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Weekend, May 9, 2026

CRU Lounge shooter sentenced to 15 years

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — A nightclub shooting in 2024 led to a domino effect of events and the shooter sentenced.

Katlyn Green, 26, of Warner Robins, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, according to the Houston County District Attorney's Office. She was convicted of aggravated assault after a three-day trial on April 17 and sentenced on May 5.

The shooting charges stem from took place on March 15, 2024 at the CRU Lounge on Highway 247.

As the club closed for the night, Green and the victim confronted each other in the parking lot over a romantic relationship. Green was wav-

ing a handgun during the argument, according to witness testimony at trial.

A fist fight emerged between Green's sister and the victim and Green shot her in the chest, injuring her. The victim survived and testified at the trial.

The Warner Robins Police Department deemed the club a public nuisance in April 2024 and city council revoked the nightclub's liquor license. Since then, the club has shut down.

Detective James Nix of the WRPD investigated the case.

Green was sentenced by Judge G.E. "Bo" Adams and prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Sandra Matson.

See **SENTENCED** page 2A



Katlyn Green was sentenced Tuesday for her involvement in a shooting at the now closed CRU Lounge in 2024.

Residents speak out against Airport Road annexation

By **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY — A proposed townhouse development has returned to the council chambers, and residents are continuing to voice concerns.

This was the first reading, meaning no action has been taken. The applicant, Matt Widner with Widner and Associates, is making another effort, this time, with a concept in mind.

In June 2025, city council denied the annexation request in a 3-2 vote.

The request is to annex and rezone 19.7 acres from residential agricultural to townhouse residential. According to Interim Director of Community Development Holly Wharton, the development would include 105 townhouse units.

She mentioned a limited sewer capacity, but the city is always studying to determine if accommodation is available. According to Wharton, there is adequate sewer capacity to accommodate the development.

Widner spoke during the



Sandra Hernandez/HHJ

Interim Community Development Director Holly Wharton explains an annexation request during the Perry City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 5.

public hearing, saying developers had no plans. What was previously a hypothetical set of numbers is a plan for what they want to develop on the parcel.

Wharton added that this decision is only relevant to the land-use and annexation of the property. She clarified that future development plans will have to come to the Department of Community Development for review.

Similar to last year, mul-

tiple nearby residents spoke against the development. Most are seniors living in Houston Springs.

Many noted that it would cause additional traffic concerns and noise. They also do not like the idea of townhomes being close to their neighborhood. Multiple residents urged the council to think about the senior community before making a decision.

See **ANNEX** page 2A

Perry resident publishes first novel inspired by her trauma and grief

By **OWEN JONES**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY — A traumatic event as a teenager led a longtime Perry resident to write her first published fictional novel.

Kaitlyn Dryden has lived in Perry for 22 years and graduated from Perry High School in 2008. She's an avid reader working in the dental field and has always loved writing.

Published on April 20, "Love Ya Mean It" is based on true events: when her twin sister, Brittany, passed away only a month before graduating high school.

"I really felt like I could take something meaningful to me with my sister passing away for maybe someone who went through some trauma, and then just finding some type of purpose or love after going through something like that," Dryden said.

See **NOVEL** page 7A



Courtesy: Athena Richardson

Kaitlyn Dryden, author of "Love Ya Mean It."

Short-term rental regulations proposed for Warner Robins

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
HHJ Managing Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — A local Airbnb may be a better deal than a hotel, but is currently unregulated by the City of Warner Robins. That may soon change after the

city discussed it at its latest meeting.

Council spoke at length Monday night about an ordinance working through the pipeline which aims to regulate short-term and vacation rental properties.

Houston County and sur-

rounding neighborhoods have regulations in place, City Administrator James Drinkard said. The county adopted theirs in May of last year, and the city of Perry has an ordinance from 2021.

See **RENTAL** page 7A



Brieanna Smith/HHJ

City Administrator James Drinkard (right) explains a proposed short-term rental regulating ordinance and Councilman Kevin Lashley (left) makes a suggestion during a City of Warner Robins Council meeting Monday, May 4.



Brieanna Smith/HHJ

Mayor J. Micheal Evans (left) and Councilwoman Lisa Lowe (right), served on the budget subcommittee this year.

Centerville budget up from last year

By **BRIANNA SMITH**
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CENTERVILLE — Money was the main topic at the City of Centerville's latest meeting. Tuesday night, Council discussed the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2027.

According to City Accountant Carol Harrison, the proposed budget totals

\$17.8 million. The budget is an increase from last year's of around \$15.2 million.

Revenues are also up. General fund revenues overall are up by almost \$1.1 million.

In the general fund, property tax revenues are up to \$3.1 million this year, compared to \$2.8 million last year. Other

See **CENTERVILLE** page 7A



PERIODICAL

Word of the Day

*Truly my soul silently waits for God;
From Him comes my salvation.*

— Psalm 62:1 (NKJV)

Inside

Opinion, 4A

- Viewpoints
- Jim Balletto

Lifestyle & Faith, 5A

- Billy Powell
- Jillinda Falen

Entertainment, 6A

- Comics
- Puzzle

Classifieds, 7A

Business, A8
Sports, A9-A12

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COMMUNITY

Houston County joins regional development authority

By **OWEN JONES**
HHJ Staff Writer
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PERRY—Houston County Board of Commissioners recently approved to join the Mid-Georgia Gateway Joint Development Authority, and also entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Macon-Bibb and Peach counties.

According to the agenda, becoming a member of the authority would allow the county to market a mega-site in Peach County, while pursuing an industrial tenant for the property.

The county will also participate in a revenue sharing agreement for the authority. Financial contributions will come from the General Fund.

Chairman Dan Perdue said he and Houston County Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling have been working with representatives from Macon-Bibb and Peach counties for the last nine months to set up the partnership.

“The state has invested a lot of money in land and even more money in infrastructure to prepare this site,” Perdue said. “We are a very large industrial manufacturer bringing a lot of jobs to our region.”

Commissioner Mark Byrd said if there is a mega site in a neighboring county, they’d want input.

“This affords us that



Houston County issues a Proclamation for Salvation Army Week on Tuesday, May 5.

Owen Jones/HHJ

opportunity to have a seat and voice at the table, and I’m very thankful for that opportunity,” Byrd said.

Commissioners also

issued a proclamation for the Salvation Army. Tim Blevins said their mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and speak in

His word without discrimination.

“We appreciate this emphasis so that we can help increase the community’s awareness,” Blevins said.

Founders William and Katherine Booth were the epitome of service and Blevins encouraged the masses to serve in any way you see fit.

The board then presented a proclamation for Public Works Appreciation Week,

recognizing employees for their service.

Judith Malone of the Houston County Library System spoke on the vacation reading program. The theme this year is “Unearth the Story,” with dinosaurs as the focal point.

There are over 100 programs; pre-registration begins on May 20.

“The reading program is a great way to avoid the ‘summer slide’ and a good way to get them back reading their

books,” Malone said.

The next Houston County Commissioners meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19, at 5 p.m. at the Houston County Annex on Carl Vinson Parkway. The full agenda to this meeting can be found at www.houstoncountygga.gov/minutes/2026-05-05%20Department%20Heads%20Copy.pdf

Inmate death prompts GBI investigation

By **BRIEANNA SMITH**
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PERRY — A Macon man died in county custody this week.

According to the Houston County Sheriff’s Office, Shaquan Warren, 33, suffered a medical emergency

while housed at the Houston County Detention Center.

On May 5, around 5 p.m., he was first transported to the Emory Healthcare — Perry emergency room. Then, he was taken to Emory Healthcare — Warner Robins for more evaluation and treatment.

Warren was pronounced

dead at the hospital at 2:45 p.m. on May 6. He had been in custody since April 24.

Due to Warren’s incarceration, Sheriff Matt Moulton requested an investigation by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations. His body was taken to the GBI Crime Lab for an autopsy.

SENTENCED

From page 1A

District Attorney Eric Edwards provided comments:

“This case is yet another example of a completely avoidable dispute escalating into gun violence because someone chose to introduce a firearm into an already volatile situation.

What began as an argument in a crowded parking lot ended with a victim being shot in the chest who is fortunate to still be alive today. Too often, minor personal conflicts are turning into life altering acts of violence because individuals are willing to use firearms in moments of anger. That conduct places not only the intended victim at risk, but everyone else present in the

area. “I am grateful for the work of the Warner Robins Police Department and for the prosecution of this case by Senior Assistant District Attorney Sandra Matson. The sentence imposed reflects the seriousness of this offense and our commitment to holding violent offenders accountable when they choose to settle disputes with gunfire.”

ANNEX

From page 1A

A resident, Lorraine Perrino, said she likes the idea of the proposed development and a park being added to the area, but she is worried about the impacts.

“There are times where we have very low water pressure. It would be a traffic nightmare,” she said.

Another resident, George Falldine, had been expressing his concern since the development was first proposed last year.

He advised Mayor Randall Walker and council to think about the economic impact on the senior community and consider unknown information about the proposed development. Falldine said the roads in Houston Springs are privately owned,

meaning the residents have to be responsible for their care.

“I am raising again for you to really seriously consider the economic impact on a 55 plus community if we’re not able to fully develop what is left of our community to be able to pay for what we are going to have to cover in the future,” he said.

A resident who had been vocal since the beginning, Clay Nodes, echoed previous statements by his neighbors, mentioning an excessive amount of development.

“This is our neighborhood. Townhouses don’t belong in our neighborhood,” he said.

He urged the mayor and council to revisit the land use map, preserve their quality of life, and not to crowd them out.

Mayor and council will

make their decision at a future council meeting.

Later in the meeting, mayor and council approved Economic Development Director Holly Wharton to serve as Interim Community Development Director.

According to council documents, the previous Community Development Director, Joe Duffy, resigned on April 29.

Wharton will serve dual roles until the council appoints a new director.

Mayor and Council will hold their pre-council meeting at 5 p.m. and the regular council meeting at 6 p.m. on May 19. Everyone is invited to attend, and the agenda is available at perry-ga.gov/subscribe-agendas-minutes. Both meetings are also livestreamed on YouTube: [youtube.com/@PerryComms](https://www.youtube.com/@PerryComms).

BILL'S PRODUCE

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Carrying small batch products locally grown / produced in Georgia!

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FRESHEST PRODUCE IN MIDDLE GEORGIA!

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

401 S. Houston Lake Rd.-Next to Lowe Toyota

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.

Starbuck Learning Garden

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

Trends in Transplant Conference

May 9 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
233 N. Houston Road,
Warner Robins

Georgia Transplant Foundation (GTF) is proud to present the Warner Robins Trends in Transplant Conference on Saturday, May 9th, 2026, at the Cary Martin Conference Center. It's a day for transplant patients to network with others while learning about health updates and wellness tools from leading transplant physicians and professionals.

National Train Day Exhibit

May 9 & May 10 | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., noon - 6 p.m.
2922 Watson Boulevard,
Centerville

For the 2nd year the Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club will celebrate Nation Train Day (Golden Spike) at the Galleria Mall in Centerville. The "National Train Day" exhibit is scheduled to be open free to the public from Saturday, May 8, 2026, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday, May 9, 2026, noon to 6:00 PM.

The MGMRC will be setup in front of the Forever Diamonds store next to the food court.

MGMRC members will be on hand to answer questions about model trains and the hobby of model railroading. The MGMRC has been around since the 1970s.

They hold a public meeting at the IHOP restaurant, 2710 Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins on the third Tuesday of every month (except December this year) and invite anyone interested in learning about model railroading to come and join their meeting. See our web site at MGMRC.org.

Police Week Observance

May 10 – May 16
Various locations, Warner Robins

During National Police Week, the Warner Robins Police Department will host several events to honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to recognize the dedication and service of officers who continue to protect the community.

NARFE Chapter Meeting

May 13 | 11 a.m.
155 Maple Street, Warner Robins

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Warner Robins Chapter 1020 will meet at 11:00 Wednesday, May 13 at the Senior Center: 155 Maple Street Warner Robins. 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 Program.

The May program will be a presentation with Alexis Williams MPH, Program Manager for Alzheimer's Association Georgia

Chapter. Enjoy the presentation by Alexis on Take Charge of Your Brain.

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

NARFE is a lobbying organization and 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 this special lunch program.

Perry DAR Quarterly Meeting

May 13 | 11:30 a.m.
1002 Carroll Street, Perry

The May luncheon meeting of the General Daniel Stewart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be held at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Fellowship Hall of the Perry Methodist Church, 1002 Carroll Street. The State Regent will be inducting new officers for the 2006-2008 term. Cost of the lunch is \$20. If you plan to attend, please email generaldanielstewart@gmail.com or text/call 318-294-7023.

Night of Blue Lights

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

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

Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad!

May 15 | Noon
5430 Highway 341, Musella

Join us for a Lunch and Learn lecture by John Trussell, M.Ed UGA, historical and outdoor writer, on "Massacre of the Georgia Battalion at Goliad, Texas, 1836. Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad!"

Many people remember the Battle of the Alamo where 200 Texas liberators were killed by Mexican troops on March 6, 1836. The event was captured in dramatic detail in the 1960 movie "The Alamo" starring John Wayne. The heroes were struck down in a blaze of glory, fighting to the last man!

Lesser known and largely forgotten is the Battle of Goliad, which occurred a week after the Alamo, where 435 Texas defenders were forced to surrender due to a lack of ammo and they didn't want to try to escape and leave their wounded behind. They were truly a "Band of Brothers" fighting for Texan independence.

Approximately 120 of those Texas defenders were from middle Georgia and they were all soon marched out into the prairie and shot down and massacred by

Mexican troops, under order from General Santa Anna.

Drury Minor, from Houston County, was one of the many middle Georgians killed in the fight for Texas Independence.

The Georgia Battalion carried the first Texas flag, made by Joanna Troutman of Crawford County, with them to Texas. Learn more about the terrible massacre at the upcoming Crawford County Jug Festival.

The Lunch will be at the Musella Baptist Church at 5430 Highway 341, Musella, Ga. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door, limited seats. Call 478-954-6395 for tickets or contact cchs.ga2012@gmail.com

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 Downton 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.

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

OBITUARIES

Mattie Lou (Norris) Bynum

PERRY – Mattie Lou (Norris) Bynum, 95, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, after a brief illness. Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Perry. Visitation will be held from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by the funeral beginning at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Perry Memorial Gardens immediately following the service.

Mrs. Bynum was born in Black, Alabama to the late David and Claudia Bell Norris. She was a rare homemaker her entire life, making sure her home and family were lovingly cared for. She was well known for her pound cakes, pecan pies, and canned goods, especially her jellies! She entered jams and many of her canned goods at the Perry National Fair and won blue ribbons often. She loved gardening with her husband, and either canning or freezing the vegetables they grew.



Even in her later years, she kept a raised bed garden in her backyard, still enjoying the process of growing food to eat and share with others. She loved to go fishing and continued even in her 90's to enjoy her time at a pond, pulling in the "big one" and letting out a gleeful yell.

Mrs. Bynum was a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Perry and especially loved her class known as the Joy Sunday School Class. She was a person who consistently wrote letters or

sent birthday cards to family and friends. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren loved getting their birthday cards from "Ma".

Mattie Lou was predeceased by her loving and devoted husband of 64 years, Drew Bynum; her brother, David Norris, Jr.; her sisters, Jessie Hutto and Johnnie Greninger; her half-sister, Linda Grayson; and her step-sister, "Midget" Trent.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Mattie Lou are her daughters and sons-in-law, Patsy and Stewart Newberry of Montezuma, Sheila and Charlie Steck of Concord, GA, and Donna and Ray Waldbusser of Newport, NC; 7 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; her half-brother, Jerry Norris; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at <https://www.watsonhunt.com>. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Flying Fortress — the equivalent of a single full crew during the war. It features rare restored and colorized archive footage, narration by Emmy Award-winning voice talent Dan Nachtrab, and has already received rave reviews from New York Times best-selling authors and respected Air Force historians.

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

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

Community Calendar

Email your information to:

brianna@hhjonline.com

Houston Home Journal

478-987-1823

1210 Washington St.
Perry, GA 31069

STOP CRIME NOW
742-2330

BAXTER, CHRISTOPHER WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING.	BAXTER, CHRISTOPHER WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY DECEPTION – FELONY.	BENNETT, SONNY WANTED BY 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 CRIMINAL TRESPASS.	FORD, WILLIE WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT PROBATION O/C DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.	GLOVER, JAQUAN WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BENCH WARRANT/ RACKETEERING.	GRAY, ARCHIE WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR/ SIMPLE BATTERY.
HOWARD, TODD WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEFT BY TAKING- FELONY.	JORDAN, TRAVION WANTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR BATTERY SUB PHYSICAL HARM.	MCCRARY, DIONDRE WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT – VOP – THEFT BY TAKING.	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.
PERNELL, ERIN WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR TRAFFICKING IN HEROIN (F) AND TRAFFICKING IN METHAMPHETAMINE (F).	SANCHEZ, JONAS WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR HIT AND RUN AND FAILURE TO OBEY STOP SIGN.	SAMAYO-GOMEZ, OSBELI WANTED BY HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CHILD MOLESTATION.	WILLIAMS, TAMORIAN WANTED BY THE PEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT VOP O/C ROBBERY BY INTIMIDATION.

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

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

Attention Centerville Water Customers... Your Water Quality Report is now available

Each year, the Centerville Water Dept provides its customers with an Annual Water Quality Report to let them know how our water quality stacks up against federal and state drinking water standards. You are encouraged to review the report as it provides details about the drinking water delivered to your community in 2025.

This year, the report will be individually mailed in May to customers receiving a monthly bill instead of printed in the newspaper. It is also available online at the City's website "[centervillega.org](https://www.centervillega.org)" under the Street & Utilities tab. The direct online URL is <https://www.centervillega.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CCR-YEAR-2025.pdf>. If you wish to have a printed copy, you can print one directly from our website or contact our office at 478-953-3222.

Attention landlords, businesses, schools and other groups: Please share this information with tenants, students and other water users at your location who are not billed customers of Centerville Water Dept.

VIEWPOINTS

The Houston Home Journal

See us online at
www.hhjonline.com

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Our Goal

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

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Share Your Viewpoint

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

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

Sign, everywhere a sign

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign.

That was from Five Man Electrical Band, a U.S. one-hit wonder (#3 on the charts), but the band had more success in their native Canada. "Signs" was released by the band in 1970 as a B-side by MGM Records. It flopped. MGM sold the rights to the band to Lionel Records, which wisely re-released "Signs" as an A-side and sold over a million copies.

We have a lot of road signs in Warner Robins. Government issued signs, that is. Like a sign on Watson Boulevard (or, 247 Connector, but read on) telling you that there is a traffic light coming up at Robins West. Really? I'm shocked! Didn't they just put that light up? Like in 1995? But the faded sign remains.

Then a block away, another sign announces a traffic control device at the Walmart/Lowes interchange. Well, since I was stopped in traffic (it's Watson, after all), I knew this light was coming, and it's been there about 20 years, too. Just an observation.

A lesser known sign tells us that there is a traffic light at Houston Lake and Leverett Road. Probably only been 30 years that light's been there, no wonder the sign is still there. Gotta warn people.

I'm proud that the Southeast Little League is in town. I'm not proud of a puny little sign in front of Academy saying to turn right for the league office. To my knowledge, there is



no other sign in the county showing how to get to the league office after that. And if a visitor can spot that sign on Watson, glory be.

Why does Fairfield Inn have a directional sign on Watson just before Margie Drive? I figure they wisely just put it up one night and since it looks official, it remains. I could be wrong, but no other hotel has that luxury.

All of this sign drama came to my attention when traveling eastbound on Watson. WRPD put up one of those electronic signs telling you how fast you are going in front of the car wash at Corder Road. There is a traditional speed limit sign with the warning, "35 MPH," right there.

Then right before

McDonald's, there is another. Then there is another in front of International Square. And then another before the hospital. In less than 3000 feet, four signs and the electronic sign for good measure. And good luck exceeding the speed limit on that stretch of road except at 3:00 a.m.

The signs over the suicide lane showing left and right turn only? They don't work. Everybody enters the lane and parks there, waiting for a clearing to finish entering the roadway. Totally illegal but no one cares.

Apparently DOT has some rule to post totally bizarre signs at random places, like "247 Conn" signs on Watson. Yeah, it's Highway 247 Connector but who calls it that anymore?

I'm not an entirely grumpy old man. Hospitals, schools, parks, and "Children Playing," signs are always good.

I'll conclude by pointing out that there is a lot of signage that is cluttering the roads which lost its usefulness 20 years ago. That's a lot of steel that could be recycled. I really should run things. Then again, maybe not.

For other helpful budget-busting ideas, contact me directly.

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

Bad moms give us something to be thankful for this Mother's Day

There is not much to not like about George Washington.

The accomplished general and first president, though flawed as all humans are, is regarded the world over for his feats on the battlefield and his actions as a statesman. Historians continue to study the writings and actions of this celebrated figure in American history to learn just what made him think and act the way that he did.

But there is one notable person who did not think George was all that great — his mama.

Yes, Mary Ball Washington is well documented as an overbearing, ever-complaining and non-approving parent. George could never do anything right in her eyes, and she would openly deride and vilify her son to anyone who would listen.

It's generally bad practice to disrespect someone in command of an army, but George must have had thick skin or really loved his dear old mother. I feel sorry for his dad, because if winning a war and helping found a nation couldn't impress the woman, I don't know what would.

Coincidentally, there's another famous American, one that perhaps shouldn't be remembered as fondly, who made his mother extremely proud.

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

KYLE DOMINY



Zerelda Elizabeth Cole James Simms Samuel (say that three times fast) was the doting mother of famous outlaws Frank and Jesse James. Zerelda was not a shining member of society herself and fully condoned her sons' lawless ways. She would provide haven for the fugitives in between their escapades, and that would later cost her a limb.

During a raid on the family homestead by the Pinkerton Detective Agency, an explosive device claimed her right arm and, more tragically, the life of the James' baby stepbrother.

After Jesse was dead and Frank was on trail, Zerelda decided to capitalize on the craze created by her offspring — as any grieving mother would. She gave tours of the family home, for a nominal fee of course, and provided sordid details of the raid that damaged her body and killed her child and gave details about the James boys that the newspapers and dime novels

couldn't provide.

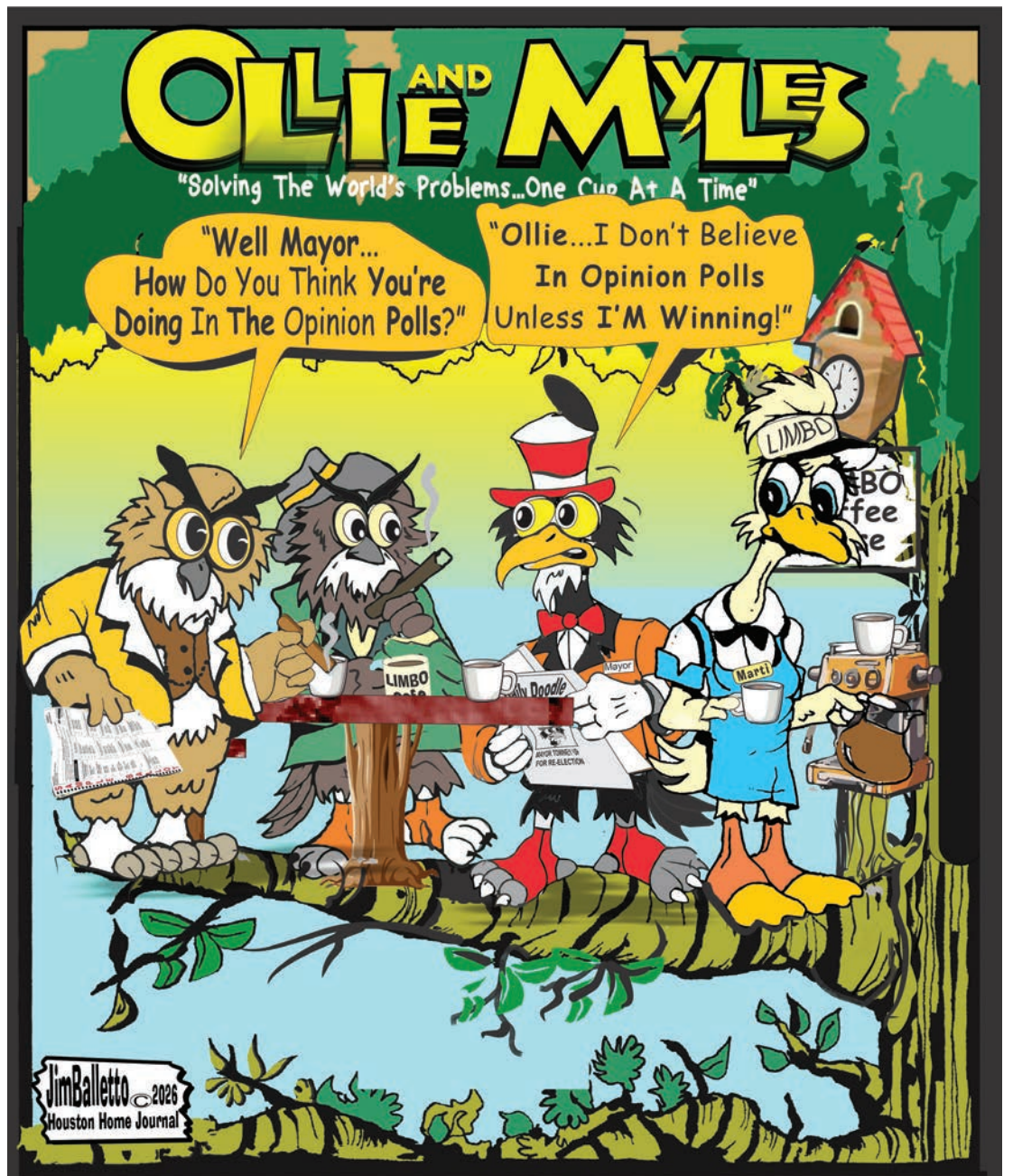
It is stories like these that make you appreciate mothers that try to do right by their offspring.

I certainly don't have anything to complain about in the parent department. In fact, I've been surrounded by good mothers my whole life, from my own mother and grandmothers to the moms of friends who treat me like their own. While I don't, or will ever, have accomplishments that compare to George Washington's, but I've also avoided the ire of the law. That should make any mother proud.

This Mother's Day it's expected that folks in the United States will spend more than \$40 billion trying to show their mothers how much they appreciate them, or at least going through the motions. Surely there are more Mary Ball Washingtons and Zerelda Samuels around.

If you're fortunate enough to still have a mom around, pay her a visit or give her a call.

Happy Mother's Day.



Random thoughts on random subjects

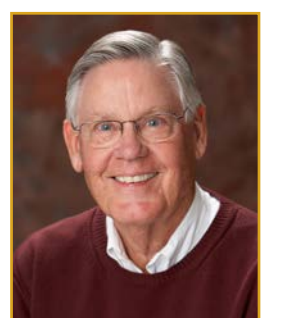
I would like to say I hate it when I'm right but, jiminy crickets, I am right so much that if I spent all that time hating myself I wouldn't have time to hate broccoli. And I really hate broccoli.

Case in point: I went out on a limb last week predicting the political platforms of all the candidates for all of the offices in the upcoming election in Georgia. I said I thought they would all promise to: Lower our taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interests groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education. Fix Medicare. In watching the debates last week, it was pretty clear all the candidates are firmly committed to (Inhale): Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interests groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education. Fix Medicare. (Exhale). Am I good or am I good?

The one exception among the candidates is the mud wrestling going on between businessman Rick Jackson

COLUMNIST

DICK YARBROUGH



and Lt. Gov. Burt Jones for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. They have collectively taken negative advertising to a new low (or high.) Jackson has spent some \$47 million and Jones has spent roughly \$26 million in ripping each other to pieces. All of this for a job that pays \$182,000. My two cents worth? I'm tired of both of them and their ads...

One of the perks of my job at BellSouth Corporation was that I had a staff in Washington and that got me the opportunity to attend the annual White House Correspondents' Dinners. It is no cliché to say everybody who was anybody was there, including the president. The media roasting the president in good fun and then the president responding

with a few zingers of his own was what the evening was all about. Much fun. I was surprised and pleased that the thinnest-skinned president in the history of our Republic finally agreed to attend. I couldn't wait to see how it turned out. And then, suddenly, the surreal attempted assassination. There is talk of perhaps rescheduling the event. I hope they do. The nation could use a little healing and laughter is the best medicine...

I will have more to say about this later but be forewarned that our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is still a target for those who wish to mine the site for titanium dioxide in order that this world never runs

See YARBROUGH page 5A

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

LIFESTYLE & FAITH

My watch alarmed in church

Once I purchased a new wrist watch that automatically alarmed every hour. I made the mistake of wearing it to church. At exactly high noon, as the preacher momentarily paused during his sermon, my watch alarmed with twelve shrill beeps. Everyone looked around, but I didn't let on that it was my watch. In reality, it was more than the chiming of the hour. The watch sent the preacher an unintended subliminal message. The alarm said, "Preacher, it's 12 o'clock and you are preaching overtime."

Unless the Holy Spirit falls on a congregation, a preacher loses his audience at high noon or after 25 minutes in the pulpit, whichever comes first. Most people are thinking about that roast in the oven or how long they will have to wait in line at the restaurant. Watch the employees depart their workplaces at lunchtime. When both clock hands point to twelve, they all make a mad rush to leave their work stations. It is no different in church on Sunday morning. At 12 o'clock, the congregation grows restless and many worshippers will make a furtive glance at their watches.

Speak too long, and the

PARABLES TO PONDER

BILLY POWELL



congregation becomes fidgety and inattentive. A person's attention span seriously wanes after 20-minutes. The most effective messages are delivered in 25 minutes or less. A long-winded message will put people to sleep. Such was the case when the Apostle Paul preached long into the night at a church in Troas. A young parishioner there named Eutychus grew drowsy and fell out of a three-story window.

One hour of preparation is required for every minute of delivery; consequently, a 20-minute sermon requires 20-hours research, study and script preparation. A pastor, known for his well-prepared and succinct sermons, was the famous Peter Marshall. When Dr. Marshall pastored churches in Covington and Decatur, people would line up in the rain outside the church to hear him preach.

The greatest sermon in history was Jesus' Sermon on the Mount which can

be read slowly in 20-minutes. Another notable sermon was Peter's message at Pentecost that saved 3,000 people. Peter's recorded message can be recited in 10-minutes.

The most effective homilist I have ever heard was a Baptist preacher who typed his messages word-for-word and never spoke longer than 20-minutes. I actually timed him one Sunday. His message lasted exactly 13 minutes and 7 seconds. This pastor's sermons became the talk of the town, and everyone who came to hear him preach knew the service would be over at high noon, if not before. Church attendance doubled. Two morning services had to be installed to accommodate the overflow crowds that came. As a result, church attendance dramatically increased, Sunday School enrollment swelled, and many were walking the aisles to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Vintage Bakelite jewelry

Bakelite jewelry has been a popular vintage collectible for many years now. Invented in 1909 by Leo Baekeland, Bakelite was a plastic resin that was originally produced for industrial purposes because it could hold up to heat. Colors were added in the 1920's. Another early plastic was Catalin and both plastics were fairly cheap and ended up being used to make jewelry in the early days of the Depression and remained popular through the 1940's. Catalin was used in radios as well and that is a popular genre of collecting.

Designers like Coco Chanel wore Bakelite jewelry and that really made it popular with the masses. Plastics were a "new and modern" thing and everyone wanted some. People started collecting costume jewelry from this era in the late 1980's and it has remained a popular

ALL ABOUT ANTIQUES

JILLINDA FALEN



collectible ever since. There are many kinds of jewelry produced in Bakelite including bracelets, earrings and pins. The bangle bracelets are very popular and are often brightly colored. Vintage Bakelite can bring prime prices and shouldn't be confused with Celluloid or Catalin.

There are several ways to determine whether a piece of jewelry is authentic Bakelite. You can run the piece under super hot water or rub a piece with a piece of cloth with simichrome polish in an inconspicuous spot. The heat

releases a chemical formaldehyde smell. Some use 409 cleaner on a cotton swab and rub on the piece and it turns the cotton swab yellow.

Of course these tricks will not work on black Bakelite or pieces that have been lacquered. The trained eye of a collector can also notice patina on old pieces. Bakelite will also not have any mold marks because all pieces were hand polished. Some collectors say that when "clunked" together, Bakelite bangles have a distinctive sound. Happy Collecting!

'Factoring' in colorful healthy vibes

Fried chicken isn't the healthiest food on the planet, but pair it with a salad instead of starchy sides, and it balances out, right?

I'm writing this column as I finish off a piece of fried chicken. Life is about balance.

I've worked very hard to be more intentional and have seen myself shrinking a little in the mirror as a result. My new headshot is definitely less round than my first one four years ago.

My recent run-ins with eating healthy coincided at two different Krogers. The first time, I wasn't planning on shopping there.

I forever volley between being a night owl and an early bird. I'm either going to bed at 4 a.m. or waking up at 4 a.m. This time, I was an early bird, but instead of yoga, like I should have been doing, I was scrolling Facebook.

That is when I saw the catalyst for a newfound sense of hope. On a local buy nothing group, a post advertised four free Factor meals: looking delicious and still before the expiration date.

Factor is a meal service kit touting "the healthiest meals you'll crave." The company offers freshly made meals, packaged up and sent to your door. Cooking them is a breeze, just two minutes in the microwave.

I had seen advertisements and even asked my husband if we should try them one day. But we never got around to ordering.

Immediately, I commented: "Interested! My husband and I were thinking about trying them."

Four meals for free? Sign me up for the trial.

The keeper of the food texted me: "Can you meet this morning?"

I had a lot to do, so that was a no. My dreams of ultra-clean eating slipped

THE EDITOR'S EXPERIENCE

BRIANNA SMITH



between my fingers.

"Or I can meet after 5:00 today," she continued. "Sure," I replied. "I'll meet you after work."

5:35 came around and I was sitting in a Kroger parking lot. A woman pulled up next to me, gave me a white bag, and I drove off into the sunset. Officer, I promise, I was picking up food.

I got home and couldn't wait to dig into my Athenian-style feta chicken with polenta, cauliflower and peppers. Two minutes wasn't fast enough. It's essentially a fancy TV dinner, so I ate said meal while watching TV. I was blown away by how delicious it was.

It was the prefect crossroads of health and convenience.

I told my husband, "we are getting these," and promptly began entering our household info. I read the website out loud in the process.

"What are my goals? Eat healthy, save time in the kitchen..."

"Meal preferences? I eat everything." (Probably not best to admit that publicly).

"I don't like mushrooms, two of us, just one meal, every day," I muttered to myself.

Then, the sticker shock. "Please give us \$160 a week for your dinners," the website said.

"ABSOLUTELY NOT!" I replied.

"What if we throw in a free breakfast item and 50% off your first box?"

"Still no. I spend \$150 a week for ALL our meals. Why would I drain it for

dinner and still need to figure out breakfast and lunch? Sorry, Factor, this is not economical."

"Okay," the website said. "We'll be bombarding your Facebook feed from now on."

That was three weeks ago, and I'm still seeing Factor advertising every day. Meanwhile, I'm roughing it at the grocery store, choosing healthy on my own.

The other day, while pushing a box of Kroger fried chicken in my cart, I was stopped by a woman in the deli section.

"I don't know if you're growing your hair out like that or what, but I love your color!" she said.

My brother's fiancée did a black-to-blue ombre on my hair in January.

"Awe, thank you so much!" I replied. Also of note, I was wearing a rainbow colored tie-dye dress.

"The world needs more color," she said.

"I agree," I said. "Take care."

Then, in the soda aisle, I ran into another woman I know who is a bright spot in this world. Her yellow flower-brimmed sunglasses are proof positive. She reminds me of myself.

We talked for a few minutes about National Day of Prayer.

"I gotta tell you about Jesus at some point," she said. I've been a born-again Christian for six years.

"I'd like that," I said.

Both women are right. The world needs more color and more Jesus.

LOST, SPLOST, ESPLOST, TSPLOST and FLOST

This is a slight shifting of gears from my normal health and fitness column but since we have the transportation special purpose local option sales tax (TSPLOST) on the ballot here in Peach County, I wanted to share a few things about these sales tax pennies and what it means to the health of our counties where these sales tax pennies come back to.

The value of good businesses in your area: when there is a healthy flow of traffic through your county and there are good businesses along these routes, chances are high that a lot of your county and city's bills are being paid by people simply traveling through that had a reason to stop and shop! Part of the value in building state and local government reliance on sales tax, is it increases their desire to create a business-friendly environment for their businesses (that collect sales tax).

LOST, SPLOST, ESPLOST, TSPLOST and FLOST: these are pennies (added to the state's base 4 cent) sales that come back to your local community.

LOST (local option sales tax) is the local option sales tax penny that helps rollback property taxes (this goes directly toward reducing your property tax).

SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax) is a special purpose sales tax penny that pays for special projects in your county or municipality and keeps it off your tax bill.

ESPLOST (education special purpose local option sales tax) is for special purpose projects for our education system within your county and keeps it off your tax bill.

TSPLOST (transportation special purpose sales

YOUR HEALTH

WADE YODER



tax) is for specific road and infrastructure projects. There is a provision made on this tax that lets a local government create a bond on projected revenue and go ahead and get started on the road projects instead of having to wait until the money is collected.

FLOST (floating local option sales tax) is an additional penny that was allowed by the state to be collected for offsetting property taxes. Its origin was from the homestead protection bill (HB 581), this penny could go much further if it was applied in full force to homestead millage rollback, before any general property millage rate rollback. It would then work much like a local homestead option sales tax (LHOST).

Online orders: smaller less populated counties (such as Peach, Macon, Taylor and Crawford) now have an advantage when their residents shop online for products that they normally had to go to a competing county or city to shop at or to get a product at. Sales tax law has been shaped now so that the local portion of the sales tax (LOST, SPLOST, ESPLOST, TSPLOST and FLOST) goes back to the county and municipality that an order originated from or was delivered to. Georgia also passed the 3rd party marketplace facilitator law to keep large platforms for retailers such as Amazon and EBAY from

skirting around sales tax (this gave online stores an unfair advantage over local stores).

Collection and distribution is county wide: it doesn't matter where the retail collection happens, it is distributed county wide. Example: the City of Fort Valley can benefit from a build-up of retail along the Peach County portion of I-75.

I'm a libertarian at heart, so anytime there is extra taxation my guard goes up, especially with government's appetite to do big things but with ever increases taxation on the people they are supposed to be serving. However, whether its highways, public safety, court system, recreation, schools etc.), payment for these costs must come from somewhere. And a consumption tax, seems a fair way for everyone to participate in the costs of keeping their communities' services and infrastructure intact.

Transparency of local taxes: whether current or past projects, there should be a magnifying glass over county and cities' spending of these special purpose local option pennies and make sure it is being spent exactly as your vote chose for it to be spent. What it was (or will be) spent on should be readily available, -as well as the status of the project(s) the money was tagged for.

The penny is small, but can do really good things for your community!

Wildlife Management Area, but there is still a lot of land along Trail Ridge available for mining and companies who have shown an interest in doing just that. As Yogi Berra said, it ain't over until it's over and this threat isn't over by a long shot. Stay tuned...

I saw a clip on TV recent-

ly showing three police officers in the Queens area of New York City responding to a domestic dispute at 3 a.m. As they approached the door, the house suddenly blew up. Their body cameras showed the three being knocked to the ground. Later, it was revealed they had suffered injuries. So,

what did they do? They got back up and rescued survivors. (The explosion was deliberately started by a family member who died in the explosion.) That is what police do, and the next time I hear some Gen-Whatevers talking about defunding the police, I am going to throw up on their Birkenstocks.

We need the police more than we need that bunch of ungrateful ignoramuses...

Finally, in the you-can't make-this-stuff-up department, it turns out that former UGA and Miami quarterback Carson Beck will have to take a pay cut after being drafted by the woeful Arizona Cardinals in

the recent NFL draft. Beck made a reported \$6 million at Miami. As a rookie in the NFL, he will make \$1.34 million. As my sweet mama would say, bless his heart.

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

YARBROUGH

From page 4A

short of toothpaste whiten-er. Yes, the Conservation Fund purchased the 8,000 acre Twin Pines tract and, yes, the state Department of Natural Resources bought almost 4,000 acres of that land and will create a new

ENTERTAINMENT

POPEYE'S 3RD BIRTHDAY!
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

POPEYE CONTINUES TO CLEAN OUT HIS CHILDHOOD NURSERY IN THE HOME OF HIS UNCLE, DAVY JONES, SO THE SPIRIT OF THE SEA WILL TAKE HIM TO THE KINGDOM OF THE PAST TO FIND OLIVE OYL.

WELL, LOOKIT THIS! MY BABY BOOK!

I KINT RECALL ME EARLIESK CHILDHOOD, MEBBE THIS'LL JOG ME MEM'RIES!

AN' MEBBE SOME THINGS IS FERGOTTEN FER A REASON.

GREAT, MORE CAVEMEN?

YES, YOUR ANTEDILUVIAN ANCESTORS WAITING TO PETITION THE QUEEN. MOST HAVE BEEN THERE YEARS, SINCE I WAS THE JESTER.

I DUNNO ABOUT HERR KATZENJAMMER, BUT HAPPY AND I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR DECADES.

DECADES?! THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE, MR. JACK?

I'M AFRAID SO, HAPPY. THOSE CELLS WE WERE IN ARE MAGIC. THEY SLOWED TIME DOWN FOR US. WE'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.

YER BRAIN'S FULLA FLUFF, TIGER!

HAPPY, WHATCHA THINK OF THE PRESIDENT?

HE'S HAD A ROUGH YEAR BUT I EXPECT ANOTHER TERM FOR HOOVER.

I HOPE MY NEPHEWS HAVENT GROWN UP WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE.

I'D BE MORE WORRIED 'BOUT 'EM HAVIN' 'GROWN' SIX FEET UNDER.

DO LEMONS GET JEALOUS OF HOW SOUR YOU ARE?

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Teacher's desk is not as wide. 2. Student desk is moved. 3. Bookend is larger. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Girl is holding two books. 6. Door opening is wider.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

INSTEAD OF HIBERNATING, THIS YEAR DENNIS AND I TRIED INTERMITTENT FASTING

CROSSWORD 5-9-26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19									21								
23									25								
27									29								
31									33								
35									37								
39									43								
43									47								
47									51								
51									55								
55									59								
63									67								
71									75								
75									79								
83									87								
91									95								
103									107								
111									115								
119									123								
127									131								
135									139								
141																	

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Spot's foot
- 4 Motorcycle maker
- 10 ATM output
- 14 Baffle
- 19 Driving hazard
- 20 Region in Spain
- 21 Actress Falco
- 22 Country singer Tucker
- 23 Kiting, e.g.
- 25 Is discovered doing a misdeed
- 27 Roomy auto
- 28 Bungle
- 29 Kind of pear
- 30 U.S. Shakers founder
- 31 Driving hazard
- 33 What a cyclist signals with an arm extended straight out
- 35 Attacked boxer-style
- 41 Boise is its cap.
- 42 Canon camera line
- 43 French assent
- 44 Been shut down, as a theater
- 47 Dropped a bit
- 50 Actor Davis
- 53 Focal point
- 54 Pull back (in)

CLUES DOWN

- 56 Disney lion
- 60 Insulated drink cup
- 63 Bovine captured by Hercules
- 66 Actor Erwin
- 67 Chou En --
- 69 Railroad or bus terminus
- 70 Clean air org.
- 73 Loyalty program
- 78 Duet number
- 79 Rover's rope
- 82 Hugs, in texts
- 83 "Carte" start
- 86 "Super work!"
- 89 1985 Kentucky Derby winner
- 95 Like some questions
- 96 Bug's feeler
- 98 "-- found it!"
- 99 Japanese fish dish
- 100 Door fixture
- 103 Overindulges
- 106 Director's cry
- 107 -- Fridays
- 110 Partakes of
- 112 Bluegrass banjo pioneer
- 115 Was ruined financially
- 120 That woman
- 121 Copious arrival
- 122 Talks shrilly
- 123 Hamm on a soccer field

- 126 Make -- in (do some work on)
- 130 Not educated by others
- 132 Downs an omelet, maybe
- 134 Subway unit
- 135 Ark builder
- 136 "Will do, cap'n!"
- 137 Subway unit
- 138 Direct at, as a remark
- 139 Be inactive
- 140 Frolicked
- 141 What remains if you remove all the consonants from 13 long answers in this puzzle
- 61 Special glows
- 62 Needlefish
- 64 Sorority "T"
- 65 Just -- (equally undesirable)
- 68 Wedding vow
- 70 Nervous
- 71 Sweat source
- 72 Ripens
- 74 "C-- la vie"
- 75 Pummel
- 76 Distress call
- 77 Xerox product
- 80 Gangly
- 81 Alma mater of Wills
- 84 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 85 -- Dhabi
- 87 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 88 Winter illness
- 90 Dastardly
- 91 Ensnares
- 92 Maritime rescue gp.
- 93 Drink quickly
- 94 Baby foxes
- 97 Makes ready, informally
- 101 Fictional belle Scarlett
- 102 Disallow
- 104 Pudgy
- 105 Educ. inst.
- 107 Coils
- 108 Biological subdivisions
- 109 Like live balls
- 111 Deity ruling the heavens
- 113 Brought up
- 114 Language of Islamabad
- 116 How clothes are tailored
- 117 Follower of "You'd think so ..."
- 118 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby


SUDOKU

	1		5					
			1	4		2		
4				1			3	
1	4							
3	5							1

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

1	6	2	5	3	4
5	2	3	6	4	1
3	6	1	5	2	4
2	4	3	1	6	5
6	1	4	5	3	2
5	6	3	2	1	4

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



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

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CENTERVILLE

From page 1A

taxes were \$1.8 million last year, and are \$2 million this year.

Enterprise fund revenues are also up to \$8.8 million, \$1.6 million higher than last year.

Harrison said the budget accounts for 77 full-time and 16 part-time employees. The city is adding six more to the budget this year.

Figuring out the budget, according to Mayor J. Micheal Evans, is a collaborative effort between Harrison, the budget subcommittee, the city administrator and department heads. Evans and Councilwoman Lisa Lowe served on the budget subcommittee.

"I was appreciative sitting on the budget subcommittee for my first time and hearing in detail what's needed in our city to keep our city running," Lowe said.

The proposed budget is available on the city's website and by hard copy

at Centerville City Hall. Public hearings are scheduled for June 2 and council will adopt the final budget on June 16.

Council also took a behind the scenes job and brought it to the public with a proclamation for Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

The city honored Lee Siefert, who has been serving in the role for about a year and a half.

Evans spoke on the job's importance; he and the council expressed their appreciation.

"They touch every facet, everybody who is employed by the city of Centerville, and many of the citizens and the people who come in to do business with the city. So I just want to let our city clerk know that we appreciate all that you do," Evans said.

The 57th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week spans from May 3 to May 9.



Brianna Smith/HHJ

Centerville Mayor and Council recognizes city clerk Lee Siefert during Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

RENTAL

From page 1A

Drinkard said benefits of enacting the ordinance are two-fold: regulations help curb problems for surrounding homes, like congested parking, noise violations, littering and improper maintenance. An ordinance also levels the playing field for property owners.

"Right now, what you have is some people playing by the rules, some people not ... It's really about creating consistency throughout the community, protecting residential neighborhoods and the residential character of those, so they don't start to become commercial in nature," Drinkard said.

Under the proposed ordinance, short-term rental owners must apply for certification from the city. The ordinance also regulates smoke and carbon

monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, solid waste management and parking.

City Attorney Julia Mize said properties found not in compliance would be subject to revocation of their accommodation excise tax certificate.

Drinkard said enforcing the ordinance would largely fall under the city marshal and code enforcement.

Councilman Charlie Bibb brought up concerns with staffing, mainly within code enforcement. Drinkard said code enforcement already handles short-term rental issues, but doesn't have a guideline to fall back on.

"They're trying to make do with the ordinances that we have in place, but those ordinances are not necessarily sufficient to meet the needs. In terms of staffing, they're already dealing with it. We're trying to give them better tools to use," Drinkard

said.

Councilman Clifford Holmes wondered how the city would track which properties are short-term. Drinkard said often tips will come in through neighbor complaints and properties will advertise.

Councilman Derek Mack said he wants to ensure the ordinance can be sustained. Bibb and Councilman Keith Lauritsen suggested that short-term rentals apply for a business license.

Meanwhile, Councilman Kevin Lashley said many short-term rentals are temporary housing for military and displaced families. His concern is ensuring landlords take care of their properties and he suggested the ordinance also regulate outside maintenance.

Council took no action on the proposed ordinance. If it moves forward, it will be up for a vote in a future council meeting.

NOVEL

From page 1A

Brittany would say, "Love ya mean it," all the time, and it stuck with the people she knew. The book is about a girl named Esmeray who has just lost her twin, battling the struggles of grief, raising her 15-year-old niece, and finding love along the way.

"She doesn't have to be stuck in her grief her whole life, and you can still live in the midst of that," Dryden said.

The novel gives glimpses of that fateful day. Dryden said she did alter some parts to fit the flow of the story.

"[Overall], the book is really just about Esmeray finding happiness after losing someone close to her in a traumatic way," she said.

There are also romantic elements in the novel, with the main character encountering a man named Beau. Dryden said their relationship is "pull and take", but

Beau is very determined.

"It was kinda love at first sight for him and for her too, but she had that blur of that grief holding her back," she said.

Dryden said her sister's passing was the most impactful moment of her life. She felt the subject matter was something she could really delve into. She even talked with Brittany's friends and the nurses who were with her the night she passed to get their individual perspectives of that day.

"I think just having the knowledge and the details about what happened and how I found my husband after all that as it still correlates with the story," she said.

Dryden believes her novel is suitable for ages 16 and older and said it will resonate with anyone who has battled grief, heartbreak, is a fan of romance, or loves a book that will tug on the heartstrings.

Dryden hopes readers of

"Love Ya Mean It" share the sentiment that grief does not have to control your life and that you can find happiness through it.

"You don't have to stay stuck in grief. There can be happy endings and you can move forward with your life after losing someone close to you," she said. "You don't have to feel guilty. You can live your life again."

Dryden is already in the process of writing her second book, "Black Market Baby". Similar to "Love Ya Mean It", this novel is inspired by true events regarding her mother's childhood. She is already 10 chapters in and described it as realistic fiction rooted in trauma and grief.

You can find "Love Ya Mean It" on Amazon in Kindle or paperback. Dryden said they are working to get it on the shelves in local bookstores.

To purchase "Love Ya Mean It," go to amazon.com/dp/B0GRTVXWBD?ref=cm_sw_r_ffobk_cso_cp_apin_dp

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Peachy Playtown named April Business of the Month



Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

A local spot that provides fun for little ones — and a much-needed break for parents — was recently named April's Business of the Month by the Perry Chamber. Peachy Playtown, an indoor play facility, has grown to become not only a playground, but a vibrant family community hub. Visit them at 623 General Courtney Hodges Boulevard.

FourM Boutique opens in Perry



Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

A local boutique has popped up in Downtown Perry to help you express your sense of style. The FourM Boutique recently celebrated its grand opening with the Perry Chamber. Whether you're looking for a stylish new outfit, shiny new accessories, or a custom-made hat, FourM has you covered from head to toe. Check them out at 929 Carroll Street.

Trunorth Creative celebrated by Robins and Perry chambers



Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce

Trunorth Creative isn't your typical photography studio. The business community came out in support for a recent ribbon cutting for the studio's grand opening, hosted by the Robins Regional and Perry chambers. With over 10 years of portrait experience, the studio makes them creative, unique, and aesthetically pleasing. See more on their website: trunorthcreatives.com

Centerville kicks off farmer's market



Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce

The City of Centerville is ready to bring fresh food from the farm to your table. The Robins Regional Chamber celebrated with them as they re-launched their farmer's market. Featuring a wide array of vendors, the farmer's market sets up shop in Center Park on the second and fourth Friday mornings of the month.

BBB celebrates World Password Day with tips to create strong passwords

Every year on the first Thursday of May, World Password Day serves as a timely reminder that one of the simplest tools we have to protect ourselves online is also one of the most overlooked: our passwords. In a world where we're constantly connected, weak or reused passwords can act like an open door for cybercriminals.

From unsecured Wi-Fi networks to vulnerable Bluetooth connections, hackers are always looking for easy entry points to access personal information—and even your money. According to a study by the Better Business Bureau (BBB), identity and information theft are involved in nearly half of all reported scams, underscoring the importance of safeguarding your digital life.

The good news? Small changes can make a big difference. As the FCC emphasizes, strong passwords are your first line of defense. Whether you're shopping online, managing your bank account, working remotely, or keeping up with loved ones on social media, your passwords serve as the gatekeepers to your digital identity.

That's why it's worth taking a few minutes to evaluate your current habits. Ideally, every account you use—especially those tied to personal or financial information—should have a unique, hard-to-guess password. If you're still using the same login across multiple platforms, or relying on simple variations, now is the perfect time to make a change and strengthen your defenses.

Recently, a password manager app reported that the most common online password remains "123456," a code that is estimated to be in use 4.5 million times. Not far behind is the password "admin." It's anticipated that accounts with these passwords can be hacked in seconds.

Another site reported that the average person uses the same password about 14 times. In those cases, if just one account is compromised, a hacker can easily gain access to many of your other accounts. You should at least take steps to ensure you're not using duplicate passwords for accounts where you consistently share sensitive data, such as bank accounts, credit cards, legal or tax records, or medical records.

Your BBB recommends the following password-creation tips to stay safe:

- Avoid easy passwords. Try to avoid passwords that could be easy to guess, especially with information

BBB TIPS

KELVIN COLLINS



anyone can find about you on social media sites or through a phishing email or text. A strong password has at least 12 to 14 characters mixed with uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

Many people like to use passwords that include a pet's name, mother's maiden name, the town you grew up in, your birthday, your anniversary, etc. Surprisingly, these pieces of information can typically be found online if someone puts forth just a little effort. (This is why we discourage people from participating in social media surveys).

- Make them creative. Need more creative ideas for different passwords? One option is to use a portion of a song's lyrics. Not only is it impossible for hackers to guess what song you are using, it's even harder for them to guess which lyrics you're using. Just be sure not to mention your favorite songs on social media, especially by responding to an online quiz.

- Use multiple passwords. Using different passwords for different accounts is important. While it may be easier to remember one password for every account, it's much easier for hackers to break down one wall rather than multiple walls. If hackers can figure out one password, they know the password to every account you own.

- Use multi-factor authentication. When it's available and supported by accounts, use two-factor authentication. This requires both your password and additional information upon logging in. The second piece is generally a code sent to your phone or a random number generated by an app or token. This will protect your account even if your password is compromised. Many devices include fingerprint or facial recognition to unlock them, which helps protect any apps on the device if it becomes lost or stolen.

- Consider a password manager. You can also use a reputable password manager to store your information. These easy-to-access apps store all your password information and security question answers in case you ever need to remember. However, don't forget to use

a strong password to secure the information within your password manager.

- Select security questions only you know the answer to. Many security questions ask for answers to information available in public records or online, like your zip code, mother's maiden name, and birthplace. A motivated attacker can easily obtain that information. Don't use questions with a limited number of responses that attackers can easily guess—like the color of your first car.

- Check your device's Wi-Fi settings before surfing the web.

- Check the validity of available Wi-Fi hotspots. Hackers will set up fake hotspots with the names of stores or institutions you might trust.

- Make sure all websites you use have "https" at the beginning of the web address.

- Install an app add-on that forces your web browsers to use encryption when connecting to websites.

If you receive notification from a company about a possible data breach, it is always best practice to immediately change that password and any similar passwords. See BBB's tips on handling a security breach.

BBB also offers additional information on cybersecurity and you can find tools from the Federal Trade Commission to help you recover from ID theft at ftc.gov/identitytheft.

Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia, and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org

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- **Bonaire Nutrition** — Tue. May 12, 11 a.m., 840 SR 96, Suite 2300, Warner Robins
- **Club Pilates Bonaire** — Thu. May 14, 11 p.m., 840 State Route 96, Ste 3000, Warner Robins
- **Robins Fresh Seafood & Grocery Market** — Thu. May 14, 4 p.m., 115 Margie Drive, Warner Robins
- **Meridian Brunch And Bar** — Fri. May 15, 4 p.m., 1818 Houston Lake Road, Perry
- **Main St. Social** — Wed. June 3, noon, 740 Main Street, Perry
- **Joy Park Apartments** — Thu. June 11, 4 p.m., 115 Margie Drive, Warner Robins

TRAILBLAZER: Cailsey Crawford breaks new ground as first Division-1 flag football commit in middle Georgia

By CLAY BROWN
HHJ Sports Editor
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WARNER ROBINS — Flag football has come a long, long way in almost 100 years.

The sport is said to have started in the 1940s during World War II as a way for service members to stay fit while limiting injuries. It was first called “Touch and Tail football,” but it adopted the name we know today after the war’s end.

Fast forward to the 1960s and 1970s, where the United States adopted a myriad of anti-discrimination laws, including Title IX in 1972.

After the landmark legislation, schools could no longer discriminate based on sex. Proportional offerings in boys and girls athletics was needed to be in compliance.

In response, the Florida High School Athletic Association recognized girls flag football as an interscholastic sport in 2001 to offset the high number of boys participating in tackle football.

That was one of many dominoes that have gotten the sport to where it is today; now, 68,847 girls across 2,736 schools participated in 2024-25, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

But that doesn’t mean there weren’t — and still aren’t — barriers.

Ask Cailsey Crawford, who just became middle Georgia’s first Division-1 flag football commit at the only Division-1 varsity program in the country: Alabama State University.

Crawford’s first memories of football are watching with family at a young age, as well as tuning in for former Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton’s show, “All in with Cam Newton” in 2016.

That not only nurtured her interest in the sport, but in the quarterback position.

When her mom signed her up for cheerleading through Upward Sports at seven-years-old, it wasn’t really a fit. She decided flag football was more her speed after watching her brother tryout.

“We were doing the tryouts because they were all held at the same time, and that’s when I was like, ‘I don’t want to do cheerleading. I actually want to play football,’” Crawford said. “Even though it was only supposed to be for the boys, I was the only girl on the team, that’s when I knew I wanted to actually play with them instead of watching.”

Her mother, Chelsea Crawford, had a background in dance, hence, her attempt to put her daughter in cheerleading.

“You think your girls are gonna do exactly what you did,” Chelsea Crawford said with a laugh. “But she was extremely interested in football. So she’s like, ‘Mom please let me play.’ I asked a coach. They switched her over.”

That wasn’t the end of it, of course. People didn’t agree with her being out there because she was a girl. She had some supporters, too, but it was the first of many hurdles for the young quarterback.



Courtesy of Chelsea Crawford

Cailsey Crawford was the only girl on her flag football team at Upward Sports, switching from cheerleading after watching her brother’s tryout.

“That was the first time I could say that I faced adversity,” Cailsey Crawford said. “There were some times where the fans would cheer me on because I was a girl, and there were some fans that felt like I shouldn’t be out there. But I just used that. My mom, she helped me to understand that I should use that as fuel for my fire and not let it water me down. I think that helped spark my strong mindset as well.”

Her mom also made sure that whoever was watching knew it was a girl, one way or another.

“It was not the societal norm, but we did different things like making sure she had a pink bow in her hair, or pink socks, so that they could differentiate that, ‘Hey this is a girl that’s doing exactly what the guys can do, if not better,’” Chelsea Crawford said.

“Most of the time she was the only girl on the team and sometimes the only girl on the field,” she continued. “Whenever the year would change she had to show the coaches, ‘I can do this.’ Because she’s a girl and they didn’t think she could. She had to prove herself year after year.”

Eventually she aged out of the program and it looked like that might be it for her short career.

“I took a long break because there wasn’t any more leagues to play flag football,” Cailsey Crawford said. “I thought after Upward I was done with it.”

As she finished middle school, flag football faded from the forefront of her mind. But one day students from Houston County High School came to her class and passed out fliers for their new flag football program.

“I remember going back to my gym class and texting [my family] the picture like, ‘I gotta do this. If this is the only thing I do in high school this is what I gotta do,’” Cailsey Crawford said.

The Georgia High School Association sanctioned

girls flag football in 2020 after the Atlanta Falcons and The Arthur M. Blank Foundation got the sport off the ground in Gwinnett County in 2019.

HoCo’s inaugural season was during the 2021-22 school year, meaning an established quarterback was there when Cailsey Crawford arrived a year later.

She also played softball, which runs through the beginning of the flag football season, but head coach Timothy Bohnstadt let her try out. It only took a couple of throws for her to get back in a groove.

“I didn’t really practice before the tryouts, I was just like, ‘It is what it is. We’ll just see.’ It just felt like riding a bike,” Cailsey Crawford said.

She was given the opportunity to fight for the starting spot and the rest is history.

During her four-year career with the Lady Bears she amassed over 7,000 passing yards, 75 touchdowns and 1,000 rushing yards.

Her trophy cabinet reflects a groundbreaking career, too.

She is a two-time Houston County High School Varsity Offensive Most Valuable Player (2023, 2024), the Team MVP in 2025, a two-time All-Region Offensive MVP (2023, 2025), an All-Region First Team selectee (2025) and an All-State Honorable Mention to round out her senior year.

She began to draw college attention during her sophomore season. More and more programs opened and she received more than a few exploratory offers.

“The end of [my] sophomore year some coaches started reaching out to me, but because in college some of the programs are so new, they were like... ‘We’ll wait until you get older,’” Cailsey Crawford said. “[My] senior year, that’s when all the offers started racking up. Just going to camps and sending film out helped. After the first one came, they just started rolling in.”



Courtesy of Chelsea Crawford

Cailsey Crawford amassed over 7,000 passing yards, 75 touchdowns and 1,000 rushing yards in her four-year career at Houston County High School.

Coaches in all sports will throw out “non-committable” offers, often verbal promises of athletic scholarships. As the name would suggest, recruits can’t commit, and it’s more a sign of interest.

As her name was starting to circulate, Cailsey Crawford continued improving her craft, building her brand and putting herself out there.

“It was eye-opening because I wasn’t aware that they had programs on a collegiate level until about her junior year,” Chelsea Crawford said of the recruitment process. “At that point I started researching. Can they get money for this? Is it a program that’s gonna grow? As you can see it has grown. Even in the past year there are a lot of colleges that have adopted the program.”

She attended her first camp, the Atlanta Falcons’ flag football camp, in the spring of 2024. She attended again in 2025 and received her first committable offer in September. At the end of the process she had more than a dozen offers.

Eventually Cailsey Crawford landed on Alabama State University, a Historically Black College and University in Montgomery, Alabama.

ASU is home to the only Division-1 varsity program in the country. Most other college programs are either a lower division or club teams. That certainly was a contributing factor, but attending an HBCU was important for her.

“That was very important to me, because not only am I going to play flag football, I’m also going for my academics and to learn who I am as a person,” Cailsey Crawford said. “Being at Alabama State, I felt like that’s what would help me the most. It felt the most like home and also I felt like that’s where I would get the most exposure, and it would challenge me the most.”

Her mother attended Florida A&M University, the third-largest HBCU

in the United States. She believes it’s very important to be around similar people, especially as a minority, in your formative years.

“It was a cultural difference,” Chelsea Crawford said on attending an HBCU. “We are from middle Georgia, I’m born and raised in Macon, Georgia. Just being able to attend FAMU opened my eyes up to who we are as a people. I feel like all people are important but sometimes we’re in rooms where we’re a minority.”

“Because of that I feel like it’s very important for young African-Americans to attend a university that not only allows them to thrive but to be comfortable in that environment, and not only set them up with success but the resources that lead them to that level of success.”

“It knocks down the barriers. It places you in a comfortable setting to where you’re able to fully authentically be yourself,” she continued. “Being around people that look like her, that have the same vision as she does and want to thrive as much as she does, I think that that’s important for these foundational years as she becomes an adult, and as she creates her life for what it will be.”

Cailsey Crawford has already gotten to practice with the team, too, and has found that they are like-minded people.

“It felt nice and refreshing to play with people who have the same grit and determination as I do,” she said.

It took a lot of long hours and late nights of unseen work for her to get to this point.

Her career was almost over after leaving Upward. But she decided to make the most of her second chance with HoCo, and she hopes it’s something people remember about her for years to come.

“I hope that people remember the work that I put in,” Cailsey Crawford said. “Playing that last season at Upward, I hon-

estly thought that was probably going to be my last time playing flag football. To be able to go on and have a great career in high school and go play at the collegiate level, I want people to understand that it is possible and you shouldn’t give up.”

In order for it to be possible, however, she emphasized how much commitment it takes.

“In order to succeed I feel like you have to be a student of the game,” Cailsey Crawford said. “You have to be willing to continue to learn every day and work hard, not only physically, but mentally, because it is a very mentally taxing sport.”

“I feel like the athletes should take it just as seriously as the people who are trying to provide opportunities. Because there’s nothing worse than trying to provide opportunities for people who don’t take it seriously. Just continue to take it seriously and [treat] the sport like every other sport,” she said.

It was hard and there were and still will be obstacles for her to face. But, she’s grateful for the struggle.

“I’m grateful that I grew up where I did because I hear it all the time that some people wish that they had the opportunities that I had in college,” Cailsey Crawford said. “There are other female athletes that wish they could have played flag football. But also I’m glad I didn’t grow up 10 or 15 years later. I’m glad I got right in the pivotal [years] of it so that I can see both sides.”

For other girls who will grow up in surrounding areas, Cailsey Crawford will be the name to remember.

She did it first; she proved barriers can be broken and the only ceiling is the one you put on yourself.

A word of advice from the future Lady Hornet:

“I would say get yourself out there because I feel like it’s never too late,” Cailsey Crawford said. “I was obviously lucky enough to start playing when I was younger, but I feel like it’s never too late for this type of sport. If you put in the hours and you watch the film and you study the plays then you can be right on track with everyone else.”

And for the parents:

“Support the girl in the dream of even wanting to play football. Right now it’s common but it wasn’t common five years ago,” Chelsea Crawford said. “Look for the opportunities. [Look] for the camps, [look] for who’s offering the funding, who’s offering the resources...I feel like taking them to the camps they’re able to be exposed outside of their high school program.”

“Marketing yourself, building your brand... knowing exactly what they want to do, what schools they want to attend and targeting those colleges... and knowing if they’re going to have camps or if they’re going to attend camps...Just do them all, you never know who’s going to be where,” she said.

22 student-athletes signed across eight sports

By **CLAY BROWN**
HHJ Sports Editor
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Perry and Veterans High School added 22 more to the pool of Houston County student-athletes committed to play their sport at the next level.

Eight sports were represented during Wednesday's signing days.

Here's who signed:
Perry
Janaris Reeves, Baseball, LaGrange College
Johntavious Carswell, Football, Fort Valley State University
Quentin Crane, Football, Fort Valley State University
Castor Engelbach, Football, LaGrange College
Reid Ginn, Football,

LaGrange College
Quintez Alexander, Football, LaGrange College
Madisyn Gallagher, Soccer, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Trent Torres, Soccer, i2i International Soccer Academy
Julianna Marfell, Soccer, Truett-McConnell University
Grant Vickers, Soccer,

United States Sports University
Veterans
Jonathan Turner, Baseball, Brewton-Parker College
Braylon Lott, Basketball, South Georgia State University (preferred walk-on)
Olivia Wood, Cheerleading, Piedmont University

Ryan Judy, Cross Country & Track, Mercer University
Jackson McLaughlin, Cross Country & Track, University of North Florida
Terrance Boges, Football, Trinity Valley Junior College
Blaine Black, Soccer, Central Georgia Technical College
David Drake, Soccer,

Central Georgia Technical College
Camren Laris, Soccer, Central Georgia Technical College
Keziah Thompson, Soccer, Young Harris College
Rayven Hodridge, Softball, Chattanooga State Community College
Justin H. Thomas, Track, Augusta State University



Clay Brown/HHJ
Janaris Reeves committed to LaGrange College's baseball program during Perry High School's signing day.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Johntavious Carswell signs his letter of intent to play football at Fort Valley State University.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Quentin Crane signed to Fort Valley State University during the Panthers' spring signing day.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Castor Engelbach committed to LaGrange College's football program during signing day.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Reid Ginn was one of three Perry football players to commit to LaGrange College during signing day.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Quintez Alexander committed to LaGrange College's football program during signing day.



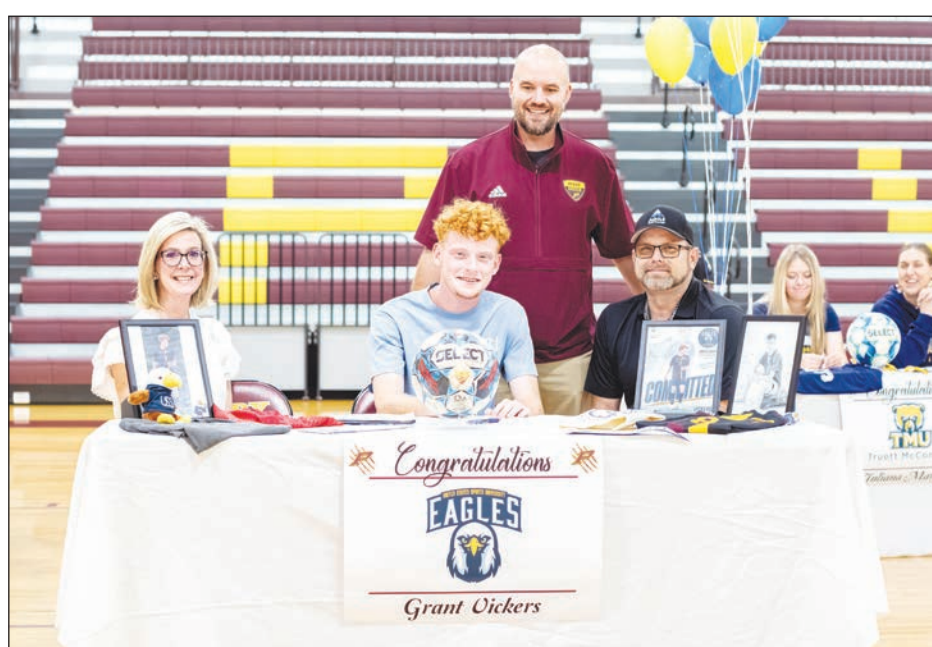
Clay Brown/HHJ
Madisyn Gallagher committed to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's soccer program.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Trent Torres is the only international signee, possibly in Perry High School history, after committing to i2i International Soccer Academy in England.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Julianna Marfell committed to Truett-McConnell University during Perry's signing day.



Clay Brown/HHJ
Grant Vickers committed to United States Sports University during signing day at Perry High School.



Courtesy: Veterans High School
Jonathan Turner was the lone baseball commit for Veterans during spring signing day, and he's headed to Brewton-Parker College.

Perry & Veterans Signing Day



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Courtesy of Veterans High School

Terrance Boges committed to the Trinity Valley Junior College football program during spring signing day.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Ryan Judy signs to Mercer University for both cross country and track.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Rayven Hodridge signs to play softball at Chattanooga State Community College.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Olivia Wood signs to the cheer program at Piedmont University.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Keziah Thompson committed to Young Harris College to play soccer.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Justin H. Thomas signed to Augusta State University for track during spring signing day.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Jackson McLaughlin signs to the University of North Florida for both cross country and track.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

David Drake committed to the Central Georgia Technical College soccer program during signing day.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Camren Laris committed to play soccer at Central Georgia Technical College.



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Perry soccer goes international with Trent Torres' commitment to i2i Academy

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

PERRY — Perry soccer is headed overseas after Trent Torres committed to i2i International Soccer Academy on Wednesday.

i2i is based out of England and has two campuses in Newcastle and Leeds. Torres' new home will be the Newcastle campus, which is partnered with Northumbria University where he will pursue a degree in sports management.

Torres' father, Robert Torres, first heard about the program when looking for soccer camps.

"When he was coming up in the ninth grade I was just looking for [soccer] camps, saw a camp for him to go to with i2i, it was down in Florida," Robert Torres said. "We went down there and he



Panthers senior midfielder Trent Torres (10) gives Perry the lead against Eastside in the first half of the Panthers' round one matchup.

was pretty sold after that... After his freshman year he spent a week over there, seeing how he liked it and

everything. This past summer he spent 30 days." The interest was immediate for Trent Torres, who

didn't need much convincing after a couple of trips across the pond. "I think I was probably

sold after I went during my sophomore year," Trent Torres said. "But then [my parents] told me to go for the month just to make sure. I loved the entire thing the whole time I was there. I really made my final decision after the summer."

The biggest draw for Torres is the opportunity to carve out an international soccer (or in his case, football) career. According to their website, i2i offers a pro-level Soccer Development Program alongside the academic degree. Simply put, they follow a professional training regiment five days a week with classes scheduled in tandem.

The coaches have real professional experience in Europe, too. The main coach Trent Torres has been in contact with, Ian Bogie, played midfield for Newcastle United, Preston North End and Port Vale.

Corey Roper, head of recruitment for i2i, attended Leeds United's Academy starting at 7-years-old and eventually signed a deal with Wrexham Football Club in 2015.

Both made Trent Torres feel at home, and like his addition meant more than padded numbers for recruiters to throw around.

There's also tangible promise of breaking into the professional scene, bringing comfort to both he and his mother, Daniela Torres.

"A couple people have already gone pro out of their program," Trent Torres said. "The coaches

were professional, [so] they have connections to different clubs. It's a lot easier to get a trial or a chance with one of them after."

"They can go to multiple different tryouts," Daniela Torres said. "There was one person that's graduating this year from Leeds Beckett...He'll be trying out for a team in Spain."

His parents weren't on board immediately. The normal college drop-offs are hard enough, much less when the distance home is over 4,000 miles.

"We were reluctant at first, and he laid out what he thought, his reasoning, and [we] feel like he is correct in how he plans to approach it," Robert Torres said.

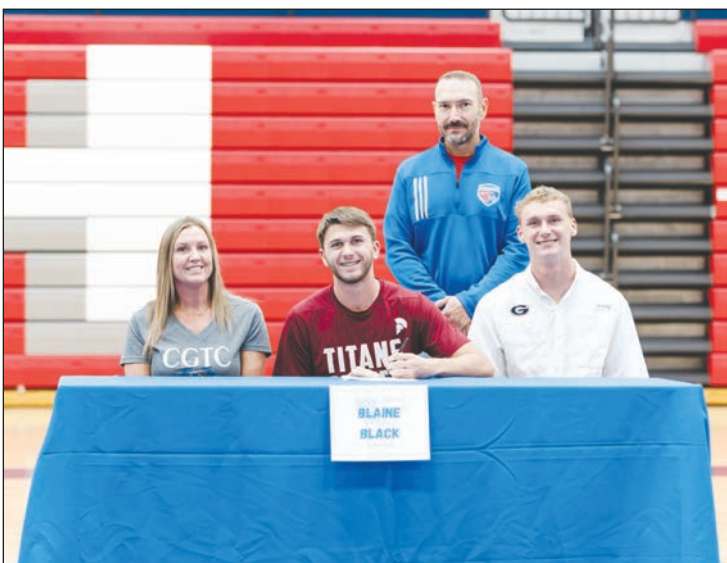
Daniela Torres is put at-ease by the involvement of both i2i and Northumbria University.

"He'll have two support systems there, really. The university and also i2i," Daniela Torres said. "They're very involved, especially i2i, all their coaches and all their staff, they're very, very much involved in every student-athlete that they have over there."

Perry soccer head coach Nathan Dooley sent one of his seven seniors off with some high praise.

"He goes out as being one of the most successful seniors for the Panther soccer program," Dooley said. "Being a three-year region champ and also part of the team that won the first back-to-back region championships in school history this year."

More photos from signing day



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Blaine Black committed to Central Georgia Technical College during signing day at Veterans High School.



Courtesy of Veterans High School

Braylon Lott signs to South Georgia State University as a preferred walk-on.

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