

The Houston Home Journal

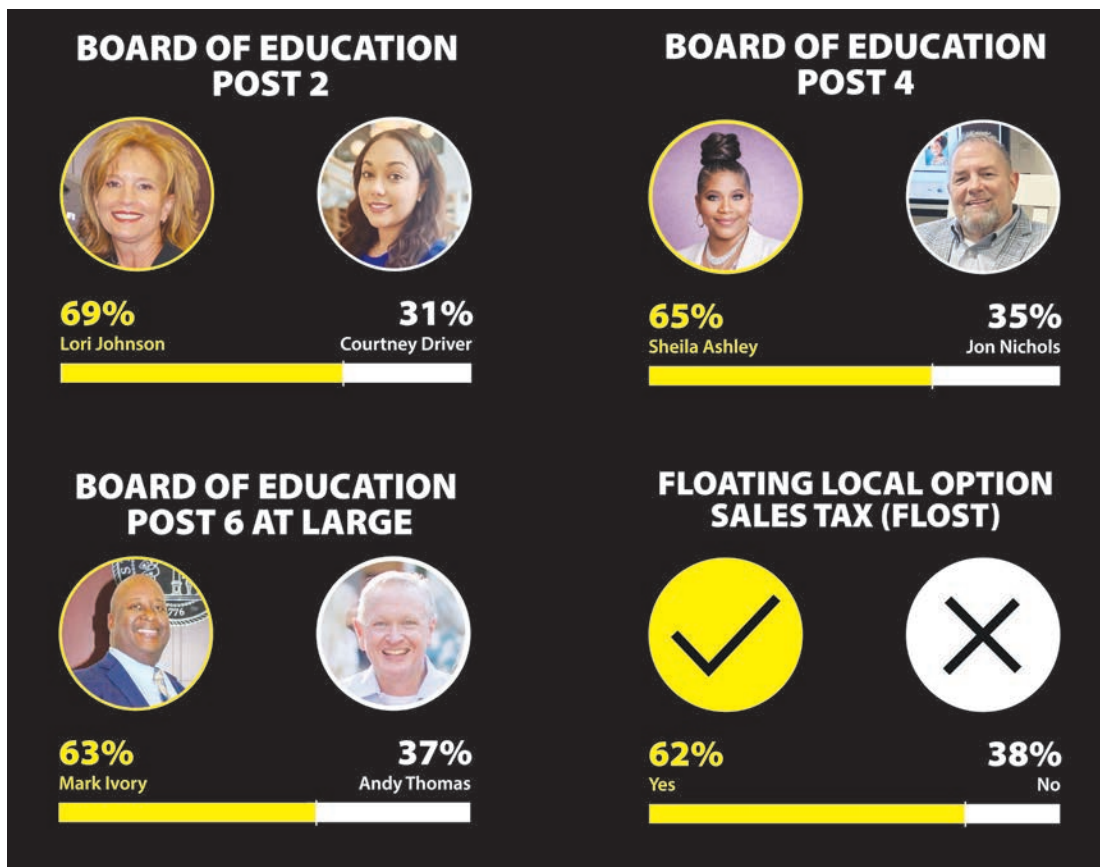
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Weekend, May 23, 2026

Election results: Voters approve local sales tax, elect three posts in Board of Education



Infographic: Brianna Smith/HHJ

By **BRIANNA SMITH & OWEN JONES**
Managing Editor & Staff Writer

30,000 registered voters showed up to the polls in early voting and on Election Day, making their voices heard on several key local, state and national races ahead of the November general election.

The Houston County Board of Education held three elections for posts two, four and six.

Posts two and six went back to incumbents. Lori Johnson won her election with 69% of the vote against challenger Courtney Driver. Johnson has served on the Board of Education since September 2015.

Driver, a parent to a fourth-grade student, ran under a platform of communication between parents and school district leadership.

The Houston Home Journal reached out to both Johnson and Driver for comment but they did not respond by deadline.

Post six went back to Mark Ivory, who garnered 63% of the vote over opponent Andy Thomas.

Ivory said he's ecstatic to continue his tenure on the Board of Education and very proud of those who supported him throughout the election.

"I'm very excited that the people elected me and look forward to continuing the work that I started," Ivory said.

Ivory thanked everybody during an interview with The Journal, those who voted for him and those who didn't.

Ivory said voting gives you a voice, and if you don't vote, you have no voice. He added that no matter what the election is, he believes

that the public should get out and vote.

"We don't all have to agree, but you still need to get your voice heard," Ivory said.

His opponent Thomas said he was disappointed in the results, as well as the overall voter turnout.

"Moving forward, my goal will be to publicly speak to groups to get parents to educate their children that every time there is an opportunity to vote, you have to vote," Thomas said.

Thomas said that he has learned quite a lot from campaigning.

"I had so much fun, and I'm forever thankful," Thomas said.

Post four results were a bit of a shake-up. Incumbent Jon Nichols was defeated by Sheila Ashley, who won with 65% of the vote.

See **RESULTS** page 2A

Perry Council denies Airport Road development again

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY — Residents against a townhome development left council chambers satisfied on Tuesday after the City Council unanimously denied an extension on the proposed Airport Road annexation.

It's the second time the annexation request has been denied. During the pre-council

meeting, Interim Community Development Director Holly Wharton shared that the applicant, Matt Widner, requested to postpone the second reading of the ordinance to the June 16 meeting. If the council had approved the request, it would have delayed them from making a decision.

Wharton explained that although Widner wanted an

See **DENIES** page 7A



Sandra Hernandez/HHJ

Perry residents celebrate council's denial of a proposed 19.70-acre townhouse development on Airport Road.

Commissioners take no action on controversial annexation

By **OWEN JONES**
HHJ Staff Writer
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WARNER ROBINS — An annexation from the City of Warner Robins sparked concern at the latest Houston County Commissioners meeting.

The property being proposed is 13.53 acres set to hold a commercial property located at 2712 HWY 127 and 727 Old Perry Road.

Before public comments on the item and a vote, Chairman Dan Perdue said the board previously denied a commercial annexation and rezoning.

He added that some citizens think the Board of Commissioners has more control over the annexation process than they actually do. Perdue believes there is no clear way for them to object to the annexation while still abiding by Georgia law.

"It's just an annexation, not a rezoning," he said. "The grounds for a county objection under state law are largely



Owen Jones/HHJ

Houston County hears the invocation from Pastor Anthony Hayes of St. James CME Church in Tuesday's meeting.

to contact their state representative or state senator if they had any concerns about this process.

On the grounds of non-concurrence with an annexation without a rezoning, the process would be delayed a day or two. If the commissioners were to concur, they'd be abiding by Georgia law. If they were

to non-concur, they would not honor the oath they took when they first took the position as County Commissioner.

Perdue also said the Commission could take no action. This option would give the county a 45-day window to consider this item. This option wouldn't carry the endorsement of the Commission nor the need for a review from the Department of Community Affairs.

"In my opinion, this is the option that most honestly reflects where this commission stands," he said. "We are unwilling to bless what is happening but also unwilling to pretend that Georgia law gives us a meaningful path to stop it."

Those in attendance had a chance to speak for or against the annexation request.

Keith Newton spoke in favor and simply requested the commission to concur with the annexation.

Houston County Public Works Employee Terry Mock,

See **ANNEX** page 3A



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PERIODICAL

Warner Robins resident found with fentanyl, meth stockpile sentenced

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — A Warner Robins man faces prison time after police found a large stash of narcotics at his home last year, the Houston County District Attorney's Office said Tuesday.

Michael Jackson, 61, pleaded guilty to trafficking fentanyl on May 18. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 15 years of probation. He must also pay a \$150,000 fine.

The Warner Robins Police Department conducted a search warrant on June 13, 2025, after a confidential informant purchased methamphetamine at Jackson's home on Suzanne Drive, a residential neighbor-



Jackson

hood north of Green Street. Jackson was later arrested and charged with trafficking.

Investigators found over 23 grams of fentanyl, over 50 grams of meth, a digital scale, and plastic bags for narcotic distribution.

See **SENTENCED** page 7A

Political Science professor explains how redrawing voting maps could affect district two in future elections

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
HHJ Staff Writer
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HOUSTON COUNTY — In light of the Supreme Court's recent decision in Louisiana v. Callais, Governor Brian Kemp announced a special session of the General Assembly on June 17. But what does this mean?

Professor of Political Science at Middle Georgia State University, Christopher Lawrence, explained how this could affect the state.

On April 29, the Supreme Court ruled in the Louisiana v. Callais decision in a 6-3 vote.

Lawrence said there has been a lot of back-and-forth on redistricting in Louisiana. He explained that in 2022, the state decided to create two districts, but was challenged in court.

The Supreme Court was deciding if the two districts

were consistent with the Voting Rights Act and whether there was no racial discrimination in voting.

The Supreme Court cited a 1982 case called Thornburg v. Gingles, where the North Carolina General Assembly passed a redistricting plan for the state's Senate and House of Representatives. Black citizens then challenged seven of these districts, saying that it impaired their ability to elect their representatives of choice.

Lawrence said the state went too far in allowing discrimination based on race, and a lot of majority-minority districts were race-based districting, which is not permitted under the Constitution.

The Supreme Court made the unanimous decision that the redistricting plan violated section two of the Voting Rights Act.

Section two allowed the creation of majority-minority

districts, which led to Black and Latino representatives being elected to Congress and other political seats, according to the Harvard Kennedy School.

In the case of Louisiana v. Callais, this is why they overturned the redistricting and allowed Louisiana to continue its process.

However, the Supreme Court's recent decision has opened up the doors for other states like Georgia to redistrict. Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina and Florida are discussing redistricting as well.

Lawrence said this will lead to Republicans gaining additional seats in political offices.

The redistricting process is required once every 10 years after the Census. It determines how many seats each state is going to have in Congress. This then affects the

See **VOTING** page 3A

Word of the Day

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

— Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

Inside

Opinion, 4A

- Viewpoints
- Jim Balletto

Lifestyle & Faith, 5A

- Billy Powell
- Don Moncrief

Entertainment, 6A

- Comics
- Puzzle

Classifieds, 7A

Sports, A8

A division of The Georgia Trust for Local News

Meet the Veterans High School valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 2026

Charlotte Annie White – Valedictorian

Annie White, the 2026 Veterans High School valedictorian, is an AP scholar with Distinction as well as a UGA Certificate of Merit recipient and a National Merit Commended Student. The founder and leader of the “Girls Will Be” Empowerment Group for local elementary school girls, she has participated in Perry Youth Leadership and has held leadership positions in Science National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. She is the Vice President of Operations for the VHS Engage Club,



through which she attended a mock appellate court program and authored a bill for the Georgia Youth Assembly. Annie is currently the President of

the VHS Concert Chorale and is a five-year Georgia All-State Choral Vocalist. Additionally, she was chosen as the Georgia Association for Gifted Children’s 2026 Teen Award and the 2026 VHS STAR student. The daughter of Lori and Nick White, she has been accepted as a Foundation Fellow at the University of Georgia, and she intends to study political science so that she can pursue a career as a constitutional or civil rights attorney.

Brooke Nicole VanDalinda – Salutatorian

Brooke VanDalinda, the 2026 Veterans High School salutatorian, is an AP scholar with Distinction as well as a UGA Certificate of Merit recipient. She has been a member of student government, the Warhawk Welcome Team, Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy, Rho Kappa Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. Additionally, she has held leadership positions in the Spanish Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. She has been on the yearbook staff for three years and currently serves as an



editor, and she is secretary for the VHS Engage Club, through which she served as a page at the Georgia House of Representatives. Brooke

also placed 3rd place in argumentative essay writing for 5A State Literary. In her spare time, she volunteers as a 3rd grade religious education teacher at St Patrick’s Catholic Church and volunteers with Keep Warner Robins Beautiful. The daughter of Christy and Ryan VanDalinda, she has been accepted at the University of Georgia, and she plans to become an environmental engineer, minoring in environmental policy and management to make sustainability affordable for all.

RESULTS From page 1A

Ashley isn’t the only newcomer. She joins Angel Bowen Brown, who was appointed to the board in April after Helen Hughes resigned from post five in March.

Ashley, a senior pastor at Total Agape Healing and Deliverance Ministries, said she was grateful and humbled to be elected. She said her election is a sign that she is following a divine calling.

She thanked all her supporters, some of whom were spread nationally and internationally. Her platform highlighted representation for students with disabilities, community engagement, transparency, anti-bullying strategy and connecting with families.

“I feel like it’s a win for all of Houston County,” Ashley said. “I’m very grateful to God, very grateful to the voters and I’m excited about working with the board.”

Like Thomas, Nichols was also disappointed in the results. He said not being able to continue serving on the Board of Education hurts, but he is excited about his future, even if it’s unknown.

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve the citizens and the school district of Houston County. It’s been an honor and very humbling,” Nichols said.

Nichols has served on the board since January 2022. He said he learned a lot from being on the board and is still proud to call Houston County home.

“The opportunity to serve is great and I’ve been thankful for what I’ve learned,” Nichols said.

The Floating Local Option Sales Tax was also on the ballot, and it passed with over 60% of the vote.

The FLOST is a 1% sales tax on purchases in Houston County, Perry and Warner Robins. Revenues are meant to offset property taxes.

Chairman Dan Perdue said its passing is a signal from voters that they are ready for lower property taxes. He thanked the voters for their trust in the county and neighboring cities.

“We at Houston County fully intend to use these dollars to reduce the millage rate at whatever the amount allows us to,” Perdue said. “I look forward to being able to deliver that to the people of Houston County and lower property taxes in the future.”

The primary election had mostly uncontested races for the Georgia House of

Representatives, with local incumbents Shaw Blackmon and Bethany Ballard on the Republican ticket.

However, on the Democrat side, two candidates vied for District 147, currently held by Ballard.

Renita Duncan edged out ahead with 81% of the vote against Tim Riley, and will challenge Ballard in the November general election.

Riley, in a statement,

said he was grateful for the people who voted for him and the support he received throughout his campaign.

Riley, a former therapist, worked from the prison system to state hospitals, those suffering from addiction, and the homeless. He said he has always been called to fight for disenfranchised populations.

He will continue working on an advisory board with Buttons and Threads,

a thrift store that donates its proceeds to homeless outreach.

“I see the light in people, the love in people and the good in people. It has been my pleasure and blessing to serve,” Riley said.

The Journal attempted to contact Duncan, who did not respond by deadline.

See the full picture of state, local and national races on our website, hhjonline.com.

CORRECTION

In our Houston County Class of 2026 magazine, the Veterans High School valedictorian and salutatorian biographies were accidentally for Perry High School’s valedictorian and salutatorian.

The correct bios have been included in this edition of the Houston Home Journal.

BILL'S PRODUCE LOCAL HONEY

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The Houston Home Journal
Presents
Graduation 2026 Keepsake!

Featuring every graduating senior in Houston County stop by The Houston Home Journal and pick up your copy!

478-987-1823

The Houston Home Journal
1210 Washington Street, Perry, Ga 31069
Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

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 (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

'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 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'rs: Garfield Green from Tennessee and Belle Reese from South Carolina. Learn how these Gen Z'rs view the past, present, and future of America, and what needs to happen.

Spencer's Grand Opening

May 30 | 1 - 5 p.m.
2620 Watson Blvd Suite 10, Warner Robins

Spencer's upcoming Grand Opening event will take place on Saturday, May 30th at City Crossing. The first 100 guests will receive \$10 gift cards, along with sweet treats, freebies, giveaways, games and more.

Why is this such a big deal? We are venturing into new territory and making our way to Warner Robins, where the vibes are just as legendary as our edgy style.

Spencer's is the ultimate destination to find the latest edgy, outrageous, and unique accessories and apparel. For 75 years, the brand has celebrated individuality by embracing and creating current trends through t-shirts, accessories, jewelry, drinkware, sexual wellness, and more.

Founded in 1947 as a mail-order catalog in Pennsylvania, the company opened its first brick-and-mortar store in 1963 and has since grown to 680

retail locations, in addition to a lucrative online presence.

We can't wait to welcome you to this incredible new space.

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.

NARFE Chapter Meeting

June 10 | 11 a.m.
155 Maple Street, Warner Robins

Join The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). All active and retired federal employees from RAFB or any federal agency are invited for a \$5 sub sandwich lunch and a brief business meeting followed by a free presentation.

You are welcome to come, bring a friend and enjoy your lunch with NARFE members and visitors.

NARFE is the only national organization dedicated to protecting earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. As a member of NARFE, you can connect with other feds, participate in NARFE webinars, learn about legislative advocacy and gain information from our federal benefits experts. Have a great day and join us for the excellent presentation on What's Going On In Town by Warner Robins Mayor LaRhonda Patrick.

ANNEX

From page 1A

who lives on Old Perry Road, spoke against the annexation. He said he moved to the county from Warner Robins seeking a "less congested, more peaceful lifestyle."

Mock claims that Newton seeks to develop a commercial business in the middle of their residential neighborhood. Mock said Newton has another development on the corner of Old Perry Road and Woodard Road.

"Old Perry Road is a county road, and it's not equipped to handle the current traffic load, much less the increased congestion the additional commercial development would bring," he said.

Old Perry Road contains Veterans High School and the soon-to-be Veterans Middle School, so traffic has already been a cause for concern. Adding more development would likely make traffic

worse for the citizens.

Mock also claimed a commercial property across the street from his home and others would devalue their property values and the residents don't plan on leaving. They were told that the law is on Newton's side due to his not seeking a rezoning. Mock said this allows the City of Warner Robins to bypass the concerns of Houston County residents.

"This board is our only defense against the destruction of our neighborhood," he said.

The Board decided not to take action on the annexation request. Perdue said after the 45-day window closes, the request will move on to the City of Warner Robins for a final decision.

With a moratorium on liquor stores and vape shops currently in progress, the county tentatively amended its ordinances and had a first reading of them. County Attorney Tom Hall said the amendment says any store

that has more than 25% of its floor space designated for vaping, the county will not allow those stores in the unincorporated areas.

Existing vape stores will still stand. If one closes, another vape store cannot take its place.

In the liquor stores ordinance, the county changed the wording to "retail liquor stores." Another change is the distance between existing and new liquor stores. Hall said there cannot be a new store within five miles of an existing store.

There will be a public hearing on these amended ordinances at the June 2, 2026, Houston County Commissioners meeting, located at the Houston County Courthouse, beginning at 9 a.m.

The full agenda of Tuesday's meeting can be found at: www.houstoncountyga.gov/minutes/2026-05-19%20Department%20Head%20Agenda.pdf

VOTING

From page 1A

Electoral College, a process the founding fathers established in the Constitution as a compromise between the election of the President by vote in Congress and by a popular vote of qualified citizens. It was also intended as protection against larger states dominating elections.

Once it is figured out the number of districts a state will have, the next step is to ensure the districts are equal in population, Lawrence said. For example, Georgia has 14 districts.

In the Reynolds v. Sims case back in 1964, the Supreme Court decided to require each district to be equal in population.

In Georgia, there are several majority-minority districts. Since Republicans are the majority in the State Legislature, they would favor a redistricting plan, Lawrence said.

According to Ballotpedia, the State Senate has 21 Democrats and 33 Republicans. In the State House of Representatives,

there are 80 Democrats and 99 Republicans.

"Because there's no longer as much of a requirement for those majority-minority districts, they may be able to create a plan that makes it harder for some of the Democrats to get seats in Congress. That's basically how it plays out here in Georgia," Lawrence said.

How will redistricting impact middle Georgia? Lawrence believes the biggest impact will be on district two, which is represented by Sanford Bishop. This district includes parts of Houston County, Bibb County and Peach County.

According to Data USA, about 49.9% of citizens are African American and 2.3% are Hispanic. This means the district has a 50% minority population.

"It's probably the district that's most likely to be affected by redistricting. We haven't seen any maps come out yet but it's most likely that the Republicans are going to see that as an opportunity to get another district that's favorable to Republicans and rearrange that existing second district," he said.

Lawrence believes this will strengthen the ability for Republicans to win district two in the 2028 election.

The redistricting will not affect the upcoming midterms but will affect future elections.

The special session will discuss redistricting and fixing the voting systems to ensure the November election will be done legally.

The state legislature still has to approve the voting maps, meaning it could ultimately fail.

A similar situation happened in South Carolina during their special session. Five Republican senators voted against the redistricting plan, according to local media.

The decision in Georgia remains up in the air until the special session on June 17.

Lawrence believes redistricting is inevitable, but it could also lead to a debate.

"My expectation is they probably wouldn't be calling for it if they didn't think they could get it through, but like we saw in South Carolina, it's possible that it doesn't," he said.

CITY OF CENTERVILLE, GEORGIA

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REVIEW & ADOPTION

(Fiscal year period July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

FY 2027 RECOMMENDED/PROPOSED BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: The FY 2027 Recommended/Proposed Budget will be available for public inspection during normal office hours 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday May 5th, 2026, at the following location: City Clerk's Office, City Hall 300 E Church Street, and on the City website, centervillega.org

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2027 BUDGET: A Public Hearing on the FY 2027 Budget is scheduled for Tuesday June 2nd, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 East Church Street, Centerville. At this meeting, the Mayor and Council will receive both written and oral comments about the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for the City of Centerville, Georgia for FY 2027. A qualified interpreter for the hearing impaired will be available upon request made at least ten (10) days in advance of this meeting. Please call (478) 953-4734 for more information or to request an interpreter.

BUDGET RESOLUTION ADOPTION: The proposed budget resolution will be presented for adoption on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 at the Centerville City Council meeting beginning at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 East Church Street, Centerville.

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The Houston Home Journal

We are seeking a reliable and motivated Delivery Driver to join our team. The ideal candidate will be responsible for transporting bundled newspapers to one of our other newspaper offices as well as to replenish/replace newspapers placed in racks/stores each week throughout Houston and Bibb counties. This role requires strong driving skills, attention to detail, and the ability to manage time effectively.

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Pay commensurate with experience.

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STOP CRIME NOW 742-2330

 BAXTER, CHRISTOPHER WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY DECEPTION - FELONY.	 BENNETT, SONNY WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR GIVING FALSE NAME, DOB, ADDRESS TO OFFICER/ST. CT. VOP/ THEFT BY TAKING.	 BESS, CASSIUS WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BATTERY WITH SUBSTANTIAL PHYSICAL HARM AND CRUELTY TO CHILDREN - 3RD DEGREE.	 DAVIS, MAKHI WANTED BY THE FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPOS POLICE DEPT. FOR BURGLARY-2ND DEGREE, CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY-2ND DEGREE, AND
 FORDHAM, LESLIE WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS-PROPERTY DAMAGE.	 GLOVER, JAQUAN WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BENCH WARRANT/ RACKETEERING.	 GRAHAM, ALISHA WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BURGLARY WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A THEFT (FELONY) AND THEFT BY TAKING (FELONY).	 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.	 JOHNSON, JAMES WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BURGLARY WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A THEFT OR FELONY - SECOND DEGREE.	 MCCRARY, DIONDRE WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT - VOP - THEFT BY TAKING.	 MESERVEY, JEFFERY WANTED BY THE BIBB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTION FRAUD (MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS) - FELONY AND CRIMINAL ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A FELONY (MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS) - FELONY.
 NELSON, TANGIE WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR EXPIRED REGISTRATION/ FORGERY - 1ST DEGREE /GIVING FALSE NAME, DOB, ADDRESS TO OFFICER/ OTHER DRIVING OFFENSES.	 SANCHEZ, JONAS WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR HIT AND RUN AND FAILURE TO OBEY STOP SIGN.	 WHISBY, ASHANTI WANTED BY TWIGGS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AGGRAVATED STALKING AND BURGLARY.	 WILLIS, DARIUS WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SUP. CT. VOP FOR ROBBERY BY INTIMIDATION.

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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

Parrothead fandom

COLUMNIST

KELLY BURKE



I wasn't a Parrothead, but I was a fan of the great Jimmy Buffett. And unlike most folks who later discovered him through frozen margaritas and beach bars, I was there pretty early on.

In 1974, Mike Openshaw and I drove to Macon to see The Doobie Brothers in concert on December 8. Two high school juniors getting permission to drive 100 miles, attend a rock concert, spend the night in a hotel, and return the next day? We were good kids, but still — what were our parents thinking?

The opening act was a scruffy singer-songwriter named Jimmy Buffett. At the time, he was known for songs like "Come Monday," "Pencil Thin Mustache," and "A Pirate Looks at Forty." Good stuff, but nobody there thought the opening act would someday become a cultural phenomenon. The Doobie Brothers were clearly the main event.

Then, in 1976, a high school friend invited us to hear his brother play harmonica for Buffett's Coral Reefer Band. His brother was Greg "Fingers" Taylor. During that show, Jimmy played two unreleased songs he said would be on his next album: "Margaritaville" and "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes." We had no idea we were hearing the soundtrack to half the beach bars in America for the next fifty years.

Over the next four decades, I probably saw Jimmy 10 times in concert—more than any other artist by far—though I never approached true Parrothead status like Judge Larry Lee or my sister Kathy Burke.

Being a Parrothead is more

than fandom. It's a lifestyle. It means embracing a laid-back tropical state of mind, even if you live a long way from the ocean. Parrotheads wear flip-flops — which I have avoided

my entire life — Hawaiian shirts, and enough beads and parrots to decorate a small tiki bar. Some even wear Crocs. I firmly believe Charles Bond would wear Crocs to court

if the bailiffs would let him through security.

The funny thing is, Buffett's music still works exactly the same way it always did. Put it on during warm weather, with a cold drink nearby, and suddenly life slows down a notch. SiriusXM still runs his Margaritaville channel non-stop, replaying concerts and interviews. Years after his death, the Parrothead empire rolls on.

And every now and then, I smile, knowing I saw Jimmy Buffett back when he was still just the opening act.



Swinging from the trees

In my fists I clenched a thick woody vine. After a brief running start, I leaped off the ground and swung through the air. For a moment I felt like Tarzan.

I was only a few inches off the ground, and instead of traversing the dense jungle, was trying to yank a strand of Virginia creeper from a tree, but you get the idea. Tarzan didn't swing from vines in the original 1912 novel. The ape man, created by English novelist Edgar R. Burroughs, swung from the limbs of trees, mimicking the behavior of the animals that reared him.

The vines were added in later movie and cartoon adaptations. Leave it to Hollywood to ruin a good book.

The King of the Jungle could make himself at home in the woods of North America, at least anywhere Virginia creeper is prevalent. The hardy vines cover the ground and snake their way up the tallest of trees. If left unchecked it can choke out other plants and quickly cover walls and build-

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

KYLE DOMINY



ings. Unlike kudzu, the rapidly growing Japanese vine brought to the United States as a garden plant and cure for soil erosion, Virginia creeper belongs here. And, unlike its native cousin poison ivy, though they look suspiciously similar in their infant stages, Virginia creeper is not harmful to humans.

It can, however, kill trees if left unchecked. The vines can grow thick, thick enough to support the weight of a full-grown man (if you want to call me that), and the foliage dense enough to beat its host for vital sunlight. If allowed to grow on houses, its tendrils will

invade every nook and cranny, while trapping rot and mold facilitating moisture against walls and siding.

Virginia creeper remains prized as a ground cover by many horticulturalists, particularly because of the vibrant shade of red the leaves take on in the fall. Famed plant enthusiast Frederick Law Olmsted, who is considered the father of landscape architecture, prized Virginia creeper, especially when designing large, wooded estates. Prone to using native species, though he helped with the spread of the now-dreaded Chinaberry tree, Olmsted

See DOMINY page 7A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RE-ZONING CITY OF CENTERVILLE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Centerville Planning and Zoning Board will meet and hold a public hearing on Wednesday evening, June 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Centerville City Hall which is located at City Hall, 300 East Church Street, Centerville, GA 31028. The purpose of the meeting is to hear objection, if any to the proposed re-zoning of the following properties:

Houston Co. Tax Assessor Parcel OCO03F 031000, having a physical address of 2601 Elberta Rd., Centerville, GA 31028.

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 123 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, containing 6.58 acres, more or less, according to a plat of survey, prepared by Waddle Surveying Co, Inc., certified by Theodore W. Waddle, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 924, dated August 30, 1966, a copy of which is of record in Plat Book 10, Page 297, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court.

For information purposes only, said property is known as, under the present system of numbering for Houston County Georgia as 2601 Elberta Road, Centerville, Georgia 31028.

The property is zoned "City of Centerville R-1 (Single-Family Residential)". The proposed zoning is to City of Centerville R-2 (Single-Family Residential). Following the meeting of and hearing before the City of Centerville Planning and Zoning Board, a second public hearing will also be held on this matter before the Centerville City Council on Tuesday evening, June 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 East Church Street, Centerville, GA 31028. This advertisement is published in accordance with O.C.G.A. §36-66-4(d)(3).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RE-ZONING CITY OF CENTERVILLE

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Houston Co. Tax Assessor Parcel Numbers:

Re-zoning from City of Centerville R-2 (Single Family Residential) to City of Centerville R-3 (Multi-Family Residential):

1. 0C001A 043000, 2.876 acres having a physical address of 805 Houston Lake Blvd.; and
2. 0C001A 044000, 14.369 acres having a physical address of 803 Houston Lake Blvd; and
3. 0C001A 050000, 2.871 acres having a physical address of 775 Houston Lake Blvd; and

all three of the above-listed properties are described as: All those tracts of parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 98 of the Fifth Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as "Parcel 2-C," comprising 2.871 acres; "Q," comprising 2.876 acres; and "P," comprising 14.369 acres according to that certain plat of survey entitled "Rezoning & Annexation Plat for J. Rod Schaffer/Rachel C. Wood," prepared by Scarborough Land Surveys, certified by Terry M. Scarborough, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2223, dated March 28, 1994, and recorded in Map Book 45, page 62, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes. Prior Deed Reference: Deed Book, 4451, page 16.

Re-zoning from City of Centerville R-1 (Single Family Residential) to City of Centerville R-3 (Multi-Family Residential):

4. 0C0260 047000, 4.703 acres, Tract 7, having a physical address of 816B Houston Lake Blvd and described as: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying, and being in Land Lots 98 and 111 of the Fifth Land District of Houston County, Georgia, comprising 4.703 acres, according to a plat entitled "Survey for Gary Joyner," prepared by Scarborough Land Surveys, Inc., certified by Terry M. Scarborough, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2223. Dated July 8, 2005, a copy of which is of record in Map Book 65, Page 157, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes. Prior Deed Reference: Deed Book 3545, page 124.
5. 0C0260 048000, 6.0 acres on Houston Lake Blvd and described as: All that tract or parcels of land lying and being in Land Lot 111 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as 6.0 acres, more or less, according to a property plat for "Lewis A. Dixon," prepared by Waddle Surveying Co, Inc., certified by Theodore W. Waddle, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 924, dated March 1, 1963, and of record in Plat Book 8, Page 114, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.
6. 0C0260 049000 0.96 acres having a physical address of 802 Houston Lake Blvd and described as: All that tract or parcels of land lying and being in Land Lot 111 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 1, Addition No. 1, of a subdivision known as Pike Estates, according to a plat of survey, prepared by Waddle Surveying Co., certified by Theodore W. Waddle, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 924, and recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 133, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.
7. 0C0260 050000 1.47 acres having a physical address of 101 Brantley Rd. and described as: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 111 of the Fifth (5th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract 1, according to a plat of survey entitled "Lands of Danny Durden," prepared by Wellston Associates Land Surveyors, LLC, certified by Shawn Bean, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 3331, dated October 25, 2019, a copy of which is of records in Plat Book 81, Page 103, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Items 1-3 (3 parcels) are currently zoned City of Centerville R-2 (Single Family Residential) and Items 2 - 5 (4 parcels) are currently zoned City of Centerville R-1 (Single Family Residential). The proposed zoning for all seven (7) parcels is to City of Centerville R-3 (Multifamily Residential). Following the meeting of and hearing before the City of Centerville Planning and Zoning Board, a second public hearing will also be held on this matter before the Centerville City Council on Tuesday evening, June 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 East Church Street, Centerville, GA 31028. This advertisement is published in accordance with O.C.G.A. §36-66-4(d)(3).

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

Were there a Real Adam and Eve?

Were Adam and Eve two distinct people, or should the Genesis account of the first man and first woman be interpreted allegorically?

The Bible states that God created Adam from the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7) and formed Eve from Adam's rib (Gen. 2:21.) A literal interpretation of this means that Adam and Eve embryos were not attached to an umbilical cord or nurtured inside a mother's womb. Neither did they undergo natural childbirth.

Instead, they arrived fully mature with one abnormality: a missing navel. The moment Adam and Eve experienced consciousness, they looked around and wondered how they got here. Surely, their sudden emergence into human existence left their minds reeling with wonderment.

There are two separate accounts of creation: one in Genesis, chapter 1 and another in chapter 2. Chapter 1 fails to mention Adam and Eve. It states only that "God created 'MANKIND' in his own image, male and female he created them."

While this passage speaks of mankind in a pluralistic sense, the chapter-2 account confines itself to two discrete individuals: Adam and Eve. Bible scholars attribute these disparities to different authors, i.e. the author of chapter 1 did not write chapter 2. So the question is: Can the two divergent

PARABLES TO PONDER

BILLY POWELL



accounts be harmonized, or should we believe that God created "multiple people" (as chapter 1 implies) and that Adam and Eve in chapter 2 "are symbolic of the first humans."

Another question arises: Where did Cain (who slew his brother Abel) get his wife? Gen. 5:3 states that "Adam (other than Cain, Abel, and Seth) had other sons and daughters." Therefore, Cain married his sister, which is incest.

Was the Serpent who beguiled Adam and Eve a creation of God or did the Serpent create himself? Or, was the Serpent a metaphorical representation of mankind's inclination to sin? Such questions stoke the fires of evolution—that man evolved from a single-celled organism that became a fish, which in time walked up on the shore and eons later became a man.

The historicity of Adam and Eve is a question which strikes at the heart of the Christian faith. If Adam did not exist, it would invalidate Paul's redemptive plan in Romans 5:19: "For as by one man's disobedience

(Adam) many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Christ) shall many be made righteous." Therefore, man could not have inherited Adam's culpability to sin, if Adam was an unreal, metaphorical character.

Further, recent genetic research has revealed that today's human population could not have emerged from a single pair of humanoids: the XX-chromosomal Eve and the XY-chromosomal Adam. Research shows that a core beginning of at least 10,000 humans would be required to produce the diversity of genes in today's population.

Yet, according to the genealogies in I Chronicles, chapter 1 and Luke, chapter 3, Adam was a historical figure. Jewish tradition has it that Adam and Eve are buried in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron (Palestinian city on Israel's West Bank). In summation, if you believe the first verse in the Bible, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," the questions herein will be of no consequence.

Seeing is believing... sort of

I seen a peanut stand, heard a rubber band I seen a needle that winked its eye.

But I be done seen about everything

When I see an elephant fly

(What'd you say, boy?)

I said, when I see an elephant fly - Disney's Dumbo Blink has a new feature.

I thought it was free, but it was a trial. I would have to pay such and such to continue it.

Still, it was fun while it lasted. Normally Blink, I'm talking about the home security camera system I'm sure you figured out, just gives you a notification your camera has gone off, and then it's up to you to look at your app to see why. (Also, only if you have a paid subscription for that feature.)

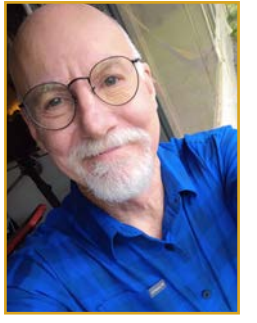
Under the new feature Blink was offering, it would attempt to identify what it saw. I have two camera systems, one at my home in Warner Robins and one at my home in Fort Valley. I also set up the system at The Houston Home Journal, so I monitor it.

At my home in Warner Robins it saw two "wolves" in my back yard. I kid you not! I looked. They were my son's two German Shepherds. It also saw my son as a man wearing blue pants and a purple shirt. I looked. He was wearing khaki pants and a red shirt. (So, about 10 percent of the world is colorblind. Who am I to judge?) Squirrels picked up dancing in the trees were often mistaken as birds and vice versa for robins and wrens and such.

At work it saw a variety of people coming and going and made a fashion show of

HHJ PUBLISHER

DON MONCRIEF



trying to describe what they were wearing or even what they looked like. "There's a skinny man walking around ..." "There's a ..." Well, let's just say Blink is not the most politically correct.

At my home in Fort Valley, we have a stray cat who typically shows up from time to time looking for a hand-out. (I'm sure the bowl my wife put out there wasn't an encouraging sign.) He's tan and black and now she can brag to all of her other cats on a hot tin roof that Blink identified here as a "cougar".

Our other dog, a Border Collie, well, Blink identified it as a "panda". And my wife? Well, she's a modern-day Joseph. Blink saw her with her "coat of many colors" on. Aka as her bathrobe brightly decorated with "Frenchies" and speaking of which, it saw her bring-ble-colored Frenchie as a "bear".

I guess AI sees what it sees. Which, it's not alone. I suffer from that. I can't count the time I've seen a large expenditure come out of our bank account, point the finger at her, only to find out it was me. (And my finger's still in a cast by the way.)

This morning I saw a sheriff's car parked on the side of Highway 49. Same car I'd

seen at that very location every morning for months. Sitting there with nobody inside of it. The owner, I speculated, was inside as he or she always was, asleep.

I saw ... wrong! Fortunately, I wasn't speeding ... this time.

Maybe what we thought we saw wasn't what we saw at all. Maybe in the grand scheme of things and all of our seeing this and seeing that and coming to conclusions about what we saw and criticizing and judging what we saw - about people and places and postulating (the act of suggesting, assuming or claiming something to be true) and what not.

"Having eyes to see, do you not see," Jesus told His disciples, referring to maybe they weren't being attentive or as receptive to His teachings as they thought they were. (In the same verse He also mentions "hearing".)

Fill in the blank, if applicable. "I saw ..." For the sake of broken friendships or perceived enemies or he said/she said or suspected transgressions, old hurts, new hurts, perhaps what you saw could use a second look.

If crows can see an elephant fly, I mean, shucks, maybe so can you and me.

Ordinary household items worth selling

You are dusting a peculiar ceramic vessel bought at a flea market, or polishing a pair of grandmother's old brass candlesticks, and the thought hits: If I took this to an appraisal roadshow, would they tell me I'm a millionaire?

While multi-million-dollar miracles are rare, the antiques market in 2026 is experiencing a quiet revolution. What was considered clutter a decade ago is now fueling a highly competitive, nuanced industry. The secret to navigating this enigmatic world boils down to three non-negotiable pillars: pristine condition, world-class craftsmanship, and a compelling history.

If an item boasts high depth of color, sharp molding, and the aesthetic power to anchor a room, it has the "whole package." As the market shifts toward a mix of functionality, unique character, and nostalgic charm, several unexpected household items are currently projected to fetch top dollar this year.

1. Pine Furniture
Once dismissed as a mod-

ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



est, utilitarian wood, pine is seeing a major critical reappraisal. Collectors are falling back in love with its warmth and honest, quiet charm. Highly sought-after pieces range from heavy, solid kitchen dressers to bold, sculptural coffee tables—especially those that display genuine character and clear historical origin. This does not include pine pieces after 1950.

2. Art Nouveau and Art Deco Designs

The distinct styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries are dominating luxury search and sales trends. Lighting from the organic, swirling Art Nouveau period and seating from the geometric Art Deco era are particularly hot.

3. Victorian Pottery and

Porcelain

High-quality Victorian ceramics remain one of the most undervalued sectors of the market, making them a prime target for smart collectors. Look closely for legendary English maker stamps like Minton, Wedgwood, and Royal Worcester. Experts predict a massive comeback for top-tier Victorian porcelain and vibrant, lead-glazed Majolica pottery.

4. Statement Mirrors

A grand mirror never goes out of style because it transitions seamlessly between traditional estates and modern apartments. Pieces originating from the mid-18th century are the gold standard. When assessing a mirror's value, visual impact is imperative; it must be something a buyer

can immediately visualize elevating their living space. Mirrors have definitely been good sellers at estate sales this year.

5. Symmetrical Pairs of Vases

If you find a beautiful vintage vase in the attic, your next immediate step should be hunting for its twin. Pairs of vases are infinitely more saleable and valuable than singles because they offer visual balance to a mantel-piece or fireplace. French Sèvres porcelain pairs are the ultimate jackpot in this category.

6. Elevated Mid-Century & "Organic Modern"

The internet's obsession with mid-century modern furniture has evolved into a craving for the "Organic Modern" aesthetic. Buyers are hunting for irregular, curvy silhouettes and high-

end pieces utilizing natural materials like cane, wicker, and rattan. Masterworks featuring iconic serpentine shapes or designer rope-form lighting are commanding premium prices.

7. Brooches and Petite Rococo Curios

Jewelry trends are leaning heavily into the deeply personal and unique, sparking a major resurgence in vintage brooches. Smaller, highly ornate, romantic items—ranging from intricate jewelry boxes to rococo-style personal accessories—are being snatched up by buyers looking to express individual flair. More men are adding brooches to their wardrobes as I have seen this at celebrity events and K-Pop videos.

8. Toys Still Sealed in Original Packaging

If you resisted the urge

to open your action figures decades ago, that discipline is about to pay off. The market for pristine, boxed childhood nostalgia is skyrocketing. Even items from the 1980s pop-culture canon, such as mint-condition He-Man figures, are trading for staggering sums at auction. A live action He-Man movie is coming out this summer.

9. Functional Globes and Desks

Antiques that actually do something carry a massive premium. Antique writing desks and vintage globes remain enduringly popular precisely because they are functional. A beautiful globe is less of a dusty relic and more of an instant conversation piece, frequently bought as a high-end status gift.

Happy Collecting!

Houston County, Georgia

FY27 Budget Review and Adoption

Public Notice

The Houston County Board of Commissioners FY27 proposed budget will be available for review on May 27, 2026. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the Commissioners' Office at the County Annex Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will also be available on our website (www.houstoncountyga.gov.) A public hearing will be held at a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday June 2, 2026 in the Commissioners' Boardroom at the Courthouse located at 201 North Perry Parkway, Perry, Georgia to hear public comments concerning the proposed FY27 budget.

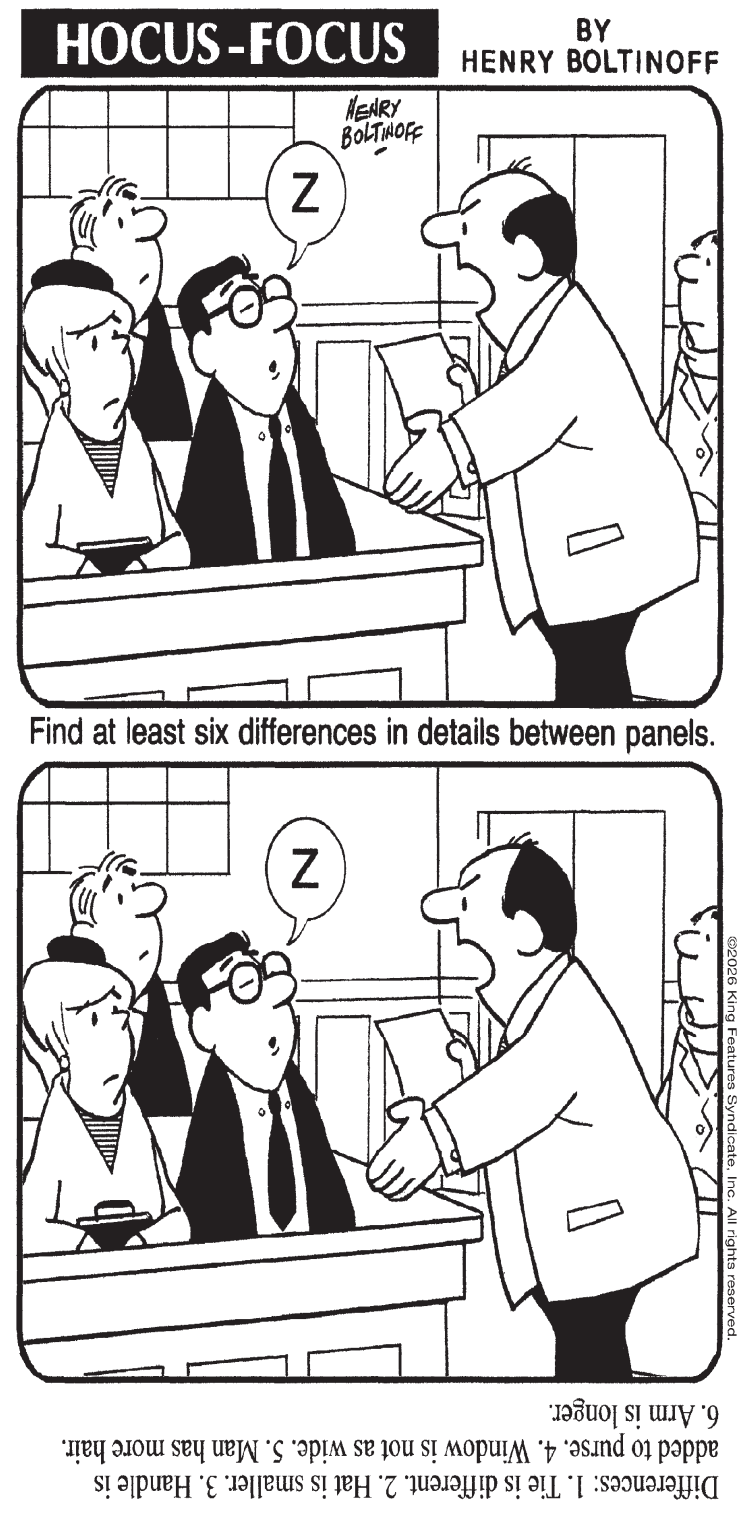
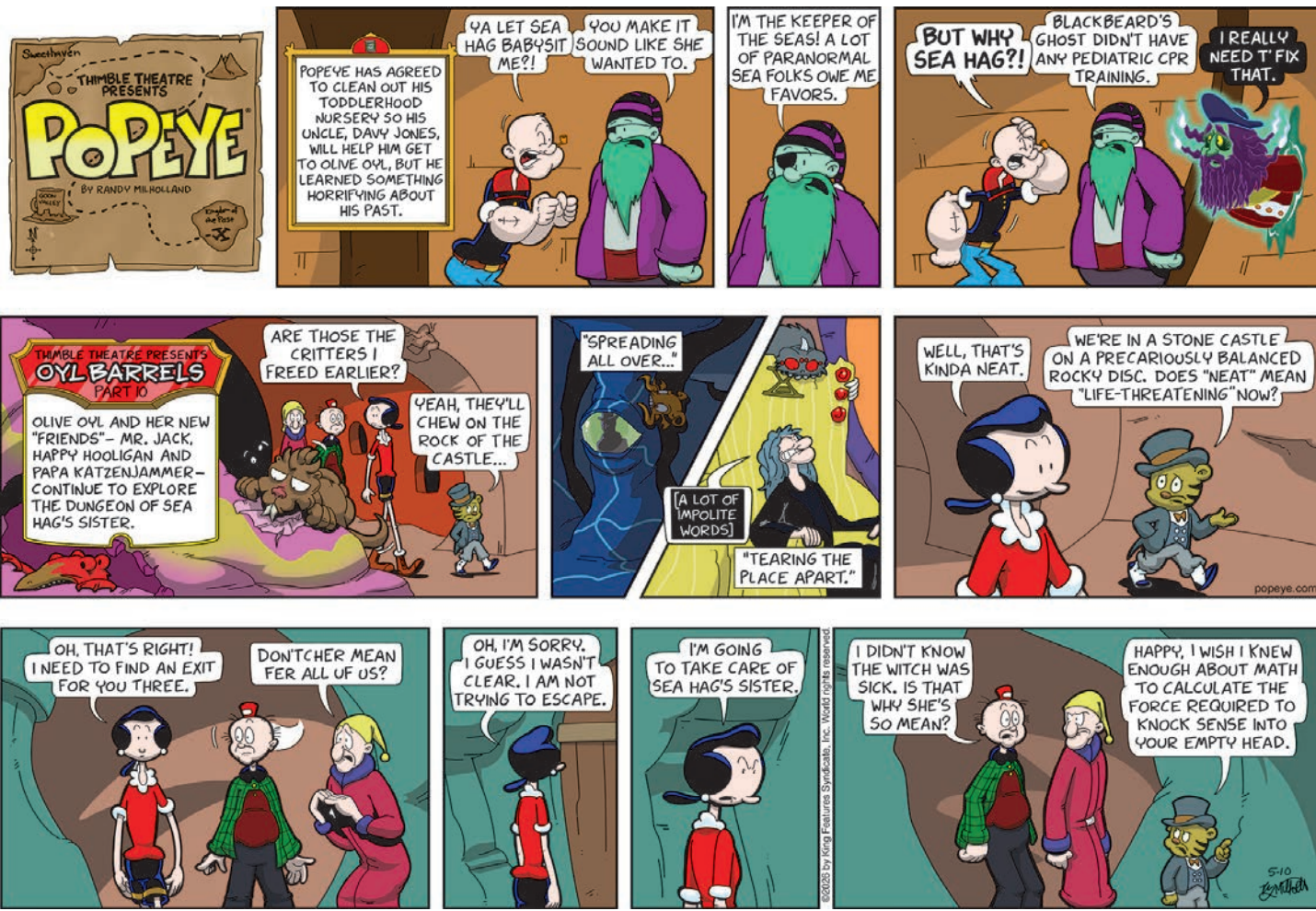
The Board will formally adopt the FY27 budget at the Tuesday June 16th meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom at the County Annex located at 200 Carl Vinson Parkway, Warner Robins, Georgia. Any disabled person requiring special provisions for the meeting should contact the Commissioners' Office at 478-542-2115 at least seven (7) days in advance.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Perry FY 2027 Recommended Budget is now available for public inspection in the Office of City Manager at 1211 Washington Street, Perry, GA or online www.perry-ga.gov/budget

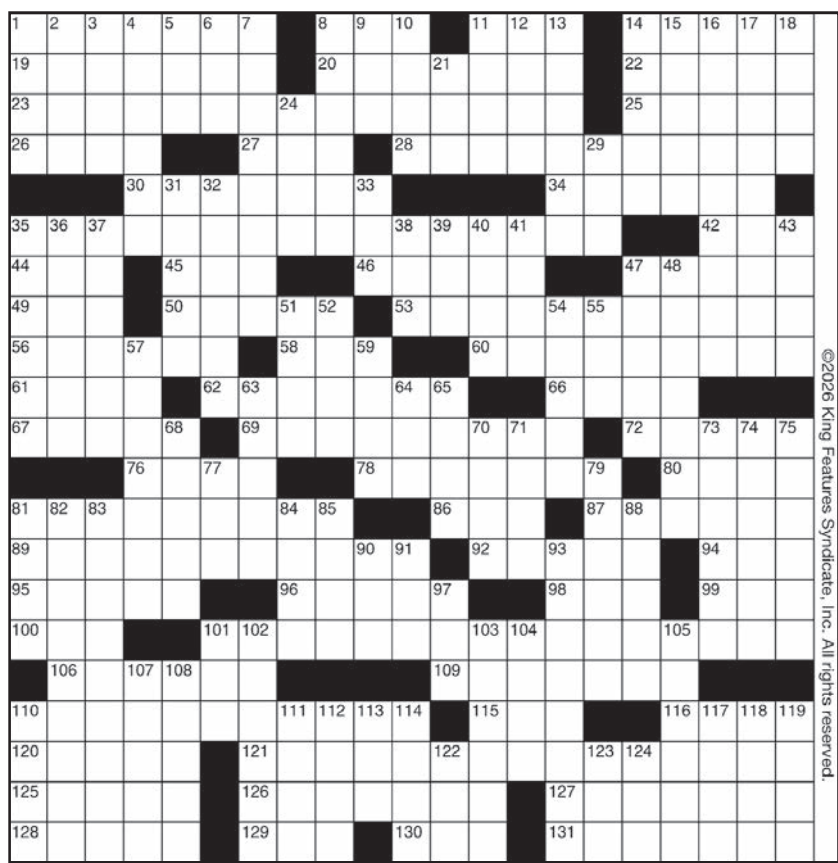
The official public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at the Perry City Hall located at 808 Carroll Street, Perry GA. **Public input is welcome.**

ENTERTAINMENT



Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

CROSSWORD 5-23-26



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Clipboard's larger relative
- 8 Nintendo game system
- 11 Styled after
- 14 Funny Foxx
- 19 Law of motion topic
- 20 Behind bars
- 22 Fabric design
- 23 Execute the opening pool shot perfectly?
- 25 Iowa senator Joni
- 26 Mid-voyage
- 27 Inquire
- 28 Unable to find your pool stick?
- 30 Actor Caine
- 34 1950s-'60s Egyptian president
- 35 Puts spin on a pool ball with no further tricks?
- 42 Animal throat
- 44 Chicken --
- 45 River of Bern
- 46 "Cops" sound
- 47 Office scribe
- 49 Road furrow
- 50 Basie's music
- 53 Pool triangle packed in a suitcase?
- 56 Ultimatum end

- 58 Assist
- 60 Anticipates a treat, maybe
- 61 Stridex target
- 62 Some schlumpy physiques
- 66 Bits of land in the ocean, in French
- 67 Label anew
- 69 Toddler who's a whiz at pool?
- 72 Really heavy herbivore
- 76 Lackluster
- 78 Street in Manhattan's Alphabet City
- 80 Scandinavian thunder god
- 81 Having a trio of components
- 86 Alex and -- (jewelry brand)
- 87 "Quickly" or "slowly," e.g.
- 89 Perimeter of a pool table that people have plopped down on?
- 92 Habituate (to)
- 94 Org. for cavity fillers
- 95 In spite of the fact that, in brief
- 96 Itty-bitty
- 98 Scot's refusal
- 99 Ocasek of the Cars
- 100 Put a tear in
- 101 Resume play after accidentally sinking the white pool ball?
- 106 "Othello" victim

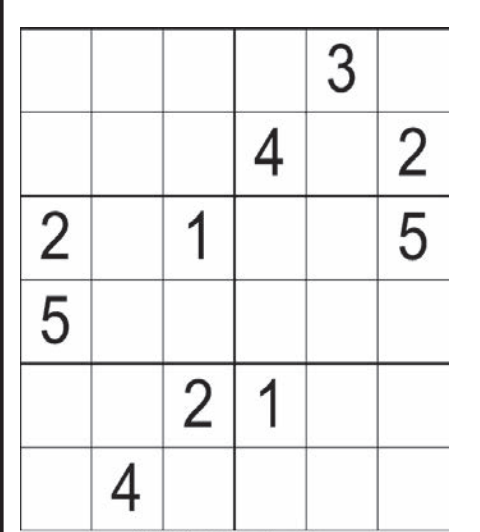
- 109 Pool variety with 22 balls
- 110 Observe a hole in a pool table?
- 115 La mer filler
- 116 Love god
- 120 Jetson boy
- 121 Last shot of a pool game?
- 125 Be at a slant
- 126 Mass in the throat
- 127 Admiral Nelson
- 128 Liv of "Super"
- 129 Riddle-me --
- 130 Facial locale
- 131 Frightful flies

CLUES DOWN

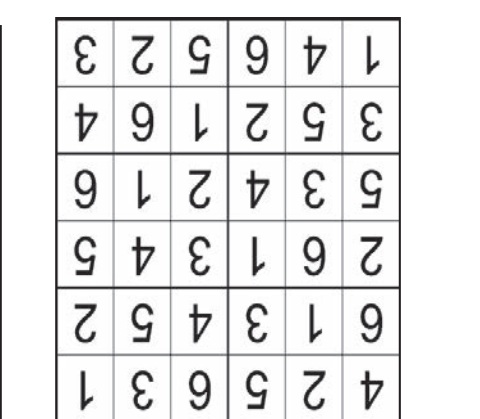
- 1 Peru's largest city
- 2 Santa -- (some winds)
- 3 Certain small pooch
- 4 Reveries
- 5 Zeta follower
- 6 [not my typo]
- 7 Desert region in Africa
- 8 Devitalize
- 9 Vacation stop
- 10 Long-range nuke carrier
- 11 Gets mature
- 12 Grasslands
- 13 Last name of singer Adele
- 14 Many PC pics
- 15 Alcove-hiding tapestry
- 16 Mixture baked in pies
- 17 Aetna offering
- 18 Kin of -ess
- 21 Grande of pop, for short
- 24 "Ozark" actor Morales
- 29 "Uh-uh"
- 31 "No bid"
- 32 Attacked as a cat might
- 33 The, to Jules
- 35 Hoopla
- 36 Info provider
- 37 Breadth
- 38 Not a one
- 39 "Despicable Me" antihero
- 40 Thigh locales
- 41 Actress Swenson
- 43 Pad thai pans
- 47 Cut, as ties
- 48 Reality shows, to some people
- 51 Not a one
- 52 Singer Barry
- 54 Similar
- 55 Baseballer Hodges

- 57 Guides, biblical-style
- 59 "A little dab'll --"
- 63 Mahmoud of Palestine
- 64 "seaQuest --" (sci-fi series)
- 65 Old Big Apple stadium
- 68 -- -Roman
- 70 Decade divisions, in Rome
- 71 Lay waste to
- 73 "-- Huckabees" (2004 film)
- 74 Swedish, say
- 75 Jerry of stage and screen
- 77 "The Simpsons" character once voiced by Hank Azaria
- 79 Ex-president Obama
- 81 Old autocrat
- 82 In a spiral-shaped way
- 83 1960s World War II series, with "The"
- 84 Ostrich kin
- 85 Arena level
- 88 John of plows
- 90 Ottawa loc.
- 91 Abbr. on a bad check
- 93 Not looked for
- 97 Cen. divisions
- 101 Tiny drink
- 102 Over the line
- 103 Central New York lake
- 104 Complain
- 105 Turkey's tallest peak
- 107 Breadth
- 108 More bashful
- 110 Ohio-to-Utah direction
- 111 Suffix with fungi
- 112 Large joint
- 113 Berlin article
- 114 General -- chicken


SUDOKU



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.

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SENTENCED

From page 1A

Drug Enforcement Administration statistics say two milligrams of fentanyl is a lethal dose. The amount found was enough to kill 11,500 people.

Jackson's sentencing was the seventh announced this year by the District Attorney's Office for drug charges.

Similar cases resulted in 10- to 20-year prison terms, depending on concurrent charges. The DEA's guidelines mandate at least 10 years in prison for a first offense.

The highest sentence this year, 25 years, arose from a

case that directly led to an overdose death.

Jackson was sentenced by Houston County Superior Court Senior Judge Edward Lukemire and prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Lauren Fletcher.

Fletcher said in a statement, "Fentanyl distribution is not a victimless crime. It destroys lives, devastates families, fuels addiction—often resulting in deadly overdoses—and endangers every corner of our county. Today's sentence sends a clear message to drug dealers in the Houston Judicial Circuit: if you peddle this poison in our community, you will be held accountable."

District Attorney Eric Edwards said in a statement,

"Fentanyl continues to be one of the most dangerous narcotics facing our community. The amount recovered in this case had the potential to cause immense harm, and it was being distributed directly from a residential neighborhood in Warner Robins. These cases are not simply about illegal drugs—they are about protecting families, neighborhoods, and the public from substances that are killing people across this country every single day."

"The sentence imposed reflects both the seriousness of fentanyl trafficking and our office's continued commitment to aggressively prosecuting those who profit from poisoning this community."

DENIES

From page 1A

extension, their annexation request would remain the same. The applicant wanted to rezone 19.70 acres from Residential Agricultural zoning to Residential Townhouse development.

She said he wanted an extension to provide more support and documentation after hearing concerns at the previous public hearing. Wharton shared that any future development plans have to go through the Community Development department's process. The decision on annexation and zoning is separate from the proposed plans.

Mayor Randall Walker clarified the only decision council made was rezoning, not the site plan.

Multiple residents spoke up to share their concerns. They mentioned the negative impacts on the area, like infrastructure and traffic. Residents believe this will especially affect the 55-plus community in the Houston Springs neighborhood.

Councilmembers voted to deny the applicant's time extension request. The decision was made in a 5-1 vote. Only Councilmember Willie King voted to approve the postponement.

After the public hearing, councilmembers unanimously denied the application, meaning the application will not move forward.

Councilmember Robert Jones thanked residents

for speaking up. He hopes it serves as a reminder that civic engagement matters.

"It does make a difference and I encourage people to keep coming out and speaking," he said.

Other business covered in the meeting included City Manager Robert Smith saying that the Georgia Department of Transportation has completed an evaluation of the intersection between South Perry Parkway, Main Street and Highway 34. Since it is a state and federal highway, GDOT is in control of the project.

According to Smith, their engineering report determined that the intersection was trending towards failure. He explained "failure" means there are significant safety issues that may arise. There are also issues of moving traffic volume effectively through the intersection.

According to council documents, within the last five years, there have been 23 reported collisions at the intersection.

GDOT has provided recommendations to the city on how to improve the intersection. The first is creating a three-way stop, but they have determined it will only work for four to six years. The long-term solution is building a roundabout.

Councilmember Robert Jones voiced his concerns, saying it could impact log and chicken trucks.

GDOT says adding a roundabout will be an effective and safe way to handle traffic volume.

GDOT is asking the mayor and council for their concurrence to explore that option as well as to ensure funds are available to complete the project.

During pre-council, mayor and council discussed providing a letter of support but with a request for GDOT to consider adding a traffic light system instead.

During general public comments, resident Javan Frazier shared his concerns. His home is located near the intersection, and he believes adding a three-way stop would impact his ability to get in and out of his driveway. Adding a roundabout would also impact his home and he asked how it would impact his and his neighbors' properties.

Frazier shared that the neighborhood has witnessed car accidents and hopes GDOT will listen to their concerns before making a decision.

Walker encouraged the resident to contact GDOT's engineering department with his questions.

Council unanimously approved to provide a letter of support along with their suggestion for traffic lights.

Mayor and Council will hold their next pre-council meeting at 5 p.m. and the regular council meeting at 6 p.m. on June 2. Everyone is invited to attend, and the agenda is available before meetings at perry-ga.gov/subscribe-agendas-minutes. Both meetings are also livestreamed on YouTube: youtube.com/@PerryComms.

DOMINY

From page 4A

incorporated Virginia creeper on his own Maryland property.

I hate it, hence why I was swinging around the woods like Tarzan, trying to tear it from a tree. Yard work has been low on the priority list over the past few months, years for

some portions of the yard, and a pine tree near the house had been overrun with the creeper. It had been crept out, if you will.

The eradication method taught to me by a horticulturalist, the same horticulturalist that most likely instilled my hatred of this plant, prescribes cutting at least a four-inch gap into the vine at the

base of the tree, spraying the exposed end with an herbicide and, after the vine begins to wilt, yank it from the tree. As it dies, you see, it's supposed to lose its grip.

Not this one. I have yanked, and pulled, and swayed in the air like a madman, and the vine is still there.

Where's Tarzan when you need him?

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Houston County schools release All-Region soccer teams



By **CLAY BROWN**
HHJ Sports Editor
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With the 2026 soccer season and school year coming to a close, Houston County schools have released their boys and girls All-Region teams.

Here's who made the 2026 All-Region soccer teams:

Houston County, Region 2-5A

Boys

Grey Dunlap, All-Region 1st Team

Grant Sirmons, All-Region 1st Team

Knox Nicolls, All-Region 1st Team

Mitch Lesho, All-Region 2nd Team

John Anamoah-Sam, All-Region 2nd Team

Adam Damiri, All-Region 2nd Team

Nishant Kunwar, All-Region Honorable Mention

Logan Ryaes, All-Region Honorable Mention

Girls

Ayah Abdul-Malik, Region 2-5A Offensive Player of the Year and All-Region 1st Team

Kyndall DuBois, All-Region 1st Team

Catherine Grady, All-Region 1st Team

Skylar Benko, All-Region 1st Team

Elizabeth Godman, All-Region 2nd Team

Julie Cole, All-Region 2nd Team

Camila Villalobos, All-

Region 2nd Team

Mariah Hollins, All-Region 2nd Team

Caleigh Patton, All-Region Honorable Mention

Olivia Buffone, All-Region Honorable Mention

Gabby Wells, Co-Coach of the Year

Northside, Region 2-5A

Boys

Elias Perez Sanchez, All-Region 1st Team

Omar Suarez, All-Region 1st Team

Aron Diaz, All-Region 2nd Team

Chris Jara, All-Region 2nd Team

Yerson Lizarazo, All-Region Honorable Mention

Ronal Najera, All-Region Honorable Mention

Girls

Alyssa Paredes, All-Region 1st Team

Lexi Harris, All-Region 1st Team

Gabby Dee, All-Region 2nd Team

Sydney Askew, All-Region 2nd Team

Anna Langlois, All-Region Honorable Mention

Perry, Region 1-4A

Boys

Carson Camp, Region 1-4A Player of the Year and All-Region 1st Team

J.D. Arnette, All-Region 1st Team

Noah Wendler, All-Region 1st Team

Trent Torres, All-Region 1st Team

Andre Hart, All-Region 2nd

Team

Grant Vickers, All-Region 2nd Team

Nathan Dooley, Coach of the Year

Girls

Madisyn Gallagher, Region 1-4A Player of the Year and All-Region 1st Team

Ansley Parker, All-Region 1st Team

Madilynn Foster, All-Region 1st Team

Mia Mathis, All-Region 1st Team

Juliana Marfell, All-Region 1st Team

Rylee Beasley, All-Region 2nd Team

Claire Loseke, All-Region 2nd Team

Nathan Dooley, Coach of the Year

Veterans, Region 2-5A

Boys

Camren Laris, Region 2-5A Offensive Player of the Year and All-Region 1st Team

Blaine Black, All-Region 1st Team

David Drake, All-Region 1st Team

Philippe Coelho, All-Region 1st Team

Terry Motes, All-Region 2nd Team

Elijah Belcher, All-Region 2nd Team

Elton Mantooth, All-Region 2nd Team

Chris Banks, All-Region 2nd Team

Collin McIntosh, All-Region Honorable Mention

Kade Staines, All-Region Honorable Mention

Girls

Kaylah Judy, All-Region 1st Team

Emily Smith, All-Region 1st Team

Abby Mixon, All-Region 1st Team

Keziah Thompson, All-Region 1st Team

Marley Loyd, All-Region 2nd Team

Santana Phelps, All-Region 2nd Team

Rylynn Ward, All-Region 2nd Team

Lacey McMullan, All-Region 2nd Team

Kayley Guevara, All-Region Honorable Mention

Kate Rumford, All-Region Honorable Mention

Warner Robins, Region 1-4A

Boys

Jabez Htoo, All-Region 1st Team

Christian Rodriguez, All-

Region 2nd Team

Girls

Joselyn Casanova, All-Region 1st Team

Marley Languines, All-Region 1st Team

Alyssa Wilkes, All-Region 2nd Team

Westfield, GIAA District 5-4A/3A

Girls

Issy Dehem, All-Region

Addison Mazingo, All-Region

Adeline Pearson, All-Region

Houston County represented by 34 athletes in GHSA baseball All-Region teams

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

With the end of the athletic school year comes the All-Region awards, in which Houston County has plenty of representation with 34 total student-athletes.

See who was nominated to the 2026 All-Region baseball teams:

Houston County, Region 2-5A

Kaiden Harvey, Co-Freshman of the Year and All-Region 1st Team third base

Raymond Byrd, All-Region 1st Team catcher

Ethan Kenney, All-Region 1st Team first base, pitcher and All-Region Academic Player of the Year

Isaiah Galason, All-Region 1st Team middle infield

Tyson Ganas, All-Region 1st Team pitcher and All-Region 2nd Team utility

Davian Hammonds, All-Region 2nd Team outfield

Ryan Maxwell, All-Region 2nd Team pitcher

Matt Hopkins, Region 2-5A Coach of the Year

Northside, Region 2-5A

Emerson Rugama, All-Region 1st Team utility and All-Region 2nd Team pitcher

Caden Nelson, All-Region 1st Team outfield

Jeremy Snelling, All-Region 2nd Team middle infield

Tucker Stillwell, All-Region 2nd Team pitcher

Perry, Region 1-4A



Seth Harper, All-Region 1st Team

Tyson Peters, All-Region 1st Team

Jackson Thompson, All-Region 1st Team

Nate Sullivan, All-Region 1st Team

Reid Ginn, All-Region 1st Team

Janaris Reeves, All-Region Honorable Mention

Bryson Register, All-Region Honorable Mention

Finn Hawk, All-Region Honorable Mention

Ashton Arno, All-Region Honorable Mention

Walker Bland, All-Region Honorable Mention

Connor Langdon, All-Region Honorable Mention

Veterans, Region 2-5A

Jackson Eaton, All-Region 1st Team outfield

Kason Flowers, All-Region 1st Team outfield

Bradley Lenz, All-Region

1st Team pitcher

Bentley Haines, All-Region 1st Team relief pitcher

Dillon Harris, All-Region 2nd Team first base

Steven Hafeychuck, All-Region 2nd Team middle infield and pitcher

Landin Grant, All-Region 2nd Team third base

Warner Robins, Region 1-4A

Drew White, All-Region 1st Team pitcher

Chase Plank, All-Region Honorable Mention

Blaze Griffin, All-Region Honorable Mention

Brandon Massie, All-Region Honorable Mention

Westfield, GIAA District 5-4A/3A

Westfield did not share their All-District selections by the print deadline. Check hhjonline.com/sports for updates.

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