgia

Regional Commission to help select an architect. Approval of such is part of the grant application process. The Board approved the selection of Praxis3, LLC of Atlanta.

The next Houston County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m., located at the Houston County Annex on Carl Vinson Parkway. The full agenda of this meeting can be found at www.houstoncountyga.gov/minutes/2025-12-02%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf

COUNTY

From page 1A

"[Civilians] are a big part of the mission as they hold that continuity because with the military, we move a lot, but our civilians, they remain," he said. "It gives me a different level of respect to keep those relationships intact between the military and the civilians."

Before arriving at Robins, Williams went on a special duty tour to San Antonio and was a military training instructor.

"That was an amazing tour as it really opened my eyes to leadership, giving back and being able to impact lives because that's what I really enjoy and what I'm passionate about," he said.

PERRY

From page 1A

that helps local governments and utilities improve their financial foundation. The city asked Raftelis to develop a rate study for the water and sewer fund.

To read the full presentation, read our coverage: hhjonline.com/perry-city-council-hears-rate-study-presentation-during-recent-work-session/.

The firm recommended adopting a sewer connection fee, calculated at \$8,435, Director of Finance Mitchell Worthington explained. This fee will be charged to new connections to the sewer system.

During the work session, Worthington explained how the sewer connection fee was calculated. According to council documents, the city's new water treatment facility has a capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day. Of that amount, approximately 1.5 million gallons, or 61.8%, is to be allocated to new customers.

Worthington said city planning revolves around an equivalent residential unit (ERU) of 285 gallons per day. The water capacity of new customers divided by gallons per day results in a total capacity of 5,421 ERU, allocated to new cus-

tomers for the city's new water treatment plant.

According to council documents, the principal cost of constructing the plant, associated water lines and pump stations is approximately \$74 million.

Worthington said 61.8% of the principal cost is approximately \$45.7 million. That amount will then be divided by 5,421 ERU, resulting in \$8,435 per ERU unit.

One ERU is equivalent to a three-fourths-inch water meter, the standard for residential units, Worthington said. He said the fee will cease to be collected once the city utilizes the total 5,421 ERU.

Feedback

Earlier in the work session, multiple developers were concerned about the fee, saying its quick implementation will not allow them to adjust marketing and pricing to accommodate.

Resident Kecia Isgett spoke at both the work session and regular council meeting. During the regular council meeting, she said she disagrees with the sewer connection fee being fair and equitable.

She believes the rate study was presented with a fair and balanced approach to all parties involved. However, she said the city council's decision is con-

trary to Raftelis's opinion.

Isgett mentioned a four percent growth rate from the study. She said at the end of four years, without implementing the fee, each resident will "bear the burden" of \$11,000 to cover the debt service.

She believes the city has not looked at how this will impact the citizens, but rather focused on the changes for developers.

"All we have talked about for the last three or four meetings is what the change for the developers is going to be. We have not seen a side-by-side comparison for the developers and the citizens. I do not feel like that is fair and equitable," she said.

Loudermilk Companies Development Manager Lindsay Bryant was one of many to speak against the sewer connection fee. She shared that over the last 15 years, the company has invested approximately \$60 million in projects within the community, hiring locally and working with local experts.

Bryant understands the city's need to keep utilities maintained and to plan for future growth. However, she believes the fee increase will create a significant jump in per-unit cost.

"As of right now, with construction costs rising, inter-

est rates high and materials more expensive than ever, even a small shift in costs makes a big difference," she said.

Bryant also shared that the increase can push projects to the point where they won't work financially. Multiple developers believe that if that happens, development will slow down and affect the city's ability to grow its tax base and attract new businesses.

She said if the city becomes the most expensive option, projects will naturally shift to less expensive surrounding areas.

Staff's recommendation and discussion

In regular council meeting, Worthington proposed a resolution to establish the sewer connection fee in a phased-in approach. According to council documents, it will be over two years with three effective dates.

The first to go into effect on January 1, 2026, would have a connection fee of \$2,500 per ERU. The second phase would be effective January 1, 2027, charging \$5,450. Finally, the third phase would go into effect on January 1, 2028, with a connection fee of \$8,400.

City council would review the fees on an annual basis to remain transparent.

Councilman James Moody

said hours have been spent on the study and believes the recommendation is an equitable compromise.

"We were at capacity with our Frank Satterfield Wastewater Plant. We couldn't take on anymore. This is something we had to have. Everyone's going to benefit from this and everyone's going to have to pay to get this paid for," he said.

Councilmember Dan Peterson agreed that there needs to be a rate connection process. However, he believed the council did not have the chance to discuss the effect on rate payers. He also recommended council review the city budget to see if there are potential reductions in expenses.

Peterson proposed an amendment to the motion saying the city, City Manager, and appropriate City Administrative Staff will review city revenues, expenses, other potential wastewater treatment customers, and local financial conditions.

This will be done to recommend the mayor and city council adjustments to connection fees and consumer rates. City Manager and staff will make their review and recommendations before the approval of each fiscal year budget, Peterson explained.

Moody made the motion

to accept Peterson's amendment; however, Councilman Willie King did not second the motion. King explained the amendment was not needed, since reviewing fees annually was already part of Worthington's recommendation.

City Attorney Brooke Newby agreed, saying the amendment added wording to the already existing commitment to review fees annually.

Peterson disagreed, saying the amount of money is serious for both developers and rate payers. He said it would be appropriate to have the motion on record. Peterson then made the motion to accept the resolution with his proposed amendment. Albritton seconded the motion.

King and Moody voted to deny the motion. Since the vote was tied, Mayor Randall Walker voted to approve the motion with Peterson's amendment.

The Mayor and Council will hold their pre-council meeting at 5 p.m. and the regular council meeting at 6 p.m. on Dec. 16. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings, and the agenda can be found at perry-ga.gov/scrive-agendas-minutes. Both meetings are also livestreamed on YouTube: youtube.com/@PerryComms.

City of Perry SPLOST 18 Allocation Report

In accordance with O.C.G.A. Sec 48-8-122, as amended, the status of the 2018 SPLOST allocation to the City of Perry by the Houston County Board of Commissioners is outlined below.

Purpose	Original	Estimated Cost	Prior Years	FY 2025	Total
Streets/Sidewalks	\$3,500,000		\$480,148	\$703,414	\$1,183,562
Public Safety	621,653		353,999	332,995	\$686,994
Water/Sewer	2,500,000		1,148,209	703,921	\$1,852,130
Recreation/Parks	\$1,200,000		\$740,216	\$432,950	\$1,173,166
Total	\$7,821,653		\$2,722,572	\$2,173,280	\$4,895,852

City of Perry SPLOST 24 Allocation Report

In accordance with O.C.G.A. Sec 48-8-122, as amended, the status of the 2024 SPLOST allocation to the City of Perry by the Houston County Board of Commissioners is outlined below.

Purpose	Estimated Cost	FY 2025	Total
Public Safety	\$3,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Streets/Sidewalks	2,389,300	4,372	\$ 4,372
Water/Sewer	4,500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recreation/Parks	3,000,000	118,295	\$ 118,295
Stormwater Imp	\$1,000,000	\$ 109,208	\$ 109,208
Total	\$14,389,300	\$ 231,875	\$ 231,875

CAPITOL UPDATES

Looking back with gratitude & moving forward with purpose

There's a certain clarity that comes at the end of the year, especially a year like 2025. As families across Georgia sit down to stretch their paychecks and figure out how to make Christmas special despite rising costs, it's impossible not to feel the weight of the moment we're living in. Washington may be content with runaway spending and unstable leadership, but here in Georgia, we're determined to chart a different course.

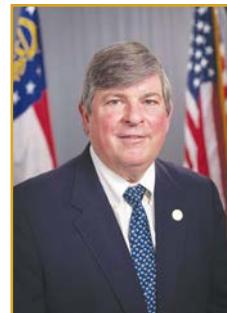
Representing the people of Middle Georgia comes with a responsibility I don't take lightly. While debating legislation and casting votes are part of the job, the real work happens in the conversations at kitchen tables, local businesses, farm shops and church pews. This year, you've told me what's working, what's not and what you expect from your state leaders.

Over the last twelve months, Senate Republicans stayed focused on conservative, commonsense policies that strengthen our workforce, improve school safety and protect consumers from practices that drive up the cost of living. In a year when every dollar matters, we delivered meaningful tax relief and upheld Georgia's long-standing commitment to responsible budgeting. Our investments in education, public safety and health care, while lowering taxes, aren't abstract accomplishments. They're making a difference in real homes and real communities.

Our law enforcement officers and first responders are better equipped to keep our schools secure.

GUEST COLUMNIST

LARRY WALKER
STATE SENATOR, 20th DISTRICT



Farmers and agribusiness owners have more protection for the tools they rely on to feed our state. Small businesses are getting relief from lawsuit abuse that has driven up insurance premiums. Families are keeping more of their

hard-earned money due to our income tax reduction.

As proud as I am of what we've done, I'm even more mindful of the challenges ahead. Rural health care remains a challenge. Workforce shortages continue to burden small

towns and local economies. Affordable housing is slipping further out of reach for too many young families. Agriculture, the backbone of our economy, continues to need long-term, strategic support to remain competitive in a rapidly changing world.

In the upcoming legislative session, my priorities remain in advancing policies that help Georgians thrive, strengthening the industries that drive our state and pushing back against personal agendas that threaten to make life harder for working families. Before we talk about new programs or

new spending, we must first ask whether we are protecting taxpayers and preserving the values that built this state.

As the Christmas season arrives, I hope you're able to find time for rest, gratitude, and the people who matter most in your life. I remain deeply thankful for your trust and your willingness to stay engaged in the work happening under the Gold Dome. If my office can ever help you, whether you have an idea for legislation or need assistance navigating a state agency, please don't hesitate to reach out. We work for you

year-round.

I wish you and your family a joyful Christmas and a hopeful, prosperous New Year. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2026.

Sen. Larry Walker serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor. He represents the 20th Senate District, which includes Bleckley, Dodge, Dooly, Laurens, Treutlen, Pulaski and Wilcox counties, as well as a portion of Houston County. He may be reached by phone at (404) 656-0095 or by email at Larry.Walker@senate.ga.gov.

NOTICE

The City of Warner Robins City Council does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the **City Hall Chambers** on **December 15, 2025 at 4:30pm** and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

H O U S T O N C O U N T Y	HOUSTON	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Real & Personal	1,953,918,351	2,241,838,118	2,510,001,921	2,888,520,362	3,367,443,852
	Motor Vehicles	20,258,660	18,082,300	17,774,780	16,254,760	14,183,190
	Mobile Homes	2,469,086	2,553,172	2,743,060	3,070,802	3,796,077
	Timber - 100%		13,850	24,057	32,792	0
	Heavy Duty Equipment	4,550	31,470	30,627	24,870	6,152
	Gross Digest	1,976,650,647	2,262,518,910	2,530,574,445	2,907,903,586	3,385,429,271
	Less Exemptions	110,538,817	129,987,066	154,482,521	187,622,150	231,019,166
	NET DIGEST VALUE	1,866,111,830	2,132,531,844	2,376,091,924	2,720,281,436	3,154,410,105
C O U N T Y	R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530
	Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax & Insurance Premium)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	R A T E	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$18,623,796	\$21,282,668	\$23,713,397	\$24,354,680
P E A C H C O U N T Y	PEACH	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	V A L U E	Real & Personal	46,555,591	59,433,245	71,480,811	94,130,047
	Motor Vehicles	150,990	124,600	96,250	0	70,930
	Mobile Homes					0
	Timber - 100%					0
	Heavy Duty Equipment					4,843
	Gross Digest	46,706,581	59,557,845	71,577,061	94,130,047	165,236,034
	Less Exemptions	1,181,321	1,392,073	1,498,182	1,726,393	4,095,993
	NET DIGEST VALUE	45,525,260	58,165,772	70,078,879	92,403,654	161,140,041
R A T E	R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	8.9530
	Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	1.0540	1.0900	1.1060	1.2840	0.7773
	R A T E	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	8.9260	8.8900	8.8740	7.6690
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$406,358	\$517,094	\$621,880	\$708,644
TOTAL COUNTY	TOTAL COUNTY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	TOTAL DIGEST VALUE	1,911,637,090	2,190,697,616	2,446,170,803	2,812,685,090	3,315,550,146
	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$19,030,155	\$21,799,762	\$24,335,277	\$25,063,323	\$29,558,860
	Net Tax \$ Increase		\$2,769,607	\$2,535,516	\$728,046	\$4,495,537
	Net Tax % Increase		14.55%	11.63%	2.99%	17.94%

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Warner Robins has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 15.20% in Houston County and 13.31% in Peach County.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at City of Warner Robins, City Hall Council Chambers on Monday December 1st, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at City of Warner Robins, City Hall Council Chambers on Monday December 1st, 2025 immediately following the conclusion of the Council Meeting but not before 6:00 PM and Monday, December 15 th, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.953 mills, an increase of 1.181 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Houston County. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.772 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Houston County.

This proposed tax increase for a home in Houston County with a fair market value of \$220,000 is approximately \$75.58 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$225,000 is \$106.29.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.175 mills, an increase of 0.960 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Peach County. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.215 mills for City of Warner Robins properties within Peach County.

This proposed tax increase for a home in Peach County with a fair market value of \$200,000 is approximately \$53.76 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$200,000 is \$76.80.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Landmark Realty named as Nov. Business of the Month



Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

Landmark Realty has more than closings to celebrate. The Perry Chamber has named the real estate group November's Business of the Month, recognizing its dedication to the community and its clients. Whether you're buying or selling, Landmark's team brings decades of combined experience and a commitment to making your real estate journey smooth, informed, and stress-free. Visit them at 904 Jernigan Street or learn more at landmarkperry.com.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

- Farmers Insurance Agency - Jai Stewart** – Wed. Dec. 10, 4 p.m., 601 Russell Parkway, Suite C, Warner Robins
- Piedmont Primary Care of Warner Robins** – Thu. Dec. 11, 11 a.m., 4851 Russell Parkway, Suite 500, Warner Robins
- Middle Georgia Diagnostic Lab** – Thu. Dec. 18, 4 p.m., 1550 Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins

Holiday deliveries coming to some homes by air, without the 'ho ho ho'



Courtesy: Wing

A Wing drone totes a Walmart payload.

By TYTAGAMI
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — They will not be dropping packages down your chimney, but unmanned air couriers will be able to deliver to your lawn in time for Christmas, if you live near one of six Walmart Supercenters in the suburbs that ring Atlanta.

Walmart announced the new service with partner Wing on Wednesday. In addition to metro Atlanta, the two will be rolling out drone deliveries in Charlotte, Houston, Orlando and Tampa.

They say they plan to reach a hundred stores in a year, after piloting the service at 18 locations in Dallas-Fort Worth.

"The popularity of drone delivery in DFW is a tes-

tament not just to its convenience, but to the way this technology quickly becomes a part of everyday life," Wing CEO Adam Woodworth said in a statement.

The partnership is billing this as the first commercial drone delivery service in metro Atlanta. Yet illegal air deliveries are already commonplace to certain shady customers in Georgia. On Monday, state corrections officials lamented at a legislative hearing how drones had become a security threat, routinely penetrating the airspace over prisons to deliver contraband to inmates.

And driverless Waymo cars are already an everyday sight in Atlanta, where they have been delivering people to destinations since the summer.

But the new pilotless air shipping promises to give Christmas procrastinators who live within delivery range another chance to buy last-minute stocking stuffers, plus seasonal essentials such as wrapping paper and ingredients for holiday meals.

Wing says its 12-pound, white and yellow drones can range up to six miles at a cruising speed of 60 mph, delivering packages in five minutes. Besides quicker delivery, the company says communities stand to benefit when fewer packages move by road: less traffic would be a gift to everyone.

The six Georgia Walmart locations with drones will be in Conyers, Dallas, Hiram, Loganville, McDonough and Woodstock.

ing muscles need fuel)

2. Recovery (our body has to move nutrients to broken down areas for the recovery process and in building stronger muscle)

3. The added muscle burns extra calories at the pace of about 13-16 calories a day per pound.

Keep in mind that the first two months of a good exercise program and diet increases a lot of muscle weight, while decreasing the fat weight so often we do not see a lot of scale change until after the second month. Usually by the 2nd month muscle we already have has toned up,

so it's not unusual for a person to gain 8-12 pounds of muscle while losing 12-15 pounds of fat in the first two months.

This means that some will only see a 3-pound decrease on the scale for all this effort. The reward is in increased muscle strength, increased metabolism, and a better shape!

Building muscle while losing fat keeps us from having the shrunken balloon syndrome and appearance. When we let some air out of a balloon, with nothing to replace it, the balloon gets a saggy and older looking appearance. This is also

BBB Warning: Avoid these holiday scams

BBB TIPS

KELVIN COLLINS



Santa isn't the only one keeping track of who is naughty and who is nice! The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to beware of these common holiday scams:

Be cautious shopping online. Because many retailers now have chip card readers, fraud at brick-and-mortar stores is down, so scammers have shifted their efforts online. Use a credit (not debit) card online and only shop on secure websites. Look for https in the address (the extra "s" is for "secure") and look for a lock symbol.

Look-alike websites: When shopping online, make sure to use only legitimate websites. Watch out for URLs that use the names of well-known brands along with extra words.

Fake shipping notifications: These can have attachments or links to sites that will download malware on your computer to steal your identity and your passwords. Don't be fooled by a holiday phishing scam.

E-cards: Electronic cards can be great fun, but be careful. Two red flags to watch out for are: the sender's name is not apparent, and you are required to share additional information to get the card.

Letters from Santa: Several trusted companies offer charming and

personalized letters from Santa, but scammers mimic them to get personal information from unsuspecting parents. Check with bbb.org to find out which ones are legitimate.

Emergency scams: Be cautious if you get a call from a family member or friend claiming to be in an accident, arrested, or hospitalized while traveling in another country or out of state. Never send money unless you confirm with another family member that it's true.

Phony charities: Everyone is in a generous mood at the holidays, so scammers take advantage of that with fake charity solicitations in email, on social media sites, and even by text. Check out charities at give.org before donating.

Temporary holiday jobs: Retailers and delivery services need extra help at the holidays but beware of solicitations that require you to share personal and/or financial information online

or pay for a job lead. Apply in person or go to retailers' main websites to find out who is hiring.

Unusual forms of payment: Be wary of anyone who asks you to pay for holiday purchases using prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire transfers, third parties, etc. These payments cannot be traced and cannot be undone.

Free gift cards: Pop-up ads or emails offering free gift cards for surveys are often just a ploy to get your personal information that can later be used for identity theft.

Social media gift exchange: It sounds like a great deal; buy one gift and get 36 in return. But it's just a variation on a pyramid scheme and it's illegal.

Make your holidays merry and bright by becoming informed on holiday scams and keeping your hard-earned money in your pocket.

For more holiday tips from the BBB, visit bbb.org.

MONCRIEF

From page 4A

Thanksgiving Day probably a million pounds of food was thrown away, while not an ounce was for them.

The dessert: I had a lemon-filled donut Friday morning in the casino lounge, and a coffee.

The rating: One star. The donut was delicious. It was what came afterward. (Pretty sure the donut wasn't the culprit. I still don't know what was.)

We went from the casino to Keesler Air Force Base where I had done my first training. While shopping at the base exchange, my armpits started itching, irritating at first, then severe.

We got back out to my truck. I lifted my shirt and asked my wife, "Do I have a rash under there?"

Her eyes went as wide as the ocean nearby: "Oh, my word! You're broke out all

over!"

Within 30 minutes I had welts over about 50 percent of my body. Itching? Oh Lawd, it itched!

I took two Benadryl. We went back to the hotel and took a nap. When I woke up, it was all gone, every single trace.

That night while I slept it came back with a vengeance! It was like every spot that didn't break out the first time saw its opportunity to do so now.

Two Benadryl later, it was gone again. (Vanished like that \$20, no \$40, no \$60, in the Spin the Wheel machine.)

There was one more outbreak on the drive home and one that night when we got home and since – two days and counting – I've had no more instances. (Three tubes of various itch cream medicines later.) Gone.

Maybe because the head cold has taken its place,

not that I'm complaining. I'm blessed compared to my wife. She caught it in the head and in the chest and she caught it bad! (With a doctor's appointment Wednesday; I'm writing on Tuesday.)

P.S., my doc said she thought I had had an allergic reaction to something. You – and I – probably figured that, too, but I have no clue as to what.

Thanksgiving? What do I have to be thankful for? Well, just as a bare minimum, I'll take the wisdom of the very-aged senior who passed by me as I sat on the bench outside the casino.

We made eye contact. He said, "How are you sir?"

I said, "I'm fine sir. How are you?"

He said, "Well, I'm still breathing. I have that."

And so do I. I'll give that a five-star Michelin Guide rating (the best of the best) any day!

DOMINY

From page 4A

screen producers seemingly lost the ability to capture the magic and meaning of the season, though Mr. T made an impressive street Santa in 1984. He wasn't the jolly old elf people were used to. I pity the fool that don't believe in Christmas.

Speaking of the Grinch, the older I get the more I understand this beloved character. The Grinch didn't hate Christmas, he liked peace and quiet, and we all know that if there are children around, there is little peace on Dec. 25, at least while they are awake.

As for Christmas movies, let's set the record

straight: "Die Hard" is a holiday story, and is best watched late on Christmas Eve while trying to put on the finishing touches, placing presents around the tree and doing the work that Santa Claus will take all the credit for. It is not quite Christmas without bloodying your knuckles on a present assembly project and stifling your foul language by stuffing one of Santa's cookies in your mouth. Yippee ki-yay ...

Many people flock to a production of "The Nutcracker" to mark the holidays. This timeless ballet essentially tells the tale of two spoiled children and a broken toy. The two-hour show could be cut dramatically if the father character would learn to

control his unruly son.

I've been workshopping an update to "The Nutcracker." It's set in a trailer park and instead of a rat king there's a bunch of raccoons. It will be a short show for all the dads that have trouble staying awake. I'll let you know when the casting call goes out. Rednecks need apply.

Whatever you watch this Christmas season, I hope you have a couch full of folks to watch it with. The most wonderful time of year is often the most stressful, and moments with family can be few and far between. I'll let you know what movie or television show I watch next with mine, and I promise I'll try to stay awake this time.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of the City of Perry will be conducting a public hearing regarding its Housing Agency Annual Plan on January 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM at the rental office, 822 Perimeter Road.

Proposed documents are available for review at the meeting. Additional copies are located at the Perry

City Hall and at the rental office. If you have any questions regarding the plan, please contact Helena Jefferson, Administrative Assistant at 478.987.5097.

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- Custom Window Coverings
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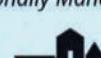
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Warner Robins Basketball

Demonettes dominate Houston County in historic 67-point victory

By CLAY BROWN
HHJ Sports Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — Warner Robins' (5-0) 85-18 win over Houston County (0-6) was never in question after the Demonettes jumped out to an early double-digit lead, but the margin of victory will go down as one of the largest in series history.

Believe it or not, it's not the largest. According to MaxPreps (which only goes back to 2006) the biggest gap was 90-19 (71 points) on Nov. 16, 2022. That was the year Warner Robins lost to Kell in the state championship and the Lady Bears finished 9-15.

Less than halfway through the first quarter the Demonettes led 13-3, and by the end it ballooned by 12 points to 25-3.

Despite that, head coach Rebecca Ivory was not satisfied with their first-half performance. Their volume of threes, their (lack of) aggressiveness attacking the rim and excess turnovers allowed HoCo to score a couple of times to open the second. It never amounted to much, but it didn't live up to Ivory's expectations of the team.

"We didn't come out with



NOT IN THE DEMON DEN: Janelle Turner (22) and another Demonette block Jada Stokes' (23) shot in transition. Warner Robins beat Houston County 85-18, the second-largest margin of victory in series history behind a 90-19 final in 2022.

a Demonette mentality. We came out flat, we came out like we had been on a break," Ivory said. "So a few words were said and they understood. I think [HoCo] only scored four points in the second half."

While 85 points on the board is certainly impressive, arguably the more impressive feat is holding the Lady Bears to four second-half points and 18 overall — even when the reserves came in.

Warner Robins certainly benefited from a HoCo team that has just two seniors. Freshman hit the floor in the first quarter and you could see in some of the process errors.

But that alone doesn't

hold a team to four points in a half. The Demonettes' defense forced the Lady Bears into many turnovers. Whether it was squeezing them against the sideline, jumping a passing lane or trapping a ball handler they got the job done.

The halftime lead was 41-14 and they outscored HoCo 44-4 in the final two quarters.

UP NEXT

Warner Robins will travel down to Tift County for another non-region test on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.

HoCo will also be on the road as they face Peach County on Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

Demons thaw in time to sweep season series against Houston County

By CLAY BROWN
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WARNER ROBINS — To say that Warner Robins (3-2) and Houston County (3-2) were cold on Tuesday would be an understatement.

Neither team broke 30 points or scored more than 13 in a quarter in the first half of the Demons' 52-36 win. The Bears never broke out of the ice and scored six points through most of the final two periods. They got up to 11 points in the final two minutes after the game was over.

Despite getting out in transition often HoCo just couldn't convert on their looks. Threes didn't fall, layups rolled off the rim. It was one of those inexplicable nights where things just refused to go your way.

Warner Robins grabbed rebound after rebound and failed to convert on second, third and sometimes fourth chance shots. Their threes didn't fall either.

It was the definition of a rock fight, but the Demons eventually warmed up with a 12-2 run in the third that eventually blossomed into 24-4 and 31-11.

"We just kept at it man," Demons head coach Jamaal Garman said. "[In the] first half we were getting looks, we were getting great shot attempts, layups, and just missing them. That's what we kept saying on the bench, like we just missing shots right now."

Garman was visibly frustrated with his team in the first two quarters and he made sure to address the issue at halftime.

"Moving the basketball," Garman said on what the team did better in the second half. "Sometimes in the first half right there we were over dribbling for no reason. I don't know why it turned into a dribbling contest, but once we stopped doing all that and moving the basketball now we got people wide open attacking."

Freshman K.J. Johnson was the only Bear to reach double figures with 11 points to go with three triples. Josh Jackson had seven points, and scored the first HoCo points in the second half with 3:31 left in the third quarter.

Gavyn Williams led Warner Robins with 16 points and was 4-of-5 at the line. Rykeem Ashley followed with 14 points, 12 of which came in the second half.

As far as the misses off of offensive rebounds, Garman has one adjustment his team can make:

"We just gotta score, ain't no way around it," Garman said with a chuckle. "I mean we literally right there at the rim and we're throwing it in the corner of the rim or over the other side of the rim. We just gotta score it man."

UP NEXT

Warner Robins will make the trip to Tifton to play Tift County on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

HoCo will also hit the road as they head to neighboring Peach County to face the Trojans on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.



I GO HARD IN THE PAINT: Houston County's Mahkell Stephens and Warner Robins' Rykeem Ashley (10) go at it in the paint during the Demons non-region victory over the Bears.

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Nine Houston County athletes sign letters of intent on early national signing day



Versatile Grace Lamontagne signed a Letter of Intent to play volleyball at Truett McConnell University.

By CLAY BROWN
HHJ Sports Editor
clay@hhjonline.com

Early national signing day came and went in Houston County, and nine athletes put pen to paper on their college commitments.

Northside, Warner Robins and Westfield did not host a signing day.

Houston County

Kavon Conciauro, Football, Duke University
Jordan Smith, Football, University of Georgia
Westen Ard, Football, Western Kentucky University
Perry
Noah Clark, Football, Wofford University
Jaeden Coleman, Football, Charleston Southern University

Veterans
Rizzy White, Softball, Duke University
Christian Askew, Football, James Madison University
L.J. Moton, Football, Tulane University
Grace Lamontagne, Volleyball, Truett McConnell University

Rykeem Ashley and Edmund Dantes inject life into Demons in win over Houston County

By CLAY BROWN
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Warner Robins overcame a cold streak to sweep county rival Houston County in the season series, 52-36.

They outscored the Bears 31-11 in the second half but a 24-4 run is what won them the game. The simple observation is that they simply started to hit the shots they missed in the first half, especially off of offensive rebounds.

But the engine behind that was Rykeem Ashley. He had a 14-point, 15-rebound double double and consistently crashed the glass, made cuts to the rim and finished

at the basket.

In a year with relatively few seniors his contributions are extremely important to head coach Jamaal Garman.

"He's our Dennis Rodman, man...Just straight energy the whole time," Garman said. "There was never a let down with him...he's a huge piece of what we do. He compliments Tyler Harris very, very well. Tyler shoots the ball and he just goes and rebounds it every single time. He's a great player for us."

While Ashley was the unsung hero of the evening, there was another player who helped ignite the crowd and get the momentum in

Warner Robins' favor.

Sophomore Edmund Dantes is starting to mature as a basketball player after an early start that almost had him back on the 9th grade team.

During the summer he looked unsure on the court, but as he gains more experience he's also gaining confidence. He's also significantly more animated.

Dantes hit a pair of and-ones in the second half on Tuesday, and each time he roared "Let's go" and celebrated with his teammates.

Those moments woke the crowd up and got them into the game. Without that

See DEMONS page 14A

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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO MEDICATION REMINDER APPS & DEVICES



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Whether you're struggling with cognitive issues or juggling a hectic schedule, remembering to take your medicine on time each day can be challenging — especially if you're taking multiple medications.

Unfortunately, studies show up to 50% of patients who need prescription meds for chronic conditions don't take their medicine as prescribed for various reasons, including depression, cognitive impairment, side effects (or fear of side effects), and cost, to name a few.

Furthermore, research estimates that nonadherence causes around 125,000 deaths each year.

Thankfully, medication reminder apps and devices can help curb the consequences of nonadherence and make it easier to take medicine on time, as prescribed. This guide discusses considerations and explores several popular options.

Considerations for Managing Medications

Managing medications correctly is vital to your health. If you need support, communicating with your physician, family members, or caregivers is of utmost importance.

Johns Hopkins offers these safety tips:

- Never take someone else's medicine.
- Never take medicine in the dark, when you're tired, or distracted. You could take too much, not enough, or the wrong medicine in these cases.
- If you're a caregiver and notice a senior patient or loved one is missing medication doses, contact their physician and/or pharmacist for guidance.
- Printable Medication Schedules and Pill Cases**
- Printable medication schedules and pill cases are two suggestions for those looking for a physical medication reminder/dispensing solution.
- Use a calendar or chart to write down your daily dosing schedule and keep it somewhere you can easily see it. Free medication schedule templates are available online.
- Pharmacies offer various pill cases or organizers with compartments for each day of the week. Many feature morning, noon, and evening slots. Some organizers hold pills for the week or an entire month.
- Looking at a pill case's compartment to see if it's empty is one way to determine whether you took your medication.
- Digital Alarms and Reminders
- Setting a digital alarm on your smartphone, fitness watch, tablet, or personal digital assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant is another way to remind you to take your medicine at the proper scheduled time.
- For example, you can say, "Alexa, set a reminder for me to take my blood pressure medication every morning at 9 a.m."
- TabTime also makes a handheld Timer with eight alarms to remind you to take your medicine.
- If you're unfamiliar with digital devices, you can ask a family member or caregiver to help you set alarms and/or reminders on one or more devices according to your specific medication dosing schedule.
- Automatic Pill Dispensers with Reminders**
- Pill dispensers with built-in reminders offer another dosing solution. Healthline recommends MedMinder, a pill dispenser that

gives reminders and alerts for a fee.

The e-pill TimeCap and Bottle is a pill bottle that stores an individual medication with a timer/alert built into the cap.

Popular Medication Reminder Apps for iOS and Android

There are lots of medication reminder apps for iOS and Android devices. These five popular ones offer free and paid features.

- Medisafe** — This app has helped manage over 4 billion doses over a decade, and pharmacists rank it as the number one medication reminder app. You can set up complicated, custom dosing schedules, receive drug interaction warnings, send family members a tracker and alert if a loved one misses a dose, make appointments, and communicate with healthcare providers.
- Dosecast** — Dosecast offers daily, weekly, and monthly reminders according to each medication's dosing schedule. As you take meds, the app tracks remaining doses, sends refill reminders, generates adherence reports, and takes photos of meds (all these features require a fee).
- EveryDose** — Basic tracking and reminders are free in this app, which also features an AI assistant called Maxwell that answers medication-related questions to enhance your understanding of your medicine. You can access enhanced reports, customized reminders, and notifications for a fee.
- MyTherapy Pill Reminder** — This app tracks taken and missed medication and allows you to document notes about every dose. The app also records measurements like blood pressure, offers appointment reminders, and provides symptom checks, as part of a health diary.
- CareClinic** — Along with medication reminders, CareClinic enables you to document your mood, track your vitals, log daily activities, set appointment reminders, and enter notes.

Effectively managing medications and taking them as prescribed is an essential part of maintaining a healthy, active aging lifestyle. Using these medication reminder apps and devices can help you stay on track.



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Demonettes trying to balance shooting and aggressiveness at the rim with return of Kennedy Bradshaw



SHOOTERS SHOOT: Warner Robins senior Kennedy Bradshaw drained four triples on her way to 18 points against Houston County in an 85-18 victory.

By CLAY BROWN
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Kennedy Bradshaw's three-point shooting is a breath of fresh air to a Warner Robins offense that's desperately needed a shooter in recent years.

Laila Howard-Haney has worked on her shot but at this stage she's not a volume shooter. Even Tori Davis, who's best attribute was her shooting, was streaky.

Not to say that Bradshaw has been lighting it up every night but if she can keep hitting threes like she did against Houston County the Demonettes will be in a good spot. She drained four treys on her way to 18 points in an 85-18 victory.

"[Her shooting] opens it up big time, especially when she's hitting," Head coach Rebecca Ivory said. "She just got to continue to hit."

Making the defense respect even one shooter

on the outside will open up driving lanes in a way the Demonettes haven't been able to the last couple of years. It's one reason why their transition offense is so important.

But what's also important to Ivory is that Warner Robins maintains their aggressiveness going to the rim. One of the issues the Demonettes had in the first half of their second game against HoCo was their volume of outside shots.

Sure they were up by 27 at halftime, but Ivory has come to expect more from teams in her program. A high volume of outside shots, especially in high school, don't often work in your favor.

"A lot of times in today's basketball game they see the long ball all the time," Ivory said. "The mid-range game is almost [gone], people don't even see it anymore. But every day we practice the mid-range game [and] going to the rim. If they can't stop you going to the rim you got to

keep going and finishing, old school basketball."

That applies to everyone in the program, from freshmen to seniors. Regardless of seniority or experience Ivory says her expectations don't change.

"My expectations are never gonna change whether you're a freshman or a senior," Ivory said. "I always tell them we're only as strong as our weakest link so our expectations have to be the same."

This year's Demonettes have encouraged her early, especially with the way they support each other.

During the game Tuesday as the starters began to sit out, they remained engaged with the game by cheering on the reserves.

"I'm proud of them," Ivory said. "We've been talking about the things that the bench can do and staying involved...they're buying into that. That's really big in girls basketball today, just buying into the whole system. They're doing that."

DEMONS

From page 13A

there's no telling whether or not the Demons would have been able to carry that momentum through the rest of the game.

"As a sophomore that's big, man, because he's getting that confidence now," Garman said. "By the time he becomes a senior and it's his team, he'll be a different player. But right

now he's learning his role. He understands when he goes in the game, I can't slack off. I can't be [in] a 10th grader mindset. I got to go out there and play extremely hard." That's what he did tonight. He knocked down some big time and-ones for us and opened the game up."

Garman said he's seen a lot of growth out of Dantes too.

"Right at the beginning of the year I was looking at him like, [he] might have to go

back and play ninth grade as a 10th grader because he was just doing some stuff that we really weren't ready for him to do," Garman said. "But now he's understood his role, he's growing into it. He works on his craft every single day at practice and after practice. So it's not like it's foreign to him, he's put the work in so now he's getting the rewards [from] what he's been working on. It's good for him and I'm proud of him."



AND ONE: Warner Robins sophomore Edmund Dantes (12) ignited the crowd with two separate and-one plays in the second half of the Demons' win over Houston County.



Rykeem Ashley had a double-double against Houston County with 14 points and 15 rebounds. 12 of his points came in the second half as Warner Robins broke off a 24-4 run.

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