

The Houston Home Journal

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Weekend, January 17, 2026

A year on wheels

Atrium Health Navicent Mobile Mammography Coach celebrates a year of serving women

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
HHJ Staff Writer
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WARNER ROBINS — Atrium Health Navicent Mobile Mammography Coach has officially approached a year of providing breast cancer screenings.

The mammography coach served their first patient on Jan. 7, 2025 at Central Georgia Technical College's Warner Robins campus. Since then, they have served approximately 1,600 women across the state, which Radiology Director Latasha Hill considered a huge milestone.

"Just making it easy and accessible to women has been a huge milestone. We're just grateful for everything," she said.

The coach continues to stop by the college and various locations where women can easily access their services.

Hill said her and her team are very grateful for what they have accomplished over the past year. She shared they have vis-

ited several communities throughout the state and have been able to reach more women.

She said one of the locations they have visited were summer camps so mothers can easily stop by while they are dropping off their children.

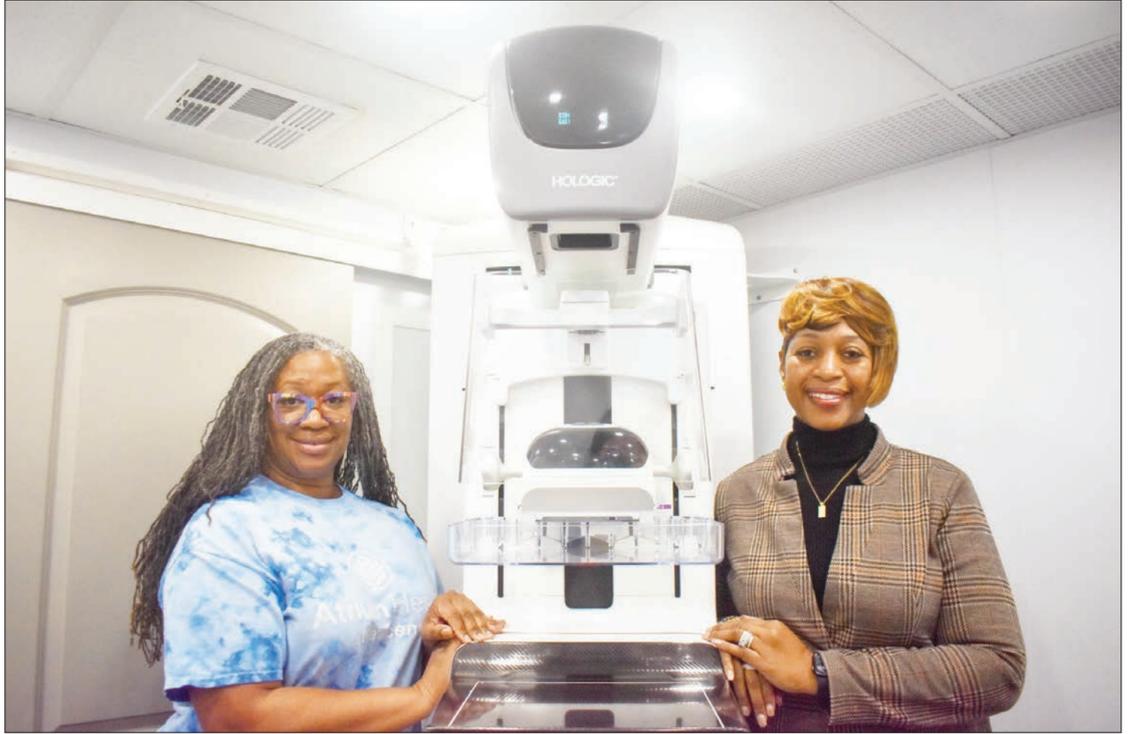
The coach also stops by schools to meet teachers where they are, since it is difficult for them to take time off of work, Hill mentioned. She said teachers have been one of their biggest targets from the start.

Hill shared they have thankfully been able to get into several school systems throughout Middle Georgia.

"We've also been able to detect cancer through us coming into those school systems early for some of the teachers," she said. "They've been very grateful for the partnership that we have had with the school system."

The coach also includes wheelchair access for disabled women and receives grant funding to help unin-

See **COACH** page 3A



Radiology Director Latasha Hill (right) and Lead Mobile Mammography Technologist Emily Mullbrowner (left) stand next to a 3D digital machine which detects breast cancer.

'We will never give up:' Houston County NAACP to host annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day march in Warner Robins

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
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WARNER ROBINS — Martin Luther King Jr. Day is right around the corner and the Houston County NAACP is ready to remember his legacy.

The march will start at 8 a.m. at Union Grove Baptist Church then they will pause at Commercial Circle and sing spiritual songs, similar to what activists did during the Civil Rights Movement.

After the pause, attendees will march to the Wellston Center where they will have a program and breakfast.

This year, Houston County NAACP President Johnathan Johnson shared they are planning to do the event differently to continue teaching younger generations.

Johnson mentioned Civil Rights protests including lunch counter sit-ins where protesters would sit at segregated lunch counters and ask for service.

He also mentioned the Montgomery bus boycotts and Rosa Parks who refused

See **MLK** page 3A



The march will start at Union Grove Baptist Church. After a pause at Commercial Circle, attendees will walk to the Wellston Center where they will have their annual program and breakfast.

19-year-old injured after accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound

By **OWEN JONES**
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WARNER ROBINS — On Wednesday, Jan. 14, at approximately 5:33 p.m. officers of the Warner Robins Police Department responded to an incident at 1104 Highway 96 in reference to a gunshot wound.

According to the Warner Robins Police Department, officers arrived on scene and found a 19-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his hip. He was then transported to a local hospital for treatment.

"Through investigation, the victim and another party who was a passenger were getting out of the vehicle," the release said. "The victim had a firearm in his waistband, went to adjust his pants and the firearm was discharged striking him."

Police say they are still continuing their investigation of this incident.

Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to contact Det. Juan Garcia at (478) 302-5378 or the Macon Regional CrimeStoppers at 1-877-68CRIME.



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PERIODICAL

Board of Education appoints new Chair and Vice-Chair

By **OWEN JONES**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY — In the first meeting of 2026, the Houston County Board of Education shuffled its leadership as former Vice-Chair Rick Unruh was appointed Chairman of the Board.

"I want to thank my colleagues on the Board for the opportunity to serve in this role, and I will be looking to you for all the help that you've given throughout my experience," Unruh said. "Thank you for the confidence you've placed in me for this role."

Unruh pointed out in his 13 years of serving on the Board he has worked with three Board Chairs. He mentioned he has a lot

to live up to while in this position.

"One of my predecessors was Fred Wilson, and he often said that there's no 'I' in team, and I believe that," he said. "We work together and every member is vital, and I'm excited to work with this team and to work with each of you."

The Board also appointed Dave Crockett as Vice-Chair. He said that 57 years ago, the Houston County Board of Education gave him a chance to serve and now another opportunity is in front of him to serve as Vice-Chair.

"I appreciate your support and we'll work together with Dr. Unruh and all of you as [we will] continue to do the best we can for our



The Board recognized Houston County High School's One Act troupe as they won their third straight State Championship.

students here in Houston County," he said.

Crockett also thanked former Board Chair Helen Hughes for her service and leadership the past three

years.

Hughes provided comments on her service as Chair:

"I want to thank you for the incredible honor and

privilege of serving on this Board of Education and for the trust you placed on me to serve as chair for the past three years," she said.

See **BOARD** page 3A

Word of the Day

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. — Psalm 9:10 (NKJV)

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A division of The Georgia Trust for Local News

COMMUNITY

National Trust for Local News Launches National Search for Leader in Georgia as Porter Moves to Emeritus Role

Special to The Journal
DUBLIN — The Georgia Trust for Local News was created to prevent news deserts

and stimulate creative solutions to build sustainable journalism in Middle Georgia.

Those aims have been met, with the Georgia Trust now boasting a portfolio of 20

community titles, ranging from some of the state's oldest newspapers to the startup The Macon Melody.

The National Trust for Local News's successful launch of the Georgia Trust wouldn't

have been possible without DuBose Porter, a 40-year veteran of newspaper publishing

who has served as executive director since the National Trust for Local News established the state subsidiary in 2024. Having set the Georgia Trust on a path for enduring success, Porter will retire as executive director on Feb. 2 and take on a publisher emeritus role focused on fundraising, partnerships and acquisitions.

With Porter's transition, the National Trust for Local News has launched a nationwide

search for his successor. This new executive director will be charged with leading and advancing the Georgia Trust's general operations and business partnerships, while driving editorial, audience and advertising strategy; product innovation; and revenue growth. Danyale Starley, currently serving as controller for the Georgia Trust, will step into the role of interim executive director beginning Feb. 2 and until a new leader is selected.

"This transition reflects the widening scope of both our statewide mission and our ambitions for transformational reach," said Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust for Local News. "Our next stage of growth at the Georgia Trust requires an energized operational



Porter

leader paired with a dedicated statewide ambassador who can deepen philanthropic investment and cultivate new market opportunities. We're pleased DuBose

Porter, a longtime leading force in the community, will remain with us as we transition the Georgia Trust to its new phase of development and innovation."

A longtime news publisher and public servant, Porter serves on the board of directors

for the Georgia Press Association, of which he's past president, and the Georgia First

Amendment Foundation. He brought his deep knowledge of the strengths and challenges facing rural newspapers to his work with the Georgia Trust as he led the organization through its founding years.

Porter's history in community newspapers runs deep. He and Griffin Lovett first purchased The Courier Herald in his native Dublin in 1987.

Between 1998 and 2004, Porter and Lovett purchased several neighboring weeklies,

making The Courier Herald the flagship of their publishing company. Following another

expansion between 2021 and 2023, the company grew to own 18 newspapers prior to

its acquisition by the Georgia Trust in 2024.

Under Porter's tenure, the Georgia Trust for Local News publications earned 17 awards

from the Georgia Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, including the

Newspaper of Excellence Award for The Courier Herald and The Albany Herald.

"We have a strong history of impactful, quality journalism here in the heart of Georgia,"

said Porter. "Expanding the essential work of these newspapers strengthens communities and fosters local engagement. I believe strongly in the power of

independent, community news and I'm looking forward to continuing to build investment

and support for the vibrancy of our publications in Georgia's rural communities."

Interested candidates for the executive director position can learn more and apply at

<https://www.national-trustforlocalnews.org/careers>.

Houston County Board of Education Names Key Positions at the January Board Meeting

Special to The Journal
HOUSTON COUNTY —

The Houston County Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation for several key positions at the monthly meeting held on January 13. Mrs. Alyson Keenom was named as the Assistant Superintendent of School Operations. She will begin this new role in June following the retirement of Dr. Cheryl Thomas. The Board also named two new Directors of School Operations. Ms. Alicia Conner and Dr. Amy Barbour will also begin their new roles in June, filling the positions of Mrs. Keenom and Dr. VaRee Harrell, who will retire at the end of May.

Mrs. Alyson Keenom has been with the Houston County School District since 2004, serving most recently as a Director of School Operations. She is a graduate of the Houston County School District and began her teaching career at Houston County High School as a math teacher. After nine years of teaching in the classroom, she was selected as Assistant

Principal of Instruction at Houston County High and was in this role for six years. Mrs. Keenom served as the Principal at Bonaire Middle School for five years before joining the School Operations department.

"I am grateful to Dr. Rogers and the Board of Education for this opportunity to serve as the next Assistant Superintendent of School Operations," said Keenom. "The Houston County School District helped shape who I am today, and it means so much to serve a community I care deeply about. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to support our

schools, staff, students, and families."

Keenom earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from Valdosta State University. She obtained a master's and specialist degree from Georgia College and State University and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Columbus State University. She and her husband, Chris, have two children — Chace and Colton.

Ms. Alicia Conner currently serves as the Principal of Matt Arthur Primary School. She began her teaching career in 1997 at David A. Perdue Elementary as a second grade teacher. She also taught kindergarten at Lake Joy Elementary before being named as the Assistant Principal of Instruction at Linwood Elementary in 2006. In 2013, she helped open C.B. Watson Primary as the Assistant Principal of Instruction. In 2016, Conner was named Principal of C.B. Watson Primary, and she was named the principal of Matt Arthur Primary School in 2023.

"I am truly honored to accept the position of Director of School Operations, and I want to thank Dr. Rogers and the Board of Education for their trust and confidence in me," said Conner. "I look forward to working alongside our dedicated school principals and district leadership to strengthen operations and to support our schools, students, and families."

Conner holds a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern State University, a Master of Education from Georgia College and State University, and an Elementary Education Specialist from

Troy University. She received her Educational Leadership endorsement from Mercer University.

Dr. Amy Barbour has served as the Principal of Veterans High School since 2018. Before that she served as the Assistant Principal of Instruction at Veterans High since 2010. She began her career as a high school English teacher in North Carolina and Alaska before coming to Houston County High School in 2004. She served as an Assistant Principal at Houston County High before joining the Veterans High leadership team.

"I am excited for the opportunity Dr. Rogers and the Board of Education have given me to serve our district in a larger capacity as the Director of School Operations," said Barbour. "It has been an honor to live, serve, and educate my children in the Houston County School District, and I look forward to supporting our schools and community as a whole as we continue to do great work every day."

Barbour received a bachelor's degree in English with secondary education certification from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned a master's degree and a specialist degree in School Administration and Leadership from Georgia College and State University. In addition, she has a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Leadership from Columbus State University. She is married to Colonel Stephen Barbour, and they have two children, Hannah and Landon.

For additional information about the Houston County School District, visit www.hcbe.net.

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PERRY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976

BI-CENTENNIAL REUNION WEEKEND

"CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE"

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2026

LET'S HONOR OUR LEGACY, RECONNECT WITH FRIENDS, AND CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF PERRY HIGH!

Fri, Sept 11

- Perry High Campus Tour — 3:00 PM
- Welcome Reception — 6:00 PM at Orleans on Carroll, Perry, GA

Sat, Sept 12

- Fun in the Park — 11:00 AM-3:00 PM at Rozar Park, 1060 Keith Rd - Music • Games • Food Trucks • Line Dancing
- Reunion Dinner & Banquet — 6:00 PM at Perry Event Center, 1121 Macon Rd

Sun, Sept 13

- Worship Service — 10:00 AM hosted by Pastor John & Cheryl Burden-Simpson
- No-Host Brunch — Following service at a local Perry eatery

RSVP BY MARCH 31, 2026

PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 29, 2026

\$100.00 PER PERSON | \$150.00 PER COUPLE

For more information, contact Regina Ford at 478-987-0257 or email perryhighschool76@gmail.com & visit the Reunion Social Media Page @ Perry High School Class of 76 Reunion News

Middle Georgia's

Southern Bride

2026

Attention, newlyweds!

Submissions are open for our 2026 Southern Bride magazine cover contest!

The winner will be on the 2026 Southern Bride magazine's cover and be featured inside. The runner-up will also be featured.

Any bride who got married in 2025 and is a resident of either the Middle Georgia area or Georgia Trust associated counties* is eligible to enter.

Submit a high-quality wedding photo, along with you and your partner's full names, address, wedding date, wedding location and venue, photographer's name, jeweler's name and contact information (phone number & email) to brianna@hhjonline.com or by scanning the code below.

Voting will start January 19th on hhjonline.com and end at noon on January 30th. The winner will be announced January 30th.

Winners must be available for a phone interview between January 31st and February 5th.

Submission deadline: January 18th

Scan here to enter!

*Eligible counties include Houston, Bibb, Baldwin, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Harris, Hancock, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Macon, Meriwether, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pulaski, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Treutlen, Twiggs, Wheeler, Washington, or Wilkerson.

CALENDAR

Perry High School Class of 1976 Bi-Centennial Reunion Weekend

Theme: "Celebrating 50 Years of Achievement and Excellence"

Panthers of '76—It's Time to Celebrate! Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of our 50-Year Reunion!

Reunion Weekend:
September 11–13, 2026

Events All Weekend

RSVP by March 31, 2026

Payment Due by May 29, 2026

For more information Contact Regina Ford at 478-987-0257 or email perryhighschool76@gmail.com and visit the Reunion Social Media Page Perry High School Class of 76 Reunion News.

Wine and Cheese Tasting

The Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) at All Saints Episcopal Church, located at 1708 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, is hosting our Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting on Feb 13, 2026, starting at 7:00PM in our Parish Hall.

Various wines, craft beers, and cheeses from around the world are available for tasting and enjoyment. In addition, there is a Silent Auction and door prizes.

This event is one of our major Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) funding sources for the many Outreach Programs sponsored by All Saints.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person and can be purchased at the church office. Please contact the church office at 478-923-1791 for more information and tickets.

American Heritage Girls Meeting

A new Chapter of American Heritage Girls has begun meeting in Perry at 208 Langston Road. Meetings are held on Mondays at 6:15 pm. AHG is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for biological girls ages 5-18. It is dedicated to building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and nation through hundreds of badge programs. There are currently more than 1,700 chapters in the United States. For further information call or text 910-381-7419 or AHGGA0208@gmail.com

Heart of Georgia Philatelic Society Stamp Club

Want to start a new hobby in the new year? How about stamp collecting! The next meeting of the Heart of Georgia Philatelic Society (your local stamp club) will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 starting at 6 pm. The meeting takes place at 4088 Watson Blve, Suite 600, Warner Robins. The meeting is open to everyone interested in stamp collecting and postal history. Every meeting features door prizes, appraisals, free magazines and other literature, and a mini swap meet where you can buy and trade stamps, covers, supplies and related materials. For more information, send an email to chief_rod@yahoo.com or call 478-636-8684.

of Perry City Hall and a Voting Rights lawsuit the Houston County NAACP filed against the Houston County Commissioners.

The county currently has an "at large" voting system. According to Johnson, 31% of African Americans vote during the election. However, he hopes it can change to a "district election system" and add a District Four position. He believes this will lead to having more diversity on the county commissioners, and eventually elect someone who represents the needs of their community.

"We will never give up, we will never stop," he said.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Breakfast will be held on Monday, Jan.19. Attendees will meet at Union Grove Baptist Church at 8 a.m. and march to the Wellston Center.

The church is located at 809 South Davis Drive and the center is located at 155 Maple Street.

King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19, and the STAR Student and Teacher Ceremony on Jan. 27.

In new business, the Board approved the continued services of William R. Jereles Jr., of "Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle and Jereles" to remain as the Board Attorney for 2026.

The next Houston County Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 1 p.m. located at the Board Office in Perry. The full agenda of this meeting can be found at simblyeboard-solutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx

Community Calendar

Email
your
information
to:

brianna@hjonline.com

Houston Home Journal

478-987-1823
1210 Washington St.
Perry

serves as a reminder that they have not forgotten about Martin Luther King and they will not forget.

For Johnson personally, he shared he remembers seeing King's picture at his grandmother's house. When he was a child, he did not know who he was but as he grew older, he started to learn more about Dr. King.

He also said from his personal experience, he became aware discrimination was not right. Johnson hopes they will continue to make the system better for the next generation by training local children to follow his footsteps and to keep pushing forward.

He believes racial issues are still happening today, mentioning an incident involving a vehicle with racist language written on it, which occurred in July of last year in Centerville.

Johnson said discrimination tactics will not stop if it continues being taught.

He also mentioned ongoing issues including a concern about the Confederate soldier statue in front

and our entire community are better because of her, her leadership and her faithful service to the Houston County Board of Education, and I'm going to personally miss working with her from Superintendent to Chair," he said.

The Board also congratulated a couple of state winners. This included Houston County High School's One Act troupe, who won for the third straight year, and Perry High School's FFA team.

In Rodgers' Superintendent's Report, he recognized Bonaire Middle School as County Champions in boys and girls soccer.

Rodgers pointed out important dates coming up including Martin Luther

OBITUARIES

ANN JOINER

PERRY — Ann Jolly Groce Joiner, 95, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home in Perry. Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m., and the service will begin at 3:00 p.m. with Rev. Wayne Edwards officiating. Burial will be in Perry Memorial Gardens immediately following the service.

Ann was born in Oglethorpe, Georgia, to the late Spartan Thomas "S.T." Groce, and the late Jewell Jolly Groce. After graduating from Oglethorpe High School, where she was a cheerleader and saxophone player, she attended Berry College. She then went to Augusta's Barret School of Nursing to earn a year's credit. She fell in love with and married Carl Joiner in 1950 and settled in their hometown of Montezuma, Georgia. They had two children, Carla and Jimmy.

In 1959, Ann decided to begin her journey to earn her nursing degree while juggling her home, husband and two children, eight and nine years of age. In 1960, she graduated from the nursing school at Georgia Southwestern College, took the state board exam, and received her Registered Nurse certificate on January 10, 1961. She worked at Riverside Hospital and was a much-sought-after private duty nurse. Hers is a story of true grit that followed Ann until her passing, and she was a shining example to all who knew her.

In 1961, Carl and Ann began to grow their family with the addition of three more children, Carl Jr., J.B., and Phoebe. A caring wife and mother of five,



Ann worked hard to keep the household fun and full of laughter. In 1972, Ann was offered the position of Industrial Nurse at the new Pabst Brewing Company in Perry, Georgia. In 1975, Ann and Carl moved the family to Perry to be closer to her job.

With five kids, her household was a great hang-out for the neighborhood kids where she was fondly known as "Miss Ann." This gave her the opportunity to "nurse" all the neighborhood kids with minor cuts and scrapes. She loved it! She also loved her work family, continued to take care of everyone at "the plant," and eventually retired from what had become G. Heileman Brewing Company, after it closed in 1998. After over a 35-year career in nursing, Ann felt her life's work was not yet finished. She began working in her community as a private nurse for various families and later served as a Pink Lady at Perry Hospital for twelve years.

Ann loved people and never met a stranger. She was a long-time member of McKenzie Memorial Country Club in Montezuma,

and Perry Country Club in Perry. She loved playing golf and enjoyed playing with the Ladies' Golf Association, of which she was an active member. Ann enjoyed playing bridge with her bridge club friends. She loved spending time at the beach and swimming. Her passion in life, though, was her family, who lovingly referred to her as "MeMe," a name she was given by her grandchildren. She treasured the moments spent with each and every one of them. She also had many lifelong close friends whom she considered family.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Jewell and S. T. Groce; her loving and devoted husband of fifty-six years, Carl E. Joiner, Sr.; and her sisters and rothers-in-law, Jean and Howard Park and Cynthia and Jim Still.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Ann are her children, Carla Moore (Tim) of Boca Raton, Florida, Jimmy Joiner (Sue) of Tallahassee, Florida, Carl Joiner, Jr. (Debbie) of Smyrna, J. B. Joiner of Rome, Georgia, and Phoebe Rabalais (Troy) of Perry; eight grandchildren, Dana Stewart, Trey Joiner, Jay Joiner, Coleman Joiner, Chloe Mobley, Chelsea Joiner, Josh Rabalais, and Alexis Chapman; thirteen great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and her two remaining first-cousins, John Jolly and Frank Groce, Jr., and their families.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watson-hunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Warner Robins woman convicted of \$5.4 million Medicaid fraud scheme

By OWEN JONES
HHJ Staff Writer
owen@hjonline.com

WARNER ROBINS — Elizabeth Sue Ivester, 63, of Warner Robins was convicted on one count of Health Care Fraud and one count of Aggravated Identity Theft in a scheme to defraud Georgia Medicaid up to \$5.4 million according to a media release from Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr.

Ivester pled guilty on Oct. 2, 2025, and was sentenced on Jan. 8, 2026, to ten years with the first seven years to be spent in federal prison. Ivester will also have to pay full restitution.

The release said this

case was handled by Carr's Medicaid Fraud and Patient Division in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia as well as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.

Ivester owned and operated Liberty Medical Inc. The release said she submitted 77,095 fraudulent claims for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) which were never ordered.

"Those claims totaling over \$5 million, unlawfully used the ID numbers of 7,684 Medicaid recipients and falsely represented the identity of one prescribing physician," the release said. "This case is a result of a strategically coordinated,

nationwide law enforcement action that resulted in the criminal charges against 324 defendants who are alleged to have defrauded programs entrusted for the care of the elderly and disabled."

Carr provided comments on the conviction:

"Let this send a message to anyone who attempts to abuse and exploit our Medicaid program — you will be identified, prosecuted, and forced to pay back every dollar you stole," he said. "This was a massive scheme to defraud not only Georgia taxpayers but real patients in need of care. It's unacceptable, it's illegal and it won't be tolerated in our state."

COACH

From page 1A

sured women receive screenings, Hill said.

One of the biggest ways Hill has seen the coach grow over the years is the staff. She shared the coach is completely run by women from driving to conducting the screenings.

Hill said they are also starting to work on bringing their second coach which she hopes will be running by the end of the year. Recently, a staff member suggested the new coach should have more space.

Hill shared the coach has been a growing demand among the Hispanic community. She said most of the time patients will bring someone along for interpretation since there is a language barrier.

"Hearing the growth in that [our staff member] recognizing we need more space, even for the interpreters just shows that we're breaking down those barriers, the growth

in them and they're thinking of just how this program is impacting everyone," she said.

The coach benefits the community by detecting early signs of cancer that would not have been found. Hill shared that a lot of women in their 50s and 60s have never had a mammogram, but the coach has been able to change that for them.

Hill said just by being visible in the community, they have been able to educate younger women.

She shared they have had the opportunity to educate them on when they need to start getting mammograms.

"Even with those women we found that some of them have a strong family history of breast cancer, then we're able to support them," she said.

Hill believes the coach has given women easier access to detect breast cancer early.

"This has given women the opportunity not to miss work [and] not have to get

a babysitter. If they are at

work they can just come out and get a mammo-

gram," she said. "It's really

about access to care and

early detection because

we want to catch those

cancers. If it is cancer,

we want to catch it early.

Getting screened yearly is

going to help pick up those

cancers when they are in

their early stage."

To keep up with the

Atrium Health Mobile

Mammography Coach

people are encouraged

to call (478) 633-2003 or

visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AtriumHealthNavicent>.

Those interested in an

appointment can visit:

<https://navicenthealth.org/mobilemammogram>.

MLK

From page 1A

to give up her seat to a white person.

"We just want to give the community a little taste of why we are marching. It's not that we're out there to lose weight; we are out there for a reason. This is to continue to not let history be forgotten," he said.

The event alternates every year between Perry and Warner Robins. Johnson shared this tradition started before he was named president, and he enjoys keeping it alive.

He said he receives a lot of phone calls this time of year from people eager to participate in the event. Johnson shared they are always thinking of new ideas, especially geared towards children.

He explained inside the Wellston Center there will be signs inspired by those seen during segregation. He said this is to give children a more interactive experience.

"We just want to give them a different insight of where we came from," he said.

There will also be more storytelling at the program. Johnson shared there will be someone acting as Martin Luther King. He said it will give people an idea of how Dr. King would handle current situations if he was alive today.

Johnson mentioned the current administration's recent decision to cancel National Parks from offering entrance fee-free days on MLK Day and Juneteenth.

"When you have someone that wants to challenge some rules that our ancestors have fought really hard to put in place well then you know that everything is not a solid rock," he said. "You have to continue to fight. [If] you want freedom, you have to continue to fight for freedom. [If] you want [equality], justice and your civil rights, you have to continue to fight and continue to stand up for what you believe in."

He believes the event

BOARD

From page 1A

"When I was appointed and elected to this Board in 2009, I never dreamed that this journey would be so meaningful to me. I've been inspired everyday by the passion, dedication and integrity of my fellow Board members, our administrators, our teachers, our staff and the families who support our schools."

Superintendent of Schools Richard Rodgers also showed admiration towards Hughes. He said for the past three years, she led the Board with wisdom, integrity and a genuine commitment to the students and staff.

"Our school district

VIEWPOINTS

"One voice can make a difference"

The Houston Home Journal

See us online at
www.hhjonline.com

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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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in the
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: SEND THEM
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Hypothetically Speaking

COLUMNIST

KELLY BURKE



If you don't care to read about my petty grievances that matter little in the real world, read "War and Peace." It will also not change anything but it's a classic. I think.

On a hypothetical field, the SEC wins every game against every out of conference opponent. Just ask any die-hard SEC fan, they'll tell you about the superiority of the SEC.

The reality is that the SEC is constantly overrated, and it starts with Alabama. Post-Saban Alabama is a lackadaisical, aging elephant living on glory days. Unable to finish off teams it should beat on the hypothetical field, Bama instead exposes the fallacy of the superiority of the SEC.

First game of the year, Bama was trashed by Florida State. "But Kelly, it was raining during that game!" Apparently it only rained on the Tide's side of the field. For those who don't know, FSU won two games in the ACC, the third worst record in that conference.

Yet Bama rebounded by beating a killer's row of Georgia, Vandy, Missouri, Tennessee, South Carolina and LSU before succumbing at home to Oklahoma.

Wow! Curiously, every team that Bama beat lost virtually no ranking spot because, I mean, it was Alabama. Mighty Bama. The standard bearer of the SEC. They couldn't beat FSU, but they beat the rest of the SEC and everyone is so impressed. Oh yeah, every Bama SEC opponent lost its bowl game to a non-SEC team.

Oklahoma got a big bounce they didn't deserve by beating the Tide. The Sooners cruised into the College Football Playoff (CFP) as a result of their record against the rest of the mightily overranked SEC, thanks to the reputation built by Bama. And then got bounced out of the CFP by Alabama.

Bama gets in the CFP with three losses. The embarrassing FSU loss, the Oklahoma loss at home, and the thrashing they took

in the SEC title game loss to UGA. How did UGA get into the CFP? By beating Bama and the rest of the mighty SEC—"mighty" only because it all starts with Bama. Which lost to FSU.

So how did the SEC do in bowl games? Not counting where they played each other, the SEC was 1-8 against P4 teams. They lost those bowl games by almost 100 combined points. The miserable ACC (according to SEC pundits) was 4-0 against the SEC in bowls. Every SEC team in the CFP was vanquished by either another overrated SEC team or by a different conference team. That's right. The mighty SEC did not win a single CFP game where they played a team from another P4 conference.

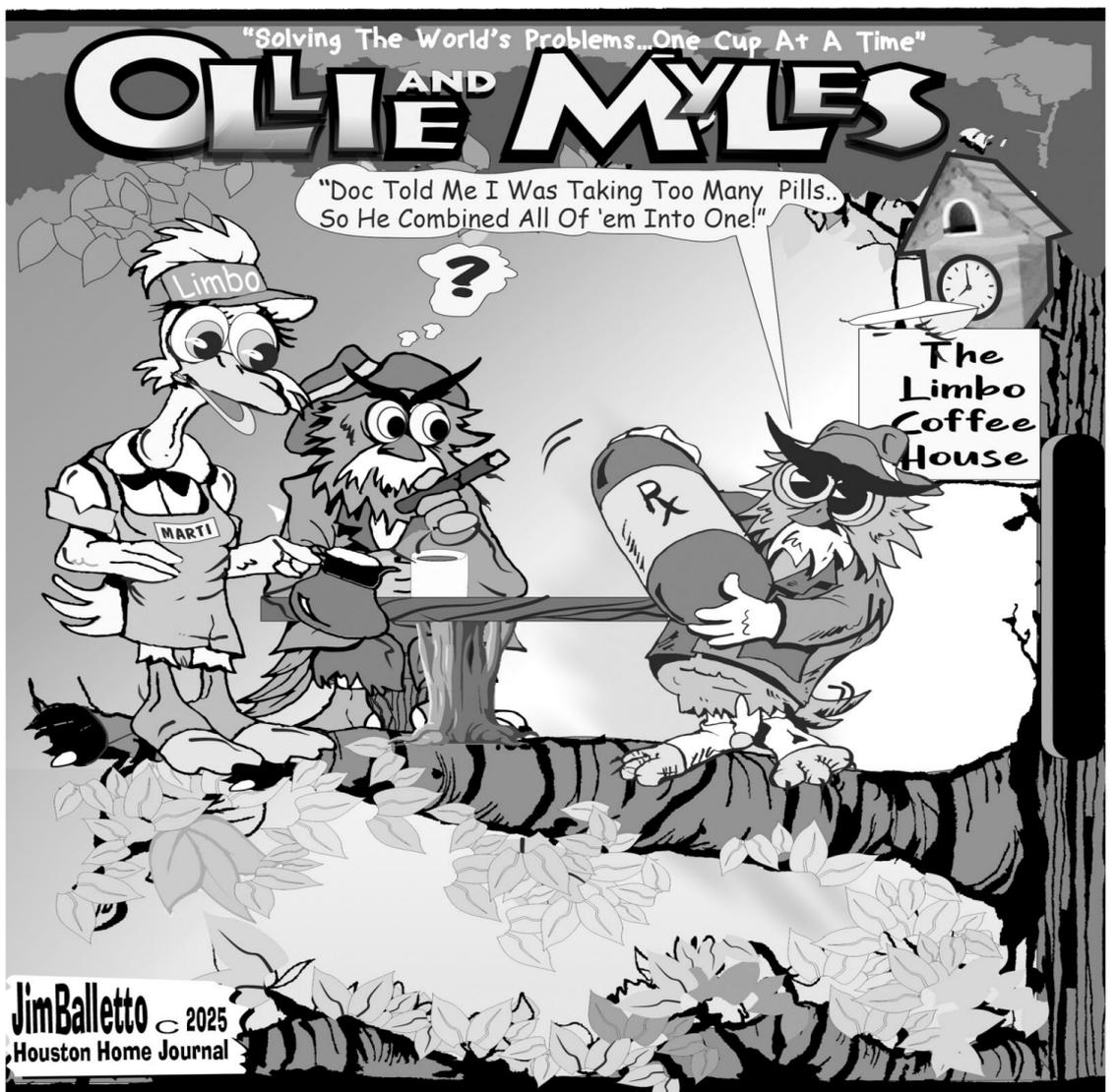
Let me sum it up. FSU stomped Bama. Bama then beat UGA in Athens. Bama

then got massacred by UGA in the title game rematch. Bama then got whacked by Indiana bad. But to be fair, the Hoosiers have steam-rolled everybody so far.

Next year Alabama will start the season ranked in the Top Five because, c'mon Kelly, they are Bama. And again the SEC will be massively overrepresented in preseason rankings, from which the later rankings will derive such mighty warrior teams.

Hypothetically speaking.

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.kellyrburke.com. You can email Kelly at dakellyburke@gmail.com.



Grumpy dentists, tele-orthodontistry and excess floss

I have a dentist appointment coming up, and like most people, I'm not looking forward to it.

Don't get me wrong, I have a meticulous dental hygiene routine. My days are book-ended with vigorous brushing sessions, floss (one must always floss) and medicated mouthwash. Even so, the dentist is sure to find something wrong, one tiny spot of weak enamel or a tooth not getting as much attention as its neighbors, and they will let me know what a terrible job I'm doing taking care of myself, all for a nominal fee.

Dentists tend to be very grumpy, but if I had to spend my days wrist deep in other people's mouths I'd be a little cranky too. Especially banking on the fact that most people lie about their flossing habits. But at least they drive home in nice cars.

I bet a lot of floss is sold in January. It has to rank up there with gym mem-

NEW
SOUTHERN DAD

KYLE DOMINY



berships. Good-intentioned folks make New Year's resolutions to take better care of themselves, purchase a whole bunch of floss, typically in the form of some expensive gadget supposed to make the chore easier, and then give up after a couple of days of spitting blood into the bathroom sink. All that floss ends up in the landfill, trapping birds and other wildlife. Birds love floss apparently, but, sadly, they don't have teeth or hands to use it with.

A new law in the great state of Georgia allows for tele-dentistry. I'm not sure how that's supposed to work, turn the camera to

selfie mode, open wide and put the lens in your mouth. Don't forget to turn on the flashlight. I'm sure the doctor will still find something to fuss about. At least you can hang up on him.

I've invested a tidy sum of money in teeth over the past decade. Kids grow them and lose them at an alarming rate. I'm pretty sure my daughter is part shark. We gave up the tooth fairy charade in my house fairly early in her life because I was going broke.

Speaking of growing broke, all of my offspring needed orthodontist work, so I'm paying a lot of people to poke around their

mouths. I wonder how long before that line of work goes remote? Just mail me a spool of wire and solder, poorly translated instructions and a good luck note.

I have a small chip in one of my front teeth. I got it playing a jaw harp, you know of those metal framed instruments you put in the mouth that makes that "boing, boing" sound? The box warns you that it could mess your teeth up, but I heeded not their warning.

You cannot trust someone with perfect teeth though. If you see someone with a complete set of pearly whites, perfectly aligned, they bought them. There again, too few teeth come across poorly, too. A normal person is expected to have some coffee stains, a gap here or there and at least one broken tooth.

Even so I'll think I'll go floss one more time before I head to the dentist's office.

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

A Special Message to Teenagers

I have seen many innocent adolescents get on the wrong track and destroy their lives. Over the course of my life, I have gained considerable wisdom—through my own mistakes and by observing the failures of others. In effect, I have learned “what not to do.” So please listen up, teenager. The “single best way” to get into trouble is to start running with the wrong crowd. If your peer group drinks alcohol or takes drugs, do not participate. If they persist in enticing you, separate yourself from them. Please know that partaking in one sip of alcohol or one mind-altering pill can create a hellish existence for the rest of your life.

Once addicted, you will spend the rest of your life conniving and stealing to obtain that next fix.

As your life spins further out of control, you could either die or wind up in prison. CDC studies show that the more you smoke and drink, the quicker you die. Smoking itself will shorten your lifetime by 12 years, meaning a life expectancy of 70 years is reduced to 58. Add drugs to the lethal mix, and you can expect a much earlier departure.

Ladies, never let a young man influence you into engaging in sex or heavy petting. If he succeeds, the first thing he will do is brag about his conquest to his friends. He will tell them, “I had sex last

PARABLES TO PONDER

BILLY POWELL



night with _____, but please don't tell anyone.” Scandalous news is too irresistible not to pass along, so soon the whole school knows. Your reputation will be forever sullied, leaving you feeling like a cheap prostitute. Young lady, do you want your name inserted in the blank space above?

Young man, I implore you to respect a girl's innocence, treat her like a lady, and protect her reputation. The Bible condemns sex prior to marriage. Jesus called it “fornication.” Don't cheapen yourselves, young ladies. Your reputation is too important to lose in a weak moment of indiscretion. Avoid a possessive boyfriend, especially one who selfishly attempts to monopolize your time. If his actions prove unresponsive of your academic and spiritual growth and career goals, show him the door, and quickly.

The next topic is education. We are all born with different abilities, aptitudes, and special interests. Some are better equipped to pursue college degrees, while others possess the skill set to excel in voca-

tional/technical training and its associated careers. Bottom line: choose the career field that you feel drawn to. Many use the excuse of not being financially able to acquire higher learning. This is not a valid argument, for its premise is disproved every day. As a case in point, I came from a poor family, but by attending night school for seven years while working full-time, I graduated from Mercer University. Just remember: the first chapter in the “Book of Success” is entitled “Ambition and Determination.”

And finally, draw close to the Lord—every second of every day. Seek to live a righteous life. Go to church. Love God, love your neighbor, and become a new creature in Christ. God said, “I knew you before you were born” (Jeremiah 1:5). Therefore, He has a special plan for your life. In response, it is incumbent upon you to become the type of person your Creator intended you to be. Do so, and you will live a happy and rewarding life. May God bless you!

Let's keep the 'bawl' rolling

I'm a crier. There, I've said it.

It's the reason I won't watch sad movies. Christian movies in particular. They're the worst. My wife tries to make that our “us” time every chance she gets.

Her: “Oh there's a new one out where the heroine of the story, a stewardess, accidentally gets flushed out of the toilet of the plane 10,000 feet up, but she lands on a giant snow back that's soft and breaks her fall, but it's out in the middle of a frozen tundra where wild polar bears roam and there's a man who looks like Brad Pitt but he's not interested in starting a family and ...”

Me: “Oh ... uh ... I need to go into the bathroom and put hot wax in my nostrils and yank it out. But thanks for asking.” Because I know at some point near the end God is going to show up. Like He always does. He's going to show up, show out and make everything good. It's going to be smiles and joy all around, but not for me. I'll be over there in my chair, Mr. Hoover Dam crumbling to pieces.

It's not just that I'm a crier. It's that I'm an “ugly” crier. Believe me. When this face, already a challenge to make presentable, gets all contorted out of shape.

HHJ PUBLISHER

DON MONCRIEF



It's a scene. I used to hate times in the pulpit when the Spirit would hit me and ... “oh no ... Here it comes ...” I would look away. Try to contain it. Try to keep it in. Hold it back. No luck.

Tears would well up and begin to trickle. My face would get all misshapen like the

Elephant Man. The congregation would gasp. Like I said. Ugly.

Still, I wouldn't change a thing.

Medical/health experts say crying has a number of proven benefits. It can have a self-

soothing effect that helps us criers regulate our emotions (although it doesn't look that way at the time) and return to a more neutral emotional state quicker than non-criers. It helps us regulate our heart rate, blood pressure and breathing. It can cause our body to produce hormones that in turn make us feel better. We release oxycontin and

endorphins after we cry, which can help reduce stress and relieve pain. Crying is also a way our body rids itself of chemicals. If we don't cry? Opposite effect: anxiety, depression, upset stomach and heart-associated issues.

“Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.” – Romans 12:15. I've found that is absolutely the best formula to help anyone who has suffered loss and/or are grieving over anything. Just genuinely cry with them.

“Jesus wept.” – John 11:35. See. Even He was a crier.

When was the last time you cried? I highly recommend it – ugly or not. Especially now that you know the benefits. If you need a good place to start, my wife has this movie she needs someone to watch with her. It's about a stewardess who accidentally got flushed out of the toilet of a plane ...

The Glow in the Dark: Unmasking the Radioactive Allure of Vaseline Glass

In the dim light of an antique shop, it looks like nothing more than a curious relic of the Victorian era—a pale, honey-yellow bowl or a delicate lemon-tinted vase. But flick a switch, bathe the room in ultraviolet light, and the transformation is startling. The glass erupts into an otherworldly, neon-green brilliance.

This is the magic of Vaseline glass, the darling of the collecting world that owes its signature luminescence to an unlikely ingredient: uranium.

The nickname “Vaseline” was coined by collectors who noticed the glass's resemblance to the pale yellow hue of the namesake petroleum jelly. However, scientists and purists often prefer the term “uranium glass.”

According to Vaseline Glass Collectors Inc., the secret lies in a microscopic addition of uranium dioxide—often as little as 0.1 to 0.2 percent of the total mixture. While the word “uranium” might trigger alarms for the safety-conscious, experts assure that these pieces are perfectly safe for home display. The radioactivity is so minute that it poses no threat to human health, though it is enough to make the glass react vio-

ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



lently to a blacklight.

In the competitive world of glass collecting, “Vaseline” is a specific designation. To be considered authentic, a piece must be yellow or yellow-green under normal light.

“If it doesn't glow green, it's not Vaseline glass,” collectors insist. This UV test is essential for weeding out “imposters.” For instance, some yellow glass may glow orange or peach due to manganese, while others won't glow at all. Even green Depression glass, which also contains uranium and glows green, is rejected by purists because its primary color is skewed by the addition of iron oxide (rust).

The history of Vaseline glass is as volatile as its components. Production hit its stride between the 1880s and 1920s, with giants like Fenton Glass and Mosser Glass leading the charge.

However, the industry ground to a halt during

World War II. In 1943, the U.S. government confiscated all uranium supplies for the war effort, effectively banning the production of the glowing glass. It wasn't until November 1958 that the ban was lifted, allowing companies to resume production in 1959.

While modern production exists, it is extremely limited due to the high cost of uranium dioxide. Today, these pieces serve as shimmering time capsules of a pre-atomic age curiosity.

Whether you call it uranium glass or Vaseline glass, one thing is certain: in a world of ordinary antiques, nothing quite captures the imagination like a treasure that holds its own light. For those looking to start their own collection, hunting through the curated aisles of the Antique Advertising Association or local estate sales remains the best way to find these radiant relics.

The Designer Colors of Nutrition

This is one of my favorite subjects, especially this time of year when locally grown produce starts becoming available! We have shaped a food industry that

largely caters to fast and packaged food markets, due to the demand we as consumers have placed on these food-like products and it's showing up in not only the obesity epidemic but also the ensuing onslaught of chronic disease in

this country! Seeing the emphasis on real food (single ingredient items) in the new food pyramid recommendations at realfood.gov is really refreshing! All the different colors a variety of fruits and vegetables provide are different

nutrients and they serve different purposes in the body.

Examples: Green color: helps our vision.

Orange color: helps vision, healthy skin, and our immune system.

Red color: helps improve heart health and lowers risk of cancer.

Purple color: reduces cancer risk, anti-aging, and supports mental clarity.

White color: (as in onions) helps reduce cholesterol levels, lowers blood pressure, and helps prevent diabetes.

Getting a variety of colors throughout a 7–10-day period is important to ensure that these nutrients stay at protective levels in our blood. This is what helps

YOUR HEALTH

WADE YODER



build our immunity to potentially harmful things whether by contact or consumption. What really turns these vegetables and fruits into designer packets of nutrition is if it is locally grown and consumed. I strongly believe the things that grow in an area help people deal with environmental conditions of that area and that they are a part of our body's checks and balances and the more we eat from outside sources the more imbalanced our inner health will become, (sort of like thinking the same set of tires that works on a car in the south will work on a car that faces icy conditions in the north). In other words nature has a reason that the Noni berry grows well in the South Pacific, the orange grows really well in Florida and the peach grows really well in Georgia, they are nature's packets of multi vitamin and minerals designed by that area for that area. Another example is how honeybees use local pollen for production of honey produced in and area and this same honey will sort of vaccinate you against allergy problems because it's made from the pollen in this same

area. We don't need a lot of space to grow a small garden and probably most of us have an area of our yard that could be a lot more productive than growing grass! We can also support and purchase more of our fruits and vegetables from the roadside stands and farmers markets in our area, these are the ones that bridge the gap between farmer and consumer in our local areas! If we can start as an individual, family, community, and county, to change what we perceive as good food and change what we consume, we can change the status of health and fitness in our region! By becoming a community that lives and breathes health and fitness, we can empower the internal systems God blessed us with and decrease our need for medicine and medical interventions. By supporting our local Farmacies known as our produce stands, we can access our best sources for localized multivitamins, immunization, and medications that help condition us against what we face locally!

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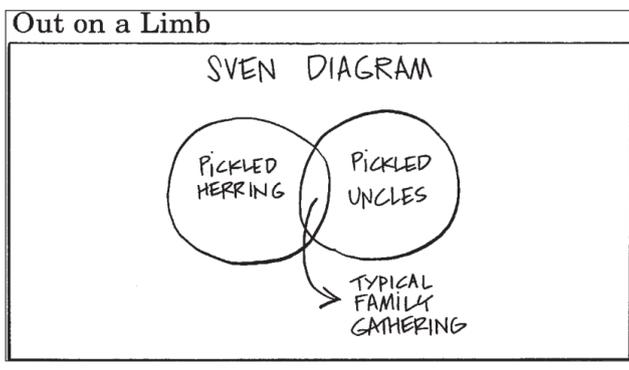
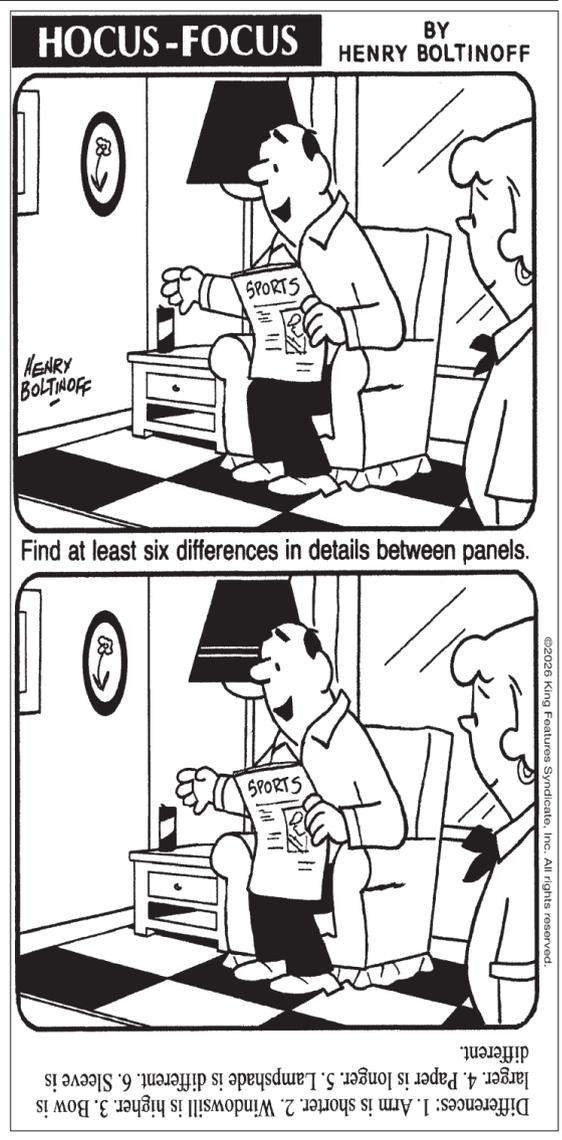
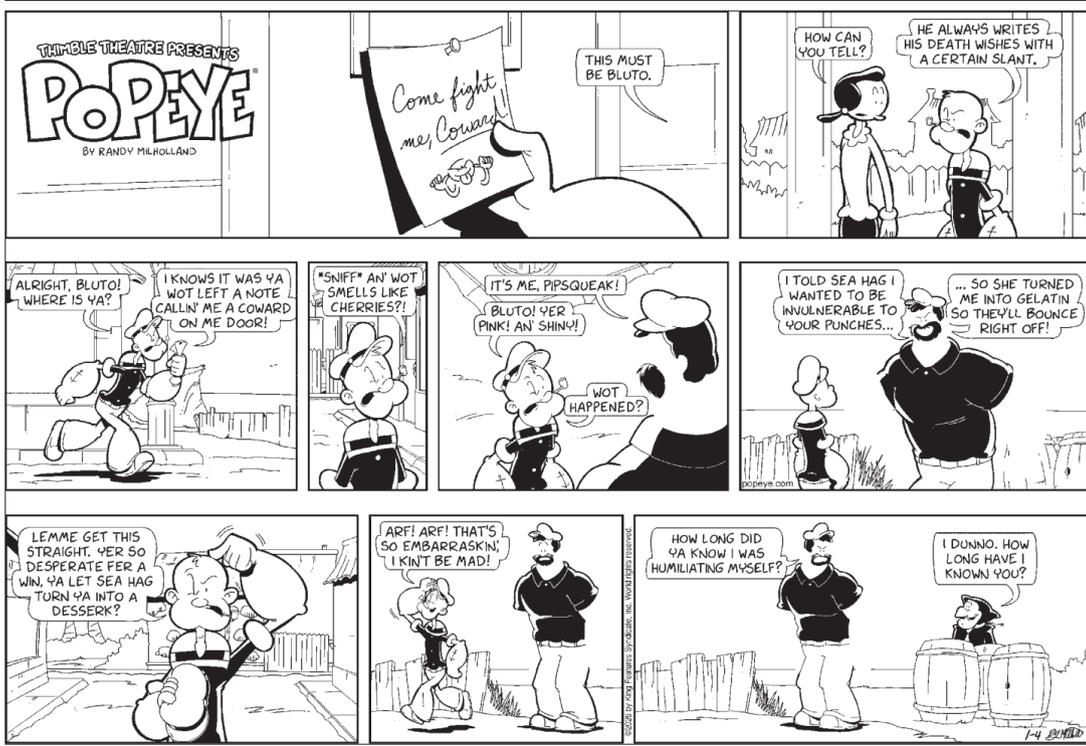


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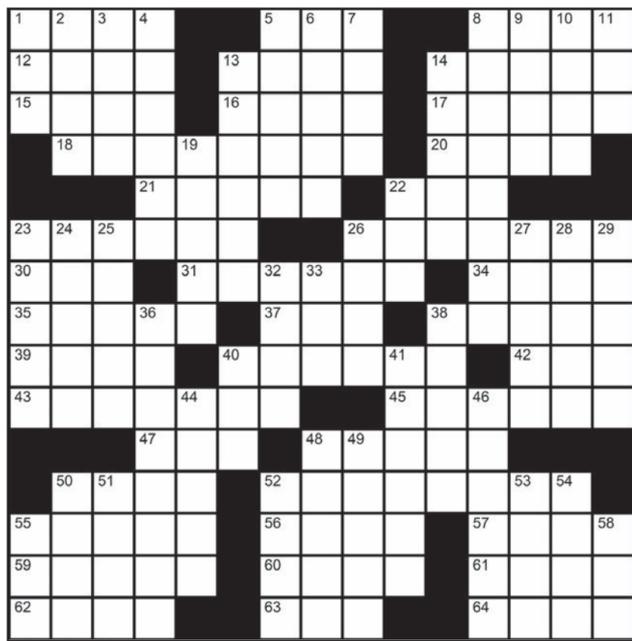
The Houston Home Journal

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ENTERTAINMENT



CROSSWORD 1-17-26



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pakistani attire
- 5. Research location
- 8. Partridge's fruit tree
- 12. *Grid follower
- 13. * ___ Upshaw, multiple Super Bowl winner
- 14. Canada's national tree
- 15. Like Homer Simpson's head
- 16. Allege
- 17. Agenda entries
- 18. *Adding a rushing player
- 20. Aphrodite's lover
- 21. Not host
- 22. Tire meas.
- 23. Composure under strain
- 26. More distant

- 30. Thompson of "Some Kind of Wonderful"
- 31. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
- 34. Genealogical plant
- 35. Poetic feet
- 37. Dream time, acr.
- 38. The Romanovs, e.g.
- 39. Song for solo voice
- 40. Dishevel, as in hair
- 42. Clever humor
- 43. *SoFi ____, Super Bowl LXI venue
- 45. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
- 47. Web robot
- 48. Tesla Roadster with Starman location
- 50. a.k.a. podagra
- 52. *The only NFL team with perfect season

- 55. Plant-based laxative
- 56. Symphony member
- 57. "No ___ for you!"
- 59. No gains without them
- 60. Retired, abbr.
- 61. Field worker
- 62. Bohemian
- 63. Not Miss or Ms
- 64. Poker amount

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bro to bro
- 2. Speedy steed
- 3. Chuck Berry's " ___ Over Beethoven"
- 4. Rainbow color
- 5. *Santa Clara's ___ Stadium, Super Bowl LX venue
- 6. Beside, archaic
- 7. Titanic's frozen enemy
- 8. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- 9. Fencing weapon
- 10. Charitable contributions
- 11. Hi-___
- 13. Garden shelter
- 14. Unhealthy atmosphere
- 19. Little hills
- 22. P in m.p.g.
- 23. Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens
- 24. Lively
- 25. Vampire of Greek mythology
- 26. *One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl

- 27. Long fishing line
- 28. Like haunted house
- 29. What the defense does?
- 32. High school dressy affair
- 33. Romanian money
- 36. *Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)
- 38. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: " ___ Your Children"
- 40. Egyptian boy king, for short
- 41. Long jump
- 44. I to Greeks, pl.
- 46. Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a ___"
- 48. On the wagon
- 49. Land parcels
- 50. *Shoulder pads and cleats
- 51. "Put a lid ___!"
- 52. College dwelling
- 53. High part of day
- 54. Edible fat
- 55. Facial site
- 58. *Charlie Puth and Brandi Carlile, ___ game stars



SUDOKU

2				9				
	7			9				8
	9	8					3	1
4	2	6					8	
	6			1	7		3	
1	2			5		9		
5		9		2				
	8							7

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!

2	8	4	3	1	6	9	7	5
6	4	7	8	1	5	2	9	3
5	9	3	7	6	8	4	1	2
8	1	2	6	7	3	9	4	5
3	7	5	4	8	6	1	9	2
9	4	5	2	6	7	3	1	8
6	2	7	3	1	4	8	5	9
7	6	8	5	9	3	4	2	1
4	3	1	6	2	9	7	8	5

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

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Lindsey Student Support Center January 2026 Events

Special to The Journal
HOUSTON COUNTY—
The Lindsey Student Support Center (LSSC) will host the following events for students and their families. All will be held at the LSSC unless noted otherwise. Registration is required for all events.

Parent to Parent of Georgia ZOOM: January 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Understand the basic components of Special Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This course will explain how the process of special education works, including Child Find, Response to Intervention (RTI) and Student Support Teams, making a referral; what to expect from an evaluation; how to prepare for an IEP meeting and how to resolve disputes. For more information and to register, contact Marina Jones, Georgia Parent Mentor, at marina.jones@hcbe.net.

Graphite Realism Art Class: January 15th, 22nd, 29th from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Students in grades 6–12 are invited to explore the world of graphite realism and learn the secrets behind creating lifelike sketches. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this hands-on workshop will teach you techniques to bring depth, texture, and emotion to your art. Register at: Graphite Realism Art Class Registration Clinic Day: January 27th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The LSSC and the Georgia Department of Public Health - North Central Health District are partnering to bring health appointments to the families in Houston County. Appointments are available

on a first-come, first-served basis and pre-registration is required. The appointments will be free or low cost for families. Nurses are able to treat mild/moderate conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes, and more. Health screenings, physicals and vaccines can also be provided. Prescriptions will be given as needed. Middle Georgia Community Action Agency will be on site to assist with prescription resources. Medications will not be on-site, and dental services will not be available. Click English or Spanish for registration forms. Houston Cares Medical/Dental/Vision Clinic: February 6th from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and February 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join us for our annual Houston Cares Clinic. The services offered this year include Vaccinations, Health

Exams, Hearing Screenings, Dental Services, Vision Care, Mental Health, Medicaid & Peach Care Application Support, WIC Application Support, Prescription Resource Support and Early Childhood Screenings. Care will be provided by qualified doctors and residents and experienced nurses and technicians. The Lindsey Student Support Center is grateful to partner with the Trinity School of Medicine, Houston County Health Department, and Central Georgia Technical College to provide this comprehensive clinic to the community. Click here to register for English or Spanish. Mobile Mammogram Coach: February 6th and February 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. As part of the Houston Cares Clinic, the Mobile Mammogram Coach from Atrium Health Navicent will be on-

site for preventative breast cancer screenings for our school community and surrounding families. The Mobile Clinic is for Houston County School District employees, parents/guardians, and community members (appointments recommended, walk-ins welcome except during the hours of 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.). Grant funding is available for the uninsured and under insured. Candidates must meet the following criteria to have a mammogram: 35 years old or older (anyone under the age of 40 years old will be responsible for making sure their health insurance covers screening mammogram) Not currently receiving treatment for or diagnosed with breast cancer within the past 2 years No new breast health issues such as a palpable lump, skin changes or nipple discharge

Not currently breastfeeding and have not breastfed within the last 6 months No mammogram within the last 12 months. On-site operations coordinated by LSSC staff; clinical services provided by Atrium Health Navicent. Bring current photo identification and insurance card, if applicable. For appointments or questions, call (478) 633-2003 or email Teresa.VanHorne@AtriumHealth.org. All event information, including flyers in English and Spanish, can be found at www.hcbe.net/lindsey-calendar. The Lindsey Student Support Center is located at 81 Tabor Drive in Warner Robins. For more information about what the Center offers, visit www.hcbe.net/lindseycenter.

CGTC Awarded \$3.9 Million Grant to Enhance Education Through Artificial Intelligence

Special to The Journal
MACON — The U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) recently announced an award of \$3.9 million in grant funds to Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) for support and enhancement of artificial intelligence (AI) teaching and learning tools.

By incorporating cutting-edge AI tools, AI-supported instructional practices, and AI-related content into

high-impact academic programs, CGTC looks to set its academic programs in-line with the nation picture of AI advancement.

"Our Strengthening Technical Education Programs through Artificial Intelligence (STEP-AI) award will advance the understanding and use of artificial intelligence in education through a two-pronged approach: expanding the utilization of generative AI to enhance tutoring, advising, and college/career navigation for undergrad-

uate students, while integrating machine learning into technician education pathways", said Dr. Deborah Burks, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at CGTC. "This strategic focus will prepare both traditional and dual-enrolled high school students for the converging technologies that define Industry 4.0."

U.S. State Department Awards Two Health Sciences Students Gilman Scholarship for International Study

Special to The Journal
WARNER ROBINS — Central Georgia Technical College's (CGTC) spring semester Health Sciences Study Abroad program to St. Vincent and the Grenadines will feature a pair of students traveling as Gilman Scholars of the U.S. Department of State.

Keiyanna Clark of Bibb County and Michelle Fulkerson of Houston County, both Registered Nursing students, were named Gilman and Gilman-McCain Scholars, respectively, in December.

Both students will trav-



el January 17-25 to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to approximately 1,600 American undergraduate students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, in the fall 2025 cycle.

The U.S. Department of State announced in December that it awarded

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Kemp budget about affordability, with tax cuts plus money for employees and college students

By **TYTAGAMI**
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp's last budget proposal would stockpile billions for any rough economy one of his successors might encounter while also asking lawmakers to return over \$1 billion to taxpayers.

In his eighth and final state of the state address Thursday, Kemp said his budget proposal to the Georgia General Assembly will give average rebates of \$250 per individual taxpayer plus a fifth of a percentage point reduction to the state income tax rate, lowering it to 4.99%.

Like perhaps every other politician, Kemp nodded to what is shaping up to be a dominant issue in the upcoming elections: affordability.

"The reality is too many of our citizens are still struggling to make ends meet each and every day because costs are still too high," he said, speaking from the well of the Georgia House. "Groceries, rent, insurance, clothes for the kids, it all adds up to more than it used to."

He said if lawmakers approve his rebate his administration will have returned over \$7.5 billion in surplus funds over the past four years. Yet, the state would retain \$10 billion in reserves, enough to run government for three months.

Kemp's budget proposal spends money, too, on roads, on pay supplements, on retirement benefits and, for the first time in state history, on needs-based scholarships for higher education.

But there were no big gestures about the rising cost

of health care at a time when hundreds of millions in the state are poised to lose their insurance as federal insurance premium tax credits expire for policies under the Affordable Care Act, or ACA.

"We have been talking about expanding Medicaid year after year. And we know that the ACA subsidies have expired," Rep. Carolyn Hugley, D-Columbus, said after Kemp's speech. "There are cuts to Medicaid coming down to us from the federal government. That's a real challenge, and I'm surprised that it was not mentioned."

Hugley, who is the House minority leader, also said Kemp's rebates would do little to help struggling families.

"They're thinking about child care. They're thinking about paying rent," she said. "But a one-time 250 or a one-time 500, what is that really going to do?"

But even she had praise for Kemp's proposal to infuse a special-needs scholarship fund called Georgia DREAMS with a one-time \$325 million grant to serve as an endowment, something Democrats have been requesting for years.

On the House floor, after Kemp left, Rep. Al Williams, D-Midway, praised the governor for removing an abiding stigma around college funding for students from low-income families.

"This is the first governor since 1992 who has used the words 'needs based,'" he said. "Thank you."

The idea has also been floated in the Senate, where a bipartisan study committee recommended late last year that the state provide need based financial aid

like 48 other states.

Kemp is proposing billions in other new spending, in addition to the nearly \$1.2 billion rebate and the ongoing annualized \$750 million cost of the income tax cut.

He didn't mention it Thursday, but in a speech the day before at a state Chamber of Commerce event he revealed \$2 billion in his budget request to relieve congestion on I-75 south of Atlanta and on Georgia 316 from Atlanta to Athens. His budget also includes \$350 million for local road and bridge improvements.

And Kemp would help state employees with their living costs by giving a \$2,000 pay supplement to all of them, including educators and state public safety officers.

It will cost over \$600 million.

State law enforcement would also get a retirement boost that would add about \$5 million a year to annual budgets. The proposal would accelerate the annual increases in the percentage state match for each officer's contribution to their 401(k) plan and lift the cap to 15% of salary from 9%.

Near the end of his speech, Kemp acknowledged that governors lose clout as they near their final hour, but he also noted the substantial power that Georgia governors wield through the line-item budget veto.

"For those of you who may think I'm a lame duck," he said, "just remember I have a big red pen."

It was a joke, and the lawmakers laughed and applauded. But it was also true. Lawmakers have nearly always given Kemp what he asked for.

Free for all election to replace Greene in Congress draws 22 candidates

By **TYTAGAMI**
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The voters in Marjorie Taylor Greene's old northwest Georgia congressional district have less than two months to winnow a winner out of a list of 22 candidates who qualified to succeed her.

The March 10 special election for U.S. House district 14 will feature 17 Republicans, three Democrats and an Independent and a Libertarian.

The free for all was triggered by Greene's surprise announcement in November that she would be stepping down a year early, on Jan. 5. Her decision was due in part to a threat against her son's life and her own home after her public disagreements with President Donald Trump, which included the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files.

The largest contingent of those who want to succeed her — four of them — hail from Paulding County. Cobb, Dade, Floyd and Whitfield counties produced three candidates apiece. The other six candidates are from Catoosa, Coweta, Fulton, Polk and Walker counties.

The mix includes an auctioneer and truck driver,

who was until Tuesday a member of the Georgia Senate: Republican Colton Moore, of Trenton, stepped down to run for this congressional seat.

Also in the running are a U.S. Marine, two attorneys (one a prosecutor), a pastor, several business owners (one who deals in electric bicycles), a couple farmers (one a cattle producer the other also a teacher), a couple retirees (one is now a political writer), a risk engineer, a patent practitioner, a travel consultant, and one who works in the railroad supply chain sector. Several listed their occupation as self-employed, another as financial services and one as entrepreneur.

The three Democrats are Shawn Harris from Cedartown in Polk County, Jonathan Hobbs from Dallas in Paulding County, and Jim Davis from Floyd County.

The Independent is Rob "Rush" Ruszkowski from Dade County.

The Libertarian is Andrew Underwood from Walker County.

The Republicans are Tom Gray from Powder Springs in Cobb County, James Marty Brown from Tunnel Hill in Whitfield County, Jennifer

Jaye Turnipseed from Chickamauga in Walker County, Brian Stover from Dallas in Paulding County, Star Black from Kennesaw in Cobb County, Megahn Strickland from Marietta in Cobb County, Christian Michael Hurd from Rocky Face in Whitfield County, Reagan Box from Rome in Floyd County, Beau Brown from Silver Creek in Floyd County, Colton Moore from Trenton in Dade County, Clayton McLean Fuller from Trenton in Dade County, Jared Craig from Coweta County, Nicky Lama from Whitfield County, Trey Kelly from Fulton County, Eric Cunningham from Paulding County, Larry E. Hilley from Catoosa County, and James Edward Tully from Paulding County.

If no candidate takes a majority of the vote, which is likely with such a large field, a runoff will occur April 7.

The Georgia Secretary of State's website lists candidate details, including residency, occupation, contact information and campaign websites. Find that information by selecting the March 17 special election here: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/qualifying-candidate-information>

Georgia Senate bans local gun storage laws with first bill passed in 2026

By **MARK NIESSE**
Staff Writer
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia Senate voted along party lines Tuesday to ban cities from requiring gun owners to lock up their guns in cars, the first bill approved in this year's legislative session.

The bill is a response to a Savannah ordinance that outlawed leaving handguns, rifles or shotguns in unattended vehicles unless they're securely stored. A Chatham County judge ruled in November that the ordinance is unconstitutional.

The legislation now heads to Gov. Brian Kemp for his signature or veto. The Senate approved the bill 32-21 on Tuesday after it

passed the state House on the final day of last year's legislative session.

State Sen. Colton Moore, a Republican from Trenton, said the bill would protect the rights of gun owners. In Savannah, 41 people received citations under the city's ordinance, which comes with a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine and 30 days in jail.

"You can travel the state freely knowing you're not going to be a victim of a crime and then be made a criminal as we've seen in Savannah," Moore said during the Senate debate on Senate Bill 204. "We're putting freedom back into the hands of the citizenry."

Savannah's ordinance required guns left in vehicles to be securely stored in a glove compartment,

console, locked trunk, or behind the last upright seat of a vehicle without a trunk. The ordinance also mandated that unoccupied vehicles must be kept locked when there's a gun inside.

State Sen. Derek Mallow, a Democrat from Savannah, said the ordinance reduced gun thefts in Savannah by 30% in the year since the city enacted it in 2024.

"The city overwhelmingly supports the Second Amendment, but they also believe that public safety is at risk when guns are stolen from unlocked cars," Mallow said. "They can fall into the wrong hands very easily."

The bill also allows weapons carriers who receive citations to sue local governments for \$25,000 plus attorney fees.

Georgia GOP senators target Raffensperger over voter registration lists

By **MARK NIESSE**
Staff Writer
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Several Georgia Republican senators introduced a resolution Tuesday demanding that Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger comply with the Trump administration's pursuit of the state's unredacted voter registration list.

Raffensperger objected to the effort, saying state law prevents sharing voters' private information such as full Social Security numbers, dates of birth and driver's license numbers.

The U.S. Department of Justice has requested voter lists from all 50 states in recent months, saying it wants to ensure accurate registration information. The DOJ sued Georgia for the statewide voter list last month.

The Senate resolution comes from allies of Republican Lt. Gov.

Burt Jones, who is running for governor against Raffensperger. The resolution is largely symbolic and doesn't carry the force of a law.

It accuses Raffensperger of "willful and persistent obstruction" after his office provided a public version of Georgia's voter list to the U.S. Department of Justice.

"All I'm asking from our duly elected secretary of state is to participate in any legally established investigation, like any other citizen would be required to do," said state Sen. Randy Robertson, a Republican from Cataula and the sponsor of Senate Resolution 563. "The Department of Justice is the highest-ranking law enforcement agency in the United States, and they absolutely have the right to investigate when they choose."

Raffensperger's office said it has already complied with the DOJ's request "to the fullest

extent of state law," citing concerns that private voter information could be shared by the DOJ with outside parties.

"Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger swore an oath to uphold the law and act in the best interests of hardworking Georgians. He will not break the law, compromise private information, or risk identity theft for millions of voters," said a statement from the secretary of state's office.

Besides Georgia, the Department of Justice has also sued several Democrat-run states that have refused to comply with the DOJ's request for voter records. Republican-controlled states such as Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have agreed to provide full voter registration lists.

The DOJ's lawsuit against Georgia is scheduled for a hearing in federal court in Macon later this month.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Robins Regional Chamber welcomes REGYMEN Fitness



Robins Regional Chamber

Start your New Year's resolution and break a sweat at REGYMEN Fitness located at 770 Highway 96, Suite 235, in Bonaire. The new gym offers high-intensity workouts if you are looking to shed some pounds gained over the holidays. They offer early morning and evening classes as well as a free workout before commitment.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

- **Colossal Fitness** — Tue. Jan. 20, 4 p.m., 6011 Watson Boulevard, Suite 350, Byron
- **Visit Perry** — Tue. Jan. 27, 4 p.m., 808 Carroll Street, Perry
- **Preferred Trophies & More** — Thu. Feb. 5, 4 p.m., 1744 Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins

Flint Energies Foundation grant funds Houston County Schools \$15,000

Special to The Journal

The Flint Energies Foundation awarded \$15,000 in grant funding to Houston County Schools to support programs focused on student safety, academic success, and hands-on learning opportunities across the district. The funding was distributed among three programs, each receiving \$5,000 to address specific needs that enhance student development and well-being.

Veterans High School Football, represented by Steven Devoursney, received \$5,000 to invest in updated technology aimed at improving player safety and performance. "Safety is always our top priority, and with the physical nature of football, it's critical that we use every tool available to protect our players," said Devoursney. "Impact-tracking helmets and GPS monitoring will help us better understand what our athletes are experiencing on the field, reduce the risk of undetected concussions, and support healthier development."

Houston County School District - Houston Virtual, represented by Kimberly Green, was awarded \$5,000 to continue incentive-based programs that help students stay on track for graduation. "Our credit recovery and incentive programs motivate students to finish strong, whether that's through academic rewards, senior celebrations, or simply removing barriers like the cost of caps and gowns," said Green. "Because of this continued support, we've seen our graduation rate grow from 84% to 95%, and this grant allows us to keep that momentum going."

Perdue Elementary Junior Masters Gardeners Club received a \$5,000 grant to expand hands-on outdoor learning opportunities for students.



Represented by Melissa Fiebiger and Pam Weldon, the program plans to construct a gated garden structure on school grounds where students can plant, grow, and observe their own gardens. "Student interest in the program has grown tremendously," said Fiebiger. "This garden will bring classroom lessons to life, giving students a chance to learn by doing and develop a lifelong appreciation for gardening."

The Flint Energies Foundation provides grants to local non-profits such as this one using money donated by Flint Energies Consumer-members through Operation Round Up®. The electric cooperative's Members contribute \$175,000 annually to the Flint Energies Foundation, which supports worthy causes in the 17 counties it serves. Operation Round Up is a way for participating Members to support multiple charitable organizations by simply allowing Flint Energies to round up their bills to the nearest dollar. Donations to Operation Round Up, which average only about \$6 per year per member, are tax deductible. About 40% of Flint's Membership participates in Operation Round Up, but that percentage continues to decline. If you are a Flint Energies Consumer-member and wish to contribute, you can sign up at www.flintenergies.com/ORU or by calling 1.800.342.3616.

The Flint Energies Foundation, a state-chartered, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, disburses all contributions to approved projects; Member contributions are not used for administration costs. Foundation Board members include Chair Joanne Hamlin, Lizella; Vice Chair Eloise Doty, Butler; Secretary Connie McCutchen, Midland; Treasurer John Luppino, Warner Robins; Gina Fink, Fort Valley; Charles Harrison, Grovania; Pat Bartness, Warner Robins; Traci Kemp, Warner Robins; Betty Chase, Oglethorpe; Roger Sinyard, Mauk; and Ian Russell, Fort Valley.

About Flint Energies
Flint Energies is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by its members in parts of 17 central Georgia counties. Flint employs 221 employees and serves almost 100,000 electric meters. We are 100% locally controlled and democratically governed by nine Directors elected from among the membership. In 1937, Flint Energies was created to bring people together to meet common needs like reliable electric energy, and our mission remains focused on improving the quality of life in Middle Georgia. Flint Energies is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Follow Flint on X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram and Facebook.

BBB Tip: Joining a Gym or Purchasing At-Home Equipment? Avoid new year fraud

The beginning of a new year is often associated with increased interest in gym memberships, at-home workout equipment, and programs designed around living a healthier lifestyle. As consumers recover from holiday celebrations, including holiday dinners typically more robust than the standard fare, the new year offers plenty of opportunities to help shed those extra servings of stuffing. However, it is important to remain mindful of con artists who take advantage of shopper trends for their own gain and keep realistic fitness goals that consumers can carry throughout the year.

Rather than signing up for fitness classes at a local gym, many consumers may decide to purchase at-home equipment to exercise. For the past five years, Internet searches for 'workout equipment' peak during January. As is typical in the new year, BBB is expecting an increase in reports of fraudulent businesses advertising the sale of workout equipment that is either never received or of poor quality.

One consumer reported a loss of \$2,100 when purchasing an elliptical workout machine online. After paying for the equipment via Amazon Pay, the consumer reported they "received no confirmation or contact of any kind. I received no response when emailing the company."

In addition to the challenges presented by unethical and fraudulent businesses, consumers interested in improving their physical health in the new year must also assess their fitness goals and determine their priorities when choosing a gym membership or at-home system.

BBB provides the following tips to get the most out of your new year fitness goals:

Ask questions about limited free trials. Gyms often give a one-week free pass for potential members, and at-home programs provide a trial period to allow consumers to determine if it is the right fit for their fitness goals. If interested in a gym membership, spend the time



to realistically determine what time of the day you would be available to dedicate toward exercise and visit the gym during these times to see how crowded it is or if there is a wait for equipment you would typically use in your workout routine. Check to see if limited trials are offered for any classes or specialized programs.

Don't feel coerced. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics to join a workout program immediately or make a purchase online without first researching the seller or business. A reputable gym or program will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly, tour the facilities and make an informed decision. Be especially wary of claims that seem too good to be true, such as a guarantee of losing a large amount of weight extremely quickly.

Calculate the trust costs. Gyms and at-home workout programs often use introductory offers to encourage new members, especially in the new year. However, the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure to read the contract carefully and understand the regular monthly fees and what they include.

Take a tour. If choosing a gym membership, take the time to tour the facility and make sure the gym has the equipment, classes and trainers you need or expect. Pay attention to the things that are important to you, whether that is the cleanliness of the showers or the availability of Wi-Fi. Ask questions and make sure you understand the gym's policies, procedures and how they maintain their equipment.

Determine your fitness

goals. Determining realistic fitness goals allows you to choose a facility or workout program that is most appropriate for you and will prevent you from failing to follow through with your workout resolution for the rest of the year. Be sure to consult with the physician before embarking on a new fitness regimen, especially if there are medical conditions that might be of concern.

Figure out your priorities. What exactly are you looking for in a gym membership or at-home program? Is it a convenient location near your home or a chain with numerous locations around the country that you can go to while traveling? Answering these questions will help you determine the best fit for your lifestyle and fitness goals.

Understand the terms. Read the contract carefully before signing and make sure that all verbal promises made by a salesperson are in writing. Pay close attention to the cancellation and renewal policies. Some gyms may charge a cancellation fee if moving or will automatically renew your contract at the end of its term.

Use a credit card when shopping online. BBB strongly recommends using a credit card for all online purchases rather than a debit card, wire transfer or mobile banking app transaction. In case of a fraudulent seller or business purchase, credit cards offer additional protection and the ability to cancel charges than other forms of payment.

Start 2026 by visiting BBB.org for more tips on how to have a fraud-free new year.

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Warhawks snap five-game losing streak with 18-point comeback win at Eagles

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

WARNER ROBINS — The saying, ‘A tale of two halves’ gets thrown around a lot, but the first and second halves of Tuesday’s 68-58 final between Veterans (9-11, 1-3 Region 2-5A) and Northside (11-7, 2-3 Region) could not have been any different.

In the first everything seemed to go wrong for the Warhawks. They turned the ball over, gave up offensive rebounds and fouled on shots at the basket.

At one point, two Warhawks fought for the same rebound and it ended up in Northside’s hands.

The Eagles blitzed early, hitting (some threes?) to get out to an 11-3 lead. The only score at that point was a triple from Jordan Bryant.

A 7-2 run followed, but they gave it right back as

Northside closed the opening period 10-3 for a 23-13 lead.

After that it only seemed to pile up. The Eagles lived at the line, constantly had the ball in transition and seldom did Veterans have a chance to execute some kind of offense.

Driggers encouraged his team to push the pace from his spot on the sideline, but the turnovers mounted. The Warhawks missed a dunk and committed a traveling violation on back-to-back possessions to end the first half in a symbolic sequence, leaving Veterans down 42-24 at the break.

The Warhawks were starting their sixth straight loss in the face, but a completely different team came out of the locker room for half number two.

“We didn’t say much,” Head coach Brandon

See more photos at hhjonline.com

Driggers said. “We told them when we come up here, [Northside] coach Buck [Harris], he does a great job wherever he goes. We told them, you’re going to come into Northside, it’s going to be a good atmosphere, you got to take care of the basketball.”

“We got down by 18, and we told them, you don’t take the elephant down in one bite. You got to chip away at it and that’s what they did. Super proud of them for fighting.”

The first possession out of the break Veterans passed the ball around, drove and kicked it to Jaivyon Dawson, who got fouled on a three-point attempt.

Admittedly, Dawson missed it, and Northside bailed them out by fouling. But that was certainly a factor in the final two quarters.

Veterans played much tougher, attacked the basket and went up strong. They shot 15 free throws in the third quarter and it gave them a rhythm on offense they lacked in the first.

They cut the deficit to eight, and with three more free throws at the end of the third Dawson made it a three-point game with eight minutes to go.

With 5:48 left the Warhawks got an outlet pass up and the ball found itself in Tre Embry’s hands for a floater to tie the game at 54. Embry scored again on the next trip to take the lead for good. He had nine

of his 11 points in the fourth quarter.

The key factor for Driggers was the fact that his team played tough and with physicality, which is a requirement in his program.

“The biggest thing, man, we challenge them every game. The more physical team is gonna win the

game,” Driggers said. “When I took the program over, I’ve been telling everybody, I’m trying to build a tough program. And that’s what it was tonight. The brand of basketball that we played tonight in the second half, we’ve been trying to do that since day one when I took over.”

UP NEXT

Veterans will look to build a winning streak when they travel to Thomas County Central on Friday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Northside will regroup and get back in action on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Turnover-tainted night dooms Lady Warhawks against Lady Eagles

By **CLAY BROWN**
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WARNER ROBINS — A constant string of turnovers was too much for Veterans (5-12, 1-3 Region 2-5A) to overcome in their trip to the Eagles’ Nest on Tuesday night.

Northside (12-6, 3-2 Region) has rightfully garnered a reputation for their defense and ability to take the ball away, evident in a 51-25 final.

They pressured the Lady Warhawks the length of the court and were able to snag the ball through double teams or timely interruptions in the passing lanes.

In the half court the Lady Eagles’ rotations made driving or swinging the ball to get open shots difficult or fruitless, leading to a 17-6 deficit for Veterans after the first quarter.

Most of those 17 came from the fast break and the charity stripe; Northside drew fouls consistently if they couldn’t get behind the defense.

As the second begun the

turnovers continued for the Lady ‘Hawks, and not all of them were forced. Errant passes attempting to bypass the Lady Eagles’ press sailed out of bounds several times.

It was a difficult night against a tough defense for Tracy Fendley’s Lady ‘Hawks.

“I thought [Northside] played really good defense. High intensity. They rotated well and played with a lot of heart, it felt like,” Fendley said. “We had several girls in foul trouble. So we had girls handling the ball that don’t typically handle the ball for us, so we struggled a bit there.”

Fendley tried to create spacing on the floor and move the ball offensively, but with the pressure and inexperienced ball handlers it didn’t often result in a score.

Veterans was held to single digits in every quarter; Their highest total in one period was nine in the second to force a 26-15 half-time score.

It didn’t help that when Veterans did get an open

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shot, they had a hard time hitting them.

In the second quarter they managed to get an open look by swinging the ball and then making a pass to the opposite corner, but if not for Camila Vicioso’s offensive rebound and put back they would have come away empty.

“We just did not hit many shots. It was not a good shooting night for us,” Fendley said.

UP NEXT

Veterans will continue their five-game road trip on Friday, Jan. 16 at Thomas County Central at 6 p.m.

“We play Thomas County on Friday, and they’re a different team, not the same they were last year. So we got to go to practice and figure it all out,” Fendley said.

Northside’s next match-up is Saturday, Jan. 17 at home against Houston County at 4 p.m.



Clay Brown/HHJ

STREAK SNAPPED: Veterans completed an 18-point comeback against Northside for their first victory in Region 2-5A play of the season, snapping a five-game losing streak. Freshman Tre Embry had nine points as the Warhawks completed the comeback in the fourth quarter.

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