

# The Houston Home Journal

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Wednesday, April 15, 2026

## Law enforcement responds after gun threat to Perry High School



Agencies respond to Perry High School after a threat was made to campus on Friday, April 10.

Owen Jones/HHJ

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

**PERRY** — A heavy law enforcement presence was in Perry Friday morning after a threat to the local high school.

Perry Police Chief Alan Everidge confirmed a phone call threatened an individual coming to Perry High School with a rifle.

Multiple law enforcement agencies responded to the threat. The Board of Education was also on scene to ensure safety. Police cleared buildings and confirmed no threat within the school.

Everidge said the department is working to identify the suspect.

Later, Houston County Sheriff's Office announced an arrest made on the grounds, however, it was not connected to the orig-

inal threat, according to their social media.

"The subject refused to obey lawful commands given by a deputy on the perimeter of the campus. After multiple attempts to gain compliance from the subject failed, the subject was arrested and charged with Obstruction of Officers," the Sheriff's Office said.

Jennifer Jones, Director of Community and School Affairs, said Houston County School District sent the following message to parents:

"Parents - this is Dr. Art Billings. Please be advised that Perry High School is currently under a Code Red following a threat made to the school. Let me assure you that all students are safe in their classes. There is no threat inside the school. We will keep you updated as more details become available."

## Festival in full bloom



The 37th Annual Dogwood Festival was in full swing this weekend in Perry. See more scenes from the event on page 2A and hhjonline.com

Brianna Smith/HHJ

## Silent Book Club provides safe haven for book lovers extroverted and introverted

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**  
HHJ Staff Writer  
sandra@hhjonline.com

**WARNER ROBINS** — The Middle Georgia Silent Book Club is creating a safe space for bibliophiles.

The club meets every Tuesday at Decadent Dessert Bar to share their current reads in a cozy environment. From 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., members bring whatever they are currently reading. Johnson said members' ages vary greatly, up to her mother, who is 84.

"It's a great way to be around other bibliophiles and people who just love to read. There's a freedom to reading what you want at your own pace," she said.

The club is unique, with no required reading. It's BYOB: bring your own book. Co-creator Holly Johnson



Courtesy: Holly Johnson

The Middle Georgia Silent Book Club meets on the first three Tuesdays of every month at Decadent Dessert Bar, located at 1012 Highway 96, Suite 100.

says members can also bring audiobooks, e-readers or newspapers of any genre.

During the last 15 minutes, members introduce themselves and share cur-

rent reads. Johnson believes this is a great way to get book recommendations and meet fellow book lovers.

See **BOOK** page 7A



PERIODICAL

## University buries time capsules in five Middle Georgia campuses



Owen Jones/HHJ

MGA staff buries a time capsule at the Warner Robins campus on Friday, April 10.

By **OWEN JONES**  
HHJ Staff Writer  
owen@hhjonline.com

**WARNER ROBINS** — Middle Georgia State University is reaching its 10-year anniversary. The university celebrated Friday by burying time capsules on each of their five campuses.

Ashley Bennett, MGA's archivist, came up with the time capsule idea.

"It's very exciting, and I hope to still be here and be able to see what's in it," she said.

Bennett said the college wanted to celebrate its tenth anniversary, coming up in June.

See **CAPSULE** page 7A

## Centerville approves Carl Vinson repavement

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**  
HHJ Staff Writer  
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**CENTERVILLE** — Centerville City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Houston County Board of Commissioners in reference to the repavement of Carl Vinson Parkway

during their recent council meeting on Tuesday, April 7.

During new business, Mayor J. Micheal Evans explained that this will start from Watson Boulevard to the north side of Elberta Road.

See **CENTERVILLE**, 7A



### Word of the Day

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. — James 4:17 (NKJV)

### Inside

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# More scenes from the Perry Dogwood Festival

photos by Brianna Smith



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**TO THE LIMIT - THE ULTIMATE EAGLES EXPERIENCE**

**Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

To The Limit – The Ultimate Eagles Experience is a tribute band that pays homage to one of the most iconic rock bands of all time, The Eagles. With their exceptional talent and unwavering dedication, To The Limit, recreates the timeless sound and spirit of The Eagles, capturing the essence of their music with remarkable precision.

**GENERAL ADMISSION – \$35**

**DISCOUNT FOR PARTIES OF 10 OR MORE – \$32**

**\$55 VIP** – Early Access to the Opera House, (2) secret songs that will not be played in the main performance, Meet and Greet, Free 11x17 poster (available to be signed after the concert) and 10% off the Merch Table.

**5:30pm – VIP Doors Open/6:00pm – VIP performance**  
**6:15pm General Admission Doors Open/7:00pm Show Start**

Buy your tickets at [hawkinsvilleoperahouse.com](http://hawkinsvilleoperahouse.com) or call 478-783-1884

42 Lumpkin St, Hawkinsville

# CALENDAR

## Hometown Heroes: Celebrating Military Kids Food Truck Roundup

April 16 | 6 – 9 p.m.  
105 Mulberry Court, Warner Robins

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child, this Food Truck Roundup will celebrate the strength and resilience of children in military families. The event will feature food trucks, music, and activities for all ages at Perkins Field.

## Houston County Celebrates Earth Day

April 18 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2030 Kings Chapel Road, Perry

Houston County will celebrate Earth Day at the Houston County Extension Pavilion. This free family event will offer learning stations, craft projects, educational exhibits, face painting, and more.

Two exhibitors will bring wildlife and be available to answer questions. Vendors will also be onsite to offer a variety of items for sale, including plants.

Earth Day has been observed since 1970 to promote protecting the environment and raise awareness about preserving Earth's resources.

For more information, call the extension office at (478) 987-2028. To learn more about the UGA Extension office, visit [www.extension.uga.edu](http://www.extension.uga.edu).

## Warner Robins Community Concert Association

April 19 | 3 p.m.  
205 N. Davis Drive, Warner Robins

The WRCCA proudly presents Mary Stephenson and Sarah Divaker on violin and harp at First United Methodist Church.

Mary Stephenson and Sarah Divaker performed for us at our Kaleidoscope Concert in 2024. Their performance on the violin and

harp was enchanting! We are so pleased that they are now returning as featured artists.

Stephenson currently teaches violin at Mikado Academy of Music and maintains a vibrant private studio. She previously taught at Young America Music Schools, Gordon College through the Continuing Education Department, and also began a violin program at First Presbyterian Day School.

As a performer, Ms. Stephenson provides music for weddings as a soloist or with various ensembles including cello, harp and guitar, performs in the musical productions of various churches and participated in the folk band The Lady Grands.

Sarah Divakar set up her own studio in 2013, and continued teaching via video lessons after moving to Macon in 2016. She has performed as part of an orchestra for church cantatas, as well as both classical and sacred solo pieces. Currently, she balances practicing and performing at her home church (Berean Baptist in Macon) with mothering her three young children.

## Heart of GA Philatelic Society

April 21 | 6 p.m.  
4088 Watson Blvd., Suite 600, Warner Robins

The next meeting of the Heart of Georgia Philatelic Society is coming up soon! 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](mailto:chief_rod@yahoo.com) or call (478) 636-8684.

## 21st Annual Old Book Sale

April 23 - April 25  
Thu. & Fri. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
401 Golden Isles Pkwy, Perry

Houston County Friends of the Library is hosting the 21st annual Old Book Sale at the GA National Fairgrounds in the Georgia Grown/Baby Barn Building.

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

Admission will be \$10 on Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and \$5 from noon to 7 p.m.

Admission will be free on Friday and Saturday. All items half price on Saturday!

Cash, check, credit, and debit all accepted. Convenience fee for electronic transactions.

For more information, please email: [hocofriends@hplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hocofriends@hplibrary@gmail.com) or, visit [houpl.org](http://houpl.org), click "Support the Library, click "Friends of the Library".

Find us on Facebook: Houston County Friends of the Library.

## Middle Flint Board Meeting

April 26 | 4:30 p.m.  
542 Richardson St., Montezuma

The Middle Flint Health and Wellness Community Service Board Meeting will be held at Flint Area Consolidated Housing Authority in Montezuma.

The meeting is open to the public with link and agenda available upon request. For more information, please contact Elaina Ethridge at (229) 815-5113.

## PHS Class of 76 Fish Fry

May 2, 2026  
1101 WF Ragin Dr, Perry

## Police Week Observance

May 10 – May 16  
Various locations, Warner Robins

During National Police Week, the Warner Robins Police Department will host several events to honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line

of duty and to recognize the dedication and service of officers who continue to protect the community.

## Night of Blue Lights Food Truck Roundup

May 14 | 6 – 9 p.m.  
105 Mulberry Court, Warner Robins

This special edition of the Food Truck Roundup coincides with Police Week and highlights the work of local law enforcement and first responders. Residents are encouraged to come out, enjoy great food, and show their support for those who serve.

## '10 Good Men' Premiere

May 24, 2026 | 5 p.m.  
651 Mulberry St., Macon

TJ3 History's feature documentary "10 Good Men" will have its world premiere at the historic Piedmont Grand Opera House in Macon, followed by a live Q&A with our director and associate producer.

The 90-minute film captures the firsthand combat stories of ten of the last remaining World War II veterans who flew the iconic B-17 Flying Fortress — the equivalent of a single full crew during the war. It features rare restored and colorized archive footage, narration by Emmy Award-winning voice talent Dan Nachtrab, and has already received rave reviews from New York Times best-selling authors and respected Air Force historians.

This premiere feels especially meaningful in Middle Georgia, home to Robins Air Force Base and one of the highest concentrations of veterans in the state. Memorial Day Weekend is the perfect time to honor these aging heroes before their voices are lost to time, and screening their stories in the beautiful Piedmont Grand Opera House adds an extra layer of local significance.

Our entire crew, which has spent three years on this project, is based right here in Warner Robins, making this a true hometown production from the team behind TJ3 History.

**Community Calendar**  
Email your information to:  
[brianna@hhjonline.com](mailto:brianna@hhjonline.com)

**Houston Home Journal**

478-987-1823  
1210 Washington St.  
Perry

## Local non-profit to present vision and long-term goals at Garden Party Gala



Owen Jones/HHJ

The HALO Group in Perry is located at 1140 Macon Road.

By OWEN JONES  
HHJ Staff Writer  
[owen@hhjonline.com](mailto:owen@hhjonline.com)

PERRY — The HALO Group is hosting its inaugural Garden Party Gala this weekend, a fundraiser giving the community a chance to experience the vision of the local non-profit.

It will be held Saturday, April 18, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds/Georgia Grown building. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with doors opening at 5 p.m.

The event will feature a silent auction, live music from Darin Curtis and Chin Lee and guest speaker Michael Craven.

"The gala is not just a fundraiser; it also brings awareness of what services are offered to the teammates at the HALO group," Executive Director Angela Barrett said. "We want the community to know what the Halo Group has on the teammates as far as their quality of life and also their impact on the community, in general."

HALO Group was founded in 2018 by Barrett, Melanie Murphy, and April Tew.

Barrett said HALO Group is a Christ-centered vocational and life skills training program for adults with developmental disabilities and autism.

All three believe they were called by God to start the HALO Group. Murphy said the Gala is a celebration of all they accomplished in the eight years as an organization.

The program started out being very simple, but has since grown exponentially over eight years.

Barrett said the plans have shifted for the better. The teammates at the HALO group participate in many programs, like entrepreneurship. The Perry location is in the process of

becoming a retail store, so the teammates can practice selling the products they make.

The group also has an agricultural component, which includes growing food on two acres of land near the Georgia National Fairgrounds, one of their strongest community partners. Teammates can take care of livestock and chickens on a hobby farm.

"We have a lot of different things in the [agricultural] portion of the program which is important to us because Georgia is an agricultural state," she said.

The HALO Group strives to reimagine what community is, due to its community focus.

"That's how we learn and that's community integration," she said. "We are really doing life together in just about every aspect."

Murphy said reimagining the community is about breaking stigmas and showing those with disabilities can be successful.

"People in the community are watching how our staff and people interact with each other as adults doing life together," Barrett said.

The HALO group hopes everyone can be a part of the joy that they experience every day. Barrett said there is a huge need for the quality of life of the individuals they serve.

"We just want the community to not only celebrate what's unfolded in the last eight years, but also want them to be aware," she said.

To learn more about the HALO Group and the Garden Party Gala, go to: [www.halogroupga.org/halo-vision-dinner](http://www.halogroupga.org/halo-vision-dinner)

Those interested in attending can email [HaloGroupGa@gmail.com](mailto:HaloGroupGa@gmail.com).

## Food Truck Roundup returns with 'Hometown Heroes' theme

Special to The Journal

WARNER ROBINS —

The City of Warner Robins invites the community to gather for an evening of food, fun, and celebration at the upcoming Food Truck Roundup on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Perkins Field (105 Mulberry Street).

This month's theme, "Hometown Heroes: Celebrating Military Kids," recognizes the strength, resilience, and courage of military-connected children in honor of the Month of the Military Child. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple to show their support for these hometown heroes.

The event will feature a wide variety of food trucks offering something for every taste, including local favorites such as Brown's BBQ & Catering, Ricky's

Taco Shop, Smitty's Boiling Crab Pot, Superb Grill, Tapas & Tavola, and many more.

Guests will also enjoy live entertainment by the B Squared Band, creating a lively atmosphere for the entire family.

A dedicated Kids Zone will provide fun for younger attendees, including inflatables, face painting, a gaming truck, a photo-booth, and special character appearances inspired by Inside Out.

The Food Truck Roundup continues to be a signature community event, bringing residents and visitors together to enjoy great food, entertainment, and fellowship in the heart of Warner Robins.

For more information and updates on the Food Truck Roundup, visit [www.wrga.gov](http://www.wrga.gov).

# LIVE MUSIC

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

**WARNER ROBINS**  
• Billy Robinson Barberitos - 5-8pm

**MACON**  
• Ches & Greg wsg Phil Palma, Tim Pinson, Kirk Walker. Fish-N-Pig - 6-9pm

• Open Jam:  
Grant's Lounge - 8pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**  
**HAWKINSVILLE**

• Tres Hombres: La Cabana - 5:30-9pm

**UNADILLA - ANGEL CITY MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

• Courtney Gains - 6:30pm  
• Drew Cagle and the Reputation - 8:30pm  
• Rachel Stacy - 10:30pm

**WARNER ROBINS**  
• Steve Holcomb: Barberitos - 5-8pm  
• Big Mike: Snapper's Lounge - 6-9pm

• The Chris Anderson Band: American Legion post 172 - 7pm

• Lance Rodriguez: Pub 96 - 7:30pm

**MACON**  
• B. Keith Williams & Friends (Bike Night): American Legion - 6-9pm

• Roofdog: Capricorn Sound Studios - 7:30pm

• Halfgrass: T & Jay's - 8-11pm

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**  
**UNADILLA - ANGEL CITY MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

• Blackwood - 4:30pm  
• One Last Stand - 6:30pm  
• Faith Jackson - 8:30pm  
• Rock the 90's - 10:30pm

**VIDALIA**  
• Reckless Soul Band: Earnie's Lounge - 9pm

**FORSYTH**  
• Greg & The Blue Notes: The Den - 8-11pm

**WARNER ROBINS**  
• Tyler Hammonds: RondeVu Bar & Grill - 5pm

• Michael Creamer: Pub 96 - 5:30-8:30pm  
• Macon Sound: Pub 96-9:30pm

**MACON**  
• Tres Hombres: Fish-N-Pig - 7:30-10:30pm

• Catfish Willy: VFW Post 658 - 7:30-10:30pm

• Boot Scootin' Boogie Nights: The Society Garden - 8-10pm

• Renegade: 20's Pub - 9pm  
• Caleb Walston: Wild Wing Cafe - 9pm

• Ashes - Debut EP "Ashes" release show: Grant's Lounge - 9pm

• The HeadTones: Hummingbird - 9:30pm  
• Danny Davis: Vice Bar - 10pm

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**  
**EATONTON**

• Dallas Rodgers Band: Pals Watering Hole - 9pm

**UNADILLA - ANGEL CITY MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

• Cali Mob - 4:30pm  
• Mix Tape - 6:30pm  
• Jeremiah James - 8:30pm  
• A Foreigners Journey to Boston - 10:30pm

**HAWKINSVILLE**  
• To The Limit - The Ultimate Eagles Experience: Opera House - 7pm (\$35 and up)

**VIDALIA**  
• Reckless Soul Band: Earnie's Lounge - 9pm

**FORSYTH**  
• John D Neal: The Den - 8-11pm

**PERRY**  
• The Music Side of Town Blues Band: Perry Farmer's Market - 9am-1pm  
• Ground Hum: My Bar - 9pm

## MILLEDGEVILLE

• Josh Courson & Company: Duke's Dawg House - 8pm

• Modern Mischief: Amici's - 10pm

**WARNER ROBINS**  
• Jason Taylor Hobbs: Pub 96 - 4:30pm

• Tres Hombres: Snapper's Lounge - 8-11pm  
• Wartown Underground: Pub 96 - 9:30pm

**MACON**  
• Affinity: American Legion - 7-10pm (\$10 / \$5 for Veterans / Free for member Veterans)

• Lady Creech: Fish-N-Pig - 7:30-10:30pm

• Purple Madness - Prince Tribute: The Society Garden - 8pm

• NyteByrd: Mr. E's Sports Bar & Grill - 9pm

• Good Company: Wild Wing Cafe - 9pm

• Rachel Forehand - "Blackwater" Album release show: Grant's Lounge - 9pm

**HAWKINSVILLE**  
• Powersville Opry - 390 Perry Hwy: --> House Band - 4:15-6:45pm  
--> Guest Band - 7-9pm

**GORDON**  
• Open Acoustic Jam: Jelly Elephant - 8pm

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**  
**MACON**

• Direwoof & The Page Brothers Band: Fish-N-Pig - 1-5pm

• Open Mic/Jam Session: Grant's Lounge - 9pm

# VIEWPOINTS

## 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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### Share Your Viewpoint

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

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## Editorial Policy

All columns, editorials, viewpoints, letters to the editor, cartoons, and the like are of the express opinion of the author and NOT the Houston Home Journal, its sister newspapers, or the Georgia Trust for Local News unless otherwise expressly stated.

We welcome all letters to the editor, and authors may write about any subject. However, we reserve the right to refuse to publish letters that may be offensive or break our editorial guidelines. We also reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, spelling, or style, but we will not purposely change the author's intended meaning.

Letters should be no more than 500 words and should include the author's name, address, and phone number. (Only the author's name and city of address will be published.) Unsigned letters and pen names will be rejected.

Authors must be the original creator of the letter; no one may submit a letter on behalf of another person. Writers may only submit one letter every month. If a writer is critical of a subject that you, a reader, take issue with, please write a responding letter to the editor. You may mention the other letter, but letters should focus on issues rather than writers.

To submit a letter to the editor, email brianna@hhjonline.com or send it to Houston Home Journal, 1210 Washington St., Perry, GA 31069.

Read  
YOUR VIEW  
in the  
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Journal

# Georgians to decide court's tone and temperament next month

Any Georgian with a television, mailbox, telephone, or social media account is aware we have partisan primaries coming up. The ads for candidates who want to be the next Governor alone are inescapable.

We also have to select candidates for U.S. Senate, all Georgia's seats in the U.S. House, Lieutenant Governor, Quite a few statewide offices, every seat in the Georgia legislature, and even more offices in counties across the state. We've got a lot going on in here.

Almost lost in the campaign drum beats are the races for positions within Georgia's judiciary. These contests are non-partisan. There are no primaries. We vote on who will preside over Georgia's courts on the same ballots when we vote for our parties' nominees. Those who wish to remain truly "independent" can even request a non-partisan ballot to only select from the Justices and Judges up for election this year.

These aren't nominees to appear on our November ballots. The May race for these positions is final.

Most Georgians are likely unaware these contests are even happening. There's little incentive to donate to campaigns, as the Judges and Justices aren't allowed to make many promises, and certainly can't promise to decide in favor of potential large donors. Their code of ethics, whether an incumbent or challenger, mostly limits them to saying they'll be fair and impartial, uphold the Constitution, and telling you about their resume and background.

They don't attack each other. There are few soundbites for media to cover. The few dedicated political reporters left in the state are getting a steady supply of red meat zingers from the partisan contests. There's little reward for them to invest the time detailing the curriculum vitae of candidates that few Georgians have ever heard of, in election contests that won't generate clicks or ratings.

So what are Georgians supposed to do when faced with these names in races they haven't researched and know almost nothing of the candidates? Unlike the default position for most voters in partisan contests, if in doubt vote for the incumbent.

For decades, Georgia has used a system that takes most of the partisan politics out of the selection of our Judges and Justices. When one resigns or retires - usually done mid-term to preserve this process - a Judicial Nominating Commission reviews qualifications of applicants and delivers a short list of candidates to the Governor, who chooses one and appoints them to fill the vacancy.

Our "election" of Judges and Justices is more of a ratification of this process rather



than a selection. This is a system that has been in place in Georgia for decades, long before parties switched power in the Governor's mansion a quarter century ago.

The concept worth protecting here is that there is a time and place for partisanship, and the voters get their say on that in November, when nominees from each party are decided by voters. Those elected then serve to write our laws with a partisan tilt in the legislature, and the executive branch administers the state's operations similarly.

Our courts, however, have to interpret the laws according to the constitutions of both the state and the country. For them to be fair and impartial, they almost must be non-partisan. It's the only way they can be a proper check and balance within a state that has been governed

by one majority party controlling the other two branches at the same time for most of the state's existence.

There have been partisan attempts to change the courts a few times. Most notably, Republicans tried to unseat a few Justices as the party was taking statewide elective offices from the Democrats around the turn of the millennium.

Most if not all failed, and usually by a large margin. Despite the lack of general public awareness from traditional campaign channels, the legal community seems to have a way of policing these elections to motivate voters to preserve the system and keep partisanship out of these elections.

This year there are three challenges to those serving in our top courts. Two Justices on Georgia's Supreme Court

and one for Georgia's Court of Appeals. At least one of the challengers has run state wide for a partisan office.

The best sign that partisanship isn't at play with the incumbents is the steering committee of Justice Charlie Bethel. Among the high profile and politically diverse names supporting his re-election are the Governor who appointed him, Nathan Deal, and Deal's 2014 Democratic challenger, former State Senator Jason Carter.

As a disclosure, Justice Bethel and I have a friendship that pre-dates his time on our highest court, and I've made a small donation to his campaign. I use him as an example of the three incumbents standing for re-election statewide - including fellow Supreme Court Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren and Appeals Court Judge Elizabeth Gobeil - as his committee embodies the entire point here.

There's a time and place for partisanship, and many of the names on his team are highly partisan. When it comes time to stand before a judge, however, justice must be colorblind. Those colors must include red and blue.

## Scribbled notes 4 — mercy & motivation

My stack of scribbled notes is shorter, but still has a precarious tilt. I've grown a bit weary of sifting through papers, but recently found fresh motivation. We'll get to that later.

I kept a sample letter of a common scam - trying to buy land for less than it's worth. Legitimate buyers sometimes make unsolicited offers at decent prices. There are, however, countless solicitations which are far below market value.

Gazillions of unscrupulous proposals are made, knowing a few recipients will take the bait. Financial predators don't mind taking advantage

of people who can be manipulated. They also exploit very capable people who get careless. So be careful. If you're leaning toward making a quick decision, it's usually best to slow down.

Another scribbled note contained several questions I had been pondering. Can a dog have a cat scan? Can a cat be dog-eared? Is a doggone cat gone because of the dog? It's hard to sleep while searching for answers.

A newspaper clipping had a picture of Sonny and SuSu Burt announcing the sale of Daphne Lodge. I intended to write a story about them but never got around to it. Besides



the excellent food and charming atmosphere, the lovely couple made customers feel like family. Like the bar on Cheers, it was a place where everybody knows your name.

One slip of paper had a potential column title, "Shadow Finds a Home." My mother's yard dog is 93 pounds of affection. He's too friendly to be a protector but will knock you down if you're carrying food. Here's some

background on that unwritten column.

Shadow is the last survivor of three similar-looking stray dogs that found their way to my mother's rural home. His ribs were showing when he came and he was afraid of people, as were Spot and Spottie before him. All three dogs, in different years, were apparently dropped off at

See JOINER page 8A

## LIFESTYLE &amp; FAITH

## Facing threats facing Christianity

For the last 2,000 years, Christianity has faced pressure and danger in different forms. There have been countless treats that challenged the people of God to abandon the faith, dampen their conviction, or silence their message. However, this should not surprise the confessing Christian.

The Bible warns of this over and again. Specifically, in Acts 20, the Apostle Paul cautions the elders of the church in Ephesus to remain vigilant, stating that dangers will arise not only from outside the church, but also from within.

Let me quote his warning: Acts 20:28-30 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."

Note that Paul says to expect dangers to arise from without and from within the flock. This inspired information remains just as relevant today.

Though we live in a nation and era of unprecedented religious liberty, the church of the Lord Christ is still locked in spiritual warfare. The moment in which we live is fraught with serious, though subtle dangers. If these issues are left unchecked, it will weaken the body of Christ and distort the message of the Gospel. For this reason, it is vital that God's people identify and intentionally

## COLUMNIST

PASTOR  
LEWIS KIGER

confront these issues and not ignore them.

Memorial Heights Baptist Church intends to do that very thing this weekend as we host our annual, "Theology Matters Conference." Beginning on Friday evening at 7:00 PM, and continuing Saturday and Sunday morning at 9:30 AM, we aim to address some of the contemporary threats to American Christianity. We have guest speakers coming from several different states who have been tasked with speaking to these dangers.

To be sure, as the Apostle warned, many of the threats facing the church are not only external, but they are also internal. Let me give you a brief summary of some of the subjects we intend to deal with this weekend.

First, one of the most pressing issues facing Christianity is a lack of confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture. As stated above, the threats the church faces are not always from without, sometimes they are from within. As such, one of the most serious self-inflicted perils before the people of God, is a lack of confidence in the sufficiency of the Word of God.

Though the Bible contains all that is necessary to save sinners and sanctify saints, still many confessing believers want more. For them,

the Bible isn't enough. They want more revelation, more inspiration, and more fickle direction from fallen men. I simply cannot emphasize enough, the threat that exists to look outside of Scripture for spiritual and eternal truths.

Closely related to this confusion is a troubling rise in Biblical illiteracy. Again, this is true not only outside the church, but within. While it is true, there is an increasing number of Americans who know next to nothing about the Bible ... sadly, many professing Christians struggle to articulate the core message of the gospel or to discern sound doctrine from error. This lack of knowledge leaves individuals and churches vulnerable. Scripture itself warns that God's people can be "destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Strengthening the church requires a renewed commitment to understanding and applying God's Word, beginning in our homes and extending into every area of life.

At the same time, God's design for the church is increasingly being undermined. Church membership and meaningful commitment are often treated as optional, rather than essential. Yet the New Testament presents the church as a body—one in which believers are connected, account-

able, and actively engaged.

In addition, maintaining Christian ethical values in a fallen world is a threat God's people face on a daily basis. There is enormous pressure on churches and church leaders to kowtow to the culture and cave on Biblical morality. Yet, when the church begins to mirror the values of the world rather than the truth of Scripture, it loses its distinctiveness and its influence. It is the role of the people of God to serve as salt and light, not bend the knee to the sinful society in which we live.

Not all threats, however, are loud or obvious. One of the most dangerous is apathy. A lukewarm faith—marked by indifference toward truth, worship, and obedience—can quietly erode spiritual vitality. Unlike open opposition, apathy often goes unnoticed until its effects are deeply entrenched. I plan on addressing this issue Sunday morning.

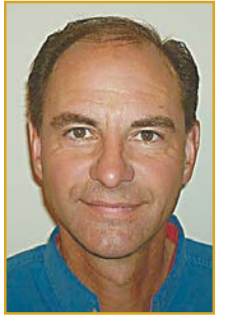
These and other subjects will be addressed this weekend at our conference. We invite everyone to come and join us as we consider the threats against the Christian faith. The challenges facing the church today are real, but they are not insurmountable. By returning to Scripture and yielding to the Holy Spirit; Christian commitment will be renewed and the people of God can stand strong. In so doing, the church of God will continue to serve as a faithful witness in a world that desperately needs courage and clarity. Hence, Theology Matters!

For more information, contact the author of this article – or go to [mhbeperry.org](mailto:mhbeperry.org).

## April garden chores

## LET'S GARDEN

TIM LEWIS



April has finally arrived and spring has definitely sprung! Let's look at some things we can be doing in and around the garden in this most glorious gardening month.

Once you are certain the soil has warmed up to stay, consider planting summer-flowering plants such as gladiolus, canna lilies, caladiums, and dahlias. Planting some every two weeks will give a succession of color to your landscape. Make the first planting in the latter part of this month after the soil has warmed significantly and stays consistently warm.

Stay on top of early sprouting weeds before they overtake the garden or flower bed. Hand weeding will prevent many from setting seed that will produce next year's crop. A little herbicide, well-placed, will be beneficial as well.

Begin to pinch back and deadhead annuals such as petunias, salvia, impatiens, and others to encourage the formation of new branches and thus more flowers. Keeping a close watch on this will reap many benefits.

Watch for aphids on tender new leaves and flower petals. They are always attracted to the youngest growth and often find their way into the young, unfurled leaves and may go unnoticed for some time. A yellowing or wilting of the plant tips and/or the presence of ants may indicate their presence. Fortunately, aphids are relatively easy to control once discovered. Before resorting to insecticides, you might try washing them away with a strong burst of water or even simply flipping them off with your hand.

Edge the entire flower bed or flower garden. It will make a big difference!

In clumps of perennials, pinch back some stems in the front area of the clumps to create a succession of blooms. Do this with tall phlox, bee balm, baptisia, agastache, and other returning perennials.

Begin pinching back fall bloomers such as chrysanthemums, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, and asters. This stimulates branching and results

in more flowers later in the season.

Stake tall plants such as hollyhocks, hibiscus, Agastache, and foxglove before they get too tall and out of hand.

Add fresh mulch to beds if needed. One to two inches around annuals and perennials on top of existing mulch will be sufficient. No more than four inches total mulch is advisable.

If a soil sample has not been taken from your garden within the past two years or so, now is a good time to take one. Ideally, a soil analysis should be undertaken before fertilizer is applied to the garden. Otherwise, you will be, as they say, "shooting in the dark" when it comes to providing your plants' nutrient needs. Many perennials, in particular, need very little supplemental fertilizer as long as they are planted in fertile soil.

If the leaves on your crape myrtles and hydrangeas develop a grayish coating later in the season, they probably have developed powdery mildew. Try a mixture of four teaspoons of baking soda in one gallon of water on them. Apply this once a week, being sure to cover the tops and undersides of the leaves.

Many of you are just now planting your prized tomato plants. Remember this—after planting tomatoes, it is a good idea to mulch them right away. This will help to prevent leaf diseases such as early blight. This debilitating disease is caused by a soil-borne fungus that produces spores which splash onto the leaves from the soil during rainfall or overhead irrigation. Control of this disease with fungicides is difficult. Immediate mulching is more effective.

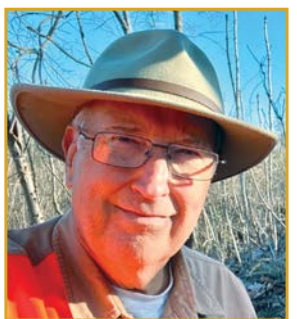
I trust that these tips will help you in your gardening endeavors this month. Look for more next week.

Tim Lewis is a Georgia Green Industry Association Certified Plant Professional, gardening writer, and former Perry High School horticulture instructor. He can be reached at (478) 954-1507 or [timlewis1@windstream.net](mailto:timlewis1@windstream.net).

## Zoom in a big bass

GUEST  
COLUMNIST

JOHN TRUSSELL



Really big bass are difficult to put in the boat! I've caught thousands of bass in my lifetime, but only very few in the 10-pound range. Most have been in the 1-3 pound size and I usually return all bass to the lake to grow bigger.

I've been lucky to fish with several great big bass anglers including Charles Sloan, Jack Chandler, Chris Bailey, Monte Walters and Steve Watson, and others, mostly Georgia anglers. Usually my trips have been while I was writing stories for Georgia Outdoor News, and I'm always watching and learning.

Years ago I was fishing with Charles Sloan at a private Wilcox County pond on a cold, damp February day. Charles had scoped out an underwater ditch and knew it held some big bass. Fishing with plastic worms, we boated three nice ones. Charles caught a nine and 11 pounder, while I pulled in a bass of about eight pounds. A pretty good day!

Charles passed away back in 2017, but I arranged to have his biggest bass, which weighed 13 pounds 12 ounces, put on display at the Go Fish Education Center in Perry. He was a great bass fisherman and was always fishing if he wasn't working or sleeping! Look for his bass on display over the water cooler and I know Charles is fishing and smiling in heaven.

My biggest bass recently is this 9-pound-7-ounce

bass that I caught in a private Houston County pond a few weeks ago. I "zoomed" it into the boat with 6-inch blue with green flake lizard, called a June bug. The Zoom Bait Company, owned by Eddie and Kim Chambers, is based around Watkinsville, near Athens, thus it is a great Georgia based company. (Go Dawgs!)

Want to catch a big bass? Here are some tips to make it happen!

1) Fish in older lakes and large ponds known to produce big bass. It takes many years to grow a big bass, at least 10-15 years, so don't expect to be successful in newer ponds or places that get a lot of fishing pressure, as many potential trophies are removed from the water before they reach their potential. The world record bass was caught in 1932 by George Perry and weighed 22 pounds 4 ounces and that record still stands, but has been tied by a bass caught in Japan. The Georgia bass was caught in an oxbow section of the Ocmulgee River called Montgomery Lake, near Lumber City.

2) Fish in the late winter to early spring when female bass are getting ready to spawn. Many big bass are taken when they are bedding and anglers look for them in shallow water and get them to attack a bait slowly dragged through the bed. This type of fishing takes a lot of cruising around lakes looking for



Courtesy: John Trussell

John Trussell caught this 9 pound 7 ounce bass in a Houston County pond on a Zoom June Bug color lizard.

bass beds and plenty of patience.

3) Fish quietly and make long casts whenever possible, otherwise you'll spooked the fish. Use a slow and careful retrieve to let the bait fall into the hiding locations and work over limbs. Big bass don't get trophy size by being dumb and do not do a lot of chasing baits.

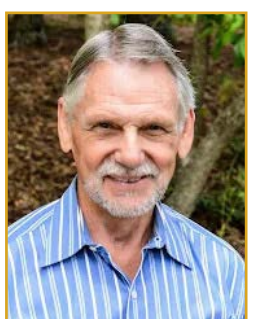
4) Use strong quality equipment and line. Many anglers use level wind bait casting reels, which is great, but I prefer a spinning reel with an easy opening bale. The line is very important and I use spider wire braided line, but there are many variations out there, most good! My line is 6/20 which

See TRUSSELL page 8A

## The fresh bread of life

ALL ABOUT  
SENIORS

BILL MILBY



It's early Saturday morning and the bread maker is humming on the counter right now. In exactly two hours a golden loaf will be ready to slice alongside my wife's homemade chili. The house already smells like heaven.

But this isn't just any bread. It's the same recipe our family has used for forty years—ever since we learned about it at a home school conference at the University of Indiana back in the mid-1980s.

We bought our Bosch grain grinder shortly after that conference, and we've been grinding our own flour ever since.

What makes this bread special is simple: the flour has to be freshly ground. We still use that same sturdy Bosch grinder we bought in 1985. At the core of this recipe is hard red winter wheat—nutritious, reliable, and full of the deep, wheaty flavor that store-bought bread can't touch.

In retirement I've taken over the bread-making duties, and lately I've been tinkering with the recipe. I now substitute a portion of the hard red winter wheat with einkorn, an ancient grain that has quietly become one of my favorite culinary upgrades.

See MILBY page 8A

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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Was one of Adolf Hitler's top advisors actually half American?

April moves along at its usual pace, and we are getting deeper into spring.

Ah, isn't it wonderful? Yes, actually, it is.

I hope your April is going as well as it can possibly go, and that the rest of the year is even better for you!

How about some trivia? Got some fresh stuff right here!

Did you know ...

... it's not hazardous to live near a nuclear power plant? Scientists estimate that you get five times as much radiation from sitting in front of your television that you would get if you lived next door to a nuclear power station. (Sitting in front of the power station would provide better entertainment than television.)

... almost 88% of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere? (Which makes me wonder if the other 12% know something we don't.)

... a feat exists which has never been accomplished by a Major League Baseball player? I refer to the home run

cycle. You may be familiar with a player hitting for the cycle — a single, double, triple and home run in one game. It's been done 350 times in MLB history. A natural cycle, hitting those four in order, is much rarer, having only taken place 14 times. But the one that's never been done is the home run cycle — a solo homer, a two-run shot, a three-run shot, and a grand slam, all in the same game. In fact, it's only happened twice in professional baseball, both in the minor leagues. (Batter up!)

... the first collegiate all-female baseball team was fielded in 1866? It was at Vassar College, an all-women's school at the time. (If they were the first, who did they play?)

... the first commercial product manufactured in North America was exported in 1608? It was a glass bottle blown in the Jamestown settlement. (Did it come with a deposit?)

... good ideas don't always pay off? Take, for instance, the White Bicycle Plan set forth in the city of Amsterdam,

the Netherlands, in 1965. The idea was to provide free public bicycles for anyone to use going from place to place. Within just one month, most of the bikes had either been stolen or dumped into canals. (They expected something different?)

... one of Hitler's top advisors was part American? Baldur von Schirach (1907-1974) served the Third Reich as leader of the Hitler Youth and later as Gauleiter (party leader) of Vienna. Von Schirach's background was very strange for a German leader — his father was a dual German-American citizen and his mother was fully American. In fact, von Schirach was a descendant on his mother's side of Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born in Berlin, von Schirach did not learn German until he was five years old, English being his first language. He first fell into the orbit of Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) in the mid-1920s. Hitler made him Reichsjugendführer (Reich

Youth Leader) in 1931, placing him at the head of the Hitler Youth organization. After he was drafted into the Wehrmacht in 1939, he served as an officer for two years, winning the Iron Cross 2nd Class. Following service, von Schirach was named Gauleiter of Vienna and oversaw the deportation of Jews from the city for the remainder of the war. Tried at Nuremberg on charges of crimes against humanity following the conflict, he was sentenced to 20 years in Spandau prison, and served every day of his sentence.

... jurors have unrealistic expectations of modern forensic science? That's because of television programs like CSI and NCIS. The shows, which are built around forensic science, often use convoluted explanations and somewhat dodgy technology not currently available to wrap up the cases in an hour ... which does not happen in the real world. (Duh.)

... Russia has its own version of an American situation comedy? A spinoff of It's Always

Sunny in Philadelphia, the show is set in a Moscow bar named Philadelphia, and it's called "В Москве всегда солнечно" (It's Always Sunny in Moscow). (Well, maybe it is, I don't know.)

... the inventor of the motion picture camera is implicated in the disappearance of another inventor? Some of the earliest-ever motion picture scenes were filmed by Louis LePrince (1841-1890), a French artist who created and built his own movie camera. But LePrince mysteriously vanished in 1890, and credit for inventing the movie camera was claimed by Thomas Edison (1847-1931). Two years after LePrince's son Adolphe (1872-1901) appeared in a court case challenging Edison's claim, the younger LePrince was found dead. Modern historians give LePrince credit for taking the world's first motion picture footage. (Film at 11.)

... the longest average lifespan in the world can be found in a small European country? In the nation of Andorra, a tiny enclave between Spain

and France, the average lifespan of the people is 83.5 years. (Ah, those lucky Andorrans!)

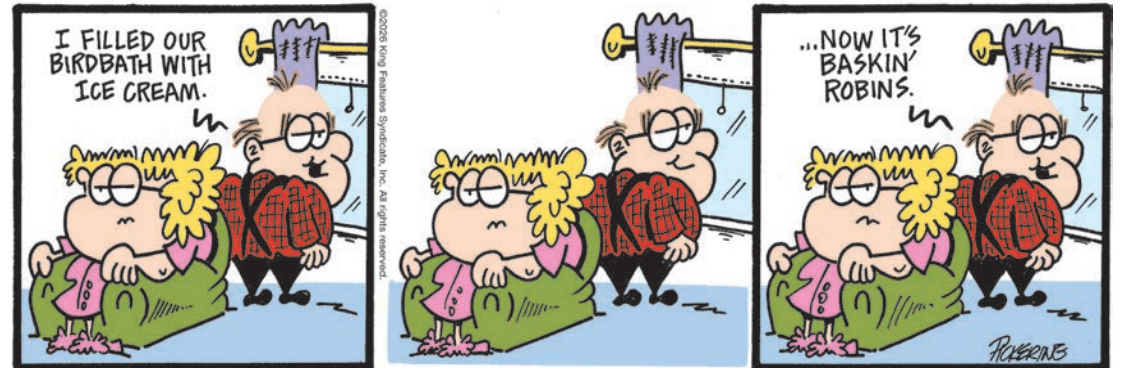
... two Olympic medalists shared their medals? In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Japanese pole vaulters Shuhei Nishida (1910-1997) and Sueo Oe (1914-1941) tied for second place, but declined to compete against each other to break the tie. Olympic officials awarded Nishida the silver medal and Oe the bronze, but when the pair returned to Japan, they had their medals cut in half and joined the two parts together as "friendship" medals. (Now that's how you handle such things!)

... ice applied to the back of the neck may stop a nosebleed? If you find yourself with a nosebleed, and it goes on for more than 15 minutes, try applying an ice pack to the back of your neck. The cold constricts the blood vessels which lead into the head and may reduce or even stop the bleeding from your nose. (Worth a try, anyway.) Now ... you know!

### Amber Waves



### The Spats



### CROSSWORD 4-15-26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13			14
15				16					17
18				19		20		21	
			22		23		24		25 26 27
28 29 30				31		32			
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
			44		45		46	47 48 49	
50 51 52				53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60					61

#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Soak (up)
- 4 "Nova" channel
- 7 South Pacific nation
- 11 Grouch
- 13 Ump's call
- 14 Tehran's country
- 15 Rights org.
- 16 Peyton's brother
- 17 Dweeb
- 18 Spars
- 20 Boast
- 22 Prom outfit

#### CLUES DOWN

- 24 TV detective
- Remington
- 28 Shirt parts
- 32 Flynn of film
- 33 Frankfurt fellow
- 34 Cleaning cloth
- 36 Fine cotton
- 37 "Shake --" (Taylor Swift hit)
- 39 "Be serious!"
- 41 More of a snoop
- 43 Hosp. scan
- 44 Inert gas
- 46 Accord

#### 50 Pizzazz

- 53 Bro, maybe
- 55 Half a sextet
- 56 Actress Falco
- 57 -- tizzy (worked up)
- 58 Lingerie fabric
- 59 Beloved
- 60 A gazillion years
- 61 Park -- -joon of "The Marvels"

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Con job
- 2 Killer whale
- 3 Buddies
- 4 "The Raven" writer
- 5 Future tulip
- 6 Mixes up
- 7 Crime-solving aids
- 8 Rage
- 9 Pickle holder
- 10 Hoosier st.
- 12 Crunchy candy bar
- 19 Minivan alternative
- 21 Consumed
- 23 Gen- -- (baby boomer's kid)

#### 25 One of HOMES

- 26 -- Linda, Calif.
- 27 Mideast airline
- 28 Tibia's place
- 29 Jared of "Panic Room"
- 30 Cupid's alias
- 31 Droop
- 35 Tiara jewel
- 38 Service charge
- 40 Capote nickname
- 42 Wartime riveter
- 45 Boy, in Barcelona
- 47 Showy flower
- 48 Scrabble piece
- 49 Singer Ono
- 50 Last letter in London
- 51 Chemical suffix
- 52 Actress Long
- 54 Prohibit

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

### SUDOKU

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

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!

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

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

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## Georgia Legislature backed bill that would give residents new rights against homeowner associations

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

ATLANTA — Among the more popular bills to pass out of the Georgia General Assembly last week was a measure that would make it more difficult for homeowners' associations to foreclose on members' homes over disputes about money.

Sen. Matt Brass, R-Newnan, told fellow lawmakers during hearings on the bill that he had heard numerous anecdotes about associations that had abused their authority to levy fines, piling up bills that had led to liens on homes and then to foreclosure.

"You might have a rogue board member or a bad management company that wants a neighbor out or they want to try to get possession of that property," he said at a hearing last month. "And they start fining and feeing people."

Senate Bill 406 passed the Senate unanimously and it passed the state House by an overwhelming bipartisan margin. If Gov. Brian Kemp allows it to become law, it will put guardrails around the associations' authority to fine residents and place liens against their properties.

It would require associations to register annually with the Georgia Secretary of State if they plan to collect fines and fees. It would limit the types of debt that associations could use to place a lien on a property. It would double the current \$2,000 debt threshold for filing a lien provided owners are not in arrears for at least a year. It would require associations to

upload certain records to the state and open their financial books to members. And it would establish a hearing process for disputes to be overseen by the Secretary of State.

Caroline Simmons has been in a long-running dispute with her Decatur-area condominium association over the cost of new water meters. She asserted that the meters were not needed and that the board had failed to follow protocol to contract for them. She then sued.

SB 406 would give her an alternative to the courts.

"It means I have someplace other than the court to go to be able to rectify everything that I believe that the board is doing in violation of not only our declaration but of Georgia law," Simmons said in an interview this week.

She was among several homeowners who testified about aggressive association behavior at that hearing with Brass last month.

One man described a battle over the pavers he placed in the mud to give his pregnant wife safe passage through the yard. He said the association levied thousands of dollars in fines after ordering them removed.

Another man said he had spent \$25,000 dealing with water runoff from a neighbor's property. The association did not like the work he had done, which led to a costly legal fight. He called the associations "judge, jury and executioner."

A real estate agent described how an owner was at risk of losing his home because he failed to respond to an association order to repaint his front door.

She said the man had been busy tending to his dying wife.

At a prior hearing in February, a representative for the associations argued that there was no need for SB 406. Julie Howard, a lawyer who said she was a volunteer for the Community Associations Institute, said there are over 11,300 associations for condominiums and homes in Georgia, representing over 2.5 million people — about a quarter of the state.

She said residents voluntarily chose to live under those associations and that Brass was hearing from a relatively small number with complaints. She said there were already processes to hold boards accountable, including board elections.

"We don't think it's good law to make law based on a few rogue actors," Howard said.

But Brass said the existing processes had failed to protect the people who had come to him, and he described the protections in SB 406 as modest, with minimal burden on the associations. All they must do is spend \$100 a year to register with the Secretary of State and upload some of their records, he said. He said the legislation scratches the surface of the problems but establishes a framework for additional regulation in the future.

Homeowners' associations are effectively small cities, and require oversight, he said in an interview Thursday.

"I was trying to rein in the bad associations without punishing the good ones," he said. "And I think that was as close as we could get it, for now anyway."

## Local SAR honors Byron business for patriotic American flag display



Courtesy: John Trussell

**SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL** — Paul Roberts, President of the Ocmulgee Chapter, Georgia Sons of the American Revolution, presents to George Hill, Manager of Camping World in Byron, Georgia, an SAR Flag Certificate for the proper display of the American flag.

Camping World has been displaying the huge flag for many years next to I-75 which is greatly appreciated by the thousands patriotic travelers that drive by the business every day. As we are now celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of the USA, let your flag fly proudly at a your home or business!

(Left-right): Chuck Garnett, Rocky Ferrara, George Hill, Paul Roberts, Ed Trust and John Trussell.

### CAPSULE

From page 1A

"We can do something for us in the present and [show] that we remember what's important," she said.

The items are MGA and campus specific, chosen for longevity. For Warner Robins, Bennett predicted information about Thomas Hall, pictures of faculty and staff, and specific

things students contributed, including short stories or drawings.

MGA will dig up the capsule 40 years later, celebrating 50 years as a university.

Bennett said while the future is uncertain, her vision for the college involves steady growth, especially in Warner Robins. Her goal is on par to Kennesaw State.

"Warner Robins has such a potential to grow. I can

see more buildings, students and more opportunities," she said.

The college hosted events in Warner Robins, Macon, Cochran, Eastman and Dublin. Bennett said they have been the most exciting thing that she has experienced this year.

To learn more about Middle Georgia State University, go to [www.mga.edu/](http://www.mga.edu/)

### BOOK

From page 1A

Attendance is free, unless readers want to purchase an item at Decadent.

The club is approaching its first anniversary next month. Trish Del posted on Robins-to-Go her interest in starting the club and Johnson immediately wanted to assist.

"We became fast friends and we worked really hard to get the word out," she said.

Del was involved in a similar club in her home state of North Carolina. When she moved to the area, she wanted to bring a piece of home with her and meet other bibliophiles. Del has since stepped away from operations, but left it in good hands with Johnson and other admin, Crystal Noll.

The club has grown significantly. Johnson created the club's Facebook page, which started with 200 members. The group has grown to almost 700.

She believes word-of-mouth and bookmarks with their QR code have helped with promotion.

The club advertises upcoming meetings on Facebook, sharing with groups across the area. They are also listed on the official Silent Book Club website, connecting locals to the chapter.

Johnson said the club only met twice a month. After a record-breaking meeting, meetings were bumped up to the first three Tuesdays. The club has also hosted pop-ups on Saturday mornings at various locations for those unable to meet during the week.

"We're trying to include as many people or as many businesses as possible. I believe the more locations we have, the more available capacity we have for more people to join us," she said.

The club has also been invited to participate in the recent Middle Georgia Lit Fest, where they set up a table and talked to people about their chapter.

"It's open to all ages, and it's a good way for extroverts and introverts to get together over the shared love of reading," she said.

Johnson said the goal is a fully inclusive club, open to all genders and back-

grounds.

"Reading is not defined by a culture, race, color or age," she said.

Johnson's love for reading started at a young age, inspired by her mother, also an avid reader. She has since passed on the love of reading to her daughter.

"We are intergenerational with our love of reading and we're very lucky to have that and not have it be mandatory," she said.

Johnson invites young readers to participate and grow to love reading as much as she does. She said the club does not promote authors, sell books, or do book swaps because it is not about the financial aspect.

The club is looking forward to celebrating its first anniversary next month and to continue being a safe space for readers.

"Whatever makes you happy makes you happy. It's just the love of reading ... it doesn't matter if you're 10 or 94, you are welcome here."

To keep up with the Middle Georgia Silent Book Club, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1032721308378478/>.

### CENTERVILLE

From page 1A

Utility Superintendent Chris Coleman said the repavement is a large project. He said the city will use its full LMIG funding of \$122,736.76. This also includes 30% of the LMIG match allocation, \$36,821.03. The total cost of the project is \$159,557.79.

Coleman said the remaining balance will be paid by Houston County.

Evans shared that he is excited about the project. He said the road is highly used and is thankful the county will contribute to its repairs.

Earlier in the meeting, Evans proclaimed April as National Safe Digging Month. According to the proclamation, thousands of times a year, the underground infrastructure is damaged by those who do not have underground lines

located before digging. This results in service interruption, environmental damage and a threat to public safety.

In 2005, the Federal Communications Division designated 811 to provide contractors and homeowners a simple way to contact utility operators to request the location of underground lines at the intended dig site.

Evans said the Houston County Utility Coordinating Committee is a stakeholder-driven organization dedicated to the prevention of damage to underground utilities in Georgia, promoting the National 911 notification system and Georgia 811 in an effort to reduce damage.

The proclamation says damage prevention is a shared responsibility, and by using safe digging practices, contractors and homeowners can save time, money, and help keep infra-

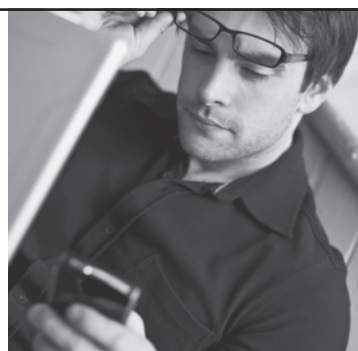
structure safe and connected.

Evans encourages contractors and homeowners throughout the city to always contact 811 before digging.

During council comments, Councilmember Velicia Lowe reminded the public that April is Child Abuse and Awareness Prevention month.

On Friday, the city hosted its annual proclamation signing and ceremony. She said they recognize and support the efforts of the Advocacy Board to support abused and neglected children in the community.

The next Centerville City Council meeting will take place Tuesday, April 21, at 5 p.m., at Centerville City Hall, 300 E. Church Street. A livestream of Tuesday's meeting and supporting documents can be found on the city's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentervilleGov>.



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## FOOD

## Lighten Up

## FEATURE IMPACT

Put away the heavy coats and break out the rain jackets and rubber boots – spring is here, and with it comes more than just pop-up showers and sunshine. After months of comfort foods and curling up indoors, you may be ready for lighter meals that won't weigh you down before splashing in the puddles.

Fresh produce may first come to mind, but spring bites can also mean swapping out ingredients like regular pasta for a solution such as pearl couscous. If you're looking to complement greens, veggies, fish or meats with light yet filling flavor, consider Success Boil-in-Bag Pearl Couscous, a small, mediterranean-style pasta that always cooks right and is ready to eat in under 7 minutes once the water boils. The BPA-free boil-in-bag simplicity makes cooking easy and foolproof: no measure, no mess, no stress.

Made with high-quality semolina wheat, it features a slightly nutty flavor on its own while absorbing the flavors of salads while retaining its density and chewy texture. It's distinguished from traditional Moroccan couscous by its slightly larger, rounder shape and less dense, firmer consistency.

Try it with your next meal in this protein-forward Shrimp Pearl Couscous Salad, made using fresh herbs, citrus, seasoned shrimp and chickpeas for a jam-packed salad that screams spring. Never boring, the tender, seasoned couscous and shrimp, veggies and aromatic herbs can bring your family running to the kitchen after a day of play.

Or, for an even simpler dish that requires just 15 minutes in the kitchen, this Pearl Couscous and Chickpea Salad is light, bright and bursting with flavor. It brings together tender pearl couscous, crisp veggies and za'atar in every bite.

To find more light spring recipe ideas, visit [SuccessRice.com](https://www.SuccessRice.com).

## Fresh Spring Meals That Won't Weigh You Down



## Pearl Couscous and Chickpea Salad

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 10 minutes  
Servings: 4

- 1 bag Success Pearl Couscous
- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup cucumber, diced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon za'atar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Prepare pearl couscous according to package directions.

In large bowl, combine couscous, chickpeas, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, parsley and za'atar.

Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper. Toss until well combined. Serve warm or at room temperature.



## Shrimp Pearl Couscous Salad

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 4

- 1 bag Success Pearl Couscous
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 tablespoon seasoned salt
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 can (14 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 English cucumber, diced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
- 1/4 cup red onions, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped

- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup feta, crumbled

Prepare pearl couscous according to package directions.

In medium bowl, toss shrimp with seasoned salt.

In large saucepan over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add shrimp and cook 5 minutes. If necessary, cook in batches to avoid overcrowding pan.

In another large pan, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add chickpeas and cook 8 minutes until crispy and golden, tossing often. Add garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and salt. Toss to fully coat and cook 2 minutes.

In large bowl, combine pearl couscous, shrimp, chickpeas, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, red onion, dill, lemon juice and remaining olive oil. Toss to combine. Garnish with feta.

## MILBY

From page 5A

Einkorn is one of the oldest cultivated wheats, unchanged for thousands of years. Compared with modern hybrid varieties, it offers higher protein, more beta-carotene, lutein, zinc, iron, magnesium, and fiber. Many folks find its gluten structure gentler and easier to digest.

It also has a lower glycemic impact, so the energy from a slice of einkorn bread lasts longer and feels steadier. Best of all, it adds a lovely nutty sweetness that makes our forty-year-old family recipe taste even better.

Fresh bread can fill an empty belly in the most wholesome way. But it can only take you so far. Jesus understood this perfectly. After fasting forty days in the wilderness, when Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread, the Lord answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4).

Yes, we can exist on physical food alone, but we cannot truly thrive the way our Creator intended without the living words of Scripture.

Later, Jesus declared, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one

comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Those words are the real bread of life.

Here in Middle Georgia—right in the heart of the Bible Belt—we are surrounded by churches on nearly every corner. It's easy to grow complacent. We can worship openly, carry a Bible in our pocket, and talk about Jesus at the senior center without a second thought. But that freedom is not the norm everywhere.

Just last week we received a sobering report from some very close missionary friends in India. The Indian government has stepped up its push to become a "Hindu-only" nation. New anti-conversion laws in several states now threaten Christians with arrest, loss of property, and even the loss of basic rights for their children. Simply sharing that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" can put a believer—and their entire family—in danger of losing everything, including the right to live.

Our missionary friends continue their quiet work anyway trusting God for protection. Their courage is a powerful reminder that the words of Scripture are not a luxury—they are life itself.

So while I wait for that warm loaf to finish baking, I'm grateful for both kinds of bread: the one that will

soon be buttered and on our plates alongside our bowls of chili, and the eternal bread that fills our souls. Fresh-ground wheat and a forty-year recipe are wonderful blessings. But the greatest gift of all is the privilege we still enjoy in this country—the freedom to open God's Word, speak His truth, and share the hope of Jesus without fear.

May we never take that freedom for granted. And may we, as seniors who have walked many miles, keep passing along both kinds of bread—to our families, our neighbors, and anyone hungry for something that truly satisfies.

Thanks for reading All About Seniors. See you next week!

PS, If you'd like the bread recipe, send me an email.

*Bill Milby is a Director of Visiting Angels® of Central Georgia, a non-medical, living assistance service for seniors. If you have questions or comments about this column you can reach him at [william.mercylink@gmail.com](mailto:william.mercylink@gmail.com) or search for us at <https://www.facebook.com/VisitingAngelsOfCentralGA>*

## JOINER

From page 5A

the wet-weather creek near Mama's home. Three strays went looking for mercy and found it. Perhaps there's a lesson in their stories.

I've finished reviewing notes through 2022 and just got to one from October 3, 2021. Shannon Akin shared this high-school remembrance in our men's Sunday School Class that Sunday. I know the date because I scribbled it on a church bulletin. It was about Mr. Hubert Yow, who taught agriculture at Vienna High

School for decades.

Mr. Yow loved orange juice and kept some in a refrigerator in the ag building. Someone, however, began discretely depleting his supply. Mr. Yow spiked the juice with syrup of ipecac, a product used years ago to induce vomiting when a person swallowed poison. The mystery was solved, and Allen Cross lost his taste for orange juice.

"Life Expectancy Plummeted in U.S." That newspaper article from September of 2021 included the 2020 chart. Men were pegged at an average of 74.5 years. I'm a bit weary

of sifting through scribbled notes, but those statistics gave me new motivation. Rather than taking a break, maybe I should write a little faster.

I'm hoping to be above average, but either way will be okay. An unwritten column, "Shadow Finds a Home," just reminded me of three stray dogs who went looking for mercy and found it. Their good fortune probably involved some luck, but man has a sure thing if we claim it. It may not be on our terms or timetable, but mercy is ours for the asking.

## TRUSSELL

From page 5A

means it has the diameter of six-pound line, fairly small and easy to cast, but a break strength of 20 pounds. I haven't had a big bass break my line in recent years, but the line wears out quickly with a lot of casting, so I replace it every few months. Stay away from cheap reels and 10 pound line or you'll be crying when a big bass breaks off.

5) Don't forget to properly set the drag on your reel. It allows the reel to ease out the line without breaking under the strain of a big bass making a strong run to escape. But it's got to be tight enough to allow you to set the hook in a bass's mouth or it may drop out. Not setting the hook with a

strong yank is a principal reason big bass are lost when they jump.

6) Always have a large landing net to get the bass in the boat as quickly as possible. Many bass are lost right at the boat when you try to ease them out of the water, then the hook and line is put under tremendous strain. That's why it's best to let the bass swim by the boat, just under the surface, and quickly scoop them up in the net.

7) How much does that bass weigh? I'm pretty good at guessing weight, but a good digital hand held scale takes the guesswork out of the picture. Recently I was fishing with Judge George Nunn at a private pond and I landed a bass in the 6-pound range and neither of us had a weighing scale with us. We took a

few photos and released the bass.

I told Judge Nunn that bass might have gone seven pounds, maybe even eight! He grinned and said "John, just keep talking and you'll have that bass over 10 pounds!" We were just having fun on a great fishing day.

If you don't have a good pond in mind to catch a big bass, give Ocmulgee Public Fishing Area, near Cochran, a try. It's a catch and release bass lake and has a good population of 5-10 pound bass in it. But it can be hard to make them bite, but it sure is nice when a whopper yanks on your line! Flat creek PFA near Perry is also a good fishing lake, but many bass end up in the cooler, so it's tough to grow a big one there. Good fishing!

## Perry goes back-to-back, Carson Camp claims golden boot in 3-0 victory against Warner Robins

By **CLAY BROWN**  
HHJ Sports Editor  
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**PERRY** — Perry started the 2026 season 1-5, and it looked like a second consecutive region title was out of the question.

Fast forward to Friday night and the Panthers (9-7, 8-2 Region 1-4A) hoisted another region trophy to add to head coach Nathan Dooley's growing cabinet of awards with a 3-0 victory against Warner Robins (2-11, 1-7 Region).

"Probably right before region play and into those first few early games," Dooley said on when the season started to turn around. "We tried, in those first six games, six different lineups and we finally found one that clicked and started to work, and we've just built on that ever since."

The region opener against Wayne County started a four-game road trip — a tough place to be when you're looking to find your footing.

But the Panthers traveled

to New Hampstead and eked out an overtime win. They edged Ware County to start their first winning streak.

Losing to Benedictine in the final game of the out-of-town stretch proved to be a footnote in an otherwise phenomenal finish to the region schedule, which included five straight wins and two shutouts.

As a team with seven seniors, Perry leaned heavily on their upperclassmen.

"Obviously our senior captains, Noah Wendler and Grant Vickers," Dooley said on the players who led the change. "We actually had to move them to different positions and they continued to play well no matter where we put them on the field... juniors J.D. Arnette and especially Carson Camp...he's our leading goals scorer on the season but tonight he became the leading goal scorer for the region."

Camp highlighted an already celebratory evening by scoring two goals and claiming the Region 1-4A lead

in goals scored this season.

Both came in the second half, the first an essential penalty kick score with 24:46 left to play. Just over two minutes later he added another to unofficially put the game out of reach. In the coming playoff run Dooley wants more of the same from his star up front.

"Just continuing to do what he does, honestly, and hopefully the ball finds the back of the net a few more times," Dooley said. "He's just been fantastic for us up top. He works hard, constantly finds a way to give us opportunities to score."

One of the things that may trouble them in the postseason is their propensity for slow first-half offense.

The Panthers' midfield did a good job moving the ball into the attacking third but the club had a hard time finishing.

Most of their misses were over the crossbar, and they varied from just off to attempting to meet Artemis II in orbit (ignoring the fact

that the craft splashed down around 8:07 p.m.).

"At halftime I told them we just needed to settle down and try to possess the ball a little bit more, try to string together a few more passes before we looked to attack on

goal," Dooley said. "We kind of switched around tactically a little bit what we were doing in the midfield as well to give us some better spacing and opportunities and I think them just executing all of that allowed those opportunities to

happen."

Perry cleaned it up in the final 40 minutes and saw significantly fewer balls sail over the goal. In order to advance past the first round, where last season ended, they'll have to do that from the beginning.

## Baseball Roundup: Houston County wins another region championship, Perry and Warner Robins fighting for last playoff spot

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

The last week of the regular season is here and there are still teams looking to make things shake in their regions.

Here's a roundup of last week's baseball:

Houston County (20-6, 12-3 Region 2-5A) finished out region play with a series win against Lee County to secure their sixth region championship in seven years.

Though not as dominant as teams past, the Bears have found a way to win with young faces in 2026.

After their Game 1 win they gave up crooked numbers in four innings of Game 2 in a 10-7 loss. But HoCo followed that up with a dominating 13-1 final, where they were 12-for-27 (.444) at the plate and held the Trojans to 2-for-16 (.125).

The Bears finish the regular season against Harlem (April 13 away, April 15 at home) and Jones County (April 17 at home).

Northside (11-15, 2-13 Region 2-5A) might not be able to get into the postseason this year, but they can win the most regular season games since 2012 with a victory this week.

Last week the Eagles were swept by Thomas County Central 13-0, 7-0 and 5-1 to end region play.

This week they have four games: A doubleheader against Westside on April 13 and two more home games on April 14 against Howard and April 15 against Hawkinsville.

Perry With last week's sweep against New Hampstead, Perry (10-14, 5-7 Region 1-4A) can lock in their playoff spot with one win against Warner Robins this week.

The Panthers didn't struggle at all with the Phoenix, who were outscored 47-3 in last week's series.

Perry will host Warner Robins on April 13 before heading up the road for the doubleheader on April 16. They also have their final non-region game on April 15 against Peach County.

Veterans (12-13, 6-9 Region 2-5A) held on to their playoff spot last week with some help from Houston County.

It was a long shot, but if Lee County swept the Bears that would've put them above the Warhawks, who held the series tiebreaker against the Trojans.

Last week's region series was (narrowly) a sweep in favor of Coffee, who stole

Game 2 with two runs in the seventh for a 4-3 final. Veterans lost the other games 5-2 and 5-3.

This week they host Tift County on April 14 and travel to Tifton on April 17 for a doubleheader.

Warner Robins (8-14, 2-10 Region 1-4A) has lost seven straight after last week, and they need a sweep in their region finale against Perry to earn a playoff spot.

Last week the Demons were outscored 35-2 in three games against Wayne County.

This week they need to win all three games against the Panthers, starting on April 13 on the road before the home doubleheader on April 16.

Westfield (11-10, 3-6 GIAA District 5-4A/3A) nearly won the series opener last week against Brookstone, but ultimately fell and were swept.

The two teams traded blows early in Game 1, but the Cougars scored the go-ahead run in the sixth. The last two games were both 14-4 finals in favor of Brookstone who remains unbeaten in the district.

This week the Hornets play Strong Rock Christian, the second-place team in the district, on April 14 away and at home for the April 16 doubleheader.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Perry senior captain Noah Wendler (11) hoists the Panthers' second consecutive Region 1-4A trophy after a 3-0 victory against Warner Robins.



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the  
DATE

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# Soccer Roundup: Perry boys win back-to-back region championships, Northside and Warner Robins split Crosstown Showdown

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

The GHSA's regular season is in its final week with all Houston County regions having a champion.

Here's a roundup of last week's soccer:

## Houston County

### Boys

Houston County (10-5, 6-4 Region 2-5A) played one match last week, a 4-2 win against ACE at home.

Region 2-5A's matches were over two weeks ago so the Bears have no room to jockey for playoff positioning, though they do have two matches this week to end the regular season.

April 14 the Bears will host Perry and on April 16 they'll head across town to play Warner Robins (this match is unclear, because Warner Robins has a region match scheduled that same day).

### Girls

The Lady Bears (11-3, 10-0 Region 2-5A) lost their first match in almost two months last week against fourth-ranked (in 1A D-1) ACE.

The 5-0 final was the Lady Gryphons' fourth straight win and 11th shutout this season.

HoCo hosts Perry on April 14 for their final regular season home match before heading over to Warner Robins on April 16 (this match is unclear, because Warner Robins has a region match scheduled that same day).

## Northside

### Boys

March 6 score against Thomas County Central still unreported.

Northside (4-11, 1-8 Region 2-5A) might not be heading to the postseason but they did reclaim their spot on top of the Crosstown Showdown against Warner Robins last week.

A spectacular defensive finish put the Eagles over the Demons 2-1 to break a four-match losing streak heading into the final week of their season.

This week they host their final match on April 13 against Bleckley County. Their season ends on April 16 at Perry.

### Girls

The Lady Eagles (4-12, 2-8 Region 2-5A) lost their fifth straight match last week, an 8-0 final against Warner Robins in the Crosstown Showdown.

This marks the 11th straight year the Demonettes have won the matchup; Northside's last victory was in 2015.

This week they host Bleckley County on April 13 for their last match at home before heading to Perry on April 16.

## Perry

### Boys

Perry (9-7, 8-2 Region 1-4A) won back-to-back region championships last week with their 3-0 victory against Warner Robins.

Junior Carson Camp scored twice to earn the region title for goals scored. The Panthers also faced Veterans, but couldn't get the offense going in a 1-0 loss.

This week the Panthers play at Houston County on April 14 and at home on April 16 against Northside.

### Girls

The Lady Panthers (10-4, 8-0 Region 1-4A) split last week's matches with a 2-1 loss at Veterans and 6-1 win against Warner Robins.

The only score of the former was from a penalty kick in the first half, though Perry poured it on with six goals against the Demonettes.

The Lady Panthers head to Houston County on April 14 and host Northside on April 16 for their final regular-season matches.

## Veterans

### Boys

Veterans (14-4, 8-2 Region 2-5A) started their third winning streak of the season last week with two wins against Perry and Northside-Columbus.

The Warhawks began the week at home with a slim 1-0 victory over the Panthers before heading to Columbus for a 3-1 win against the Patriots.

Their final regular season match is at home against Dodge County on April 16.

### Girls

The Lady Warhawks (11-7, 8-2 Region 2-5A) split last

week's matches in their final full week of the regular season.

The first was a 2-1 home victory against Perry, who only scored on a penalty kick in the first half. The second was a 6-0 drubbing at 10th-ranked (in 4A) Northside-Columbus.

Veterans faces Dodge County at home in the final match before the postseason on April 16.

## Warner Robins

### Boys

Warner Robins (2-11, 1-7 Region 1-4A) has to win their final two matches and beat Ware County by more than two goals to enter the postseason picture.

Last week's matches didn't help, two more losses in a now seven-match skid, but it is still possible for the Demons. The first match was a 2-1 loss to Northside in the Crosstown Showdown, the last a 3-0 final at Perry to finish up a two-match road trip.

This week Warner Robins will return home for two matches for the first time in over a month. The first is against New Hampstead on April 14, and there are two matches scheduled for April 16 against Ware County and Houston County (it's assumed they would play the region match).

### Girls

The Demonettes (6-5, 2-4 Region 1-4A) enter the final week of the regular season with a guaranteed spot in the postseason, but still two final region matches.

Last week Warner Robins demolished Northside 8-0 in the Crosstown Showdown, winning for the 11th straight year. They also lost to Perry 6-1 on the road.

This week the Demonettes host New Hampstead on April 14 and Ware County on April 16. There is a conflicting schedule with HoCo on April 16, it is assumed they will play the region match instead.

## Westfield

### Girls

The Lady Hornets (4-6, 2-5 GIAA District 5-4A/3A) had two flipped results last week, a 10-1 win against Calvary

Christian and 10-0 loss to St. Anne-Pacelli.

Although a district championship is out of the ques-

tion Westfield is focused on moving up one spot in the MaxPreps rankings to earn a postseason spot.

This week's games are on the road at Brookstone on April 14 and Southland Academy on April 16.

## Westfield's defense lacks aggression in 10-0 loss to St. Anne-Pacelli

By **CLAY BROWN**  
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PERRY — To put it bluntly, Westfield (4-6, 2-4 GIAA District 5-4A/3A) was thoroughly defeated on Thursday in a 10-0 final against St. Anne-Pacelli (6-5-1, 4-0 District).

The Lady Vikings moved at will and dominated possession in a match that saw only 44:27 of actual game time.

Pacelli's players were skilled with the ball and on the move constantly to put themselves in better positions to make and receive passes.

The ball moved in the attacking third like it was in a pinball machine and found its way into the net four times in the opening 14 minutes.

Lady Hornets goalkeeper Addison Mozingo was under relentless pressure, and though she wracked up an impressive amount of saves, she couldn't keep up with the seemingly endless stream of shots coming her way.

The attack slowed as substitutions rolled in, but the Lady Vikings still added two more goals before halftime for a 6-0 margin.

Roughly 30 seconds into the second half Pacelli added to their lead, and from 36:39 on the clock to 35:37 the Lady Vikings put the final three nails in the coffin to invoke the mercy rule, ending the game.

Pacelli certainly looked like last year's GIAA 4A champion, but there was no denying the lack of urgency from the Lady Hornets' defense.

The press wasn't effective and dribblers moved through with little to no resistance. There was rarely any jockey-



Brianna Smith/HHJ

Lady Hornets goalkeeper Addison Mozingo (pink) drops down to save a shot. Mozingo was under constant pressure against St. Anne-Pacelli, a 10-0 loss for Westfield.

ing for the ball and the Lady Vikings were able to set up however they wanted to take a shot.

Westfield head coach Lianna Walton thinks her team may have had their previous matchup with Pacelli, a 9-0 loss, in the back of their heads before the game.

"Pacelli is a very skilled team...last time we played them we lost 9-0, so I think the girls came in probably with a little bit of a negative attitude, thinking they were gonna get beat," Walton said. "When you come in thinking that, you don't play as well... it's hard to overcome that as much as I try to say, 'Hey we got to come out fighting and do our best.' Once you start getting down by four goals in the first 14 minutes it's hard to keep pushing."

Luckily for the Lady Hornets Pacelli won't be in their playoff bracket, assuming Westfield can make the final push to enter the top eight.

At the time of writing (April 9) they sit at ninth place in the MaxPreps rankings, which are used to seed the eight-team 3A playoff tournament.

After they finish district play against Brookstone next week they'll focus on Southland Academy (2A), Terrell Academy (#2 in 3A), Brookwood (#3 in 3A) and John Milledge Academy (#5 in 3A).

To get over the hump they'll have to win at least one of those games, and possibly two. The advantage they have over the next three teams above them is a stronger strength of schedule, but it's unclear if that will be enough.

"We have several 3A matches and those are really important for us...if we can beat one of those teams that'll probably put us in the top eight. So moving forward we really are focused on those games and trying to get a win," Walton said.

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