

The Houston Home Journal

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Weekend, April 25, 2026

'It'll be exciting'

CGTC and school district commit \$100 million to new health academy



Courtesy: Central Georgia Technical College

The STEM/Allied Health Academy is expected to open August 2027. It will be located off Highway 41 near Russell Parkway.

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

WARNER ROBINS — High school students looking to enter the healthcare field will soon have a fast track to their dreams.

Central Georgia Technical College partnered with the Houston County School District, committing \$100 million to a new STEM/Allied Health Academy.

Bloomberg Philanthropies invested \$10 million. Other contributors include Houston County Commissioners, the Georgia General Assembly, and Governor Brian Kemp.

The academy will be located off Highway 41 near Russell Parkway.

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at CGTC, Mark Scott, said the college is very excited about the opportunity. The project focuses on regional health-

care workforce development and is the start of a healthcare high school initiative.

"The goal is to provide students the opportunity to engage in fields that are associated with the allied health programs," he said.

The project will offer three diploma programs, two license programs, and two certificate programs. It will cover various avenues in healthcare like nursing, surgical technology, pharmacy tech, medical lab technology, respiratory technology, and other allied health careers.

Students will take the classes through dual enrollment, Scott said. From there, they will participate in hands-on clinical opportunities at Atrium Health Navicent, Emory Healthcare, Piedmont Healthcare, and other facilities in middle Georgia.

See **ACADEMY** page 2A

DAR Chapter unveils Liberty Tree location

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

PERRY — The General Daniel Stewart Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution hosted an unveiling of a Liberty Tree on Wednesday. The tree honors the country's 250th birthday and memories of patriots of the American Revolution.

The tree is a tulip poplar located behind the Houston County Extension Office.

Liberty trees were seen as powerful symbols leading up to the American Revolution, as colonists gathered around a large elm tree in the Boston Commons to protest.

Regent of Chapter, Claire Swinford, said the liberty tree represents freedom.

"The Liberty tree was no mere plan, it became a visible statement of unity, courage and resistance," she said. "They were reminders that liberty was rooted in community [by] growing, branching and uniting people from different backgrounds."

See **TREE** page 2A



Owen Jones/HHJ

The Perry DAR Chapter unveils a plaque marking where their Liberty Tree will grow at an event on Wednesday, April 22.

Man found dead in middle of the road, police investigating

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

WARNER ROBINS — Local police are investigating a death on a local road Tuesday morning.

According to Warner Robins Police Department, around 5:50 a.m. on April 21, officers were dispatched to the 600 block of S. Houston Lake Road.

Once on scene, officers found a man who had died in the center turn lane. The traffic division responded to investigate due to his location in the roadway.

The victim has been

identified as 58-year old Samuel Young Swain III of Warner Robins, according to Houston County Coroner James Williams.

Williams said Swain was pronounced on scene and the cause and manner of death are under investigation.

An autopsy was scheduled this week with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab.

Anyone with more information is encouraged to contact Sgt. Chris Fussell at (478) 302-5378 or Macon Regional Crimestoppers: 1-877-68CRIME.

Perry City Council hears drought restrictions, operations report

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

PERRY — City Manager Robert Smith provided a draft of the city's first quarterly operations report during Tuesday night's city council meeting.

During the pre-council meeting, Smith said what they envision in the report is to provide Mayor Randall Walker and the council with information that may be pertinent to their decision-making and constituents.

Smith shared a draft of the report, meaning they still have to ensure it is accurate before sharing it on the city's website. He said each major function has a section.

A major function is the general fund, where 87%

of revenues have been collected and spent. Smith said property taxes are collected by the end of the calendar year. He shared that they can expect to see the revenues exceeding.

Smith said the city is on track for the water fund. However, the gas fund is different because of two factors: higher prices in last winter's cold weather, and ongoing increases.

He said revenues and expenditures are exceeding what the city originally budgeted for, citing difficulty in anticipating certain issues.

The report will also have data from the Perry Police Department and Fire Department. So far, PPD data says crime-related calls are 2,517 and non-crime calls are 40,631.

See **PERRY** page 2A

Council approves transfer for shelter, talks donations



Brianna Smith/HHJ

Haven Hope House is located on 79 Green Street.

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

WARNER ROBINS — Haven Hope House, Warner Robins' homeless shelter, is one step closer to full

operation after funding was transferred to the shelter's operating partner.

Warner Robins City Council approved the transfer at their latest meeting on April 20.

The total amount, around \$60,000, was given to The Assembly at Warner Robins, a local church and the shelter's contracted operator.

See **TRANSFER** page 3A



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PERIODICAL

Word of the Day

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. — Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

Inside

Opinion, 4A

- Viewpoints
- Jim Balletto

Lifestyle & Faith, 5A

- Billy Powell
- Don Moncrief

Entertainment, 6A

- Comics
- Puzzle

Classifieds, 7A

- Sports, A7-A8
- Robins, B1-B8

A division of The Georgia Trust for Local News

THE INSIDE

County hears from Assembly Warner Robins, concurs with annexation

By OWEN JONES
HHJ Staff Writer
owen@hhjonline.com

WARNER ROBINS — Houston County Commissioners heard from Pastor Darrell Yarbrough at Tuesday's meeting. Yarbrough has been the pastor of The Assembly Warner Robins for seven years. He has three daughters, with one already married and one getting married this Saturday.

"My youngest got married first, the middle one is getting married this weekend and the oldest is still at home and doing well," he said.

He shared that we are all blessed in a lot of ways and those must have perspective on one's life.

"It's a joy to be able to get up and get out of my house today; it's a joy to be able to drive my car, walk, be in a free country and go anywhere in this country I want to go that I can afford to go," he said.

Yarbrough said we forget these blessings due to centering ourselves on things that are out of our control, and will allow God to handle those things outside of his control.

"There's a lot of things we can look at in the city, state or nation that we disagree with, but a lot of times we need to look around at the blessings and the common good we have together," he said. "I do believe God orders every step, and I believe we need his blessings."

In the agenda, commissioners discussed an annexation request from the City of Perry totaling 19.7 acres on Airport Road. The agenda said the request was presented to the Board in March 2025, and was concurred at an April meeting last year.



Houston County hears from Pastor Darrell Yarbrough of The Assembly Warner Robins at Tuesday's meeting.

Perry City Council denied the request at the June 17, 2025, meeting. It will now go through that same process again, and it will be awaiting the city council's decision.

A concerned citizen spoke against the request, saying that he does not want to see what is assumed to be townhomes coming near Airport Road. He said that a development like this does not fit on that road.

He suggests making the property something more inclusive, like a park. The citizen said they need fewer "concrete jungles" and more open spaces.

"Let's create an environment where our kids can flourish and learn," he said. "I'm suggesting if you grow up in a home, you have a better chance, I think, of success in life because you've had opportunities and space."

Commissioner Tal Talton said he respects the citizens' concerns, but added the request meets the requirements for concurrence.

"What happens to this property lies with the City of Perry," Talton said.

County Attorney Tom Hall said the Board cannot control what happens to this property. He said there are no grounds in this request to non-concur and go through arbitration.

The Board concurred with a vote of 3-1. Commissioner Shane Gottwals voted against.

The next Houston County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, at 9 a.m., located at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry. The full agenda can be found at: www.houstoncountyga.gov/minutes/2026-04-21%20Department%20Heads.pdf

Gov. Kemp declares State of Emergency in response to South Georgia wildfires

Special to The Journal

ATLANTA — Governor Brian P. Kemp declared a State of Emergency for 91 Georgia counties in response to the ongoing wildfires in South Georgia. The governor also directed the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and other relevant state agencies to mobilize all necessary resources to assist with active response efforts in the southern region of the state. The State of Emergency will remain in effect for 30 days, unless otherwise renewed.

"With much of Georgia remaining in extreme drought conditions, wildfires have already surpassed the state's 5-year average and continue to spread," said Governor Brian Kemp. "My team and I are working closely with Georgia State Forester Johnny Sabo and his team, along with federal, state, and local officials, to ensure we are doing everything possible to combat the fires and provide assistance to affected communities. We are praying for the families who have lost their homes in these devastating conditions, as well as for the first responders working around the clock."

The State of Emergency is in addition to the State Forester's Burn Ban Order issued earlier today for the same 91 counties. The burn ban will remain in effect for 30 days, unless otherwise extended, and prohibits, among other activities, prescribed burns as well as the burning of yard debris and agricultural material in the affected area.

The State of Emergency allows for the Georgia Department of Defense to mobilize Georgia National Guard troops and resources for response and recovery efforts. Air assets and

Guardsmen are being activated and deployed to the affected areas.

Among other provisions, the State of Emergency order also prohibits price gouging.

State Action and Response: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations for the Pineland Road Fire burning in Clinch and Echols Counties and the Highway 82 Wildfire burning in Brantley County. A federal Incident Management Team (IMT) is also being called up to assist with response.

All relevant state agencies are assisting with ongoing response efforts, including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is providing three helicopters with fire suppression capabilities; a D6 Dozer and operator for debris removal; two Type 2 Water Engines and four team members; and ten Game Wardens to assist with evacuations, GFC investigations, and clearing burned structures and debris. The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) is providing three helicopters to support wildfire response efforts. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is assisting with livestock relocation in impacted areas.

Wildfire Safety and Preparedness Guidance:

For current wildfire information and emergency updates, visit gatrees.org/current-wildfire-information-and-resources/.

GFC will provide ongoing updates via its website and social media accounts. Residents are encouraged to heed directives and information from their local authorities and Emergency Management departments.

TREE

From page 1A

Swinford shared that modern Liberty Trees remind us that history is not only preserved in archives but also lives and breathes in our landscapes.

"Each planting ceremony connects present day citizens to patriots who once gathered under branches or around poles to proclaim their determination for freedom," she said.

Second Vice Regent Beth McLaughlin said this tree symbolizes the ideals that have shaped our nation: freedom, justice and hope. She said the tree is a living memorial honoring our ancestors while also inspiring future generations.

"These Liberty Trees are a visual reminder that the roots of freedom must always be nurtured and protected," she said.

This specific Liberty Tree, tulip poplar, is native to Georgia and some live to be over 350 years old. McLaughlin said these trees have seen the birth of our country.

"This tree will commonly reach 70 to 100 feet tall, and within 15 years it will grow to be about 40 feet tall providing a lot of shade," she said.

The DAR hopes this tree will grow tall and strong and inspire everyone who sees it.

ACADEMY

From page 1A

The aim is for students to graduate high school with college credentials and enter the workforce with a good-paying job. Through dual enrollment, they can achieve their career goals without debt.

"It just speeds up that process and they can enter the workforce quicker. It also solves workforce issues in the healthcare industry," he said. "It fits the need for the healthcare industry, but it also allows students to get those credentials without incurring student loans."

Scott said CGTC's mission is to help by ensuring healthcare partners have

the workforce they need.

"We want our communities to have quality healthcare for their citizens and Central Georgia Technical College wants to do their part in making sure that happens," he said.

Scott believes this is only the beginning. Although Health Academy will be located in Houston County, CGTC will facilitate partnerships across its 11-county service area. Scott said the college is fortunate to collaborate

with the school district and local communities. He hopes CGTC will be able to expand the program as community needs are identified.

Although the academy is slated for an August 2027 opening, students can take their core academics in the 2026-2027 school year. They'll enter clinicals the following year.

Scott said, "It'll be exciting to see those students come through in the first cohort to see what they do in the future."

PERRY

From page 1A

In fire and emergency services, the data is divided into fire station one and fire station two. According to Smith, 75% of the responses come from station one.

Smith shared Public Works data; in the Woodlawn Drive area, the city is averaging 1.92 million gallons of water used per day. The city is permitted to produce up to 4 million in the area.

Tucker Road averages 1.13 million gallons, but the city can produce two million in the area.

Frank Satterfield Road averages about 2.74 gallons per day, almost to permit, according to Smith. He said data showed the need for the new wastewater treatment facility on the east side of the city.

Smith encouraged the mayor and council to provide their input.

"I think this will be a good thing for us moving forward, good thing for you all as public officials, but also a good thing for the public," he said.

The report will be published on the city's website once finalized.

During pre-council, Smith explained the city's response to recent severe drought.

Houston County is in level

one restrictions. Smith said they will keep the community informed about water conservation measures.

If the weather continues to be dry, a level two restriction will prompt further decisions from the city.

According to the city's drought contingency plan, level two restrictions mandate outdoor water use restrictions and a notice sent to all customers prohibiting unnecessary use of water. If customers utilize water in a non-approved way, they could be locked out of water usage, Smith said.

The city will also allocate water to essential functions over ornamental, and implement industrial recycling.

"It's very dry in the state of Georgia. The state is taking it very seriously and very soon could be coming back to you all with some restrictions to put into place," Smith said.

The city is currently at a level one drought and encourages water conservation.

To see more tips, visit: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drought-management>.

Early in the regular meeting, the mayor and council recognized various employees for their service.

The city presents an Employee Service Award to

those who have worked for the city for five years or more, up to 20 years.

Those recognized for five years of service include:

- Donnie Brown, Solid Waste Operator III
- Pam Collins, Building Custodian III and Crew Leader
- Alan Everidge, Chief of Police
- Cory Gaston, Fire Sergeant
- Kim Morton, Senior Detective Sergeant
- Deonte Solomon, Solid Waste Operator III
- Holly Wharton, Director of Economic Development

Those who have served the city for 10 years include:

- Nadan Jeanjulien II, Fire Lieutenant
- Chad McMurrian, Senior Engineering Service Manager
- Andrew Rowell, Fire Lieutenant

Finally, Lieutenant David Hill was recognized for his 20 years of service with the city.

Mayor and Council will hold their pre-council meeting at 5 p.m. and the regular council meeting at 6 p.m. on May 5. Everyone is invited to attend, and the agenda is available at perry-ga.gov/subscribe-agendas-minutes. Both meetings are also livestreamed at: youtube.com/@PerryComms.

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OBITUARIES

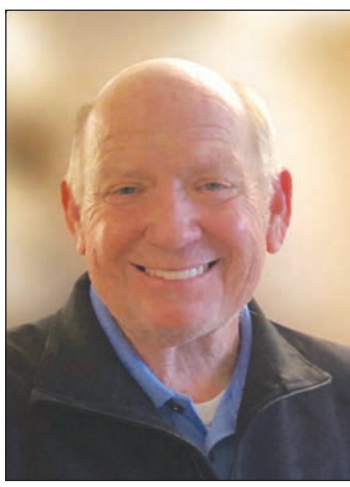
Robert "Bob" Scott McInnis

Robert "Bob" Scott McInnis, a man of unwavering integrity and deep devotion to his family and country, entered into heaven on April 16, 2026.

Bob was born on November 10, 1948, in Mobile, Alabama, to the late Robert Polk and Claudine Brinson McInnis. He spent his early years in Mobile before moving to Warner Robins, Georgia, at the age of 16. It was there that his life truly took shape. While attending Warner Robins High School, he met the love of his life, Lucy—a love story that would span nearly 57 beautiful years. He graduated with the Class of 1967, beginning a lifetime marked by dedication, service, and quiet strength.

Shortly after graduation, Bob answered the call to serve his country by joining the United States Army, where he served honorably for five years, including during the Vietnam War in Okinawa. His commitment to service did not end there; he continued his military career with the Air National Guard, ultimately retiring after 20 years of faithful service.

Bob also pursued higher education with determination, earning both his Bachelor's degree in Business and his Master's degree in Logistics from Georgia College in Milledgeville. He carried that knowledge into a distinguished civil service career at Robins Air Force Base, where he worked



as a Program Manager. During his tenure, he had the honor of contributing to critical and historic projects, including work on Air Force One and AMRAAM systems for Marine One—efforts that reflected both his expertise and his deep sense of responsibility.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Bob was known for his joyful spirit and kind heart. He loved photography, traveling, and, above all, spending time with his beloved grandchildren. He was a happy, fun-loving man who treated everyone he met with warmth and respect. His character was defined by integrity, humility, and a genuine care for others.

A devoted man of faith, Bob was a longtime member of Shirley Hills Baptist Church, where he and Lucy were married many years ago. He faithfully served his church community, including a time as Sunday School Director, and was an active member of the Betty Haseldon Sunday School Class. He also enjoyed fellowship with friends as part of the "Old Crows" group on base.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Cheryl Peace; sisters-in-law, Annie McInnis and Carla Ferria; and brothers-in-law, George Runyon and Louie Ferria.

His memory will forever be treasured by his wife, Lucy McInnis; children, Robert Scott McInnis, Jr. (Heather) of Newnan, Georgia, and James Patrick McInnis (Catherine Mays) of Kathleen, Georgia; grandchildren, Taylor Adams (Connor) Amelia McInnis, Rory McInnis, Noah McInnis, Lucy McInnis, Penny McInnis, and Olive McInnis; great-granddaughter, Georgia Grace Adams; siblings, Bill McInnis (Sandra), Ricky McInnis, and Brent McInnis; brother-in-law, Carl Runyon (Phyllis); sisters-in-law, Denise Runyon and Elaine Hardison (Mark); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Monday, April 20, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at McCullough Funeral Home with a funeral service immediately following in the chapel. Afterward, Bob will be laid to rest in Magnolia Park Cemetery with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests memorial donations be given in memory of Bob McInnis to Shirley Hills Baptist Church Building Fund.

McCullough Funeral Home and Crematory has the privilege of being entrusted with these arrangements.

CALENDAR

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 free on Saturday. All items half price on Saturday!

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

For more information, please email: hocofoendsofthelibrary@gmail.com or, visit houpl.org, click "Support the Library, click "Friends of the Library".

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

Autism Acceptance Walk & Resource Meet Up

April 25 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Center Park | 103 Church St., Centerville

Macon/Warner Robins GRLS will host a free Community Autism Acceptance Walk and Resource Meet-Up at Center Park in Centerville, bringing together families, advocates, and local providers for a morning focused on connection, awareness, and support for the autism community in Middle Georgia.

The event will feature a brief community walk around the park, a resource hub with local organizations serving neurodivergent families, and an opportunity for parents and caregivers to connect with one another. Participants are encouraged to wear blue shirts in solidarity and support of the autism community, creating a visible show of support during the walk.

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.

The legacy lives on in funeral directing



Courtesy: Lossie Glover

Left-Right: Eric Glover, Lossie Glover, Vincent Glover.

Special to The Journal
PERRY — The Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association honored and recognized several of its members in the third district recently.

Among these were three Houston County citizens, including Lossie A. Glover, part owner and CEO of Bobby Glover Mortuary.

Lossie has been a licensed funeral director and grief counselor for more than 40 years. She also serves as lady attendant for the business pres-

ently. Her two sons, Vincent and Eric Glover were also honored. Both are licensed funeral directors and embalmers for the state of Georgia.

Vincent is a graduate of Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro, Georgia. He is also a district manager for Service Life Insurance Co.

Eric is a graduate of S.D. Bishop College of Mortuary Science in Mobile, Alabama.

They are also the sons of

the late Bobby E. Glover, a former Perry City Councilman. Both work in the business and are partners.

The District expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the three listed and thanked them for serving Houston and surrounding counties providing some of the best funeral service in the vicinity.

Bobby Glover Mortuary is located at 1006 Creekwood Drive in Perry and has been in business since 1970.

TRANSFER

From page 1A

City Administrator James Drinkard said donations have come to the city over time from organizations and private citizens to support the shelter.

Responding to a question from Councilman Charlie Bibb, Drinkard said interested donors can now give directly to the church.

"We recognize that some folks may not be comfort-

able making the donation to the church itself, even though they're designating the funds directly for the benefit of Haven Hope House," Drinkard said.

To remedy this, the city and church are discussing creating a non-profit specific to the shelter that donors can give to, cutting out the middleman.

"We'll continue to accept donations while that is ongoing, but we have already begun encouraging people to make their dona-

tions to The Assembly, so we are increasingly out of that business," Drinkard said.

In the meantime, Drinkard said future shelter-supporting donations to the city will be periodically transferred to The Assembly as needed.

The ribbon was cut on Haven Hope House in October 2025. Since then, the shelter has run intermittently as a warming center and outreach center.

 BALL, JAVEON WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING (F), ENTERING AUTO.	 BARBEE, ERICKA WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING.	 BENNETT, SONNY WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR GIVING FALSE NAME, DOB, ADDRESS TO OFFICER/ST. CT VOP/THEFT BY TAKING.	 BIVINS, BENJAMIN WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS DAMAGE.
 DAVIS, MAKHI WANTED BY THE FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPOS POLICE DEPT. FOR BURGLARY-2ND DEGREE, CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY-2ND DEGREE, AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS.	 DAWSON, RAHEEM WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR V.G.C.S.A. POSS. OF MARIJUANA W/INT. TO DISTRIBUTE, WILLFUL OBSTRUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, HIT & RUN, RECKLESS DRIVING.	 GLOVER, JAQUON WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BENCH WARRANT/RACKETEERING.	 GRAY, ARCHIE WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR/SIMPLE BATTERY.
 HOWARD, TODD WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING-FELONY.	 JORDAN, TRAVION WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BATTERY SUB PHYSICAL HARM.	 KING, MARQUIS WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/ST. CT VOP.	 NELSON, TANGIE WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FORGERY - 1ST DEGREE /GIVING FALSE NAME, DOB, ADDRESS TO OFFICER/ OTHER DRIVING OFFENSES.
 MENDEZ-TOREZ, LUDWIN WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY.	 RIDLEY, D'ANGELO WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AGGRAVATED STALKING F/V/ BATTERY - FAMILY VIOLENCE.	 ROBINSON, ZION WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR POSS./A DURING COMM./POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OF CONVICTED FELON/VGCSA - POSS. MARIJUANA W/INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE/VGCSA POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.	 SILVER, STERLING WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR 10 COUNTS OF THEFT BY TAKING/THEFT BY DECEPTION.

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

The Houston Home Journal

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Danyale Starley
Controller, GTLN

Pam Burney
General Manager

Don Moncrief
Publisher
publisher@hhjonline.com

Brianna Smith
Managing Editor
brianna@hhjonline.com

Lori Kovarovic
Advertising Director/Sales
lori@hhjonline.com

Anna Carter
Diana Busby
Legals, Classifieds & Circulation
anna@hhjonline.com

Clay Brown
Sports Editor
clay@hhjonline.com

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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P.O. Box 1910
1210 Washington Street, Perry, GA 31069
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The Bentley eclipse

There will be a solar eclipse this summer—but not in Georgia. Yet it was only nine years ago that the Great Eclipse of August 12, 2017, gave rise to wonderful memories across the state.

While Middle Georgia didn't get a total eclipse, it was still pretty cool, I'm told—but I wasn't home for the big event. Alden, Grant, and I drove to Blairsville, where we watched the total eclipse at a friend's home. I saw the serpents all over the ground, the corona, and that eerie horizon light show. As cool as we thought it was, Alden's dog, Bentley, thought it was out of this world.

When we arrived home, on Bentley's circular carpet by the door—where he was trained to sit whenever it opened—there sat the strangest pile of items you could imagine.

Bentley had gone through the house and collected pine cones, toys, knickknacks, food items, books off the shelf, binoculars—even a potted plant. Just a host of things. He piled them neatly on his carpet and was very proud of his accomplishment when we got home.

He never did that before or after the eclipse—but Bentley hasn't experienced another solar eclipse.

Bentley is an Australian shepherd in theory, but smaller, faster, and funnier than most. He's the smartest dog I've ever been around. He thinks he's human—other than his habit of chasing (and catching) squirrels. He's still faster than greased lightning, even at 10 years old. He can grab a rotisserie chicken off the counter and be in the

COLUMNIST

KELLY BURKE



backyard before you can turn around. Right, Lauren?

He can snatch a baby quail out of the air, run around the backyard, and deposit the chick on the deck—traumatized but without a scratch. Bentley can steal a loaf of bread and then eat a slice a day, right in front of you, just to remind you what he did. He once pulled a potted plant out of its pot and left the plant sitting on the back porch. We looked everywhere for the flower pot. A few days later, the neighbors were over and I told the story. Bentley perked up his ears, so I asked him where the pot was. He darted off the porch and came back with it. We were all in hysterics.

But strangely enough, his

favorite snack is bumble bees. Alden has lectured him on the importance of bumble bees in our ecosystems, but every Spring, as soon as she let's her guard down, he's leaping 6 feet in the air snapping clueless bees out of the air.

Recently, the cat who was once his nemesis, Yoshi, went missing. Yoshi had missed his kidney medication and was in danger. My daughter and her now-husband couldn't find him anywhere. Alden asked Bentley, "Where's Yoshi?" Bentley darted off the porch and ran to the grill. Yoshi had crawled under the grill cover and was prepared to die there. Yoshi is still with us today, thanks to Bentley.

But my favorite Bentley story took place in 2018. I

came home and Bentley wanted to go for a ride. We climbed into my MGB, and off we went. At the intersection of Highway 96 and Lake Joy, we caught a red light. Bentley slowly turned his head to the left, then to the right, then straight ahead again. The kids in the cars beside me were laughing at the crazy dog—as was I. Bentley, though, was as cool as James Bond.

Every kid needs a dog. Only Alden got a Bentley.

Kelly Burke was born in Knoxville, where he spent his younger years, followed by high school years in Atlanta, where he graduated from Georgia Tech and Mercer Law School. He has been in private practice, a magistrate judge, and an elected district attorney. He writes about the law, politics, music, and Ireland. He and his wife enjoy gardening, playing with their Lagotto Ramanolo named George Harrison, and spending time with their grandchildren. To see this column or Kelly's archives, visit www.kellyburke.com. You can email Kelly at dakellyburke@gmail.com.

A tale of war, passports, good constituent service

While most of us have viewed the war with Iran on television from the comfort of our home, to Shelly Corgel in Cobb County, it has been up-close-and-personal. Her daughter, Leah, has lived and worked in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, for the past 10 years. For security reasons, I have agreed not to get into the details of her work. Suffice it to say it is in a dangerous part of the world.

The UAE, along with other Arab countries, had come under attack from missiles and drones being launched by Iran, resulting in injuries and fires and damage to industrial sites. It was a dangerous place to be.

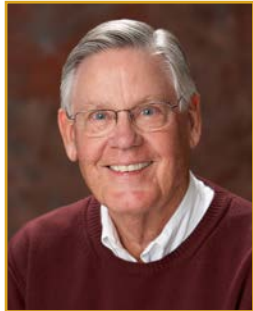
Ms. Corgel told me, "When I saw the headline that the U.S. and Israel had attacked Iran, I immediately contacted Leah. She was very frightened and distraught. Not only was she terribly afraid because of not knowing exactly what was happening, she was hearing extremely loud explosions, which it turned out were missiles being shot down by the UAE defense system." (According to reports, the UAE was hit by some 2,300 drones and over 500 missiles and their defense systems had intercepted 90% of them.)

As a result of what was happening, Leah Corgel was being told to shelter in place by the UAE government. If she chose to evacuate, she would have to go alone. Because of the nature of his work, her husband could not leave. That brought up a problem. No passport.

According to Leah, "I sent my passport for renewal on February 17, which was about two weeks before the conflict started. While I was not planning to return to the U.S., I was very frightened by the initial and confusing 'Depart Now' orders on from

COLUMNIST

DICK YARBROUGH



the State Department and not having a travel document in hand and no way to get out."

Shelly Corgel said, "My fear was that if she didn't get out soon, the whole Middle East might erupt into war and then she wouldn't be able to leave. She had several dealings with the US authorities there but by Tuesday, March 3, there was still no passport."

One option was to get an Emergency Passport which would allow her to get out of the country but then she would not be able to get back in the UAE. Also, she was not sure which countries would allow her entry with that kind of passport.

In desperation, Shelly Corgel called Sen. Jon Ossoff's offices. A friend who had hosted fund raisers for Jon Ossoff gave her his cell phone number. She called that number (A worried mom has no shame when it comes to her children, she told me) and left a message. After reminding him that they had met previously and had talked at length about her daughter living in Abu Dhabi, she got to the issue at hand: Her daughter desperately needed a passport, and they were following every avenue they could to get it.

Ms. Corgel said within 2 hours of calling Ossoff's office, "I got a call from his constituent services representative to follow up on Leah and the passport situation and was told that Senator Ossoff personally

instructed them to check in with her about Leah if anything else was needed." Leah now has her passport.

Shelly Corgel says, "Thinking about this now brings back so many emotions about that time and the situation. I was so touched by Senator Ossoff's compassion and his staff's personal response to our situation that I cried."

A number of former members of Congress from both sides of the aisle read this column on a regular basis and I suspect they would be the first to tell you that while their political positions got them elected, it was good constituent service that kept them there. I know of several who were so busy creating a national profile for themselves, they were not responsive to their constituents' needs and lost reelection. We may forgive you on how you voted on a political issue. We won't forget if you failed to help us in our time of need. First things first.

As of this writing, Leah Corgel says things have been calm in Abu Dhabi since the ceasefire and that life is relatively back to normal. "It's important for your readers to know that their representative or senator can help in these situations," she says and adds, "That said, let's hope they are never in this situation."

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



All the things I used to worry about

I like to think that I am a calm, relaxed person. No matter what life throws my way, I want to believe that, and I certainly do try, I can roll with the punches, as they say, and not let anything get me down.

Well, I have been lying to myself. While sometimes I handle the stress and uncertainty of life with the composure of a well-practiced monk or the most stoic of philosophers, clinging to the words of the old hymn, "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," most of the time I am worried about something. In fact, you can call me a worrywart.

Even as a kid I could always find something to fret about, and like most worries, they never came to pass. I shudder to think of the hours wasted, staring into space or lying awake at night on time wasted thinking about things that really did not matter.

Now, as an adult facing the real struggles of life, like the rising cost of living; making sure my own children are taken care of; and trying to

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

KYLE DOMINY



figure out the source of that new strange noise my car is making, it's fun to remember the things that worried younger me.

Here are some of them: Quicksand! The world was allegedly full of this natural boobytrap, and there wasn't a children's book, cartoon or video game that didn't have the protagonist struggling to pull themselves free from a patch of quicksand. If you didn't act fast, a body could be sucked into the earth and never seen again, leaving only a hat comically floating on the surface.

Quicksand can occur in the United States, but typically only on beaches and coastal

wetlands. While I've been stuck in the mud, walking or driving too close to a body of water, I've never seen or heard a credible account of quicksand.

Mad cow disease: In the early 1990s you could not turn on the news or pick up a newspaper without seeing something this strange ailment killing cows. As it turns out, if you feed a cow food made from other cows, which used to be a common practice, it could develop bovine spongiform encephalopathy, a deadly degenerative infection of the central nervous system.

See DOMINY page 5A

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

Going to Whisky River?

I overheard the young lady say to her friend, "We went to Whisky River last Saturday night. We had a blast. The bourbon was flowing freely. I was so tipsy when I left that I could hardly make it to the car!"

She didn't indicate if someone drove her home or she drove herself. I certainly hope she was chauffeured by someone less inebriated as alcohol and automobiles don't mix, a lethal combination that can result in death on the highways, oftentimes destroying the lives of innocent people.

I doubt if the young lady made it to church the next day. She probably suffered an excruciating hangover that left her severely depressed all day Sunday. On Monday, her nerves were probably so frayed she was in no condition to go to work and, if she did, certainly not as a productive employee.

There are those who drink and are still able to make it to church on Sunday, but they don't enjoy a meaningful worship experience. Old Taylor and Wild Turkey have a way of dulling your spiritual receptors. In other words you just can't seem to 'get with the program' when your head hurts, your stomach is queasy and your brain is still staggering from the effects of the night before.

A preacher friend of mine once told me he was appalled at the number of people in his church that

PARABLES TO PONDER

BILLY POWELL



drank excessively. I would imagine that, if everyone who entered church on Sunday had to excuse themselves from the service if they drank the night before, the number of people setting in the pews would be significantly reduced. Churchgoers have ingenious ways of obtaining spirits without being seen doing so.

Many will justify drinking by saying that Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding in Canaan or that Paul wrote Timothy to take a little wine for his infirmities. An uncle once told me that "the Bible states it's better to drink it than to crave it."

Knowing this wasn't in the Scriptures, I replied that the verse must have come from Hezekiah to which he agreed. Incidentally, Hezekiah was a king of Judah not a book of the Bible.

Trying to get a person to quit drinking is close to impossible. Tell them that the CDC in Atlanta estimates that drinking (or smoking) shortens the average person's life span by 12-years and they will

counter with the example of Uncle Bud who drank every day of his life, was making daily treks down to the pool room at age 95 to get his midday mug of beer and who lived to be 106.

Actuarial departments of major insurance companies simply say that "the more you drink, the quicker you die." You can never convince a person that running on his or her own steam—at peace with self, fellowman and God—is a superior state to the 'buzz' of a chemical fix.

Unfortunately, with the exception of long-term fervent prayer, there is really very little you can do to get a person to stop drinking. Usually, nothing short of direct intervention by God will cause a person to quit. And sometimes God's remedy may not be the preferred alternative.

The Holy Scriptures warn us that strong drink is a mocker and a destroyer of lives. Personally, I do not condemn those who suffer this addiction. It is my fervent prayer that, through God's wonderful plan for their lives, they will find a way to quit.

The high-society soundtrack
How Regina Music Boxes captured the ears of an era

Long before the crackle of the phonograph or the glow of the radio, the soundtrack of a high-class Victorian evening was the crystalline "twinkle" of the Regina Music Box.

What began in 1870 as an innovation in disc-playing technology—the Polyphon—eventually evolved into a global symbol of prestige and engineering brilliance. Today, historians and collectors look back at these clockwork marvels not just as instruments, but as the first true "on-demand" music machines for the modern consumer.

Engineering the "Twinkle"

The magic of the Regina lies beneath its polished wooden lid. Unlike the delicate cylinders of earlier music boxes, the Regina utilizes interchangeable metal discs. As a clockwork motor spins the disc, tiny indentations on the surface strike a series of metal combs.

The result? A melodic, shimmering sound that could fill a ballroom. For those looking for more than a simple tune, some models were engineered to mimic an entire orchestra, replicating the sounds of:

- The Mandolin and Guitar
- The Piano

ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



• Percussion and Drums
A Status Symbol in the Parlor

By the time Polyphon Musikwerke hit full production in 1896, these boxes were the ultimate "must-have" for the wealthy. To own a Regina was to signal your status to every guest at the party.

The price of admission for this musical luxury was steep. By 1905, a basic model might cost \$10 (roughly \$358 in today's currency), while the grandest, floor-standing models could fetch upwards of \$400—a staggering \$14,300 by modern standards.

The Fight for the Living Room

The music box industry faced a massive existential threat at the turn of the century: the rise of the phonograph. As record players became more affordable, the Regina Company attempted a bold "if you can't beat 'em,

join 'em" strategy.

In 1903, they unveiled the Regina-phone, a clever hybrid machine capable of playing both traditional metal discs and the new phonograph records. It was a bridge between two worlds—the mechanical past and the electronic future.

An Enduring Legacy

The dual blows of World War I and the Great Depression eventually silenced the music box industry. To survive, the Regina Company pivoted from delicate musical combs to the industrial hum of vacuum cleaners.

While they no longer produce the "twinkling" songs of the 1890s, the surviving Regina Music Boxes remain a testament to a time when music was a rare, crafted luxury that required nothing more than a wound spring and a dream of a melody. Happy Collecting!

'Some bunny get us out of here!'

It keeps going and going... No plug for the popular battery intended, but it "was" the one my wife and I pinned our desperate hopes on this past weekend.

I digress. I had last Thursday and Friday off. My wife and I decided to spend it and Saturday and Sunday in Savannah.

We took her little Miata. (Versus my truck). I did all of the driving over, all of the driving while there and all of the driving back.

"No honey. You just relax," I said. "I'll make the difficult sacrifice."

(Truth: Six speeds, top down, ballcap on... couldn't let my bald crown turn into a beet... weaving in and out of traffic on those city streets like a NASCAR driver on a road course. "Somebody pinch me. I think I'm in Heaven!")

We got there. Checked into the hotel.

"We have time enough to go to one of the antique stores (my wife said to go to)," my wife said.

"We do," I replied.

I put the address into Google Maps. We were three miles from "downtown". Maps said it would take 32 minutes to get there. "Hmm? Okay."

After a turn here, a turn there, a turn everywhere, me: "Looks like we're going to have to rely on your phone to get back. Mine's in the red and I don't think it's going to last much longer."

Her: "Afraid I can't help you. Mine's about to shut down, too."

Me: "How can yours be about to shut down! It's been on the (USB) charger (the car's port) the whole time!"

Her: "I don't know."

A little investigation – swapping out phones, looking at the little charging icon at top – or lack thereof – revealed the charger had simply stopped working!

A short time later my phone went dead.

A short time after that, her phone went dead.

Uh oh.

HHJ PUBLISHER

DON MONCRIEF



Me: "How in the world are we going to find our way back to the hotel!"

What she could have said: "I don't know. You're the 'driver', remember."

I then noted her car had a cigarette lighter socket.

"Aha." We went on a search for a USB port that plugged into it. Two gas stations later. Nothing. We continued to drive.

"A Dollar General," we both screamed at the same time.

I went into the Dollar General. They had one. I bought it. I came out, took it out of its packaging, plugged it in. Nothing. Nada.

"It doesn't work," I said despairingly like a man who had just been told he has about an hour to live.

Her: "Look. There's an electrical outlet in front of the store." Sure enough. There it was. Right next to the entrance. I walked over to it ready to stand there for however long it took. Even though, I thought, it might make me look like one of those people – no judgment intended – who hang out in front of stores asking for handouts. (Or like in the old days as a youth: "Hey mister. Will you buy us some beer?")

Regardless. The plug had no current flowing through it.

I remembered seeing a Best Buy. A lightbulb came on. (If only I could plug my phone into its source.) "Maybe they'll have a battery backup that has some charge to it?"

We drove. We passed a couple on the street corner, arms pointing this direction, that direction.

"Um hum. They're as lost as we are," I thought. I also

saw a huge Waffle House sign like a mile up in the air. "Um hum. If only we were staying there," another random thought. "We could find that from anywhere."

Enter the bunny... in a sea of options - other battery backups. I remembered the promise. "You better be good to your word," I said to him in my mind.

I bought it. I opened it. It had a little button that would display the charge it had left on it. I sheepishly reached for it and pushed it... 77 percent.

"Thank you Jesus!"

I plugged in my phone. Charged it up enough to bring it to life and back to the hotel we went. Crisis averted.

Remember back in the day when we used to keep a handful of paper maps in our glovebox? The passenger would unfold them deep and wide enough to cover a picnic bench, then squint with all of their might to find an itchy bitsy spider – aka road – so you knew where you were and where you needed to go to get where you were going?

Well, those bad boys are about to make a comeback in our household. (Note: As a matter of fact, we were already at the antique store when this whole thing went south, so I said, "Let's just go ahead and go in here and deal with this afterwards." While in there, though, I told my wife to look for a map of Savannah. And she actually found one. Unfortunately, you'd have to be living in the 1800s for it to have been of any use.)

Cutting through the supplement clutter

We look at dietary supplements and pharmaceutical medicine far too much as a source of health and wellness instead of the things they often try to duplicate. Once again, confusion and tactful marketing often convince us that we need these laboratory created items to burn fat, stay healthy or to get well, when many times by simply adjusting our dietary and lifestyle habits, we can often not only offset the problem, but we can also address the root cause of the problem.

Often when there is a particular food that helps certain body functions, whether it's to release stored fat, use up cholesterol in our blood (to make bile), lower blood pressure etc., a laboratory will then try to duplicate this by singling out the main ingredient that causes this effect on our body. They will isolate this ingredient, concentrate it, and make it available for purchase to the market so that we can enrich our diet without consumption or extra consumption of the original source(s).

There are a few questions we can ask when considering a supplement:

1. Am I deficient in this particular nutrient or do I have reason to think that I am deficient?

A need for protein due to increased demands from physical activities such as sports, physical labor, or exercise routine. Protein powder and Amino Acids help supplement a diet when your intake of meat, eggs, milk, and beans is low.

YOUR HEALTH

WADE YODER



A need for a multi-vitamin-mineral due to a shortage of fruits and vegetables in the diet.

2. Will I increase these foods in my diet, or will I supplement my diet? We can very easily enrich our diet with almost anything by doing an Internet search for foods rich in this particular nutrient.

If you need more protein in your diet, simply type in (foods rich in protein) or if you need more potassium to lower your need for water pills, type in (foods rich in potassium).

3. If my decision is to purchase a supplement to my existing diet, do I trust the source/manufacturer? Quality is very important because if your body cannot properly absorb the nutrient your body will have to figure out how to cleanse it out of the body and if it is unable to it could cause potential toxicity.

These are the things we need to supply to our body, oxygen, hydration, protein, fat, carbs, vitamins, minerals, micro-nutrients and enzymes, and we can get these from the air we breathe, the fluids we drink and the choice of foods we make for ourselves, and our health largely relies on the quality and balance of these

along with adequate activity and rest.

Always remember that supplements are simply a supplement to counter a deficiency in the diet. One reason that foods rich in a certain nutrient can work so much better at supplying this particular nutrient than in isolated supplement form, is all the other nutrients in the food that work together and they understand exactly why they are there and they help each other absorb into the body in perfect unison.

I have a sheet I like to hand out with a list of over 400 known nutrients that are in an apple, there are many more unnamed nutrients in an apple as well! Foods, especially whole foods can have over 1000 individual nutrients in them and many times do not work as well when isolated and taken away from their micro-nutrient family.

We may not know what all these individual nutrients are for or what their purpose is, but they work together and have been created by nature's laboratory that was designed by a Creator who knew exactly how and what it took to supplement our life!

DOMINY

From page 4A

The BSE crisis was mostly a European problem, but the effects were felt worldwide as people became afraid of eating possibly tainted beef.

This, and the undercover reports on unsanitary conditions of meat processing and packing plants that were popular at the time, forced my parents to convince me

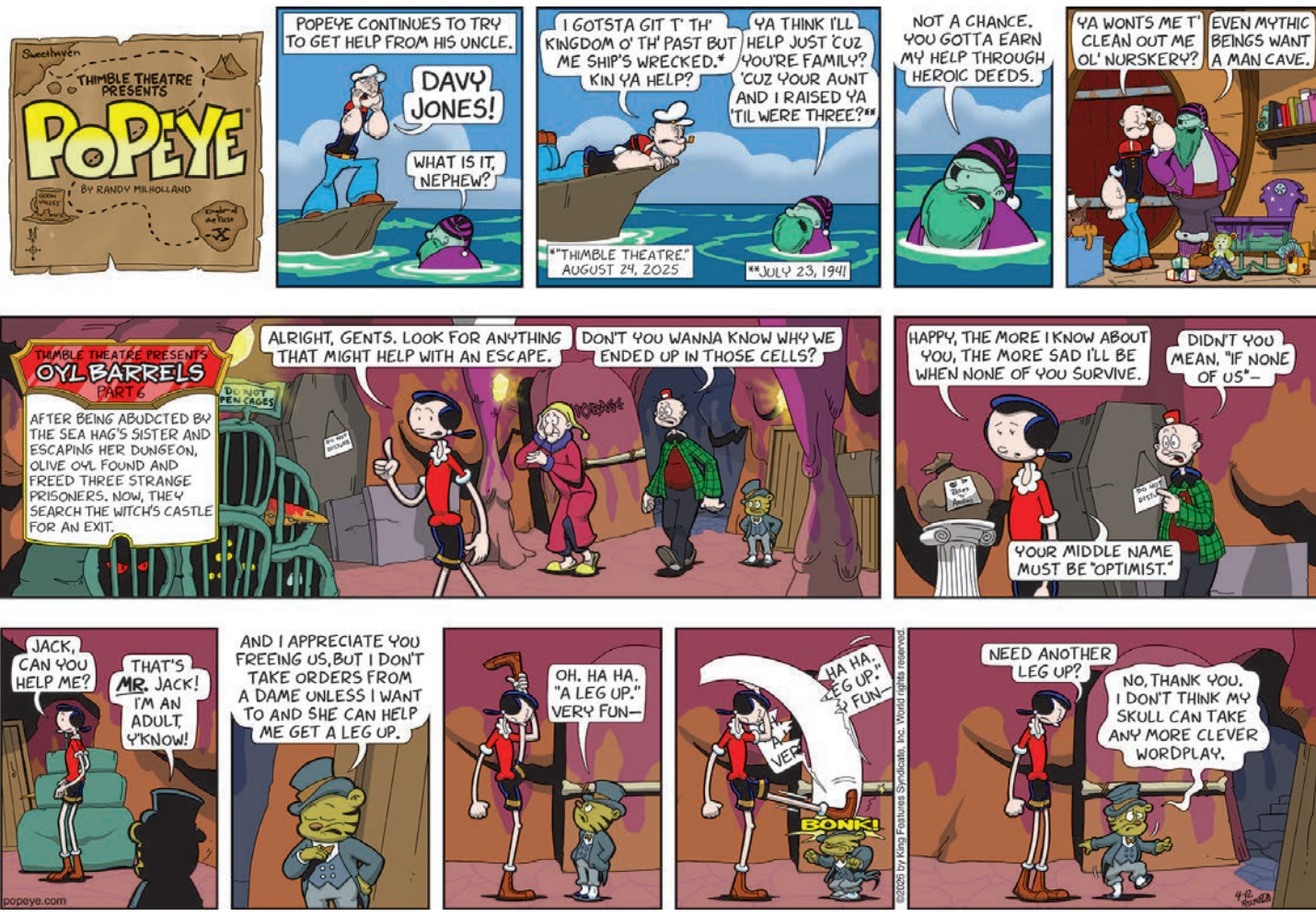
that every hamburger set before me was fully cooked and safe for consumption. I wasn't the only person with that fear though. Remember when the Texas beef industry sued Oprah?

The hole in the ozone: Another fear established by sensational reports and children's programming. We should all be fried to a crisp by now thanks to Styrofoam coolers and hair-spray releasing chemicals

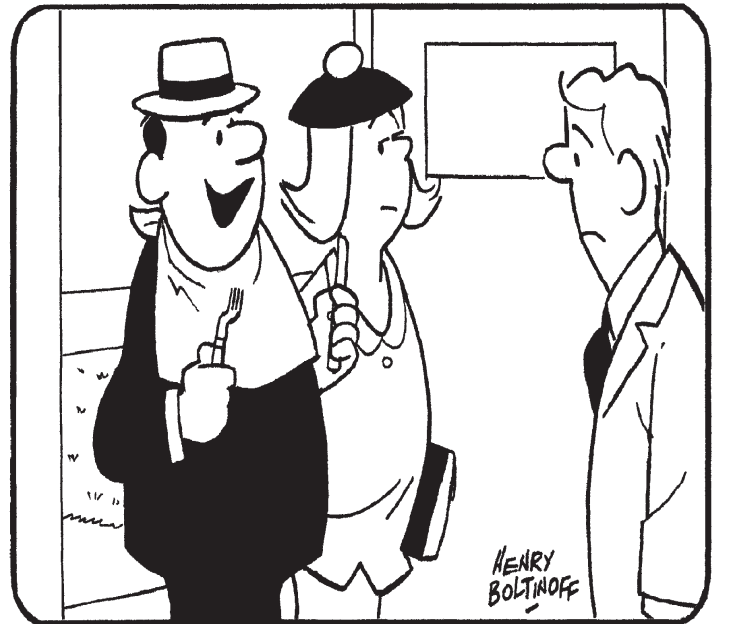
into the atmosphere that eat away at the Earth's natural barrier, the ozone layer, against the sun's harmful rays.

Captain Planet had me convinced that we were all doomed, but the ozone is on the mend and now the World Meteorological Organization predicts the ozone will be whole again in 40 years. As long as people don't go back to 80s hairstyles.

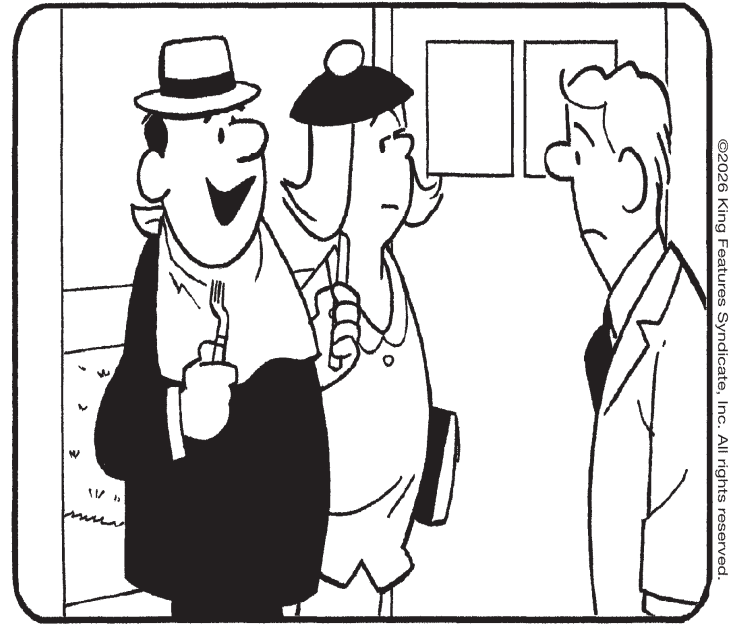
ENTERTAINMENT



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

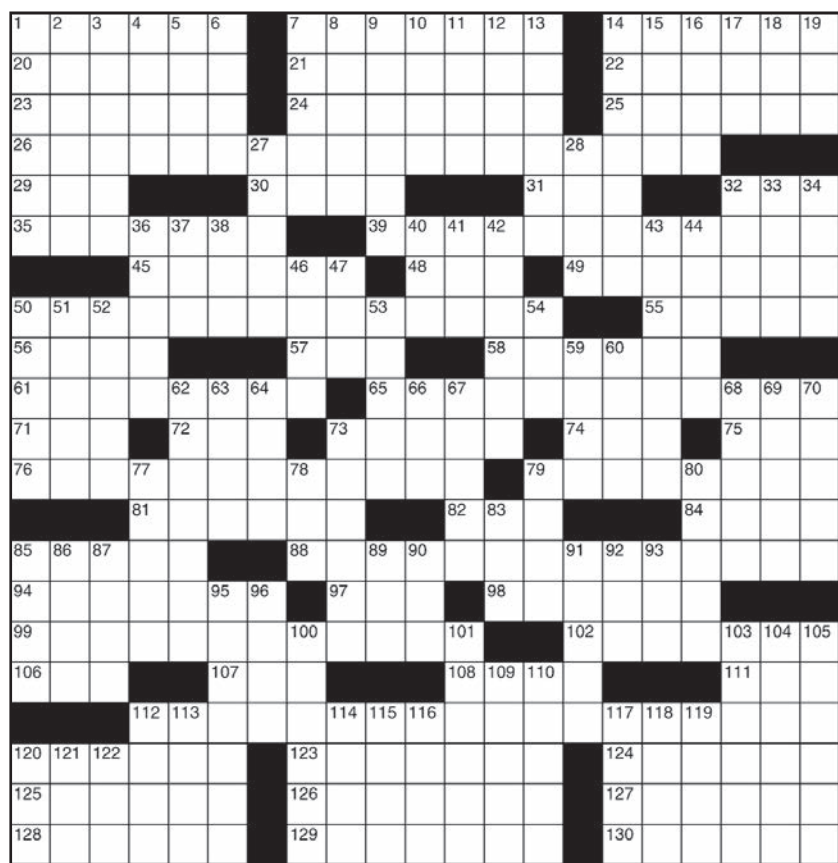


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is moved. 2. Fork is reversed. 3. Napkin is different. 4. Doorway opening is not as wide. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

CROSSWORD 4-25-26



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Sturdily built
- 7 Evergreen-scented cleaning brand
- 14 Cows' milk deliverers
- 20 Perjurious way to be caught
- 21 Transition zone between biomes
- 22 Go on a trip
- 23 "... at least"
- 24 Hundredth of a peseta
- 25 Cure
- 26 Managers' evaluations of employees
- 29 "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- 30 Gas brand in Ontario
- 31 "Ltd." cousin
- 32 Hit the slopes
- 35 Tries to swat with an open hand
- 39 2002 film with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes
- 45 "I have it!"
- 48 Uno plus due
- 49 Narrow ship passages
- 50 Regulation of a computer network
- 55 White wader

- 56 1/24 of a day
- 57 Torrid
- 58 Capital of the Bahamas
- 61 Try out for the role
- 65 Realm that began with the reign of Charlemagne
- 71 Monk's title
- 72 Crumple (up)
- 73 Mafia bosses
- 74 Meadow
- 75 Denials
- 76 They were given to Moses on Mount Sinai
- 79 Most energetic
- 81 Humiliated
- 82 Suffix with 52-Down
- 84 Creamy cheese
- 85 "May I see --?" (diner's question)
- 88 "Don't Cry Out Loud" singer
- 94 Full of subtlety
- 97 Little kid
- 98 Plaza Hotel girl of kid-lit
- 99 They deliver fuel and air from carburetors to cylinders
- 102 National anthem in Ontario
- 106 Fleur-de- --
- 107 "Bad" cholesterol, in brief

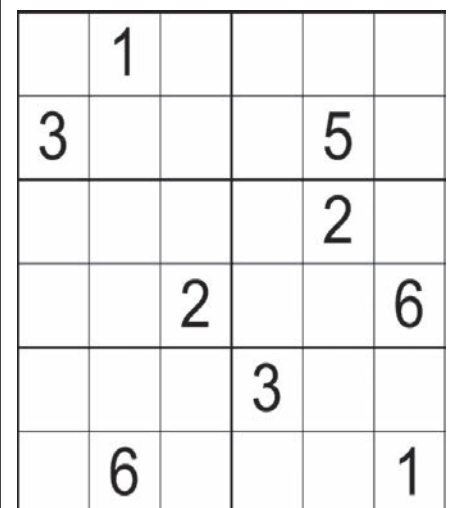
- 108 Worker's pay
- 111 Bonn article
- 112 What you have to do before entering seven answers in this puzzle?
- 120 Actress Hedy
- 123 Long rants
- 124 Put new cables in
- 125 To-do list
- 126 Illustrious
- 127 Loves to bits
- 128 Rises from bed
- 129 Insists
- 130 Pastry chefs, e.g.

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Dry Spanish wines
- 2 Open, as a sleeping bag
- 3 African nation
- 4 Mushy food
- 5 St. Pat's isle
- 6 Doe, e.g.
- 7 Texas river
- 8 Frosting tools
- 9 Sarge, say
- 10 Un-PC suffix
- 11 Evening, in French
- 12 "My treat!"
- 13 10th-century pope
- 14 Netherlands province or its capital
- 15 Doodled, e.g.
- 16 Stops up
- 17 Adam's mate
- 18 Like many wines
- 19 Like many winks
- 27 Gala affairs
- 28 Motels
- 32 Swizzle
- 33 Model Moss
- 34 Pt. of MIT
- 36 -- dish
- 37 Drag to court
- 38 Ulna's place
- 40 \$ dispenser
- 41 Great anger
- 42 Alternative to Bob Evans
- 43 Hiker's guide
- 44 Touch base after a fly-out
- 46 Madeline of "Judy Berlin"
- 47 In history
- 50 Elevator part
- 51 "-- welcome"
- 52 Neighbor of Chad

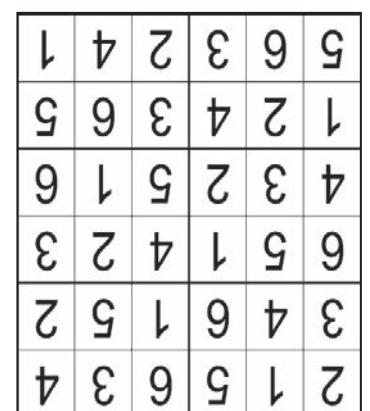
- 53 Hollywood's Hawke
- 54 Road goop
- 59 Only
- 60 Ooze
- 62 -- Chuck (cheap wine)
- 63 "-- Rock" (1966 hit)
- 64 Probability
- 66 Choose (to)
- 67 Is defeated
- 68 Nonreactive
- 69 O'Donnell of TV and film
- 70 Citrate, e.g.
- 73 Give formally
- 77 Tropical plant with bright flowers
- 78 One paying dues: Abbr.
- 79 Bell's ring
- 80 "Peer Gynt" playwright
- 83 NNW's opposite
- 85 Dye used in blue jeans
- 86 City bond, in brief
- 87 Devours
- 89 Cyber-giggle
- 90 "-- be my pleasure!"
- 91 Murnured lovingly
- 92 Fruit drink brand
- 93 That, in Chile
- 95 It might ensnare congers
- 96 Aeneas' lover, in myth
- 100 Played like Galway
- 101 Neighbor of Denmark
- 103 Think a lot of
- 104 Closer to one's heart
- 105 "Gunsmoke" actor James
- 109 Revise
- 110 Main ideas
- 112 Soda holders
- 113 Pakistani language

SUDOKU



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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six



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



BONNIE "MICHELLE" SMITH, Esq.

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

MICHELLE SMITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 8633
WARNER ROBINS, GA 31095

(478) 953-3661
MSMITH158@JUNO.COM
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Veterans succumbs to size and speed in first round loss to Pope

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

WARNER ROBINS — The second half was much better than the first, but the result was unchanged as Veterans (14-5) lost to Pope (12-4) 3-0 in the first round of the GHSA state tournament.

The Warhawks are the fourth Houston County team to lose to an Atlanta-area school in the opening round of the tournament. The Lady Warhawks lost 10-0 to Pope's Lady Greyhounds in the game before. Both of the Bears' teams lost, too.

The size and speed, and in some cases skill, is a notable difference especially for soccer. But depth, Veterans head coach Matt Roth said, is one of the biggest disadvantages.

"We've got some talent here all across the county...[But] the size and the ability to do what they do and the numbers and the pool that they have, it's just hard to compete with," Roth said. "They have a lot more depth and I think that can show its side especially late in games where some of the schools down here we don't have that kind of depth."

Controlling possession was a constant, physical battle that often went in Pope's favor. Just to get to the other side of the pitch took great effort from the 'Hawks.

They were able to win more of those battles in the second half but the physical cost proved to be too much.

By the end of the game when they needed goals the most they just didn't have the stamina left to make the runs they needed to in the final third.

"I think we were spending a



Clay Brown/HHJ
Veterans sophomore midfielder Collin McIntosh (13) eyes the ball before booting it up to a teammate.

lot of our energy trying to get control of the midfield," Roth said. "That took away some of our pressure because we were having to drop people back and play to try and win that midfield spot to even get opportunities...At the end of the game I think we were just so gassed from having to fight that those runs just weren't there anymore."

Greyhounds senior forward Otis Hearn was the most obvious advantage of size and speed.

Standing well above most of the Veterans roster he was long, athletic and strong. He was also responsible for all three of Pope's goals, including the first which came inside the first minute of the game.

But the rest of the team seemed to constantly have a step on the 'Hawks, too. They got in front of through balls frequently and if they were able to turn towards the goal with the ball they were dangerous.

"[Hearn's] speed and size was definitely a threat early

on. We knew he was going to be a problem," Roth said. "We didn't compensate for that a lot of the beginning of the game with our nerves, [we're a] very young team. I think they caught us off guard a little bit."

Veterans has 10 underclassmen on the roster. Youth played some role in their struggles, but these early lessons can be invaluable in the next couple of years.

"They learned tonight it's tough," Roth said. "A lot of them, it's their first playoff game, first time seeing speed like that, size like that. And I think that if anything it's gonna help with their anxiety going into a game next season facing those opponents because that's an intimidating task when it's your first one ever."

UP NEXT

Veterans ends their season 14-5 overall and 8-2 in Region 2-5A.

Pope will play the winner of Kennesaw Mountain and Lovejoy in the second round.

Lady Warhawks' postseason run meets abrupt end against Pope

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

WARNER ROBINS — Veterans (12-8) entered Wednesday's playoff game hoping to advance past the first round for the first time since 2022, but Pope (11-5) made sure that wasn't possible with a 10-0 victory.

The two teams played roughly 60 minutes of an 80-minute game after Lady Greyhounds freshman Bella Markus dribbled past the defense and delivered the death blow with 19:46 remaining in the second half.

It ended a tough game for the Lady Warhawks, who struggled to get out from under the paws of another Atlanta-area school.

One early sequence in which Veterans built from the back on the left side felt representative of the evening.

They created good passing lanes and darted the ball between each other. They managed to get the ball nearly all the way up the side, but an inaccurate pass gave the ball back to Pope. They scored their first goal four minutes later, and put five more through the net before halftime to build a 6-0 lead.

Lady 'Hawks head coach Patrick Hunter was a man of few words after the game.

"These are tough because you know how far you got to get to," Hunter said. "You can do well in your area but there's a reason why I schedule teams like that in non-region [games] so we can see that play before playoffs."

Veterans played Hebron Christian and McIntosh during the regular season, both firm 7-3 and 11-1 losses respectively.

The Lady 'Hawks lose five seniors this year, but

one encouraging fact is how young the group is.

"It's always tough when you lose a senior class," Hunter said. "One of the five is going to go out and continue to play in college. Her and the others, [we] wish them all the best. As far as underclassmen, we got a lot of youth. Any given game day we're playing four or five freshmen. The future looks bright."

That youth was sometimes evident in poor positioning or accuracy in passes. But the more games they experience like this, the better.

"I hope it hurts," Hunter said. "Don't dwell on it, but know how far we gotta go."

UP NEXT

Veterans ends their season 12-8 overall and 8-2 in Region 2-5A.

Pope will advance to play Alexander in the second round of the GHSA state tournament.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Lady Warhawks goalkeeper Makenna Smith (0) makes a move towards the ball in front of the goal. Veterans lost to Pope 10-0 in the first round of the GHSA state tournament.

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Lady Bears golf win region championship; Bears' Gavin Odom advances to state championship

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

Both Houston County golf programs have reason to celebrate this week after a competitive bout in Hawkinsville, Georgia in the first week of May.

The girls are Region 2-5A champions for the first time in 10 years after finishing fourth as a team, up three spots from their seventh place finish last season.

Jada-Reese Pittman, who qualified as an individual for the state championship tournament in 2025, once again led the pack with a score of 76. Mei Carroll and Gracie Moody rounded out

the top three with scores of 93 and 99 respectively.

The Lady Bears will take part in the 5A sectionals at Mirror Lake Golf Club in Villa Rica, Georgia in the first week of May.

The Bears finished fifth in the area and second in Region 2-5A with a team score of 306, just two removed from Coffee and Roswell who tied for third place with 304.

Gavin Odom was the individual winner of the event with a score of 67; he will advance to the state championship tournament to be held at the Jekyll Island Golf Club.

Cash Blasche (76), Brody Blackwell (78) and Landon Thrift (85) filled out HoCo's top four.



Courtesy of HoCo Golf

The Lady Bears golf team are region champions for the first time in 10 years after finishing fourth in the Area 2-5A tournament on Tuesday. Jada-Reese Pittman (middle), who advanced to the state championship tournament as an individual last year, led the team with a score of 76.



Courtesy of HoCo Golf

Houston County's Gavin Odom (middle) was the individual champion of the Area 2-5A tournament with a score of 67 in Hawkinsville, Georgia on Wednesday.

Lily Brzezicki's brick wall in goal not enough as Houston County falls to Creekview in round one

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

WARNER ROBINS — Even the strongest fortress walls succumb to enough pressure.

Junior goalkeeper Lily Brzezicki has been a brick wall for Houston County (12-4) this season, and that continued on Tuesday in the first round of the state tournament against Creekview (11-7).

The Lady Grizzlies' attack was aggressive early and were it not for Brzezicki's presence in goal the score would've been a lot more lopsided than the 1-0 loss for the Lady Bears.

"We were mentally prepared for that early pressure, but Lily definitely saved us a good bit tonight

with some solid saves," HoCo head coach Gabby Wells said. "Most of the success that we did have throughout the game we can attribute to her, she did very well."

Unfortunately for HoCo that's where the clear positives begin to wane.

Creekview controlled possession and had the Lady Bears on their heels the entire game.

The forwards maintained possession the best but often lacked an outlet when they faced double teams. The midfield struggled to progress the ball and the back line, though they didn't allow a goal in play, didn't clear danger quickly enough in many scenarios.

To give the defense a little more credit, it did

take a fortunate header from Creekview's Presley McDermott to get the ball in the net.

The Lady Grizzlies' sent their first corner kick of the game right into the fray and McDermott's head was the one that came through, bouncing the ball off the ground and past Brzezicki's right-hand side for the lone score of the evening.

"We watched a little bit of film on them and just seeing how they performed throughout the season, they've been really good about set pieces," Wells said. "Most of their goals that I've seen them score have been through set pieces like corner kicks. So we practiced them and just, they did what they do really well."

Creekview had several more corner kicks and HoCo defended them very well in the second half, getting a booming header to clear the ball on more than one occasion. That one just slipped past them.

The Lady Bears' biggest problem was their inability to stop the ball and the Lady Grizzlies' passing prowess.

Every kick seemed intentional and often found a teammate and their correct foot. Even if it was just a touch, chances were Creekview sent the ball to the right place.

HoCo couldn't recreate that nor could they get out in front of most of those passes. It was a big contributor to their lack of shots.

"They come from a very good region, that entire



Clay Brown/HHJ

Lady Bears defender Caleigh Patton (16) slides her foot in to contest a shot from a Creekview forward.

region is very good at passing and moving," Wells said. "We just weren't quite as quick with predicting that play as we should have been."

UP NEXT

The Lady Bears end their season as Region 2-5A champions.

Creekview will play either McIntosh or Kennesaw Mountain in the second round.

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1 Section, 8 Pages

Where science meets service Robins' Chemistry Lab essential for base operations

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

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE — If it's a critical substance, there's a chance it has come through the Chemical Analysis Laboratory on Robins Air Force Base.

The lab consists of 22 scientists and engineers, divided into two sections, Industrial Process Support and Industrial Hygiene and Shelf Life, each with specific roles to support its mission.

Industrial Process mainly works in aircraft maintenance, from metal finishing and bonding to testing hydraulic fluids, engine oils, paints, sealants, and adhesives.

The lab works with multiple agencies across the Department of War and internationally. For example, customers in Spain are asking for shelf life extensions, as explained by supervisor Max Hetzer.

"They might have a palette of paint that's expiring in the next month, and they want to see whether or not they can keep on using it for another few months, instead of buying a whole new palette of paint. That saves a lot of money. It saves a lot of time and other resources," Hetzer said.

Working closely with these groups not only supports the Air Force but positions the lab as quality control for substances crucial to the mission. This ensures final products are top-notch and delivered in about a day.

Critical areas of support include metal finishing, essential for aircraft production.

"Without our support, the commodities and aircraft



U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — **Chandler Watson, 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron Chemical Analysis Laboratory chemist, calibrates a paint quality spectrophotometer at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, July 30, 2025. The calibrated spectrophotometer ensured paint was the correct color and density to be applied to aircraft during the overhaul and repair process.**

maintenance groups cannot perform their job, and they cannot get aircraft out to the war fighter," Hetzer said.

Hetzer said the lab works with a multitude of materials. In plating tanks, the lab works with chromic acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, nitric acid and hydrofluoric acid.

Paints, primers, topcoats, sealers, and adhesives are also in rotation.

On the industrial hygiene side, the lab checks work areas to ensure harmful heavy metals are not tracked in, such as beryllium, chromium, cadmium and lead. The lab also samples drinking water and wastewater.

Testing ensures safety,

and the lab had a critical chance when a water main broke on base, significantly affecting water pressure.

A late-night call, bioenvironmental scientists were working at 9 p.m., and had drinking water samples analyzed and back to normal standards in around 24 to 30 hours.

If contracted to another lab, the process would have been three to four days.

"That was a critical application of drinking water support that we provided to all of the base," Hetzer said.

Hetzer said typical workflows depend on the day.

Wednesdays are by far the busiest, when the lab collects and analyzes samples from metal finishing.

Between samples, scientists



U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — **Jennifer Salemi, 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron Chemical Analysis Laboratory chemist, checks the salt spray coupons for corrosion in an open salt chamber at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, May 21, 2025. The fog chamber is designed to do rapid corrosion tests on metals undergoing the metal finishing process ensuring the process protects aircraft parts from corrosion and ensures paint adhesion.**

are working on special projects, creating testing plans, finalizing quality checks and submitting reports. The lab will typically collect and test 11,000 samples a year.

"It can be really busy, really stressful. Sometimes it's laid back. But overall it's steady work where samples come in, we analyze, then let them go," Hetzer said.

The lab is also ISO17025 certified, an international standard that ensures robust management, standard operating procedures, and consistent quality and services in testing facilities.

"We're making sure the quality of the results for the customers are at the world class," Hetzer said.

To work in the lab requires a solid grasp of

general, organic, physical, instrumental and quantitative chemistry. The baseline requirement is a Bachelor's chemistry degree or chemical engineering degree with a chemistry concentration, but a scientist with a Biology degree made the cut due to prior chemistry training.

Hetzer said training is on base as well, which shows the lab's operating procedures. His background is in chemical engineering, after initial aspirations to be a nuclear engineer.

Hetzer now has a Doctorate in chemical engineering and has been on the team for 17 years.

The lab also has a part of history, located in the base's second-oldest building.

Looking towards the

future, Hetzer is excited for new technology at the lab, including a liquid chromatography mass spectrometer, which allows the lab to look for harmful "forever" chemicals in drinking water and wastewater.

The technology ensures compliance with EPA regulations and adopting it now is a simpler process than waiting for the agency to mandate it.

As far as the culture, Hetzer said it's fulfilling and far from clinical.

"I know it's a kind of cliché that everybody is a family when you work," Hetzer said. "It's a working family. Everybody knows each other and we support each other in our working environment as well as outside of work."



U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather

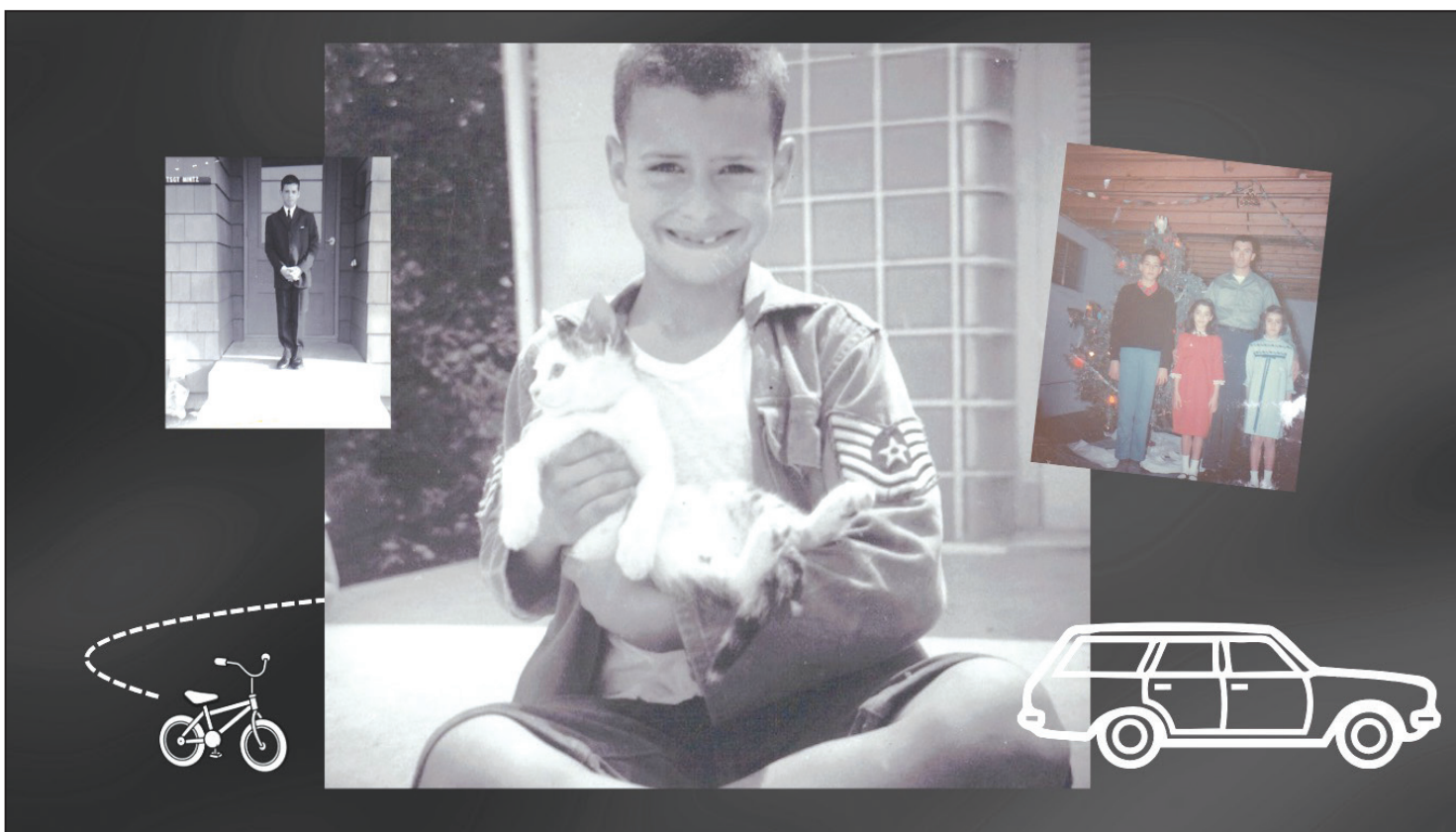
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — **Adriana Wood, 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron Chemical Analysis Laboratory chemist, analyzes electro plating tank samples for the Advance Metal Finishing Facility at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, May 21, 2015. The chemicals were tested to ensure they were within technical order specifications.**

A transient life and hard goodbyes: The realities of my lonely military childhood



Courtesy: Herbert Mintz

Herbert Mintz with his cat in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, where the family lived in Capehart military housing in 1963.



Courtesy: Herbert Mintz

By HERBERT MINTZ
The War Horse

Frequent moves, BX clothing, and commissary meals made it difficult to befriend others, a problem that persisted into adulthood.

When my military family received orders to transfer to another duty station, my dad would organize our packing effort, chart a course, and drive us there. He preferred to start as the twilight faded, continuing through the night while the rest of us slept in our station wagon.

This time, Dad was being transferred to Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

I took on the duty of navigator, map in hand, sitting alongside Dad in our white 1963 Chevrolet Bel Air four-door, while my mother and siblings huddled on the car's rear bench seat. I had played this part before, but the car's steady hum always won out, eventually lulling me to sleep.

I took a last look at our end of the duplex at 926 Mitchell Drive, Capehart Military Family Housing, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Our end looked sad, a pile of dirt with two metal garbage cans tucked up against a side wall.

Muscling the manual steering wheel, Dad straightened our car in the street and changed gears. Our heavily loaded Chevy crept forward.

Through the windshield to the right, I saw Rodney with his bike at the corner of Van Ells.

What was he doing there? We'd already exchanged our reluctant goodbyes.

Rodney lived in a nearby duplex in Capehart. We met during a street game of 500 in front of my duplex. Rodney taught me how to use a couple of fingers to move the bat toward the barrel to become the first batter. He wasn't the best player, but I liked his knowledge of the game and his ability to hustle.

After finishing several games of 500, Rodney spoke like he already knew me. His sincere voice was both reassuring and charming.

Then and there, Rodney became my friend.

The truth was, at that moment, I had no friends at the public school, since my military family lived some distance away.

Now, as my Dad turned left, Rodney pushed off on his bike and began pedaling after us. I heard his strained voice utter, "Herbie, don't go ... don't go."

At Vandenburg, Dad turned right. Rodney was

still right behind us, pedaling frantically, crying out, "Herbie, don't go ... don't go."

On Bird Street, our Chevy picked up speed, but Rodney wasn't letting up. As Dad turned onto the highway, our distance from Rodney increased, and I could soon no longer hear his words. I watched him slowly disappear in the passenger side mirror.

I knew that I would never see Rodney again.

That was August 1964. I was 11 years old.

As a military kid, I painfully learned that every departure meant losing a crucial connection and a shared history.

Between 1957 and 1959, we lived in military family housing called Kelly Homes inside Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. When my dad's orders were up, I left behind my only male friend, another military kid. Then, I was too young to understand the meaning of an Air Force move.

Between 1959 and 1962, my Dad was stationed at Donaldson Air Force Base near Greenville, South Carolina. I changed residences and schools twice in those years. In the third grade at West Gantt Elementary, I played tag and hide-and-go-seek exclusively with one friend during recess. We both were sad when I told her I was moving. She was a civilian and didn't understand the meaning of an Air Force move. By then, I did and didn't like it.

But separating from Rodney would prove to be the most challenging.

Rodney was special. We were both military kids. With him, my BX-purchased clothes and military Oxford shoes didn't elicit a weird look. He didn't question my lunch or the meals at my house since our families bought groceries from the same commissary.

We often patrolled Capehart on our bicycles and went sledding on a slight hill behind his duplex when it snowed. While playing "Army," we would hide inside his family's doghouse to conceal our location from an invisible enemy.

With Rodney, I was both a military kid and a regular kid. It hurt when I had to leave him.

After Rodney, I sensed friendships risked repeating the same unhappy departure the next time my family moved. I began to subtly, but consistently, avoid making friends during our transient lifestyle.

In Colorado, overcrowding at school made it

Illustration by Kim Vo.

easy to avoid friendships. I changed schools three times in three years and attended eighth grade on a split-day schedule, from 12:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. With a job as an afternoon newspaper delivery boy, I had little time for hanging out and making friends.

When I did find time, I felt somewhat out of place. I didn't know about the movies or the music fellow students were talking about, and my short military haircut was definitely out of style. I had a lot of catching up to do, but I wasn't sure how to do it.

Rodney and I—and our parents, for that matter—didn't have the disposable income to keep current with the changing trends in clothing, music, or movies. Compounding the problem, Colorado Springs was more affluent and attuned to popular culture than Sun Prairie.

Although I remained cautious, my younger brother quickly clicked with a friend who lived in our new neighborhood. They were almost inseparable. Playing with GI Joe or Johnny West action figures, dressing up like Batman and Robin, or reading comic books together, their exploration of imaginary landscapes was boundless.

In July 1967, Uncle Sam ordered Dad to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon, South Vietnam. Mom told me that Dad believed he'd be killed in that war and that we needed to move closer to his relatives living in Wilmington, North Carolina.

During a family dinner, my younger brother told us he wasn't going to move. He would live with his friend. Mom assured my brother, and later me, that we'd make new friends in North Carolina, even though I didn't bring a single friend home for Mom to meet in Colorado Springs.

In Wilmington, I didn't try to make friends among the tight cliques in junior high, though I socialized with classmates just enough to avoid being labeled antisocial.

From late 1969 through 1971, I began to nurture a few potential friends. The schools had been recently integrated, and I thought the black students, newcomers and outsiders themselves, would be easier to make friends with. We connected through our mutual love of basketball.

But as societal tensions increased, those friendships fizzled. Plus, others who grew up in Wilmington already had their friendships, and it was hard to

get close.

I didn't continue these embryonic connections as I drifted in and out of the city, the state, and the nation.

As an adult, I unwittingly repeated the pattern I had learned from my military family, moving to another state every three years, this time to chase degrees and careers. In each place, I didn't make friends, so it was always easy to pick up and leave.

By then, I had developed a tough outer shell: I was independent, but I also didn't know how to talk about my upbringing.

It changed a bit after I moved to Minneapolis for a job. I enjoyed living in an established neighborhood with tree-lined streets.

It was still hard to make friends. However, one of my responsibilities was to act as a point of contact for my employer. I met new clients who could potentially become pals. I didn't meet any other aging military kids, but I did encounter civilians with equally challenging backgrounds.

After about three years, I met someone who ticked all the right boxes. I didn't know anything about her home in Hong Kong, and she didn't know anything about growing up as a military kid. I had a chance to introduce myself without needing to sound like an average American.

Her story was more amazing than mine. She had run away from home, wore her hair as

short as a GI haircut, read English poetry, and had seen numerous films from Eastern European countries.

I felt a renewed curiosity and a safety I hadn't experienced since Rodney. Perhaps time had helped me heal. Perhaps I was finally accepting my deep loss and ready to move forward.

This War Horse Reflection was edited by Kim Vo, fact-checked by Jess Rohan, and copy-edited by Mitchell Hansen-Dewar. Hrisanthi Pickett wrote the headlines.

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First Look – First Shot – First Kill: Raptor Nation's 20 Years of Air Dominance



U.S. Air Force photo by Jim Varhegyi

Col. Joshua Payne, dual hatted as the 88th Air Base Wing, and the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Chaplain, offers a prayer during a celebration to commemorate the F-22 Raptor's 20 years of air dominance. The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's F-22 Program Office, in partnership with the Dayton Development Coalition and Jobs Ohio, hosted the celebration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 1, 2026.



U.S. Air Force photo by Jim Varhegyi

The Dayton Development Coalition DDC's CEO Jeff Hoagland (left), and the President and CEO of Jobs Ohio J.P. Nauseef, kick off a celebration to commemorate the F-22 Raptor's 20 years of air dominance. The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's F-22 Program Office, in partnership with the DDC and Jobs Ohio, hosted the celebration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 1, 2026.



The F-22's Program Office's Deputy Director Brian Machuca, gives his remarks during a celebration to commemorate the F-22 Raptor's 20 years of air dominance. The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's F-22 Program Office, in partnership with the Dayton Development Coalition and Jobs Ohio, hosted the celebration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 1, 2026.

By Jim Varhegyi
Air Force Life Cycle
Management Center
Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO (AFLCMC) --- The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's F-22 Program Office, in partnership with the Dayton Development Coalition and Jobs Ohio, hosted a celebration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force April 1, commemorating the F-22 Raptor's 20 years of air dominance.

The event featured a distinguished list of guest speakers including, the DDC's CEO Jeff Hoagland, the President and CEO of Jobs Ohio J.P. Nauseef; Nancy Pendelton, Vice President and Division Chief Engineer, Air Dominance, Boeing; Jill Albertelli, President Military Engines, Pratt and Whitney; the F-22's Program Office's Deputy Director Brian Machuca; and retired Col. OJ "Slider" Sanchez, current Vice President and General Manager, Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works. The event's featured speakers included Lt. Gen. Linda S. Hurry, commander, Air Force Materiel Command, and retired Gen. T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, who served as the 18th Air Force Chief of Staff.

Prior to the evening celebration, members of the F-22 Program Office and their families were treated to a private pet-the-jet event, where they could see the Raptor up close and talk with the pilots, Ringer and Hijack from the 71st Fighter Training

Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., who flew the stealth fighter in for the event. This was especially memorable because many of the F-22 workforce had never before seen the jet they had dedicated years of their lives supporting.

A flyover of the Raptor from the 71st kicked off the evening celebration.

From Concept to Combat

Born from Cold War anxieties and proven in post-9/11 conflicts, the F-22 Raptor has become one of the most capable fighters ever built, pairing stealth and raw performance in a package no rival has yet fully matched.

Conceived in the early 1980s as the Air Force's Advanced Tactical Fighter, the Raptor was designed to counter a new generation of Soviet aircraft and surface-to-air missiles with unprecedented agility and low observability.

In 1986, the program entered its demonstration and validation phase, leading to two competing prototypes: Lockheed's YF-22 and Northrop's YF-23, both of which first flew in 1990.

After a flyoff-style evaluation, the Air Force selected the YF-22 in 1991 and awarded engineering and manufacturing development contracts to a Lockheed/Boeing team and engine maker Pratt & Whitney.

What followed was an intensive design and test campaign that included roughly 44,000 hours of wind tunnel testing and thousands of material trials before the first production-representative airframe took to the sky.

The Raptor emerged as a technological leap. It combined stealth shaping with advanced radar-absorbent materials, supercruise capability that allowed it to sustain supersonic speeds without afterburner, and extreme maneuverability enabled by thrust-vectoring nozzles and a highly integrated flight control system.

The first F-22A was unveiled in 1997, and after extended operational testing, the jet formally entered U.S. Air Force service in December 2005. By then, its original mission had subtly shifted: in addition to air superiority, it was expected to carry out precision ground attack, electronic warfare, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance tasks using its powerful sensors and data links.

During his speech, Machuca highlighted the Raptor's mission expansion and the collaborative, dedicated effort required to keep the United States at the forefront of aviation history. He emphasized the program's motto, First Look – First Shot – First Kill, by outlining the fighter's role in the Global War on Terrorism, countering Russian and, currently, Iranian forces, deterring China, and inspiring fear in adversaries by making the skies too dangerous for them to operate in.

Machuca thanked all the Raptor Nation, including the engineers, maintainers, and industry partners who transitioned the F-22 program from concept to reality. He also thanked the myriad of people who tirelessly work

to provide a critical deterrent against global adversaries through their continuous modernization efforts.

Hurry echoed Machuca's words when she described the Raptor Nation's military-civilian teamwork as foundational not only for the F-22 program, but also to the broader Air Force mission.

"We drive speed. We drive Warfighter Readiness. We drive continuous modernization that makes our Air Force the greatest in the world. We clearly cannot do any of this without our industry partners. It is truly a team sport," Hurry said. "From concept development during the height of the Cold War to operations today, the Raptor has given America unquestioned air-to-air advantage against any and all adversaries. This program leads the way in fifth-generation interoperability. It can partner with collaborative combat aircraft for unmatched performance in the most contested of airspaces. This gives options to our nation's leaders and provides assurance for our joint partners that our Air Force controls the skies."

If the Raptor's development was long, its production run was surprisingly short. Initial plans called for hundreds of aircraft, but post-Cold War budget pressures and debates over cost versus need steadily whittled down the buy. A 2009 decision by the Obama administration and Congress capped production at 187 operational jets, and the final F-22 was delivered in 2012, leaving a total fleet of 195, including test aircraft.

The Raptor's combat debut came in September 2014, when F-22s joined the opening night of airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, striking a command-and-control facility with guided munitions. In the months that followed, Raptors flew more than 200 sorties over Syria, dropping hundreds of precision bombs, providing close air support, and using their sensors to coordinate the wider air campaign.

Beyond direct strikes, they played a quieter but influential role: during a later "combat surge," F-22s were credited with deterring nearly 600 Syrian, Iranian, and Russian aircraft from aggressive maneuvers in crowded airspace, underscoring their value as a high-end presence platform.

For his part, keynote speaker Moseley played a pivotal role in developing the F-22. From his days as a major in the fighter mafia to declaring the Raptor Initial Mission Capable (IOC) in 2005 as the Air Force's 18th Chief of Staff, his unwavering advocacy ensured the Raptor became the foundation of American air superiority.

During his talk Moseley traced a direct lineage from the pioneering Wright brothers, who did their work at Huffman Prairie, just a few short miles from where the celebration was occurring, to the courageous Escadrille Lafayette pilots of World War I, to the engineers who developed today's premier stealth fighter.

By highlighting the concept of air dominance, Moseley argued that controlling the

skies is not only a legal mandate but is a strategic necessity that prevents the stagnant, high-casualty ground slaughter seen in uncontested airspaces.

"Because of its unmatched ability to control the skies, the F-22 is referred to as the 'Invincible Air Machine,'" said Moseley. "It was specifically designed to provide essential air superiority for the entire joint military team. It is the modern apex predator stretching from a long legacy of American air dominance beginning with the very first American combat aviators in World War I through all the legendary aircraft that we are surrounded by here in this museum, and that brought us to today."

An Enduring Legacy
Today, the F-22 remains the Air Force's premier air-dominance fighter even as next-generation programs loom on the horizon. Though earlier plans envisioned beginning retirement soon, recent budgets allocated billions of dollars through the end of the decade for upgrades such as new stealthy fuel tanks and an infrared search-and-track system, signaling that the Raptor will likely stay in frontline service well into the 2030s.

Three decades after its first prototype flight, the aircraft that began as an answer to Soviet threats has instead become a hedge against emerging rivals, its record defined less by the number of bombs dropped than by the airspace no adversary has dared to challenge.

This is... Robins

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Don Moncrief
Publisher
publisher@hhjonline.com

Brieanna Smith
Managing Editor
brieanna@hhjonline.com

Lori Kovarovic
Advertising Director/Sales
Lori@hhjonline.com

Anna Carter
Classifieds, Legals & Circulation
anna@hhjonline.com

OUR GOAL

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US continues strikes into Iran after successful rescue of F-15E Aircrew

By U.S. Central Command
Public Affairs

TAMPA, Fla. (AFNS) -- On April 4, U.S. forces successfully completed the

rescues of two American service members from Iran after their F-15E fighter jet was shot down April 2 during a combat mission.

The service members were safely recovered during separate search and rescue missions.

U.S. strikes into Iran

continue as U.S. Central Command forces dismantle the Iranian regime's ability to project power beyond its borders.



Operation Epic Fury

Courtesy graphic

REVIL ribbon cutting ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Donnell Schroeter

From left: Dr. Andrew Williams, acting director of the Space Warfare Directorate; Michael Holthe, principal deputy assistant secretary of war for science and technology; Lt. Col. Matthew Miller, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District; Amy Hall, Nuclear Enterprise Science and Technology Complex lead, Nuclear Mission Branch; and Charles Rowell Jr., deputy chief, RVBN, participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, March 24, 2026. The ceremony marked the opening of the Re-Entry Vehicle Integration Laboratory (REVIL), a purpose-built facility designed to address a longstanding gap in reentry vehicle integration and experimentation. REVIL enables the safe assembly, disassembly and integration of experimental systems, providing critical infrastructure to support next-generation research, reduce risk in technology development and transition and strengthen the Air Force Research Laboratory's role in advancing credible, modernized deterrence capabilities in support of the nuclear enterprise.

Stronger, together: Air Force, Army, Marines unite for joint air traffic control training at Robins AFB

By Lauren Boggs
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

Airmen, Soldiers and Marines completed two weeks of airfield training at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, learning valuable skills while highlighting the power of military interoperability. The joint training brought together the U.S. Air Force 461st Air Control Wing's 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron, Marine Air Control Squadron 2 and the Army's Air Traffic Service Command.

The training, led by ATSCOM's quality assurance division, centered

on the 53rd CAOS's new, deployable, Airport Surveillance Radar and Precision Approach Radar system, also known as the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System.

Service members were trained in setting up the ATNAVICS version 10 radar, operations shelter and lighting systems that are used to create runways in austere and deployed environments. The air traffic controllers also took turns practicing precision approaches and landings.

"It's a unique system, so we need a unique kind of training," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacob Terry, 53rd CAOS combat airfield watch supervisor. "The

knowledge that ATSCOM is able to come out and provide, in both a controlling and maintaining aspect, is really what we needed to be able to deploy the system and operate it the way that it needs to be operated."

While new to the Air Force, ATNAVICS has been operated by the Army for over 20 years. It's the only ATC system that all three branches have in common.

According to John Kelley, ATSCOM quality assurance lead, the Army's experience with the system is a major perk, giving other ATC service members the opportunity to learn from years of practical application.

The ATSCOM Quality Assurance division, made up of six air traffic con-

trollers and five maintainers, regularly visits various military bases to train air traffic controllers and ATC maintainers, reviews and verifies technical orders, and offers courtesy inspections.

"We're here to teach them everything that we know on how to troubleshoot and maintain the system, how to set it up and actively use it right away, and give them ideas of how they would implement it in a real-world environment," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Wigetes Ho, ATSCOM ATC maintenance evaluator.

"On the air traffic control side, our role is to sit inside the shelter with their air traffic controllers and assist them in learning how

to do precision approaches and the phraseology, terminology and theory behind them to get them to the point where they're actually employing it themselves, can get their certification, and safely land aircraft," added Kelley. "The goal is to get them where they're self-sufficient."

Beyond the technical skills, the training fostered crucial inter-branch relationships in a relatively small career field.

"Another big purpose of this training was to build rapport between branches," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Green, ATSCOM Quality Assurance evaluator and noncommissioned officer in charge. "We don't work with

the Air Force or Marines a lot, especially for air traffic controllers. Building that rapport between branches and learning from each other and having connections that you can reach out to in another branch and ask for help, while it may not have been the main goal of this training, it was a positive outcome."

The connections create even stronger interoperability in deployed environments, allowing ATC service members to operate the system together, if required.

"It just ties the whole picture together when it comes to airfield operations between the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps," added Terry.



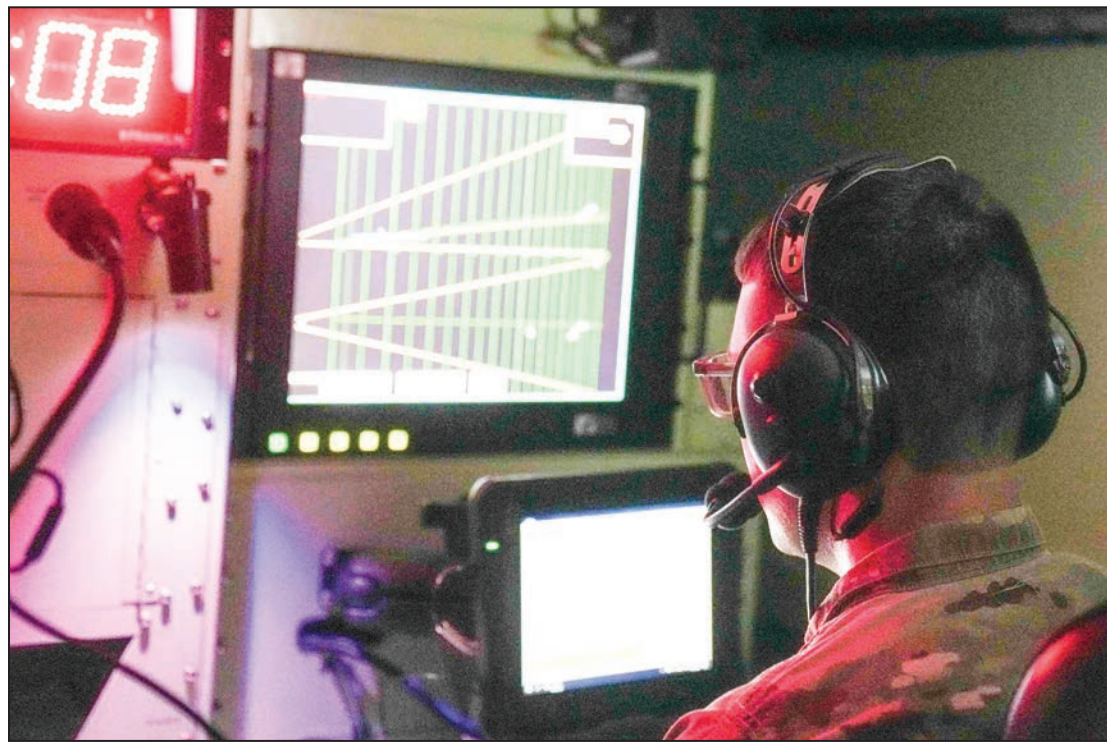
Courtesy photo

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Marines and soldiers perform maintenance on the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 9, 2026. The U.S. Army Air Traffic Services Command taught maintenance and operations for the ATNAVICS over the span of a two-week course.



Courtesy photo

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — A C-17 aircraft flies over the 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron's Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 7, 2026. The Army's Air Traffic Services Command quality assurance division trained service members to set up, maintain and operate the ATNAVICS.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — An Airman practices a precision approach inside an operations shelter during Air Traffic Navigation Integration and Coordination System training at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 9, 2026. The Army's Air Traffic Service Command training brought together service members from the Air Force, Army and Marines to learn more about air traffic control and ATC maintenance for ATNAVICS.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — John Kelley, U.S. Army Air Traffic Services Command quality assurance lead, speaks on a radio during precision approach training at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 9, 2026. Kelley and his team came to Robins to train air traffic control service members to set up and operate the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Muhammad Garba, 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron radar airfield weather systems, looks out for an aircraft during Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System training at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 9, 2026. The Army's Air Traffic Services Command trained Airmen, soldiers and Marines on precision approaches while utilizing ATNAVICS.



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Physical training injury prevention



U.S. Air Force photo by William R. Lewis

Airmen and special warfare recruits participate in physical training during Exercise Bolt and Dagger at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Dec. 16, 2025. The three-day exercise incorporates physical fitness as one of several foundational components that prepare Airmen for the demands of the Tactical Air Control Party mission and overall readiness.

By Greg Chadwick

Air Force Materiel Command
Office of the Command Surgeon
General

WRIGHT-PATTERSON
AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio --

The Air Force will begin official scoring under the new standards of the Physical Fitness Readiness Program on July 1.

Airmen will be assessed on the following physical fitness readiness components:

1. **Cardiorespiratory Fitness:** 2.0-Mile Run, 20-meter High Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (HAMR) or the 2-kilometer walk (if not medically cleared to run).

2. **Muscular Strength:** 1-minute push-ups, or 2-minute hand release push-ups.

3. **Core Endurance:** 1-minute sit-ups, 2-minute cross leg reverse crunch, or timed forearm plank.

4. **Body Composition:** Waist-to-Height Ratio.

The goal of the PFRP is to ensure members safely and consistently meet the physical demands of routine duties and contingency operations.

Physical training is necessary to develop and maintain the fitness required to accomplish military missions, but it is also known to cause injury.

Physical training and sports activity are the leading cause of injuries across all U.S. military Services, according to the Defense Health Agency MSMR. Historically, almost half of all Service members experience an injury annually, accounting for over five million medical encounters and 25 million days of limited duty days per year, according to the DHA 2023 Health of the Force Report.

Over 95% of military injuries are musculoskeletal injuries or MSKIs. MSKIs affect the bones, muscles, joints, ligaments and tendons.

Both microtraumatic overuse and acute traumat-

ic injuries contribute to limited duty days.

Out of all new military injuries, more than two-thirds are caused by cumulative microtrauma (known as 'overuse' injuries). Overuse injuries occur from a repeated, low-intensity force over time. Lower body overuse MSKIs are most common, often due to excessive running.

The repeated stress on the lower body from running causes microscopic tears to tissues that the body repairs to rebuild and become stronger. This is referred to as adaptation. If the body does not have time to repair accumulated tears, the damage can become an overuse injury.

Back, knee and joint pain, stress fractures, shin splints, Achilles tendinitis, and bursitis are common overuse injuries.

Traumatic (acute) injuries may happen during sports activity and occur instantaneously from a high-intensity force or an abrupt movement such as a fall, a blow to the body, an awkward twist when lifting, or a sharp pivot.

Muscle strains, ligament sprains, dislocated joints, contusions (bruises), and fractured bones are examples of traumatic injuries.

When implementing PFRP training, there is a fine line between the balance of pushing the right amount to prepare yourself for any physical goal and either overdoing or underdoing it. The challenge for Airmen is how to enhance fitness while minimizing injuries.

Fortunately, most MSKIs are usually preventable.

Brandon Powers, Operational Support Team strength and conditioning specialist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, offers the following tips on how to reduce your risk of MSKIs during physical training.

1) Avoid too much physi-

cal activity too soon. "Avoid over-exercising by gradually working toward your goals, taking small steps to ensure you're progressing without overdoing it," states Powers.

Most overuse injuries occur in individual preparation if the goal is to improve quickly before an unrealistic deadline. He recommends keeping a fitness journal and making notes about your progress.

For an Airman returning to running after being off more than eight weeks, Powers recommends beginning with a walking program to allow your body to safely adapt to the progressive physical demands. The goal is to build up to 30 minutes of non-stop walking.

2) Take time to warm up and cool down. "The purpose of a warm-up is to increase blood flow to working muscles and wake up the nervous system to prepare for exercise," says Powers.

Easing into your workouts with a warm-up will prep your muscles for activity and reduce the risk of muscle tears and injuries.

Powers recommends starting your training session with dynamic stretches and mobility where you move through a range of motion rather than holding stretches. You can then follow the warm-up with some low-effort activity specific to your training session.

Key exercises include:

- Walking knee hug.
- Walking lunge and twist.
- World's greatest stretch.
- Open/close the gate.
- Vertical side hops.

Cooldown after a workout by gradually reducing intensity for 5-10 minutes through light activity (walking, slow cycling) followed by static stretching to lower heart rate and prevent muscle stiffness. Stretching can help improve your flexibility at the end of the work-

out when your muscles are

warm.

Powers suggests the following static stretching exercises to finish your cooldown:

- Hamstring stretch.
- 90/90 stretch.
- Quad stretch.
- Shoulder stretch.
- Chest stretch.
- Hold each stretch for 20 - 30 seconds.

3) Add active recovery to your workouts. There are two types of recovery after exercise: active and passive. Active recovery involves doing something such as light exercise, stretching, foam rolling, or massage. Passive recovery is purely rest as when you're sitting, lying down, or sleeping. Active recovery can help reduce delayed muscle soreness and aid with the repair process as your muscles rebuild.

Active recovery works because it increases blood flow to the muscles and joints. This improved blood supply takes away toxins and brings in fresh nutrients for healing.

Powers offers a few different types of active recovery methods to add to your exercise plan.

- Foam rolling. "Foam rolling can help reduce muscle soreness and improve your flexibility and mobility," states Powers.

- Foam rolling is like a massage. It uses compression to help release a knot or tender spot that has developed within the muscle. The compression causes the nerve to relax and loosens muscle, gets the blood flowing, and helps the body recover.

- Light activity. "Light activity on rest days can aid in the recovery process by increasing blood flow, reducing muscle stiffness, maintaining fitness consistency, and providing necessary mental breaks from high-intensity training," states Powers.

Effective low-intensity activities include walking, light jogging, and leisurely

cycling.

- Cross Train. "Cross-training for the cardio portion of the PFRP builds cardiovascular endurance without the high-impact pounding and strain on muscles and joints," states Powers.

Cross training means adding in another form of activity like cycling, elliptical machine, rucking or rowing to work the heart and lungs without the impact of daily running. This type of training will help reduce the risk of developing a typical repetitive injury from running (shin splints, tendinitis, stress fracture).

4) Sleep your way to better physical performance. "Good, quality sleep is one of the most effective ways to recover and recharge after training and exercise," states Powers.

Sleep is particularly important after physical exertion, as it enables the body to transition from a catabolic (breakdown) state to an anabolic (build-up) state. During deep sleep, the body produces higher levels of growth hormone that stimulates the repair of muscle fibers that may have been broken down during physical conditioning. Also, during sleep the body repairs cartilage and other connective tissues, ensuring that the joints remain lubricated and functional.

Sleep needs are variable from person to person. Most adults need seven or more hours of sleep each night.

Powers offers the following tips for improving your sleep quality for enhanced performance and recovery:

- Establish a consistent sleep schedule. Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends.

- Optimize your sleep environment. Make your bedroom conducive to sleep by keeping it cool, dark, and quiet.

- Avoid large meals and beverages late at

night. Discomfort might keep you up.

- Create a relaxing bedtime routine. Set aside at least 20-30 minutes before bedtime to wind down.

When it comes to physical training, more is not always better. Your body will have a natural way of telling you when you have done too much. You will likely need a break from physical training if you experience:

- Physical fatigue and extreme muscle soreness. Intense, lingering muscle soreness (lasting days) and general exhaustion that doesn't go away after a good night's sleep.

- Diminished performance. Struggling with weights or paces that are usually easy, indicating a plateau.

- Mood changes. Unexplained irritability, low motivation, or feeling emotionally "spent".

- Increased illness. Overtraining can weaken your immune system and make you more susceptible to picking up whatever bugs are going around.

- Injuries. Developing overuse injuries like tendonitis or shin splints often occur when you don't give your body enough recovery time.

- Sleep disruption. Difficulty falling or staying asleep, even if you are tired.

Do not be worried about taking time off to allow your body to recover. Perform active recovery (walking, stretching, foam rolling), prioritize sleep (7-9 hours), and focus on high-quality nutrition to replenish.

The Warfighter's Fitness Playbook offers detailed guidance on workouts, recovery strategies, sleep optimization, and nutrition-all interconnected elements essential for sustained performance.

Temporary Robins AFB RQ-4 beddown approved



Air Force photo by Bryce Bennett

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – An RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft assigned to the 452nd Flight Test Squadron flies in the skies above Edwards Air Force Base, California, May 23, 2023. In April 2026, the Air Force approved the temporary beddown of the RQ-4 aircraft from Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, to Robins AFB, Georgia, while the runway at Grand Forks AFB undergoes repairs.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tommie Horton

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Painters from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Support Squadron prepare for sanding work on an RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft June 2, 2017, at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Robins was approved to host a temporary beddown of the RQ-4 from Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, while the installation's runway is being repaired.

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

The Air Force has approved the temporary move of the RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft from Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, to Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, beginning in April.

Airmen from the 319th Reconnaissance Wing will come with the aircraft to provide maintenance, logistics and personnel support operations while Grand Forks AFB's runway is repaired.

The 319th RW oversees the Air Force's RQ-4 program, including the care and flying of these high-altitude, long-endurance aircraft. During the temporary move, RQ-4s will take off from Robins AFB, but Airmen at Grand Forks AFB will fly them by remote control. The information they

collect helps senior leaders make decisions, supports NATO's eastern defenses, strengthens deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and watches important areas around the world.

"Our 319th Airmen are using lessons learned from past moves to keep our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission running smoothly," said Col. Alfred Rosales, commander of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing. "I am proud of how our team and our partners at Robins are working together to add this mission while keeping their current missions on track."

Robins AFB and the RQ-4 enterprise already share a history. Robins was the first Air Force installation with an air logistics complex to receive an RQ-4 for paint and related depot work, beginning with an unmanned arrival in May 2017. That maintenance support, led

by the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, helped keep the RQ-4 fleet ready for global operations.

The temporary move is expected to last through the summer. After the runway work is done, the RQ-4s will return to Grand Forks AFB.

"Team Robins is honored to support the 319th Reconnaissance Wing during this critical runway project," said Col. Johari Hemphill, Robins Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander. "From depot maintenance and paint work to hosting flying operations, Robins has been a trusted partner to the 319th RW for years. This beddown showcases the professionalism and flexibility of our Airmen and their ability to execute combat power around the globe."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Elora J. McCutcheon

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. – Airman 1st Class Bryant Vides-Perlera, a crew chief assigned to the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, pulls chocks beside a RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft as it's towed across the flight line at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, Oct. 23, 2020. In April 2026, the Air Force approved the temporary beddown of the RQ-4 aircraft from Grand Forks AFB to Robins AFB, Georgia, while the Grand Forks runway undergoes repairs.

Budget request directs record \$338.8 billion to Air Force, Space Force to meet "challenges of today and tomorrow"

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) --

The Department of the Air Force unveiled a \$338.8 billion budget proposal, April 21, a significant boost in funding designed to sharpen readiness, continue modernizing the fleet and underwrite deterrence while ensuring that any threat to national security can be met and, if necessary, defeated.

If enacted into law as written, the combined budget for the Air Force and Space Force for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, would grow by \$92.5 billion compared to the current fiscal year. Broken apart, the package that Congress will now consider stipulates \$267.7 billion for the Air Force and \$71.1 billion for the Space Force.

"The Department of the Air Force's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request moves beyond the trade-off between moderniza-

tion and readiness," said Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink. "We are funding both as concurrent priorities to ensure the force is ready to fight tonight, tomorrow, next week, next year, and next decade."

Both the White House and senior officials from the Department of the Air Force say the historic spike in spending is necessary if America's dominance in the air and in space is to be maintained and the challenges to homeland security met.

"This is not just about maintaining an edge; it is about expanding it," stated a Department document supporting the request. "This budget ensures the Department of the Air Force remains the ultimate guarantor of our nation's security, today and for decades to come."

"Our 2027 budget request funds our priorities of readiness, modernization and taking care of our Airmen and their families," said Air

Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ken Wilsbach. "Looking at readiness, it significantly increases accounts for flying hours, spare parts, munitions, maintenance, and advanced training that reflects the realities of today's battlefield and tomorrow's fight."

The budget request includes a notable investment for upgrading the ground-based nuclear deterrent known as Sentinel and injects an additional \$3 billion to accelerate development of the F-47, the newest fighter. The budget proposal pushes \$2.7 billion (a \$1.7 billion increase) for the semi-autonomous aircraft effort known as Collaborative Combat Aircraft, and \$7 billion to continue building the B-21, the newest generation long-range bomber.

The budget proposal calls for spending \$7.4 billion (a \$1.1 billion increase) to purchase 38 F-35s and \$3.9 billion for 15 new KC-46A tankers. Recognizing that

the Total Force "trains as we fight," the proposed budget earmarks \$2 billion for exercises and training, including large scale exercises across both the Air Force and Space Force that allow the services to "stress test" capabilities.

On a percentage basis, the budget request for the Space Force grows by 124% from the current fiscal year. The increase reflects the investment needed as the service continues to grow because of the importance of space capabilities to every action the military takes.

The Space Force's highest-ranking officer, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman, acknowledged the growth of the service's budget but said the increase matches the need, the importance of space, and how the domain is now recognized as the invisible frontline in any conflict.

"As the past year has demonstrated, space is more vital than ever to

our economic prosperity, our national security, and the lethality of the Joint Force," Saltzman said. "The proposed budget represents a generational opportunity to position the Space Force to win against the growing threats and demands our nation faces today and tomorrow."

In addition to providing funds to grow the Guardian force by 2,800, the budget proposal calls for spending \$6.7 billion (a 60% increase) for satellite communications "to ensure our forces have a secure, reliable" link in any environment. It also invests \$6.8 billion (a \$2.9 billion or 70% increase) in missile warning and missile tracking architecture.

The proposal requests \$21.6 billion - a 158% increase from FY26 - to continue investment in all categories of Space Control systems necessary to secure the nation's interests now and into the future. Space Control is one of the service's three core functions

and comprises the activities required to contest and control the domain.

Another \$500 million will be directed to cyber warfare operations to safeguard satellites. The Space Force would also receive an additional \$2.9 billion over current funding for National Security Space Launches. That boost in funding will procure 22 launches.

For the Air Force, the budget blueprint also calls for spending \$600 million "to develop a family of affordable mass munitions" to expand the array of munitions available to commanders and planners.

Responding to the increasing workload and responsibilities that the Air Force and Space Force must shoulder, the budget request calls for spending an additional \$2.5 billion on personnel to increase the number of personnel across the Air Force and Space Force by 12,700 (9,900 for the Air Force and 2,800 for the Space Force.) The budget request also carries funding for pay increases across the force, using sliding scale that offers a 7% boost to the most junior enlisted personnel with lower increases for more senior leaders.

The overarching goal, according to documents supporting the request, is clear.

"This is not just a budget; it is a deliberate, once-in-a-lifetime push to supercharge our defense industrial base, sharpen our readiness, and secure our air and space superiority," the document says. "This 38% increase over the FY26 enacted budget is a strategic choice to ensure we are ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow."

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Mission ready, heat safe: 78th OMRS shields Airmen from heat illness



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — A traditional Wet Bulb Globe Temperature meter, left, and a modern WBGT meter are held side by side at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 30, 2026. When the traditional meter was used, it required deionized water and more time to get an accurate result than the modern alternative.

By Lauren Boggs
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

With a sweltering summer on the horizon for Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, the 78th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight is doing the critical work to keep Airmen safe, healthy and mission ready in the face of extreme heat.

The team monitors temperatures that dictate the flag conditions on the base, which ultimately set the work/rest cycles and hydration schedules for all base personnel.

To do this, the squadron goes beyond the typical heat index, a measurement that only accounts for the tem-

perature and humidity. "Wet Bulb Globe Temperature is a more accurate measurement," said Airman 1st Class Kywan Woods, 78th OMRS biomedical engineering technician. "It gives us more accurate readings as far as temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and radiant heat."

An outdoor WBGT meter automatically measures the WBGT throughout the day while the bioenvironmental team keeps a log of the results. The system also automatically reports conditions to the Base Defense Operations Center, ensuring Airmen are instantly notified when the flag condition changes.

Flag conditions range from 78 to 89.9 degrees while black-flag warnings

are issued when the WBGT reaches 90 degrees or higher.

"The automatic system definitely helps reduce work stoppages," said Woods. "It allows us to gather information to better notify the base of what they need to do when it's hotter out."

The WBGT logs also play a significant role in preventing heat-related injuries.

"It's important that we know the temperature and to make sure we aren't doing things like physical training tests during black flag conditions," said Woods. "Keeping a log on what's going on really helps reduce heat-related illnesses across the base."

According to Staff Sgt. Joseph Urban, 78th OMRS Environmental noncom-



U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Airman 1st Class Kywan Woods, 78th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, reads the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature meter at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, March 30, 2026. The meter automatically recorded the WBGT throughout the day to determine flag conditions for the base.

missioned officer in charge, Robins AFB reported only four heat-related illnesses in 2025. The WBGT logs are used to investigate those incidents and inform future heat-safety policies.

Although outdoor workers are at a higher risk from the effects of excessive heat, the bioenvironmental team encourages every member of Team Robins to recognize the signs of heat-related illnesses ranging from milder issues like heat cramps and

heat syncope, or fainting, to more severe, and even life-threatening conditions like heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

"Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, we see black flag conditions about 90% of the time," said Urban. "It affects the whole base, whether you work outside or primarily indoors."

The National Weather Service says early signs of heat illness can include muscle cramps and heavy

sweating, while worsening conditions can lead to dizziness, nausea, and a fast, weak pulse.

Ultimately, the team stresses the importance of prevention and looking out for your fellow Airmen. They encourage all personnel to stay hydrated, strictly follow the work/rest cycles, and, most importantly, look out for fellow Airmen who may be showing signs of a heat-related illness.



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