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# Central Georgia's Home Garden & Real Estate Connection



# The Houston Home Journal

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Weekend, May 16, 2026

## Canvas security breach concerns raised at county Board of Education meeting

By OWEN JONES  
HHJ Staff Writer  
owen@hhjonline.com

PERRY — The April 29 security breach on Canvas, a web-based digital learning platform from Instructure, affected Houston County schools.

This hack is considered the largest educational security breach to date, affecting over 8,800 schools and institutions. According to Instructure, students use Canvas for their assignments, quizzes, discussions and to see their overall course material.

Lauren Schultz spoke to the Board of Education on

transparency of the technology Houston County students are using.

"The release stated that our student data such as 'student passwords, date of birth social security numbers and financial information' were thankfully not involved," Schultz said.

The release also said that students' names, school email addresses, classroom assignments and messages within the software may have been involved in the attack.

She questioned if personal information had been compromised and if Canvas had access to it. She ultimately found out Canvas

had access to her child's date of birth.

"What other EdTech programs used by Houston County had access to my child's personal information such as her date of birth and social security number?," she said. "I am still waiting for that response."

Schultz was not the only one concerned about the cyber attack, as multiple lawsuits have been filed in Utah, the headquarters of Instructure.

Schultz referenced the Parents' Bill of Rights found in the district's policy, which states that the

See BOARD page 3A



Houston County Board of Education tentatively approved its FY27 budget in Tuesday's meeting. Sandra Hernandez/HHJ

## Prayer rings out at Warner Robins Police Department for Police Week

By BRIEANNA SMITH  
HHJ Managing Editor  
brieanna@hhjonline.com

WARNER ROBINS — As National Police Week continues, the city of Warner Robins took the time to call on a higher power for peace and protection for law enforcement.

On Wednesday, local police officers and city staff gathered for the annual "Pray for Police" event. The event is held every Police Week as a chance to come together, reflect on the year, and of course, pray.

See PRAYER page 7A



Officer Greg Martin prays alongside law enforcement and city officials during the Pray for Police event Wednesday, May 13. Brieanna Smith/HHJ

## Multiple people arrested for drug trafficking inside Houston County Jail

By OWEN JONES  
HHJ Staff Writer  
owen@hhjonline.com

HOUSTON COUNTY—Houston County Sheriff's Office announced the results of Operation Cellblock Syndicate, an investigation spanning five months into a drug trafficking organization inside the Houston County Detention Center.

According to a press release from the Sheriff's Office, their Narcotics Intelligence Unit (NIU) executed search warrants on five homes in the county.

Brittany Smith, Ty'Miere

Evans, Julissa Montes, Margaret Phillips, and Renee Smith were arrested and charged under the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

Inmate Miekell Stephens was also charged under RICO. The release said investigators found out Stephens was the leader of the organization as he directed distribution operations from inside the jail through his connection on the outside.

See JAIL page 7A



PERIODICAL

## Warner Robins mosquito spraying goes organic for summer 2026

By SANDRA HERNANDEZ  
HHJ Staff Writer  
sandra@hhjonline.com

WARNER ROBINS — Mosquito spraying officially started on May 11, but this year, the city is taking a more environmentally conscious approach.

In an interview, City Administrator James Drinkard said the spraying is intended to help control the mosquito population and address issues like disease transmission.

According to the Georgia Department of Public Health, regularly found mosquito-borne illnesses include West Nile virus. In rare cases, West Nile can cause severe sickness in humans affecting the brain.

Drinkard said that there have been discussions with Mayor LaRhonda Patrick and council members about not continuing the program due to concerns from the public about environmental impact. But they have also received requests to continue.

This year, the city is using a new product with proven effectiveness.

It is called Southland Organics Defender which is made with essential oils and natural stabilizers, according to Southland Organics. Drinkard said it was chosen because it does not contain certain chemicals and insecticides, like the former product used by the city, PermaSease.

See MOSQUITO page 8A

## From laundry soap to living room furniture — Church makes 'massive' donation to women's recovery ministry

By BRIEANNA SMITH  
HHJ Managing Editor  
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PERRY — Two organizations partnered up on

Wednesday to make a difference for local women.

On May 13, Abba House received a large donation from HopeChurch - Warner Robins, made of various

cleaning supplies, hygiene products and beauty products.

"Anything they need for toiletries, anything they need to clean the house, anything they need to make life doable," Jennifer Kohlmayer, the organization's public relations director, said.

Abba House is a local faith-based ministry that houses women for a year and helps them get back on their feet after substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health disorders, or sexual abuse.

Kohlmayer went through the program herself and now works in community outreach for Abba House.

See DONATION page 8A



Jennifer Kohlmayer (in pink shirt) grabs part of a large donation to Abba House on Wednesday, May 13. Brieanna Smith/HHJ

### Word of the Day

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

— 1 John 3:18 (NKJV)

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A division of The Georgia Trust for Local News

# COMMUNITY

## '10 Good Men': WWII B-17 crew members tell their stories one last time to local documentary director

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

**WARNER ROBINS** — Fewer than 46,000 World War II veterans are still alive to share their stories, but a local director made it his mission to record living history. The result is a documentary, "10 Good Men" which will premiere on Sunday, May 24 at the Piedmont Grand Opera House in Macon.

The film is about the crew members on Boeing B-17, also known as the Flying Fortress.

Director Trent Jones said it was the most iconic bomber of World War II, and in his opinion, American history.

10 Good Men is a 90-minute documentary that includes rare and colorized archival footage. Emmy Award-winning voice talent Dan Nachtrab will also narrate it.

Jones said the film has already received rave reviews from New York Times best-selling authors and respected Air Force historians.

The B-17 was the first heavy bomber developed by the United States. By the time production ended in 1945, Boeing produced over 12,000. The aircrafts were sent to lead the bombing campaign in Europe. It was used in every combat zone during WWII, but is most known for strategic daytime strikes against German

industrial targets.

Robins Air Force Base has a B-17 displayed at the Museum of Aviation.

Jones said the film tells the final story of the aircraft through the words of the men who flew it. He believes this film is important right now because, on average, veterans are in their 90s or older.

"This is their last time telling this story," he said.

Jones was born and raised in Warner Robins. He is also a graduate of Houston County High School.

He made his directorial debut on YouTube in 2019. He started by making short documentaries about aviation history. He said he was lucky that people enjoyed watching his videos. Jones then began making it his full-time job.

From there, he built a large following on his YouTube channel, which has 295,000 subscribers, and on Facebook.

In late 2022, he was allowed to interview their first WWII veteran. He then recreated his story through a video.

People then started reaching out to Jones, eager to share stories of other WWII veterans. He said that it is hard to find them, but thanks to technology and a passionate audience, he was able to locate them.

"Through that we were able to find these guys and start to connect with them and start to put together this project," he said.



Courtesy: Trent Jones

Director Trent Jones and Associate Producer Joshua Profit interviewed about 40 World War II veterans in the span of three years.

Jones and his crew also did the research to find other veterans, such as finding news articles. After the veteran's approval, he and his Associate Producer, Joshua Profit, also a Houston County native, would travel to their location and interview them.

Over the past three years, they have interviewed

about 40 veterans. Only 15 of them were on the B-17, and of those, 10 are featured in the movie. Jones shared that this was the perfect number because it was the number of crew members that could serve on the aircraft.

This then inspired the title of the film: 10 Good Men.

At a young age, Jones fell in love with history. He would build model planes when he was about 10-years-old. He especially loved aviation history and enjoyed learning about old

aircraft and aerial combat.

Through his passion and creativity, he realized the people who experienced those time periods are still alive today.

"At some point you realize as you get older that eventually they're not going to be here. When they're not here, their stories are gone and they're not coming back," he said. "If nobody records and preserves those stories and those firsthand accounts, then they're simply gone forever."

Jones learned people can read combat reports, but

only the people who lived it can describe how it felt, how it smelled, how scary it was, and how it felt to lose a friend.

"Those sorts of things cannot be conveyed by simple military histories. Those can only be preserved by firsthand accounts," he said.

Jones believes it is crucial to preserve their history, especially since those men are passing away. He said it is vital for people to understand what happened and know that thousands of

See **STORIES** page 9A

## BILL'S PRODUCE LOCAL HONEY

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CALL TO BOOK TODAY!

8th Annual HALO Group 5K

Saturday | June 6, 2026 | 8:00 AM

Georgia National Fairgrounds  
(South Gate – Starbuck Learning Garden)

Join us in supporting The HALO Group, a 501(c-3) nonprofit serving adults with disabilities through vocational and life skills programs. Proceeds provide scholarships for those in need.

Enjoy a fun-filled morning with concessions, inflatables, field games, and more!

Register: Scan the QR code or visit [HaloGroupGA.org](http://HaloGroupGA.org) (Events tab)  
\$25 Race Fee + \$2.50 Registration Fee

There will be a \$100 prize for the top Male and Female winners and the top Male and Female Masters.

COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT MORNING OF RUNNING!

Please scan the QR code to register

# CALENDAR

## All Saints English Tea

May 17 | 2:30 p.m.  
1708 Watson Boulevard,  
Warner Robins

The All Saints Episcopal Church Fellowship Committee is hosting the annual All Saints English Tea in our Parish Hall. This year's theme will be a farewell to Downtown Abbey. Guests are invited to dress up, wear a special hat or a fascinator. There will be delicious traditional English Tea goodies, door prizes, and our "Grand Raffle." Guests will be welcomed to the Tea by a Scottish Piper in costume.

For your musical enjoyment, prior to the Tea, at 1:30 PM, there will be a recital by our choir director and organist extraordinaire, Ted Babbitt, together with the members of the Flute choir. This will be a special opportunity to enjoy wonderful music before the tea. The recital is open to the public and there is no ticket required.

Tickets for the tea are \$30.00 per person and can be purchased at the church office. Reserved tables for 4, 6, and 8 are available prior to purchase. There will be no tickets at the door. Please contact the church office at 478-923-1791 for more information and tickets.

## Heart of Georgia Philatelic Society Meeting

May 19 | 6 p.m.  
4088 Watson Boulevard,  
Warner Robins

The next meeting of the Heart of Georgia Philatelic Society (your local stamp club) will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 starting at 6 pm.

The meeting is open to everyone interested in stamp

collecting and postal history. Every meeting features door prizes, appraisals, free magazines and other literature, and a mini swap meet where you can buy and trade stamps, covers, supplies and related materials. For more information, send an email to chief\_rod@yahoo.com or call 478-636-8684.

## Middle Flint Board Meeting

May 21 | 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.

## '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-sell-

ing 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 Undoctrinated Series

May 26 | 6:15 p.m.  
1201 Washington Avenue,  
Perry

Join Tactical Civics at the next Undoctrinated Series at the Perry Public Library. Come out and virtually meet two Gen Z's: Garfield Green from Tennessee and Belle Reese from South Carolina. Learn how these Gen Z's view the past, present, and future of America, and what needs to happen.

## America 250th Anniversary Celebration

June 9 | 10 a.m.  
1942 Heritage Boulevard,  
Robins AFB

The Greenbriar Garden Club of Warner Robins cordially invites you to join us in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America at the Museum of Aviation.

# OBITUARIES

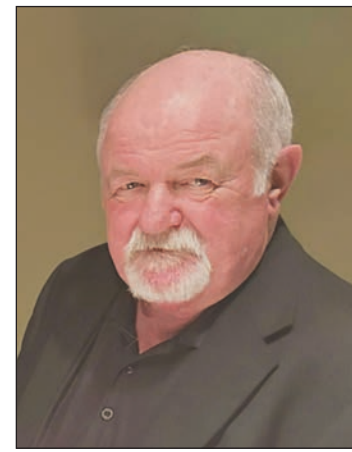
## Michael Paul McEver

Milledgeville — Michael Paul McEver, 76, passed away peacefully on May 12, 2026, at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Georgia.

Born on June 16, 1949, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Michael is the son of Amelia E. McEver and the late Virgle W. McEver, Jr., M.D. He was raised in Warner Robins, Georgia, and graduated from Northside High School in 1967.

Michael continued his education at the University of Georgia, where he earned his bachelor's degree, before graduating from the John Marshall School of Law. Michael was a devoted University of Georgia fan who loved the Bulldogs.

Throughout his professional life, he was known for his entrepreneurial drive. He was a partner with White Columns Land



and Timber Realty and owner of Michael P. McEver Productions, where he worked alongside and supported numerous Southern music groups throughout the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. He was also co-owner of Duck's Breath Saloon, a well-known gathering place in Warner Robins in its time that hosted many popular Southern music groups throughout the years.

In addition to his work in music production, Michael

built a successful career in real estate, working with several realty companies across Middle Georgia and most recently with Robert Binion Realty.

He will be remembered for his love of music, his dedication to his work, and the many relationships he built throughout his life.

Michael was devoted to his family and is survived by his wife, Tina McEver; mother, Amelia E. McEver; brothers, Joseph A. McEver (Doriann), and Virgle W. McEver III, M.D. (Miriam J.); several nieces and nephews; as well as many extended family members and friends who will cherish his memory.

A private graveside service will be held at Magnolia Park Cemetery, where Michael will be laid to rest.

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

## Marshall Norwood Miley

Marshall Norwood Miley, 81, of Watkinsville, passed away on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Born May 5, 1945, he was a native of Hahira and the son of the late Norwood W. Miley and Rhona Barfield Miley.

Marshall was a graduate of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, where he was a charter brother of the Sigma Chi fraternity—an early reflection of the steady commitment and fellowship that would mark his life.

He devoted 30 years to a distinguished career as a sales manager with GTE, now Verizon, earning the respect of colleagues through his reliability and quiet professionalism.

Marshall is survived by his wife of 51 years, Karen Whitworth Miley; his daughter, Brooke Alanna Miley



of Watkinsville; his sister, Tanya Johnson of Calhoun; and lifelong friend, Michael Crump.

A devoted Georgia football fan and longtime season ticket holder, Marshall found genuine enjoyment in the traditions of game day. In the quieter rhythms of home, he also loved reading and working in the yard—simple pleasures that spoke to a life grounded in constancy and care.

A time of visitation has been held on Monday, May

11, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bernstein Funeral Home in celebration of Marshall's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the GSW Foundation, P.O. Box 926, Americus, GA 31709. Please make checks payable to the GSW Foundation and include "Sigma Chi Scholarships" along with the individual's name in the memo line. Online gifts may be made at <https://www.gsw.edu/giving/general-giving> by selecting "Sigma Chi Scholarships" under the "Other" tab.

Memorial contributions may also be directed to the Athens Area Humane Society, 1030 Mitchell Bridge Rd., Athens, GA 30606. Online donations may be made at <https://athenshumanesociety.org/donate>.

Bernstein Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Community Calendar

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

Houston Home Journal 478-987-1823 1210 Washington St. Perry, GA 31069

## City of Centerville proud to present Food Truck Friday on June 5



**Special to The Journal**  
CENTERVILLE — The City of Centerville is excited to announce the return of Food Truck Fridays on Friday, June 5 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Center Park, highlighted by The Chris Anderson Band of Macon from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Kaleigh Courson performing in concert from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Chris Anderson Band frontman Chris Anderson is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and producer who has been a mainstay on the Southern Rock scene since the 1970s, playing with, tour-

ing, or writing songs for legendary acts such as The Outlaws, Grinderswitch, Lucinda Williams, The Allman Brothers, Bad Company, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blackhawk, Hank Williams Jr., Steven Stills, Johnny Neel, and Neil Carswel.

Courson is a Nashville recording artist from Macon, who has a deep passion for writing and performing. Her ability to blend Southern Rock into her Country sound reminds you of what real country music is all about! She was a finalist for the 2021 Georgia Country Award's Female Artist

of the Year and was a semi-finalist for the 2022 Georgia Country Award's Female Artist of the Year.

We also have a slate of food trucks for all ages that will be full of flavorful yummy goodness that ranges from sweets to burgers to Mexican.

The Food Trucks include Chick-fil-A, Jail Creek Winery, Peach Cobbler Factory, Pinky's, Salsa's Mexican Grill, Suburb Grill, Soul2Soul Food, and Tasting at the Burrough.

Everyone is invited to come to enjoy good food and good music at Center Park at 103 E Church Street in Centerville.

## BOARD

From page 1A

Board of Education encourages parental involvement in schools. She said the parents have the right to learn about their child's courses, including having access to the material they use in the classroom.

"This has not been my experience at the district level, especially in the light that I was encouraged not to speak," she said. "It has been like pulling teeth to gain access to my child's course of study and the materials that are electronic and sourced through Edtech programs."

Schultz shared that her questions of what products her fourth-grade daughter uses and what info those programs have still been left unanswered. She said if the district had textbooks, she wouldn't have to ask those questions.

"As parents, there are too many unknowns that we

can't protect our children against, but the school system should not add to those unknowns through lack of transparency," she said. "Let us know what programs our children are using on a daily basis."

Along with the concerns about cyber attacks, the Board of Education also had its first public hearing on Tuesday on the tentative FY27 budget. The General Fund revenue is tentatively \$481,395,444, expenditures of \$476,258,308, and a fund balance of \$80,465,970.

District Chief Financial Officer, Michelle Morris spoke in favor of the budget. Morris said it will contain no change in the millage rate and the local option sales tax is a known and fixed amount.

"We are also excited to say that [expenditures] include a 2% cost of living increase for all applicable employees," she said. "In addition to that, a \$1,000 supplement

to be paid in November 2026 for all eligible employees."

Morris said beginning teachers are paid 20.4% higher than the Georgia State Salary Scale, as well as up to 32% higher for more experienced and certified employees.

The total revenue for FY26 will tentatively be \$622,189,863, expenditures of \$654,535,882 and an end-of-year total fund balance of \$149,795,366.

The next public hearing on the FY27 budget will be held on June 23.

The Board tentatively approved both the FY27 budget and millage rate, 11.719 mills.

The next Houston County Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2, at 1 p.m., located at the Board Office in Perry.

The agenda can be found at [simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SBMeetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=4089&MID=136290](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SBMeetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=4089&MID=136290)

## City of Warner Robins, GA

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROPOSED

### FY 2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND FY 2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

The City of Warner Robins will make available for public review at the City Clerk's Office, located at City Hall, 700 Watson Blvd., the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 General Fund Budget. This document can be viewed beginning Friday, May 15, 2026, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. The Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget can also be viewed on the City's website, which can be found at [www.wrga.gov](http://www.wrga.gov).

Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget will be held on the following dates and times: **Monday, June 01, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 09, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.** All hearings will be located in the Council Chambers, City Hall. All citizens wishing to comment on the Proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget are invited to attend these public hearings.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins are scheduled to adopt the FY 2027 Budget at their regular monthly meeting on **June 15, 2026**. The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

City Clerk  
City of Warner Robins

## VIEWPOINTS

## The Houston Home Journal

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## Our Goal

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

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## Share Your Viewpoint

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

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

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Most kids go through a phase where they ask why. I'm old but I still ask why. Several recent Journal reports on court decisions have caused me to ask why. Why the court system seems so against public safety?

In the Askew case report from April 26, Kelly Burke blames himself. That's noble but an appeals court said because of state law, the trial court was mandated in this case to sentence Askew to life imprisonment without parole. What did Kelly do wrong? Askew was charged with kidnapping 3 people plus 3 aggravated assaults and more in the Morrison's case.

In the Rockefeller column from May 12, he champions special accommodations for youthful offenders such as juvenile school shooters. He doesn't mention two school shooters who killed 6 people who are walking around free now because it happened when they were juveniles and couldn't be held after 18. Why not? The victims are still dead.

Who stands up for the victims of crime? The Declaration of Independence says "We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights: Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Crime always infringes on those rights. The Bill of rights defends rapists, murderers, thieves, terrorists and other kinds of evil more than it does the average law abiding citizen.

The sentence a person gets is a joke. You can get out even when sentenced to Life Without Parole. A plain old life sentence is even easier to get out of. One guy who was sentenced to 115 years for crimes since 2017 only served 5 years. Every time he gets out, he goes back in within 4 months. He was let out in December 2025 and this March he was charged with murder in Macon.

Thousands of convicted killers live in our jail and get a bed, TV, internet, free food, free medical care, free HVAC, etc. One of the Manson killers is free. Every living person who ever shot a President is free. The man on GA's death row the longest has been there 51 years. He's had 2 two trials and 2 death sentences.

It's been 53 years since 4 escapees from prison killed 7 members of the Alday family. One of those demons is still alive in prison. The gang leader got 3 trials and 3 death sentences. Then he was diagnosed with cancer so they nursed him back to health.

When they were granted new trials, the appeal court decision said in writing the evidence overwhelmingly proved them guilty but even the overwhelming guilty deserve an impartial jury. Why?

Sincerely,  
Harry Stewart

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:  
SEND THEM TO BRIANNA@  
HHJONLINE.COM TODAY!

## A boycott is born

Recently I mentioned the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Fascinating history, as you know, but have you ever wondered where the word "boycott" actually came from?

You probably think I only know Irish history — and, other than American history, you'd be mostly correct. But the Irish gave the English language one of its most potent political words. The term "boycott" was born from Ireland's long struggle under British rule, famine, and oppression.

The story begins in post-famine Ireland, in County Mayo — my ancestral homeland.

A British land agent named Captain Charles Boycott managed a vast estate for an absentee English landlord. By every account, Boycott was a cold, arrogant, joyless man who viewed the Irish tenants beneath him as little more than livestock with rent payments attached.

And Ireland, at that moment, was suffering terribly.

The potato famine had devastated the countryside. Harvests were poor, families were starving, and tenant farmers simply could not pay their rent. They begged Boycott for temporary reductions so they could survive the winter.

He refused. Not only did he refuse, he moved to evict them through the courts. Boycott believed the law guaranteed obedience. The peasants would grumble, perhaps curse him over whiskey, but eventually they would bend the knee.

Instead, Ireland changed the rules.

The Irish Land League, led by Charles Stewart Parnell, proposed a revolutionary idea: destroy a man not with violence, but with isolation. Parnell urged the people to treat unjust landlords the way ancient societies treated lepers — avoid them completely.

And so they did. When Boycott needed workers to harvest his crops, nobody came. His grain stood rotting in the damp Mayo fields.

When he entered shops, merchants refused to sell to him. His money suddenly carried a stench no one wished to touch.

COLUMNIST

KELLY BURKE



The postman would not deliver his mail. Blacksmiths would not shoe his horses. Servants abandoned the house without explanation.

Every door quietly closed. Every face turned away. No threats. No riots. No gunfire.

Just silence. And in that silence, ordinary people discovered extraordinary power.

The British government panicked. To rescue Boycott's crops, they dispatched 50 Orangemen from Ulster under the protection of nearly a thousand soldiers.

Imagine that absurdity:

an army descending upon County Mayo to harvest oats.

The operation cost the government over 10,000 pounds to save crops worth barely 350. It became a laughing-stock across Europe.

By December of 1880, Boycott was finished. Humiliated and defeated, he fled Ireland under military escort. But he left behind something unexpected.

His name stopped being a name.

It became a verb.

Today, whenever ordinary people join together to resist unfairness, corrup-

tion, or abuse of power, we still invoke the name of that miserable British land agent from County Mayo.

Captain Charles Boycott lost his fight with Irish peasants.

But he gained immortality in the dictionary.

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.kelly-burke.com. You can email Kelly at dakellyburke@gmail.com.



## We don't need a law to keep on talking Southern, y'all

I'm a little late getting around to this but there is a survey out by a group called Writing Tips Institute, a website that teaches people how to write correctly. (An aside from the editors: Please consider joining, and if they will also teach you to put commas where they belong, we'll kick in with the tuition.)

According to the survey, 51% of Georgians would like our dialect protected by law. I would have thought the number would be higher, but then most everybody here is from someplace else and can't understand us anyway, let alone make the effort to protect the way we talk. Fuhgeddaboutit.

If we are going to talk about passing a law, we should pass legislation that says if anybody from north of the Mason-You-Know-Who line so much as snickers at the way we talk, we will put them into baggy white shorts and ship them off to Guatemala as illegal aliens. Let's see how they snicker then.

There's not much that will sully me up quicker than somebody telling me I talk funny. I will remind them that there is nothing wrong with the way I talk. They are the ones with the strange accents. And I would laugh at them, except that is impolite and in the South, it's all about good

COLUMNIST

DICK YARBROUGH



manners. That's the way our mommas raised us.

I'm really not sure why we talk like we do, but there is no question we are economical with the language. Unlike other parts of the country, we don't find it necessary to stick extraneous letters on our words. Like putting the "g" at the end of words. If you haven't figured out that we are saying "fussin'" or "fightin'" by the time we get to the end of the word, sticking a "g" on it ain't goin' make much difference.

Same with the letter "r." We use them on the front end of important words like "Readin'" and "Ritin'" and "Rasslin'," but we don't feel compelled to put them on the end of words, like "over" or "under." We just say "ovuh" and "unduh." Even the Supreme Being doesn't rate an "r." We just call him "Lawd." He doesn't seem to mind.

We use the same words everybody else uses. We

just assign them a different meaning. Bard, for example. According to my personal lexicographers, Barney Funk and Porter Wagnalls, bard is defined as a poet. Around here, bard means you took something that doesn't belong to you. ("Honey! That sorry brother of yours bard my riding mower again without asking.")

In the West, a ranch is a lot of acreage with horse or cows on it. We have ranches in the South, too, only we have more of them. We have pipe ranches and box-end ranches and socket ranches. We use our ranches to fix things.

Speaking of "fixing," that is one of our favorite words in the South. We use it like everyone else when we are going to repair something, as in "Darlin', where's my ranch? I'm gonna fix the leak in the sink." However, we also use fix as a substitute for "preparation," which has too many "r's"

and takes too long to say. We "fix" supper (In the South, supper is dinner and dinner is when we eat lunch) and then announce to the family to wash up, that we re "fixin' to eat" or "I'm fixin' to sit down and watch me some Andy Griffith on TV."

When others talk about "war," they have visions of bombs bursting in air. When we say "war," we are describing what goes around fence posts to keep the cows from running loose. "Barbed war." In other parts of the country, "moan" means "to utter a low dull sound." Not here. When we say "moan," we mean to get the lead out and move it. ("Moan, Clarence, we ain't got all danged day.") Same with "far." To a lot of folks, far is a long way off. Far keeps us warm.

Frankly, I don't think our dialect needs to be protected by law. It's fine like it is. Besides, I don't trust that the Legislature to get it right anyway. As my sweet momma, Southern to the core, used to say, "If brains were dynamite, they couldn't blow their nose. Bless their hearts." What's hard to understand about that, y'all?

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

# LIFESTYLE & FAITH

## Better to drink it than crave it

One of the best friends I ever had was a man who has long since departed this earth. He was a prince of a guy. He never saw a stranger and would literally give you the shirt off his back. He was dependable and you could always count on him. His word was his bond. I would have trusted him with my life.

He had only one fault—he liked to take a drink, but he limited it to once a month. Just like clockwork, on the 3rd day of the month, when the postman delivered his social security check, he would high tail it to the liquor store and come away with two big quarts of Ancient Age bourbon.

He would sit down at his kitchen table and proceed to imbibe the spirits. He would quaff down several ounces of bourbon each time, followed by a swig of coke. As the fiery elixir spewed down his esophagus, he would close his eyes and grit his teeth as if he were dying, his face turning red as a beet. After he recovered seconds later, he would pat his stomach and say with a big smile, "That was so good!"

My friend made a few tactical errors under the influence, most notably

### PARABLES TO PONDER

BILLY POWELL



was driving away from a service station in his old Nash Rambler with the gas hose still connected to his fuel tank. The police didn't lock him up, but his brother had to come to the police station to bring him home.

Once I asked my friend why he drank. His reply was, "The good book says it's better to drink it than to crave it." I haven't found this reference in the scriptures, but many people will justify their drinking by referring to various passages in the Bible. One most prominently used was Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding in Canaan. Another was Paul's suggestion to Timothy that he take a 'little' wine for his infirmities.

Human flesh and alcohol just don't mix. You could actually petrify human organs if left in a solution of alcohol. That's exactly what liquor does

—it petrifies the body. Drink enough of it, long enough and you will begin to shrink up. Alcohol poisons you; it destroys internal organs like the liver, pancreas, kidneys, etc. and kills brain cells by the millions. Actuarial studies by insurance companies conclude that "the more you drink the quicker you die."

Proverbs warns: "Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things." Isaiah adds "Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine." Ephesians 5:18 concludes: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the spirit."

## Sweet dreams are made of this

The average human spends about a third of their lifetime asleep. That equates to about a quarter of a million hours, or roughly 26 years. If you include time trying to go to sleep, and restless nights, a person will have spent over 30 years of their time on Earth lying in bed, assuming you make it to the ripe old age of 90.

These calculations, and I'm trusting the internet on this because I've never been good with figures, are based on a body getting a healthy eight hours a day. But we all know few people actually get the required amount of rest a human needs to function properly and that is why most people either shuffle around like zombies or, in the case of mass caffeine consumption, are as jittery as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

All that being said, and the fact that to be healthy you must sleep aside, that seems like a lot of time wasted. With our waking moments crammed with the obligations and monotonous tasks required by this great society of ours, it seems a shame that most of our free time is spent with our eyes closed. Don't get me wrong, I

### NEW SOUTHERN DAD

KYLE DOMINY



love a good sleep and I am usually the first person among my family and friends to call it night, but I always end the day with too many tasks left undone. There are things I want to learn, skills I want to cultivate. I often leave work with lofty expectations for my evening, that I will make time to run a few miles or practice playing guitar and the like.

But that's not often the case, and as any one with a family can attest, time slips away from you and by the time you get to sit down a spell, closing your eyes for a moment seems like a great idea. The next thing you know, tomorrow has come and gone.

There may be hope for me yet though. New research suggests that people can communicate and strengthen skills while sleeping and dreaming, particularly in lucid dreams, a state of sleep

where the brain recognizes it is experiencing a dream.

For instance, dreaming about playing the piano or speaking in a foreign language will register as practice for that skill. The dreamer will wake up and the body will retain that experience as if it really happened.

The setback, however, is that my dream self is quite inept. In my dreams (I guess you can call these nightmares) I can never perform the skills that I want to improve. If I need to run, my feet are like anchors. If an instrument is placed in my hands, I can't make it produce anything close to music.

I've never been one to put meaning to a dream, but if a dream can improve your abilities can it also impair them?

I may need to drop some hobbies, but at least I'm getting enough shut eye.

## Decoration Day history

Most people will head to the beach or some other mini vacation to celebrate the official start of summer and have no idea about the solemn meaning of Memorial Day other than it being a three-day weekend.

There are several states, both Northern and Southern, that claimed to have started the tradition of decorating the graves of soldiers killed during the civil war. May 30th was considered to be "Decoration Day" where folks would cover the graves of the fallen in many flowers. General John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic officially issued a proclamation designating the day for the first time in 1868. General James Garfield spoke to the crowd of over five thousand people that gathered that day at Arlington National Cemetery to decorate both Union and Confederate graves.

Because this holiday appeared to be created by the Union, many southern states were slow to accept this holiday and created their own Confederate Memorial Day that was celebrated on different dates among Southern states.

The holiday became more widely recognized

### ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



in 1915 when Secretary Moina Michael read the poem Flanders Field in a lady's magazine. The poem referenced the rows of white crosses in the poppy field. She decided there and then to wear a silk poppy in honor of fallen veterans and made silk poppies for all her friends. The American Legion adopted this silk poppy as an official symbol of the holiday in 1921. Many other countries adopted the poppy as a symbol in honor of fallen soldiers around the world. You hardly see these anymore. I sometimes come across them in estate sales, tucked away in a jewelry box.

In 1971 Congress changed the date of Memorial Day to always be the last Monday in May so there would always be a three-day weekend. Ever since then, it seems the intent of the holiday has diminished ever since and become a time of

recreation without little thought given to the men and women who died to keep our country free so we could have those cookouts and beach trips.

When I was little, we always took advantage of that three-day weekend to go to Western Pennsylvania to visit my grandparents, aunts, uncle and cousins. I wondered why grandma was always trying to get someone to take the time to take her to the cemetery for 'Decoration Day' since she never learned to drive and felt that she couldn't miss such an important day.

You may be fortunate enough to come across vintage postcards or ephemera that celebrate the memory of the fallen and it is very interesting to read the stories on the postcards from days gone by. Please take the time to remember the sacrifices made for us and Happy Collecting!

## Hypertrophy: how our muscle cells grow

Most of us would like a little more muscle for either, extra strength, shape or simply for better economy of movement. Or in other words, to have more strength and energy so that whatever we have to do in our daily grind does not wear us out. We want a little steam left to do the fun things in life with the ones we care about.

When our muscle cells expand (hypertrophy) through increased stretch and tension, they become stronger, firmer, and have added space inside them to hold more muscle energy (glycogen).

Hypertrophy is the way our muscle counters and adapts to new stress placed on the muscle, and is also why something that used to be hard to do becomes much easier when done consistently and over a period of time, especially when we gradually increase resistance.

Recovery is crucial to the muscle and strength building process. When muscle cells get put under a stress they're not used to, it causes micro tears in the muscle. This is what we need nutrition, rest, and recovery time for: to allow our body the time it takes to patch up these muscle cells with amino acids from the proteins in our diet. When our body repairs these muscle cells

### YOUR HEALTH

WADE YODER



with this amino acid patch paint, what we have is a microscopically stronger expanded muscle cell.

It's important to increase endurance building over a period of time, due to the breakdown process that happens to the muscle proteins in our body. Broken-down protein has to be removed (a lot like the waste around a construction site) and if there is too much in a short period of time, it can cause things to get clogged up, in this case, an overload on your kidneys.

I read recently about a lady's trainer that pushed her way too hard on her first workout. The next morning her urine was the color of Dr Pepper. She was an insurance agent, and with the type of job she had, her body was probably not close to being prepared for the type of workout her trainer put her through.

Once your muscle has recovered, (usually within 1-2 days) it is ready to

be worked again, either to keep it at its current strength and size, or you can slightly increase the stress to increase strength and muscle size. This depends on your fitness goals. The size of the muscle group worked, and intensity of the workout can have a bearing on the amount of recovery time needed.

One of the largest contributing factors to the loss of stamina, strength and performance and the overall aging process is atrophy — the shrinking of our muscles. Whether skeletal muscle or the muscles that make up our vital organs, the main 2 factors to atrophy is our diet and inactivity.

Our body adapts to inactivity by shrinking muscle and vital organs, but our body also adapts to gradual increases of stress by strengthening muscle through hypertrophy.

Let's live a hypertrophy lifestyle so that our quality of life will not atrophy!

## The things you can't measure

Slaw makes me really nervous. Wait. That's not exactly right. Making slaw makes me really nervous. I don't have a set recipe.

Oh, I know exactly what goes in it, but the ingredients are not exactly measured. When I make slaw, I add a scoop of mayo, a sprinkling of sugar, a slosh of vinegar, and a dab of oil. After stirring it all together, I mix in a bunch of shredded cabbage and carrots. I want it to be sooo good. If the taste is not right, I add a little more mayo, a bit more sugar, maybe a swish this time of vinegar to make it just right. By the time I'm finished, I've tasted so much of it, I don't have room for dinner. It would

### GUEST COLUMNIST

DAWN REED



be easier if I had a precise recipe.

Other things I cook or bake have a structured measure of ingredients. Tablespoons of this, a fourth or half a cup of that. It's beautiful science that goes together to be consistent.

It took me forever to learn to make gravy because it wasn't measured and written down.

Older ladies who tried to teach me used pinches of this and dashes of that. Is a pinch a half teaspoon? Is a dash more or less than that? I nearly gave up. The Lord blessed and now, I have a specific and measured way to do it.

One thing I'll never be able to measure is the love of my Heavenly Father. I am thankful every day for His presence and His

faithfulness. Growing up, I knew more about church rules than being the church. There was more condemnation than compassion. I didn't realize God was for me instead of against me. When I messed up, and boy, I did, I thought He couldn't forgive me. While I know and treasure Bible verses like Jeremiah 29:11 now, back then, I didn't realize they were intended for me. Maybe you, of course you, but for me, not so much. And I never, not even once, read Zephaniah 3:17. That God could take great delight over me? And want to sing over me? It still makes my eyes water.

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the people at

Ephesus from prison. I don't ever want to forget that. When his life was hard and nearing the end, he used his time to encourage others. In Ephesians 3:14-19, he told the people he had been praying for them. Praying that they would be rooted in love, and that they would be able to grasp "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." From prison, Paul wanted them to know that the love of Christ is immeasurable.

Paul finished with: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all genera-

tions, for ever and ever! Amen." He really can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

John wrote in 1 John 3:1: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" I don't think you can measure "lavished love."

In Psalm 103:12, David wrote about God's forgiveness, "He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from the west." Can't measure that, either.

Dawn Reed is a pastor's wife, newspaper columnist, and the author of *Weiner Stew: Inspiring Stories from Appalachia*. Reach her at preacher-wife7@yahoo.com.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**POPEYE**  
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

WHILE CLEANING OUT HIS OWN NURSERY FROM TODDLERHOOD IN THE HOME OF HIS UNCLE DAVEY JONES, POPEYE HAS MADE A HORRIBLE DISCOVERY THAT MAY DISTRACT HIM FROM HIS MISSION TO SAVE OLIVE OYL FROM THE KINGDOM OF THE PAST.

HOW'S THE CLEANUP, NEPHEW? COULD BE BETTER!

YA BRUNG SEA HAG T'ME FIRSK BIRTHDAY! T' HANG OUT?!

POPEYE, I PROMISE YOU, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.

NO ONE EVER HANGS OUT WITH THEIR BABYSITTER.

STRIKE?! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO STRIKE!

SEA HAG'S SISTER HAS CAPTURED OLIVE OYL, HOPING TO USE HER AS BAIT IN A TRAP FOR POPEYE, BUT THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SHE HOPED.

COME BACK HERE! I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD HAVE FREEWILL!

MISS OLIVE SEZ YOU NEED US MORE 'N WE NEED YOU. PAY US OR WE WALK.

IS THIS A BAD TIME TO TELL YOU OLIVE RELEASED THREE OF YOUR PRISONERS? [STREAM OF IMPOLITE WORDS]

THAT'S IT! RELEASE THE BACKUP SECURITY TO ANNIHILATE OYL!

MOM, THAT'S GOING OVERBOARD!

IT'S NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH! I WAS A FOOL TO LET OYL RUN LOOSE IN MY DUNGEON! NOW SHE'S JAILBREAKING MY CAPTIVES!

SHE'S ALREADY TURNED MY GUARDS AGAINST ME. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT A RUTHLESS ARMY SHE'S MAKING OUT OF THOSE PRISONERS?

I DUNNO, MAN. HAVE YOU TRIED NOT TASTING GOOD?

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Vacuum is higher. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Drawer is larger. 5. Back of chair is different. 6. Bottom of chair is different.

### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

WHEN HOPE RECEDES AND CHAOS REVEALS ITSELF, DRAG YOUR BUTT ACROSS THE FLOOR TILL CALM RETURNS.

DOG GURU

## CROSSWORD 5-16-26

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1 Bourbon brand
  - 8 Belly area
  - 15 Girlfriend, in Genoa
  - 20 Pertaining to the womb
  - 21 Spiced Starbucks selection
  - 22 Autos for test-driving
  - 23 Food, clothes or money [actress Danes]
  - 25 Greek market of old
  - 26 DC-10, e.g.
  - 27 Lariat feature
  - 28 Rushes about wildly
  - 30 Marketed
  - 31 Grain tower
  - 32 Like a skimpy swimsuit [actor Perry]
  - 35 Church area
  - 37 Powders mixed into liquids, e.g.
  - 38 Research ctr.
  - 39 Shoes worn with tutus [designer McCartney]
  - 44 Tenth mo.
  - 46 Perjurer's confession
  - 47 Fork prong
  - 48 Pop singer Rita
  - 49 Mai -- (drink)
  - 52 Young morays, say
  - 54 Huge Asian mammal [justice Kagan]
  - 60 Tijuana-to-Vegas dir.
  - 61 Add- -- (extras)
  - 63 Olive -- (military uniforms)
  - 64 Small lakes
  - 65 -- Jima
  - 67 Having supple arms and legs [jazzman Davis]
  - 72 Nuptial vow
  - 73 Moving spryly
  - 75 Smoothly polite
  - 76 Neighbor of TV's Homer
  - 78 Surg. sites
  - 80 Roomy place to house vehicles [actress Jones]
  - 85 Vacation spot
  - 87 Swallowed
  - 88 Little fellow
  - 89 Performs like Ice Cube
  - 91 Initial venture
  - 92 1040 info
  - 93 Small, springy apparatus [director Scorsese]
  - 98 Zenith
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1 Vaults
  - 2 Writer Calvino
  - 3 Lead or tin
  - 4 "I'm Sorry" singer
  - 5 The Emerald Isle
  - 6 Singer DiFranco
  - 7 Most soft, dry and crumbly
  - 8 "Solid Gold" host Marilyn
  - 9 Breakfast chain, for short
  - 10 Flow barrier
  - 11 Discharge from the military, informally
  - 12 Skater Midori
  - 13 Minks' kin
  - 14 Femme --
  - 15 Modify
  - 16 #1 song, say
  - 17 "The Father" actress Poots
  - 18 Tools for fruit preparation
  - 19 How bedding is often packaged
  - 24 IM chuckle
  - 29 City near Bangalore
  - 31 Booming jet of old, in brief
  - 32 Jazz genre
  - 33 Bitter brew
  - 34 Karel Capek sci-fi play
  - 36 Actor Pascal
  - 37 Floored it
  - 39 Good, in Nice
  - 40 From dusk to dawn
  - 41 Dynamo
  - 42 52, to Flavius
  - 43 Hotel cousin
  - 45 Li'l Abner creator Al
  - 48 Ashley or Mary-Kate
  - 49 Cooked in a clay oven, as naan
  - 50 Neighbor of a Spaniard
  - 51 Part of TGIF
  - 53 NBC skit show, in brief
  - 55 Lazy sort
  - 56 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
  - 57 "Rambo" site, for short
  - 58 Decline
  - 59 -- polloi
  - 62 "What a pity!"
  - 66 Bullfight yell
  - 68 Your and my
  - 69 Droop down
  - 70 Mendes of movies
  - 71 Berlin article
  - 73 -- discount
  - 74 Long, thin fish
  - 77 Clear of mist
  - 79 Eye sore
  - 81 High-kicking French dance
  - 82 Dilettantish
  - 83 Long, thin fish
  - 84 Org. enforcing the 104-Across
  - 86 First post-band album, perhaps
  - 90 Vodka brand
  - 92 Marine snail with no shell
  - 93 Cooking wine
  - 94 Lyricist Gershwin
  - 95 Actor Cage, to friends
  - 96 "Addams Family" cousin
  - 97 Compadre
  - 98 Harmony
  - 99 Shamrock, e.g.
  - 100 Threat
  - 102 Guys contracted by the Mafia
  - 105 Bird hangouts
  - 106 Wading bird
  - 107 Tic -- (mint)
  - 109 Toothbrush brand
  - 110 Region of China
  - 111 In tune
  - 113 "-- Rhythm"
  - 114 Country's McEntire
  - 117 Mo. neighbor
  - 118 Native suffix
  - 119 Tiny objection
  - 120 Space station until 2001

## 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

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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.

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**JAIL**

From page 1A

The Sheriff's Office recovered marijuana, fentanyl, cocaine, and several guns.

Houston County Detention Officers, Daisha O'Daine and Shantess Hart, were involved in the operation. O'Daine was arrested in Monroe County on charges of possession of marijuana, speeding, following too closely, and window tint violation, as well as outstanding charges in Houston County for possession of a Schedule 1 substance and violation of oath of office. She was immediately terminated from her position.

Hart was also terminated for policy violations during the investigation. Charges are still pending.

Houston County Sheriff Matt Moulton said in a statement that those who attempt "criminal enterprises" inside their detention center or anyone on the outside involved will be prosecuted. Moulton praised his NIU and is grateful to the Houston County District Attorney's Office and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia State Patrol, and Federal Bureau of Investigation for their assistance on Operation Cellblock Syndicate.

The release said Operation Cellblock Syndicate is still an active investigation, and they expect more arrests. Anyone with relevant information to this investigation is urged to contact the Houston County Sheriff's Office NIU at (478) 922-1313.

Courtesy: Houston County Sheriff's Office

**Operation Cellblock Syndicate resulted in the arrests of at least five people and maybe more down the line.**



Southside Baptist Church Lead Pastor Matt Walls (left) and Warner Robins Police Chief Wayne Fisher (right) pray during the event.

**PRAYER**

From page 1A

First up to reflect was Police Chief Wayne Fisher, who said the year was long and thought provoking. He was joined by a sizable crowd at the front steps of the city's Law Enforcement Center.

"We've had multiple events that really tested the resiliency of the organization. It is through faith and family, and that resiliency as a whole with the agency that helped bring us through," Fisher said.

Before praying, Matt Walls, lead pastor of Southside Baptist Church, shared his personal experiences with law enforcement.

Growing up, a police officer visited his elementary school and told the kids they like when they wave. That small gesture was part of a larger thread of appreciation and respect, taught to Walls by his family.

"So now from the age of

nine, to now 51, I have been waving at police officers my whole life. Most of them I find will wave back at me," Walls said.

Walls also took time to thank law enforcement for stepping into situations most would run from and serving the community.

"Thank you for helping me and my family sleep safely at night knowing you guys are out there taking care of our city," Walls said.

The prayer first covered safety and protection.

"[They] put their lives on the line, they so willingly do all that they do, and the least we can do is pray for their safety and protection," Walls said.

Next, Walls spoke on wisdom and discernment.

"They have to make split-second decisions, life-altering decisions in a moment sometimes, and they need us to be praying for their wisdom and discernment," Walls said.

Finally, he prayed for mental and emotional health.

"The things that they see, the things that they deal with, the things that they have to process, are not for the faint of heart. So many other reasons we could be praying for them, but those are just a few," Walls said.

Mayor LaRhonda Patrick also spoke at the event, saying the city would not be safe and thriving without the police department. She also thanked city leaders, command staff and officers for their work and called on the community to uplift law enforcement in their prayers.

"Let's remember them as we say our prayers in the mornings, in the afternoons and at night," Patrick said. "Because they're sacrificing their lives every minute in between."

The department is also hosting a Night of Blue Lights Food Truck Roundup and a bass fishing tournament for the week. National Police Week spans from May 10 through May 16.

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# MOSQUITO

From page 1A

The Environmental Protection Agency has a standard set for natural products called FIFRA 25, according to their website.

“What that means is while it’s effective against mosquitos, ticks, fleas [and] things like that; it’s actually designed to be safe for pollinators [like] bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects,” he said.

The city anticipates it will not have negative impacts. The previous

spray, PermaSease, was a true insecticide designed to control mosquitoes and certain flying insects.

According to Azelis Agricultural & Environmental Solutions, it contains 4.6% permethrin and 4.6% piperonyl butoxide. These chemicals work together to remove adult mosquitos, black flies, gnats and midges.

He described the product as indiscriminate, meaning it also negatively impacts honeybees.

An issue honeybees and other pollinators are cur-

rently facing is the yellow legged hornet, which was seen in Savannah, the Georgia Department of Agriculture says.

“[We’re] trying to be more environmentally conscious and not negatively impact pollinators and positive insects,” he said.

The organic Defender mosquito spray does not include harsh chemicals, but is still effective against ticks, fleas, ants and other annoying insects, like mosquitos.

The city is divided into nine zones and spraying will be done over the course of one to two weeks, weather permitting.

The spraying will be done May 11 through May 14 between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Drinkard explained they target those hours to avoid spraying while children are playing outside.

“It is a safe product but we recognize that folks aren’t necessarily familiar with it. They may not be completely comfortable,” he said.

Drinkard added that the city realizes mosquitos can be a health threat and aim to control the population. He said they also hear citizens’ requests to continue the program.

“We’ll continue to do it for those two reasons,” he said.

The city will work through the zones in order.

To see your zone, visit the city’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofWarnerRobins1>



Brieanna Smith/HJJ

Abba House residents, employees and volunteers help set up new furniture next to the donation pile in the facility's shared living room space.

# DONATION

From page 1A

“We want to talk about the wounds that got you to that point. It’s all about Jesus, all about the love,” Kohlmaier said. “I had no idea that I was worth that and that’s what they do. They show you you’re worthy.”

Kohlmaier said part of her outreach is to local churches. While recently talking with HopeChurch, she mentioned a need for laundry soap, hair care products and toilet paper.

The list grew from there and the church showed up with a box truck full of items, including a surprise.

“[The church] called and said, ‘Could you guys use new furniture?’ It just turned into this massive, beautiful thing. I couldn’t imagine that us simply saying, ‘we’re out of laundry soap,’ would turn into this,” Kohlmaier said.

In total, the group received a mountain of supplies and new couches — a restock of essentials and a revamp of their living room.

Abba House had been searching for years for a new set, hoping something would come through their auxiliary thrift store. Coincidentally, HopeChurch happened to have multiple.

Kohlmaier said the group was incredibly grateful and she was thrilled to be a part of the donation.

“I get to see the girls being so grateful and then I see the [church] being so happy to give. I’m on both sides here, and I’m loving it,” Kohlmaier said.

The name-brand products donated resonated with Kohlmaier, who said the program often uses what it can get.

“These girls are going to feel good. They’re going to feel pretty and they’re going to feel loved,”

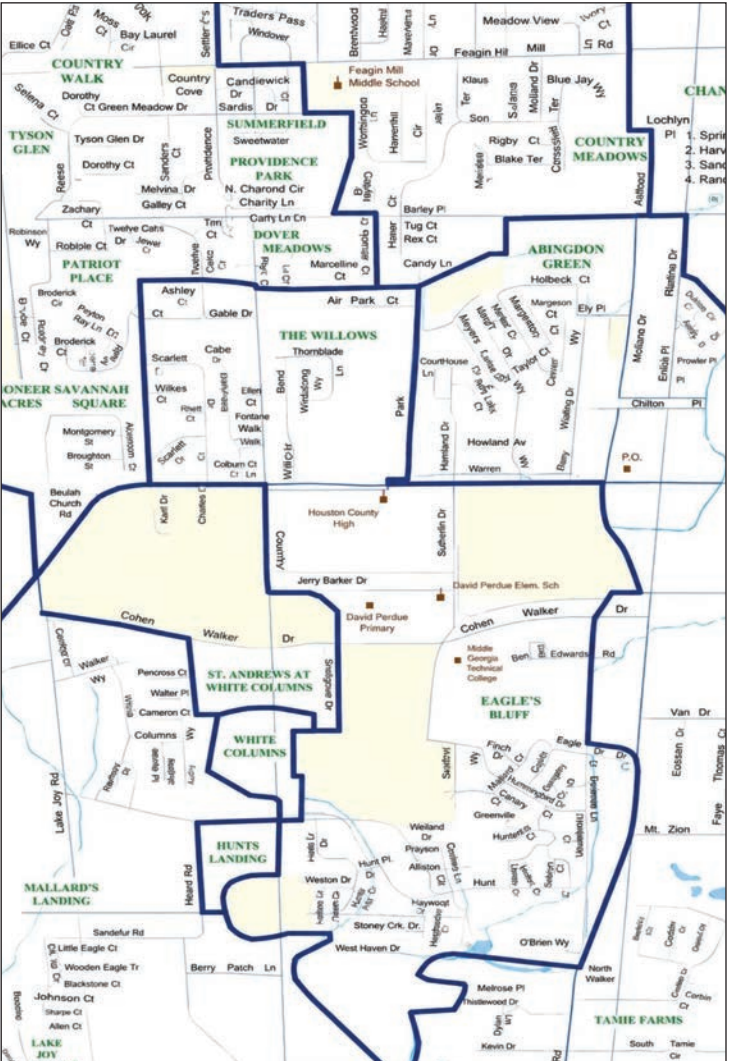
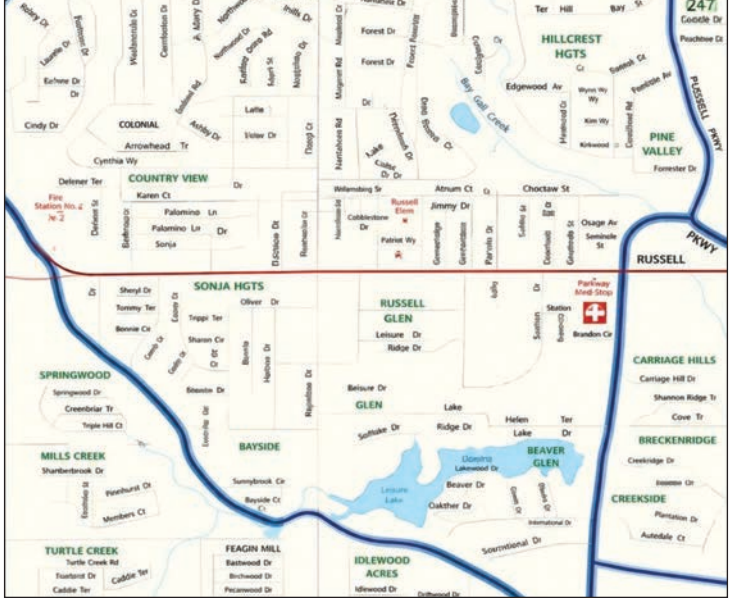
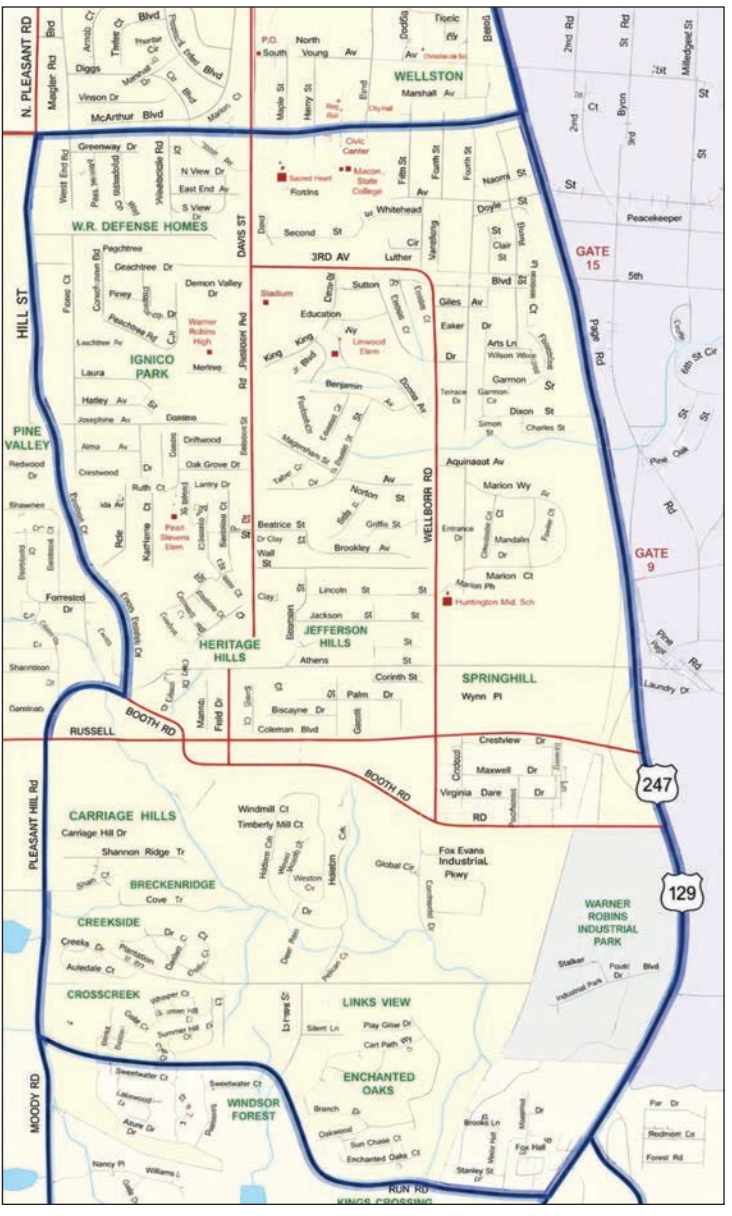
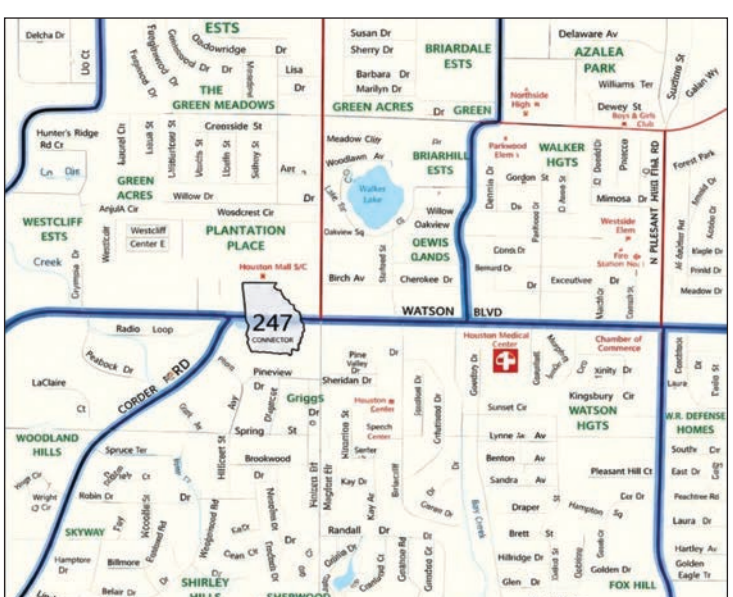
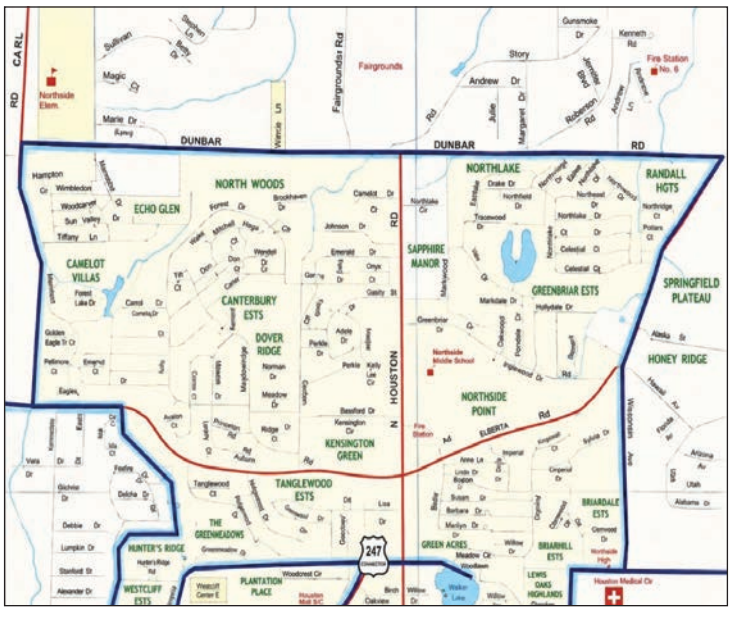
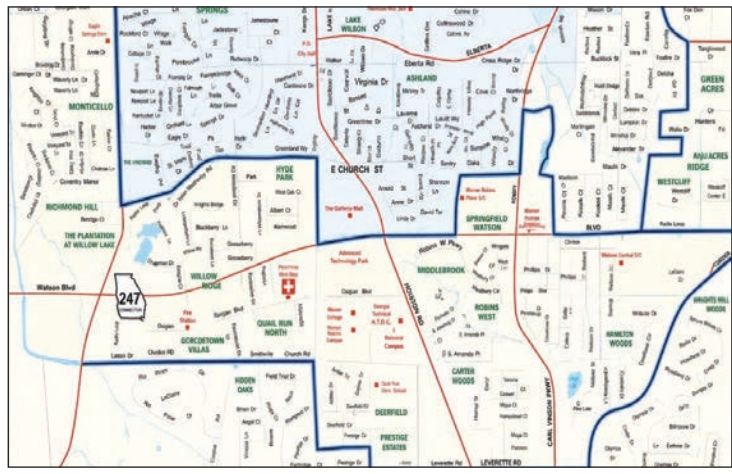
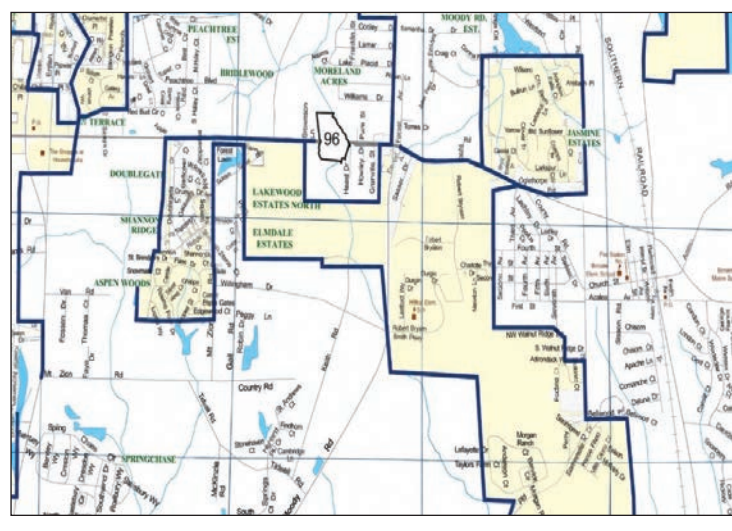
Kohlmaier said. “For me, not having that my whole life, whatever I can do to make these girls feel loved on a daily basis, I’m all for it.”

Kohlmaier gave the utmost thanks to HopeChurch.

“Thank you for your generous giving. Thank you for loving these girls and thank you for hearing me when I told you we had the need,” Kohlmaier said about her thoughts on the donation.

Abba House is funded through corporate sponsorships, community donations, and the thrift store on Sam Nunn Boulevard. Kohlmaier said the organization always accepts donations and volunteers, and those interested can contact her at (478) 343-0341.

More information on Abba House can be found at [abbahouse.com](http://abbahouse.com)



The mosquito spraying program started on Monday, May 11. The city has been divided into nine zones, and spraying each will take one to two weeks. Maps courtesy: City of Warner Robins

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Perry Chamber welcomes The Village Louvre gallery



**A new hub for creative expression has opened up in Downtown Perry! The Village Louvre is a gallery from four Perry locals, featuring 2-dimensional works, from photography to portraits, to paintings. They recently cut the ribbon with the Perry Chamber. Check out their artworks at 736 Carroll Street, Unit 9.**

Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

## GEAR Lab celebrates opening



**The Museum of Aviation's GEAR Lab celebrated its grand opening in joint ceremony with the Perry Chamber, Robins Regional Chamber, and Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce on May 6. The lab is a hands-on space to learn emerging technologies, such as coding, cybersecurity, aerospace systems, virtual reality and advanced manufacturing. See more coverage on our website.**

Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

## BBB: 'Winners' lose big to imposters posing as Publishers Clearing House

Yes, Publishers Clearing House imposters are back at it again. They never really left, but consumers are again hearing, "You've won – a new car! Millions of dollars! Cash for life!" The crazy thing is, you don't even recall entering the contest. Con artists continually pose as Publishers Clearing House and other sweepstakes and lottery companies to play on our desire to "get rich quick."

Here's how the scam works. You receive a phone call, text message, email, social media message, or even a letter in the mail claiming you've won millions of dollars or another high-value prize through Publishers Clearing House. The correspondence seems real. It's complete with official seals and contact information for the contest organizer. It typically lists affiliation with legitimate organizations, such as the Better Business Bureau, the IRS, the FTC, and major retailers.

The catch? You are responsible for paying shipping and handling, insurance, taxes, and other fees before you can claim your prize. Scammers may pressure you to pay quickly, claiming that if the fees aren't paid in this specific way and right on time, you'll forfeit your prize money.

A few thousand dollars may not sound like much compared to the millions you've just won. However, con artists keep asking you, the "lucky winner," to pay again and again. But it's never enough to get the funds transferred. Of course, in the end, your prize money never existed.

The real Publishers Clearing House is a BBB

BBB TIPS

**KELVIN COLLINS**

Accredited Business with a good rating, and it never asks people to pay upfront fees for anything. The company is frequently mimicked by scammers because of its reputation for real prizes.

Tips to avoid these scams:  
 • Reach out to Publishers Clearing House: If you are contacted by a scammer impersonating PCH, report it by calling (800) 392-4190. You can find more information from Publishers Clearing House at [info.pch.com/fraud-protection](http://info.pch.com/fraud-protection).  
 • Be wary of unsolicited correspondence. If you receive a notice out of the blue and can't recall entering the contest, it's likely a scam. Look for typos and misspellings. They are tell-tale signs of a scam.  
 • Never pay fees to claim a prize. You should never have to pay any fees up front before receiving winnings. Not even taxes.  
 • Never wire money or use prepaid debit/gift cards. If you are asked to use these transfer methods to get a prize or any other large sum of money, that is a major red flag. It's difficult to track these types of transactions, so you will have little to no way of getting your money back.  
 • You have to give personal information. Anytime someone tries to get your bank account number, Social

Security number, or other sensitive information, that should be an automatic red flag. There is also no need to access financial information, like a credit card number in response to a sweepstakes promotion.

• Don't fall for 'too-good-to-be-true' prizes. When you are offered a large sum of money, there is always a catch. Scammers attempt to make it sound easy to claim your prize. The reality is that it is very unlikely that someone will give away large sums of money with no strings attached.

• Keep track of any contests you enter. You can't win a contest you didn't enter. If you often enter contests and sweepstakes, keep track of them and check them out thoroughly. This will help you spot a fake.

You can find more information on spotting a Publisher Clearing House scam on their website's fraud information center at [info.pch.com](http://info.pch.com).

To learn more about sweepstakes scams and how they work, see BBB's study on these scams at [BBB.org/ScamStudies](http://BBB.org/ScamStudies). If you've been the victim of a scam, please report it to [www.BBB.org/ScamTracker](http://www.BBB.org/ScamTracker). By sharing your experience, you can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

## Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

- **Main St. Social** — Wed. June 3, noon, 740 Main Street, Perry
- **Middle Georgia Podiatry** — Thu. June 4, 1 p.m., 1020 Keith Drive, Perry
- **Joy Park Apartments** — Thu. June 11, 4 p.m., 115 Margie Drive, Warner Robins
- **Woofie's of Greater WR** — Thu. June 25, 11 a.m., 900 Carroll Street, Perry

## STORIES

From page 2A

young men answered a call to fight against tyranny around the world.

"Without that, the world would be very different and, likely, a whole lot worse today. It is because of the courage and sacrifice of a bunch of 18 and 19 year old kids that we have what we have today. If we forget that, then eventually we're doomed to repeat the same mistakes," he said.

One of the most important lessons he learned is that making a movie is both difficult and expensive. The most important lesson he learned was that many of the veterans he met have something in common. Jones said that as they are nearing their final phase of life, their priority is that people remember.

"That's one of the crucial themes of the film is the word, 'remember.' As these guys leave us they almost, without fail, just want to make sure that people remember what happened to them, their friends, [and] the guys that never came back," he said.

Jones also learned how to live a life worth living.

He said that many of those veterans have recognized what is important now.

He shared that if anyone wants to live until they are 100 years old, they have to be passionate about something and get up every day to do it.

Those veterans are still active in their communities by participating in their local ping pong club, going out to swim, riding a bike, or volunteering at a church. Jones noticed that he do not sit and do nothing, which stuck out to him.

The premiere is on Memorial Day weekend, which Jones believes is a great time to remember the men who didn't come back. He wants this to be a takeaway for the audience.

Jones also aims to make history cool again. He remains very passionate about learning history. He recognizes how learning about something that happened 80 years ago can affect him today.

Jones hopes to pass on that passion to other people. He wants to let them know that learning history and educating themselves can positively change their life; another takeaway he hopes audiences will feel.

This is also why he decided to premiere the film in theaters rather than on YouTube. The movie will be featured in nine theaters across the country over the next month. Their goal was to support theaters that support them.

"We want people to bring their families. We want people to experience this together. We want people to be able to put down a phone, get away from a computer screen and go experience this film with friends and family because it's important to do that," he said. "That's the best way to share in watching something like this."

10 Good Men will premiere on Sunday, May 24, at 5 p.m. at the Piedmont Grand Opera House, located at 651 Mulberry Street, Macon.

Those interested can purchase tickets through the theater's website: <https://www.thegrandmacon.com/>. They can also visit the film's website: <https://www.10goodmen.com/>.

To watch the film's trailer, visit the TJ3 History YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPusE0\\_iC5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPusE0_iC5A).

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PHOTOS

## WRALL baseball Major champions



Clay Brown/HHJ

The Marlins beat the Brewers to claim the 2026 Warner Robins American Little League Major championship game.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Marlins pitcher Cannon Dawson cocks back before following through on the pitch during the WRALL Major championship.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Karri Grant (2) takes a big swing at the plate against the Marlins in the WRALL Major championship.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Connor Smith stretches out to glove a hit in the infield. Smith started on the mound for the Brewers in the WRALL Major championship game against the Marlins.



Clay Brown/HHJ

Trenton Rowland runs home to score the first run for the Marlins in the WRALL Major championship.

# Jason Stephens announced Perry High School boys basketball coach, sets expectations in community meet and greet

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

PERRY — The new era of Panthers boys basketball was not ushered in with flashing lights and big promises, but with an intimate gathering of supporters.

Parents, prospective players and community members assembled in the Perry High School cafeteria on Tuesday night to meet the new varsity basketball coach, Jason Stephens.

Stephens shared a few things about himself, like his affinity for baking, which he related to building a program.

"I understand there's a process," he said to begin his analogy. "There's a process that each and every person in this room serves as one of those ingredients to that cake...Not only do you have to have the right ingredients, but you can't just stick it in the microwave because you're hungry and you're ready to eat it fast."

Afterwards he explained some of his short, medium and long term expectations, a word he used frequently in



Clay Brown/HHJ

**Perry High School announced Jason Stephens as their new head coach for boys varsity basketball. Stephens and the administration held a community meet and greet on Tuesday, where he shared his vision for the program.**

the roughly 30 minutes he talked.

"Expectations [and] accountability, those are probably my two favorite words when it comes to student-athletes," Stephens said. "You can't be afraid of

being held accountable, and you got to understand the expectations are gonna be high because every time you step out your house...You're a representation of yourself, you're a representation of your family, your coaches,

anybody that has any dealings with you."

"[The expectations are] gonna be so clear that if you walk into my practice late, all I'm going to do is tell you, 'Hey, that's about eight minutes, this is what you got.'

It's not going to be a back and forth. Why? Because the expectation has been set. The accountability part has been set," he continued.

Building that culture of accountability is number one on the list for Stephens as he approaches the summer. Two of his short term expectations listed on his slide-show were "culture building" and "establish expectations."

He didn't speak at all about wins or X's and O's, in fact he made a point to say that's not the immediate priority. Building young men of character, is.

What that looks like, Stephens said, is being disciplined on and off the court, being mentally and physically tough and having a team-first mindset.

"If we can't start the foundation, putting all these pieces together, X's and O's mean nothing," Stephens said.

That, of course, doesn't mean they will never be a factor. His mid-term expectations are to compete for region championships and the playoffs, which to him are the first steps to competing for state championships

and having a sustainable winning program, the long-term expectations.

He also mentioned his style of play as fast, smart, mentally and physically tough with solid fundamentals. That includes extra emphasis on rebounding, which is often a problem area for young and/or inexperienced teams.

"If I'm grabbing more rebounds than you, who has more opportunities to score the basket? Who has the least amount of opportunities for a basket?" Stephens said. "If nothing else, I'm telling you one thing we're gonna do every game is we're gonna out-rebound a team."

But, again, he stressed the importance of character more than anything.

"It's all about character. Not about X's and O's, but the things that's gonna carry you in life," Stephens said. "To make sure that you're an amazing husband...Father, uncle, friend, coworker, boss, all of those things. You gotta be the person that's always gonna make sure that you're making the right decision. Doing the right thing."

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**Brewers catcher Bodie Scott reacts to tagging a runner at home for the final out of an inning.**

Clay Brown/HHJ



**Marlins catcher Levi Garcia gets the ball back to his pitcher.**

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**Tucker Jenrette drops his glove to scoop up the ball during warmups.**

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**A Marlin stands on the second base bag during the WRALL Major championship game at Little League Southeast Park.**

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**Kaleb Bridges celebrates an out in the outfield during the WRALL Major baseball championship.**

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# Valedictorian on varsity: Warner Robins' Analea Harper balances athletics with academics to claim prestigious honor

By **CLAY BROWN**  
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Valedictorian is the highest academic honor a student can earn in high school, and it's rarely a varsity athlete that receives it. The course load required, paired with the time commitment of sports, often makes it an impossible task.

There are always exceptions to the rule. Analea Harper, varsity softball player at Warner Robins High School, is one of those.

Harper is the valedictorian for the Class of 2026 and has been a part of the softball program for four years, in addition to her participation in DECA.

Her academic inclination started at Hilltop Elementary school, thanks to her third grade teacher, Dara Seamans.

"She made third grade as rigorous as it could be. We had an essay a week, a project every week, and that is what instilled the internal drive that I have," Harper said.

"But it wasn't until I got to middle school when I realized, hey, I'm actually pretty good at this," she said. "I started getting all these academic awards and then by eighth grade I was Student of the Year, I had the highest average ... It was about seventh grade when I realized I really want to be valedictorian."

She was an early adopter of academic excellence, but she didn't pick up softball until she was in eighth grade.

Her seventh grade math teacher, Christopher



Courtesy of Analea Harper

Analea Harper was selected as the valedictorian for the Warner Robins High School Class of 2026.

"Blake" Edwards, planted the seed, though Harper was resistant to it at the time.

"I was running cross country and those happen at the exact same time," Harper said. "So I was like, 'No I gotta do cross country.' He was like, 'You can miss the practices just be on the team.' They mostly just needed players."

She finally relented in eighth grade because of her good relationship with Edwards, who was also the softball coach at Huntington Middle School. Her admiration for her mother, who played softball in her youth, was another factor.

It was easy enough to balance; she mostly ran the cross country races and attended softball practice, but high school was a different animal.

"I didn't really know much about what I was getting myself into," Harper said. "I was 14-years-old and I was with a bunch of 16, 17, 18-year-olds ... I felt really behind, and when I finally

made the team and I realized we had to play like, 52 million games the course of two months, it was kind of a shock."

Her placement on junior varsity helped soften the blow. There are significantly less games on the schedule and they often do not require the travel of the varsity slate.

That, along with the relatively easy freshman course load, made it easy enough to handle with some better time management and less procrastination.

Her elevation to varsity in her junior year was when things really picked up.

Harper took five Advanced Placement classes that year, including chemistry and pre-calculus which are considered two of the most difficult. She also took European history, U.S. history and language.

"It was the most difficult course load ... [AP chemistry] was just a behemoth of a class," Harper said. "So it was very difficult, lots of late nights. I had to learn



Courtesy of Analea Harper

Analea Harper was a part of the Warner Robins High School softball program for four years, and was on the varsity team for two.

how to run off of not a lot of sleep and I did have to learn how to do chemistry homework on the bus."

Her grades never suffered but she wasn't performing to her usual standard. Her love for routines and schedules helped her sort it out.

"I'd go to school on Monday, see how my week was gonna be and I'd be like, 'Alright, this is what I need to do for the week.' Then I would just allot time within the week to do whatever I needed to do," Harper said.

If something didn't get done on the scheduled day she'd work overtime to complete it by the next. She did homework during travel to games and dedicated any time outside of softball or classes to her studies.

She slipped from her spot

atop the Class of 2026 once in her freshman year, and she made sure it didn't happen again.

"I was absolutely distraught," Harper said. "I thought it was the end, I was done for, I was never gonna be valedictorian. ... By the end of sophomore year I was back up to one, and I don't know the exact rankings, but I was told that it was a pretty big gap between me and number two. And then I held my position all the way."

That gap didn't stop her from being nervous during the final stretch.

"The final stretch was manic," she said. "I was very, very, very sacred and paranoid just because this was my life goal. ... I was doing every extra credit assignment possible. I had literally perfect grades all

across the board because I was just not willing to let it go."

Harper has learned a lot from her high school journey, including just how important academics are even as a varsity athlete.

"When you call yourself a student-athlete there's a reason why student comes first. It's because the academics are the most important parts, sports can only get you so far," Harper said. "You learn a lot of really important life lessons from sports and sports are fun, but really in the end your academics matter the most."

"If it comes down to your academics and your sport, I would say prioritize your academics," she said. "Definitely show up and give 100% to your sport, if you can't fully commit to your sport you shouldn't play your sport. But I think [you should] manage your time and put your grades first, those are really important."

After high school Harper plans to attend Georgia Tech with a neuroscience major on a pre-medical track. Her fascination with the brain and firsthand experience with neurodegenerative diseases is her motivation.

"I've always loved the brain ... and I unfortunately have seen firsthand when it fails and doesn't work. I've seen dementia firsthand, I've seen Alzheimer's firsthand, and so I've seen how that can destroy people and families," Harper said.

"I don't know if I have the power to find something that will cure Alzheimer's or dementia, but I want to do my best."

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