

THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

A newspaper that cares about the people of Johnson County

Volume 28 Number 37

\$1.00

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

BEYOND PINK RIBBONS BINGO NIGHT

Beyond Pink Ribbons will host a Bingo Night on Saturday, July 11 at the Depot with doors opening at 3:30 and games beginning at 4 p.m. Only 48 seats are available. Ten bingo games are included with the \$20.00 admission. There will be a Blackout Round with a grand prize basket valued at over \$200. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and snacks and refreshments available for purchase. Every ticket purchased helps provide financial assistance to those undergoing breast cancer treatment.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous (Wrightsville Serenity Group) meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. (closed meeting) and every Saturday at 8 p.m. (open speaker meeting). For more information, call 864-9955 or 864-3438.

SENIOR CENTER

Over 60? Looking for something to do during your day? Come check out the Johnson County Senior Center, 108 Hilton Holton Drive in Wrightsville, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. We have lots and lots of fun activities.

Man who fled law enforcement arrested in Emanuel County

By Deidre Ledford
Editor

A 19 year old man that fled from local authorities on Monday was arrested in Emanuel County Tuesday afternoon.

According to Johnson County Investigator Randy Sumner, Hollis Kaden Stephens of Lagrange was housed at a drug rehabilitation facility in Washington County when he decided to leave the facility on Monday afternoon. Stephens reportedly stole a vehicle from the facility to make his escape and was spotted on a flock camera at the Washington/Johnson County line. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Wrightsville Police Department and Georgia State Patrol were all alerted of the situation.

Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Clint Brantley spotted the vehicle on Highway 15 in Johnson County around 5 p.m. on Monday and attempted a traffic stop. Stephens initially stopped, but, before making contact, fled from the Trooper, heading towards Wrightsville. He turned onto East Trilby Street where he jumped out of the vehicle and fled on foot into a wooded, swampy area off of North Valley Street.

Local authorities contacted the Georgia Department of Corrections to bring in their K9 as well as GSP's helicopter to search the areas near, North Valley, Trilby, Cross Cedar, Dono-

van and East Elm Streets. The search continued for approximately four hours. Stephens was not found during the search. It was later learned that Stephens stole another vehicle from a residence on Highway 57 between Wrightsville and Kite and made his way to Emanuel County.

The next morning, the US Marshall's Office received information that Stephens was making phone calls to a residence in Troup County. They were able to trace the calls back to the Deluxe Inn in Swainsboro. The Emanuel County Sheriff's Office and Swainsboro Police Department located Stephens at the hotel and placed him under arrest. The stolen vehicle was also located.

Stephens is facing multiple charges and traffic offenses from different agencies, including theft by taking in Washington and Johnson Counties. He is currently in custody at the Washington County Jail.

Stephens is facing multiple charges and traffic offenses from different agencies, including theft by taking in Washington and Johnson Counties. He is currently in custody at the Washington County Jail.

Stephens is facing multiple charges and traffic offenses from different agencies, including theft by taking in Washington and Johnson Counties. He is currently in custody at the Washington County Jail.

July 4th Celebration

By Deidre Ledford
Editor

Wrightsville and Johnson County are gearing up for its biggest event of the year - the annual Fourth of July Celebration! This year's events will kick off on Wednesday, July 1 with the Religious Service at Brown Memorial Baptist Church. The event will begin at 7 p.m. with Guest Speaker Rev. Bucky Dixon.

The annual Pet Show will be held on Thursday, July 2 on the West side lawn of the Courthouse. Registration begins at 6 p.m.

Arts & Crafts booths and Vendors will begin setting up on the Square on Friday, July 3 at 6 p.m. The Street Dance featuring Bo Davidson will begin on the Square at 9 p.m. The annual Fireworks Display will be held at the Johnson County Recreation Department at 9:15 p.m. The Johnson County Senior Center will be having a fundraiser the night of the fireworks. They will have ice-cold can sodas, bottled water, ice-cold watermelon slices and popcorn for sale. While supplies last at the Center.

On Saturday, July 4, the day's events begin with the Firecracker 5K Run at 8 a.m.



The official Fourth of July t-shirt can be purchased at KeyTees and Sumner Pharmacy.

Pre-registration is not required but anyone wishing to sign up in advance can email whityou@yahoo.com. Sign in will begin at 7 a.m. at the Courthouse. The race will begin at the corner of Marcus and Elm Streets.

The Welcome Speech will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the Parade starting at 10 a.m. Vendors will also be set up on the Square beginning at 10 a.m. A BBQ Lunch sponsored by The Pizza Place will be held from 11-2. The Turtle Race will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the Pedal Tractor Race sponsored by the Johnson County Young

Farmers will begin at 2 p.m. This year's Official July 4th t-shirt, designed and printed by Lisa Keyton of KeyTees, are available for purchase at KeyTees and at Sumner Pharmacy.

Adrian's July 4th Celebration will begin with a Welcome and Dedication at 2:30 p.m. on Nora Boulevard. The gospel group, The Hall Sisters, will be performing at 3 p.m. at the Safe Harbor Worship Center.

A Patriotic Contest will also begin at 3 p.m. followed by a Hula Hoop Contest at

Please see FOURTH, Page 3

Plans underway to bury another Time Capsule on Square

By Deidre Ledford
Editor

The recent unearthing of the 1976 Bicentennial Time Capsule sparked such an interest in local citizens that plans are already underway to bury another one to be opened on the County's 300th Anniversary in 50 years.

Spearheaded by Johnson County citizen and business owner Brian Harrison, plans have been made to have a vault on the Square during the July 4th Celebration to advertise the new endeavor. The vault will again be graciously donated by Stanley Funeral Home and will likely be buried in the same location as the last one. Stanley has also offered to donate his crew and all labor involved with the burial of the vault.

Harrison says they will start accepting items to be placed in the vault on July 20 and continue through July 31. As of right now,

the drop off spots include: the Johnson County Probate Court (Jennifer Morris), the Chamber of Commerce (Judy Scott), Wrightsville Hardware and Supply (Brian Harrison), and the Historical Society (Donald Smith).

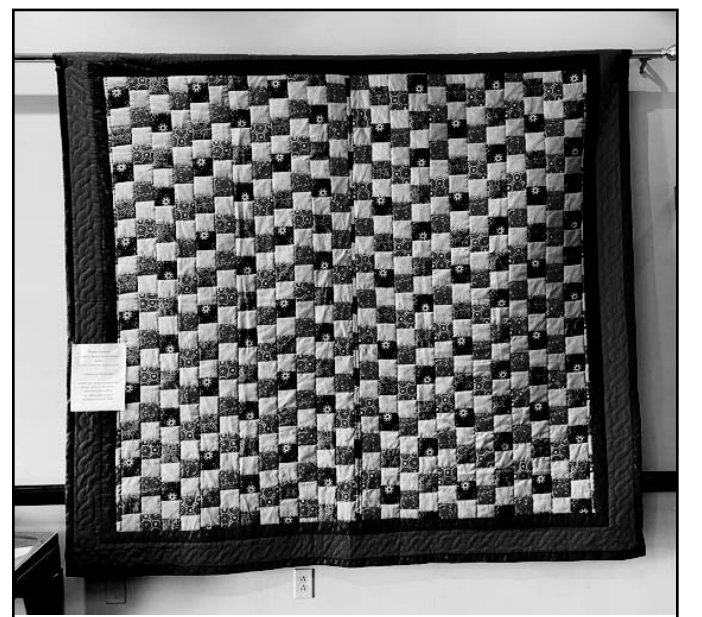
There are costs involved with this project, including the cost of the headstone marker, moisture control measures, etc., so, although there will not be a cost to place an item in the vault, donations are accepted and appreciated. Any funds left over after the burial will be donated to the Historical Society.

There is limited space in the vault so placement will be based on first come, first served. Burial will likely take place in mid-August.

For more information about the Time Capsule, please contact Brian Harrison at Wrightsville Hardware and Supply at

Please see CAPSULE, Page 3

Senior Center hosts a quilt raffle fundraiser Drawing to be held July 4th



Raffle tickets for this handmade quilt can be purchased for only \$10.00.

By Deidre Ledford
Editor

The Johnson County Senior Center is having a Raffle for a Handmade King-size quilt. This quilt was made by Center members Mae Taylor and Peggy Day. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased

at the Senior Center or at the Johnson County Administrative Offices. The drawing will be held on July 4.

Please come out and support our Johnson County Seniors. All proceeds will benefit the Johnson County Senior Center.

Douglas, Oliver named GHSA Tennis Coaches of the Year; Lamb is Class A D2 Player of the Year



Johnson County Varsity Tennis Coaches Magen Douglas and Brittany Oliver have been named the 2026 Class A D2 Tennis Coaches of the Year. Seth Lamb, who played 1st singles for the Trojans, was named the 2026 Class A D2 Player of the Year! Congratulations!!



THE JOHNSON JOURNAL SPIRITUAL LIVING

OBITUARIES



Reford Larry Bailey

Funeral services for Reford Larry Bailey, age 76, were held Tuesday, June 23 in the Richard N. Stanley, Jr. Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory, with interment following at Gumlog Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. L.T. Logue officiated. He passed away Friday, June 19 at Wrightsville Manor Nursing Home.

Mr. Bailey was born August 8, 1949, in Dublin, Georgia. He was the son of the late Reford Bailey and Geraldine Hendricks Bailey. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Smith Bailey; daughter, Megan Nicole Bailey; brother, James "Jimmy" Bailey, and sister, Charlene Bailey. He was the owner of Ace Hardware before retiring. During retirement, he enjoyed working on his farm, tending cows and spending time with the grandchildren. He was a member of Oaky Grove Church. He served as Vice President of the Jaycees. He was a member of the first 4th of July Committee for Johnson County/Wrightsville. He was a founding member of Hillcrest Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon for many years. He volunteered at numerous community events.

Survivors include his son Devrick Bailey (Jennifer) of Statesboro; a daughter, Dawn Hussey (Lynn) of Dublin; a stepson, Hugh Foskey (Heather) of Sandersville; a stepdaughter, Loretta Jordan (Chris) of Wrightsville; a brother, David Bailey of Smithfield, VA; six grandchildren, Nova Hussey, Christopher Jordan (Elizabeth), Colby Jordan (Carizma), Damon Foskey (Harley), Montana Foskey (Arianna), and Drake Foskey; and six great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Christopher Jordan, Colby Jordan, Damon Foskey, Montana Foskey, and Drake Foskey. Honorary pallbearer will be Adam Bailey.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory of Wrightsville Chapel was in charge of funeral arrangements.



Zelma F. Smith

Funeral services for Zelma F. Smith, age 84, were held Tuesday, June 23 at Mt. Olive Church of the Nazarene with burial following in the church cemetery. Rev. Joe Bedgood and Rev. Lamar Kersey officiated. She passed away on Sunday, June 21 at Scott Health and Rehab.

Mrs. Smith was born on November 16, 1941, in Kite, Georgia and was a member of Williams Chapel Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ozie Flanders and Elsie Stapleton Flanders; her husband, Carlos Smith; siblings, Otis Curtis Flanders, John Robert Flanders, S.J. Flanders, and Mary Lee Coursey; her in-laws, Jim and Velma Smith and a sister-in-law, Hazel Thompson.

Survivors include her son, Jim Smith; sisters, Carolyn Kersey, Nell Flanders, June Johnson and Joyce Lamb; sis-

ter-in-law, Mildred Knight; brothers, Bert Flanders and O.L. Flanders; brother-in-law, Billy Thompson; grandchildren, Carla and T.J. Page and Dallas and Caitlin Smith; and great grandchildren, Camden Page, Casen Page, Callie Smith and Kallex Smith.

Pallbearers were Wayne Kersey, Marcus Simmons, Donnie Robertson, Hunter Moore, Charles Garnto, and Ben Garnto.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Williams Chapel Baptist Church, 77 K and K Road, Kite, GA 31049 or to Mt. Olive Church of the Nazarene, 591 Mt. Olive Church Road, Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory of Wrightsville Chapel was in charge of the funeral arrangements.



Sharon Thigpen

Graveside services for Sharon Thigpen, age 73, were held Monday, June 22 at Bishop's Chapel Cemetery near Summertown with Ricky Downs officiating. She passed away Friday, June 19 at Community Hospice in Vidalia.

Mrs. Thigpen was born in Emanuel County to the late Hubert and Audrey Neel Jones Downs. She worked in several capacities at the Emanuel County Hospital and was a homemaker. Sharon enjoyed playing the piano, dancing and singing. She also loved gardening and flowers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers David Downs, Dolan Downs, and Wayne Downs; sister Susan Kea, Granddaughter Audrey Hood, and Step-Daughter Alisha Crockett.

Survivors include her husband, Travis Thigpen of Adrian; daughter, Brandy Hutley (Johnathon) of Vidalia; son, Levi Youmans (Maria) of Adrian; stepdaughter, Allison Kent of Oregon; stepson, Jerem Thigpen (Stephanie) of Millen; sister, Jacqueline Arrington (William) of Summertown; grandchildren, Taylor Salazar, Tyler Yeomans, Levi Yeomans, Jr., David Hood, Jr., Archer Thigpen, Zanda Thigpen; three great grandchildren; and several extended family members.



Lula Beatrice Brantley

Funeral services for Lula Beatrice Brantley, 90, were held on Sunday, June 21 at

Community Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Benny Brantley, Sr., officiating. Interment followed in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery. She passed away on Thursday, June 11.

Mrs. Brantley was born on August 17, 1935, in Wrightsville, Georgia to the parentage of the late John B. and Lula W. Hicks. Lula joined the Mount Pleasant CME Church at an early age and was educated through the Dock Kemp Public Schools of Johnson County. She married the love of her life, Rev. Lewis Brantley, and they shared 63 years of holy matrimony until Lewis was called to his Heavenly home. She dedicated her life to raising their 10 children, a role she embraced with an unwavering commitment and endless love. Her love for the outdoors was matched only by her love for her family. Her home was her sanctuary, where she nurtured her family with the beauty of her garden from which she grew fruits and vegetables for the countless delicious meals she prepared daily.

She was a founding member of Brantley Chapel Church of God in Christ when she joined in October 1963 and served faithfully as the "Mother of the Church" from December 1990 until her passing. She was also a member of the St. Galilee Missionary Baptist Church WMBA Society. She was the epitome of a virtuous Proverbs 31 woman! Her love for the Lord was captivating to all who knew her, and her spiritual compassion left an impactful imprint where-ever she went. Lula was a profound prayer warrior for Jesus, interceding in spiritual warfare through the power of The Holy Spirit.

Lula was preceded in death by her beloved Lewis; sons, John, Herbert, and David; daughter-in-law, Gwen Brantley; grandson, Benny Brantley, Jr.; and granddaughter, LaKisha Jones.

Survivors include her children, Ernestine Lilley, Geri Sebastian, Benny (Marie) Brantley, Sr., Warren Brantley, Anthony (Shirley) Brantley, Wyman (Tricia) Brantley, Carolyn (Keith) Davis; sister, Johnnie W. (Carl, Sr.) Young of Philadelphia, PA; brother, William Hicks of Manassas, VA; sisters-in-law: Trudie Brantley of East Dublin, Ruth Hicks of Dorchester, MA, Annie R. Brantley of Morven, NC; a brother-in-law, Eddie (Lillian) Brantley of Miami, FL; 20 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

There's room for one more hypocrite



does teach against doing anything harmful to the body.

Then gambling. That was a big box of soap so to speak. Well back in time the Christians didn't gamble because it becomes an addiction, it will make you deprive your family, not pay your bills and it is money being used unwisely. And don't come with the ones that win. For every one that wins there is 100 poor suckers that go home broke. It is a vice of satan, but here's the real clincher.

Folks that say it is wrong to play cards. Poker for money is gambling and is a sin but they think nothing about playing the lottery because they have been told it goes for a good cause. Well, two wrongs don't make a right!

People are going to do what they do right or wrong! But this gets under my skin. These others denominations that want to fight the Pentecostals will talk against

them. I was witnessing to my neighbor that drinks and is on drugs and I knew that if he turned his life over to Christ, it could change him. You don't have to go to a drug rehab to change. You can make your mind up and go to church and get saved and God will help you change.

Well, I recommended he go to the Church of God down the road and he said that his boss man said they were a pack of hypocrites and that was why he didn't go to church. The age old excuse. Blame your sorrieness off on somebody else. He said that a bunch of them would play cards with him on Saturday night and then go to church the next day. I thought, "Well, at least they are going to church!" He ain't!

God saves hypocrites too! A fellow told my dad that one time about all the hypocrites and daddy said, "Well, come on to church brother! There's room for one more hypocrite!"

Can you say amen?

Gary Toole is a freelance writer and contributor to many publications throughout Georgia. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Uvalda, Georgia.

COLLEGE NEWS

•VALDOSTA, GA -- More than 2,100 students were named to Valdosta State University's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

To qualify for Dean's List at VSU, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Please note that developmental studies, transient, and graduate students are not eligible for Dean's List status.

Curtevia Blair of Wrightsville

Kaleb Cannon of East Dublin

Bobbie Wooten of Dublin
Whitley Brantley of East Dublin

Kaley Ricks of Adrian
Quanntae Brinson of Tenille

Katrina Veal of Wrightsville

Labrielle Martin of Tenille

Ashley Tanner of Harrison

Tracey Darrisaw of Tenille

Nikita Singleton of East Dublin

•DAHLONEGA, GA -- The deans of each of University of North Georgia's colleges announced the names of those students who made their respective lists for spring 2026.

Dean's List recognition is achieved by having at least a 3.5 grade-point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B. Dean's List honorees included:

Dakota Hardin of Adrian
Johnathan Thigpen of Wrightsville

•KENNESAW, GA -- Kennesaw State University congratulates the more than 9,000 students named to the

Dean's List in recognition of their academic achievement during the Spring 2026 semester.

Undergraduate students enrolled in at least nine credit hours and with a term grade point average of at least 3.5 were named to the list.

Students from your area on the Spring 2026 Dean's List are:

Jaxson Marion of East Dublin, majoring in Information Technology

Jaylin Reeves of East Dublin, majoring in Computer Game Design and Development

Ja'Kaylia Davis of Tenille, majoring in Media and Entertainment

johnsonjournalnews@gmail.com

Birthdays

Don Whisman	June 30
Carson Pope	June 30
Louise Taylor	July 1
Alice Wood	July 1
Debra Braswell	July 1
Justin Hightower	July 1
Aimee Lundy	July 1
Karrie Cutler	July 2
LaJuan Taylor	July 2
Margaret Martin	July 3
Shae Keyton	July 3
Latoria King	July 3
Jordan Moorman	July 3
Charles Howard	July 4
Stan Mayo	July 5
Tim Duvall	July 5
Graham Sanavitis	July 5
Anna Bryan	July 6
Trey Wittmer	July 6
Scott Sheffield	July 6

Anniversaries

Chris and Cori Fields	July 2
Roland and Rebecca Thomas	July 5

Compliments of
The Johnson Journal



FARM & GARDEN

PLANTS, SEEDS, FEED, FERTILIZER & ANIMAL HEALTHCARE

411 EAST COURT ST., WRIGHTSVILLE, GA. 478-864-2206

Social Security Disability Help

Experienced and Specialized Legal Representation

- Specializes in Social Security Disability Law
- Previously Worked for Social Security Disability
- No Fee unless you are granted Disability Benefits
- Successfully Represents Clients at Disability Hearings
- Files Disability Appeals at all Levels



Attorney
Brian Arnold



www.GeorgiaDisabilityLaw.com

1607A Rice Ave. Dublin, GA 31021 478-272-2300
111 E. Cherry St. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-4561
544 Mulberry St., Ste. 619 Macon, GA 31201 478-745-9644

Call 1-478-272-2300 for FREE CASE EVALUATION

FROM THE FRONT

Wrightsville High Class of 1959 holds Reunion

The Wrightsville High School Class of 1959 held its 67th Reunion at Cattle Bay on June 12.

Class members in attendance were:

- C.W. Price
- Marvine Powell
- William Mayo
- Dawn Bray
- Charlene Milligan
- Wadene Tucker
- Maxine Garrett
- Jane Odom

Not pictured:
George Sumner



The Factory held an even to celebrate gentlemen

Margaret Hightower
The Factory

Teacher of The Year for Johnson County High School, and for the entire district. I can imagine that his science classes are quite engaging. His presentation was both inviting and motivating.

Two local pastors, Rev. Curtis Blair and Rev. David Flowers were present and

contributed to the success of the program.

We had grandfathers, fathers, and young men who are not yet fathers. Because the ages spanned more than 50 years, the discussion was rich and meaningful with multi-generational points of view. Thank you to each gentleman who took the time to

attend and participate in the planning session for upcoming events at The Factory.

We enjoyed grilled hot dogs and the fixings as well as our conversations. The Factory is an alcohol, drug, tobacco and weapons free zone. We remain committed to "Producing Stronger Families."

Easter Basket winners at Harlie Fulford Library



Ms. Sandy Colston, Manager of the Harlie Fulford Memorial Library, wishes to congratulate each of this year's Easter Basket winners. The baskets are donated annually by Mrs. Nancy Colston in memory of Mr. Bill Colston. Also, Miss Blakely Hill (shown bottom, right) won this stuffed sloth by reading a book to it.

Time Capsule items that have yet to be claimed

The Johnson County Historical Society has issued an updated list of names/items that were in the 1976 Bicentennial Capsule that have not been picked up.

- Robert & Ruth Brinson for David Carlton.
- Descendants of Gerald Lemar & Dicie Wilson.
- Estelle East for Trey East.
- Deverick & Dawn Bailey or descendants.
- Sara Gene White & Charles Edsel Price for Whitey L. Price
- Lewis L. Lovett to descendants of Rawley William & Lewis Lamar Lovett.
- William Kemp or Marcus Brooks.
- Julia Frost to Teresa Lynn & Gregory Wayne Frost.
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jordan to Casey Carter & other children.
- Nannette Moseley.
- Rodney Bush.
- Mrs. Virgil Moseley to Jocelyn Mosley or descendants.
- Jeff Dixon to Faye Robertson.

- Steve F. Wilson for Tony Lamar Sheppard.
 - Brenda Wombles to Lisa & Victor Moore.
 - Nearest relative of Carabell and Roy Jordan.
 - Charles and Julia McDaniel to Chuck McDaniel.
 - Oreeta Page to Bruce Joiner.
 - Mrs. Delma H. Mayo to Delma Mayo, Jr. & Barbara Mayo Battle.
 - Pleasant Plains Church to Pastor and members.
 - Eugenia Kay to James Eugenia Kay children.
 - Brotherhood Citizen League of JOCO to trustees.
 - Freddie & Agatha Crabb to Andy and Keisha Crabb.
 - Eddie Mae Claxton to Maria Claxton.
 - M. Moore Sheppard to Lori Santivitis
 - Ashley, Katrina, Brent Evans.
- Items may be picked up at the Johnson County Museum, 6818 College Street, on Mondays from 8:30-12 or on the Courthouse Square during the July 4th events.

CAPSULE

From Page 1

478-864-2829, Donald Smith at the Johnson County Historical Society, County Administrator Doug Red-

mond at 478-864-3388, or Judy Scott at the Chamber of Commerce at 478-864-7200.

FOURTH

From Page 1

3:15, a Watermelon Eating Contest at 4 and a Pie Eating Contest at 4:30. Parade lineup will begin at 5 with the parade starting at 6. Throughout the day, guests can enjoy mini

games, a dunk tank sponsored by the Adrian Fire Department, temporary tattoos, a photo booth, food vendors and more. A cake walk will be held inside the Community Center.

2026 Summer Reading Program at the Library

UNEARTH A STORY™

The Harlie Fulford Memorial Library kicked off its annual Summer Reading Program, Unearth A Story, this week. Unearth A Story underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings and that every person and every community have stories waiting to be found and shared—through books, programs, and local knowledge.

On July 9, Storyteller Josie Bailey will be in charge

of the program on July 21 at 10:30 a.m. and Bill Packard, The Magic Man, will close out the summer programs on July 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Children can sign up for the Reading Program Monday through Wednesday from 9:30-5 p.m. and on Thursdays from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

All reading logs should be turned in July 27-30 to receive a prize.

SunSetter America's #1 Awning **SAVE \$350** when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

Call 1-877-740-0337 now to **SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

- Instant shade at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

THE JOHNSON JOURNAL VIEWPOINTS

-- THE EXPAT --

The Five Points neighborhood in Athens has an allure that makes it extraordinarily special and becoming. There is an intoxicating buzz year-round in this traditional section of Athenstown, where old homes blend with latent upscale construction, which is taking place everywhere you look.

Five Points is a neat neighborhood. It has the feel of a laidback village in Europe. "That," says Rick Johnson who has spent multiple summers in Cortona, Italy, with the UGA Art Department, "is because there is such a great blend of town and gown. I love the restaurants and places like the bakery where you see a bevy of students and faculty, and a lawyer in coat and tie."

Five Points is where you can choose a classic bottle of wine, ride your bike, and buy the best burger at the best pub in town. There's healthy grocery shopping at Earth Fare, you can enjoy great pizza options, and there's plentiful seafood, as tasty as you would find if a shrimp boat found its way up the Oconee River and docked behind Sanford Stadium.

For many of us, the signature address is The Expat, located at a former home that dates back to World War II—when Frank Sinkwich and Charley Trippi were the talk of the town.

Located at 1680 South Lumpkin, it fits into the neighborhood like it did a half century ago—except that the chef then was the madam of the house who cooked for her family.

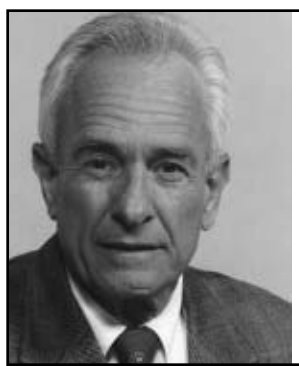
Now Jerry Slater and his staff can accommodate 75 or more. For those who have a bent for al fresco dining, the porch at the Expat is as charming as they come.

You seldom see The Expat empty, even in summer when many of the UGA student body and faculty have sojourned elsewhere. The "regular" clientele keeps things humming along with visitors who show up for various reasons.

The ambient atmosphere complements the core values of the establishment—the menu which specializes in Italian and seafood cuisine, and experienced chefs with the right stuff.

Inside everything is relaxed and cozy. But I can't stop there. It's equally a vibrant, lively, and magnetic place. Neighborly and encompassing.

Diners from Atlanta make the trip over to enjoy an evening at The Expat, and if you want a reservation on a



Loran Smith
Columnist

football weekend in the fall, you may be too late.

The owners are a husband-wife team; Jerry and Krista Slater are spirits columnists for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. Jerry is widely

recognized for his hospitality and spirits expertise with stops at Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, The Oak Room at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta's One Flew South, named for one of the world's best airport restaurants.

Krista is a visual artist turned certified sommelier who likes ice-cold martinis and intentional spaces. She has worked for nearly 20 years in the world of wine retail, bars, and fine dining. The Slaters own, in addition to The Expat, The Lark wine bar and shop, The Nighthawks Lounge, and the recently opened Dovetail Market, with partner Fritz Gibson.

Many students come to work for them as freshmen and continue through UGA graduation. An incentive to work with the Slaters is that employees are entitled to health insurance.

Until recently I often took respite at the bar for a glass of pinot noir and my favorite Expat pasta plate, tagliatelle. I enjoyed conversation with Trent Parker, the General Manager, and Romie Engram, the sprightly and charming bartender who is as efficient as you can find. Unfortunately for Expat regulars, which include Kirby and Mary Beth Smart, they both have moved on, owing to opportunity. They both were upbeat (opportunity) and downcast (leaving The Expat clientele.)

Included in the lore of The Expat's history is that its most devoted supporter, John Parker, showed up in his golf cart on the day they opened, wearing his trademark shorts and flipflops. He yelled, "When does this place open?" Jerry yelled back, "Five minutes ago." Parker became the first customer, and when he is town, you usually find him there.

Another "regular" couple is Joe and Anne Frierson who were dining at Slater's one night; one of Anne's favorite side dishes is lemon garlic artichoke. It was not on Slater's menu. A call went out to Trent at The Expat and he answered Anne's request, hoofing less than a hundred yards away post haste. That was an extraordinarily special delivery, but something

Please see LORAN, Page 5

More than 1,000 turn out for Singing Convention

June 30, 1932

Mr. E.J. Claxton and Mr. H.P. Howard, owners and managers of the popular Bee Line Springs recreation grounds at Kite are having quite a large patronage at that place this season. They are now planning a big sing there for next Sunday, July 4th, with the promise of a large attendance. It will be an all day affair.

More than 1,000 turned out at the courthouse for the Southeast Georgia Singing Convention. It was hot but the music rolled on as well as the perspiration. Outside, Officers Rowland, Brantley, Tapley, Crawford and Mayo reported no arrests and no cause for any. Mr. Tom L. Martin furnished ice water throughout the day.

Mr. C.T. Moseley who farms the Hicks place reports a fine crop of cotton, corn and other grains. Mr. R.P. Hicks remarked it was the best crop he had ever

From Days Gone By Historian Donald Smith



seen on the place. Mr. M.A. Jackson is sending a lot of farm and garden produce to the curb market in Atlanta.

Work on the Price-New Home Consolidated School will soon begin. It will be a large, commodious structure. There was 235 girls from the Savannah and Macon Districts to attend Camp Wilkins in Athens. Those attending from Johnson were Gladys Wells, Ruby Ivey, Susie Mae Rogers and Nettie Sweat.

The City of Wrightsville will close up for the 4th of July. The courthouse will be closed. The filling stations

will remain open as well as the cafes.

Its back again, the supreme outstanding picture of all time will be at the Palace Theater, THE BIRTH OF A NATION, this time with sound.

A telegram came in announcing the death of Mr. Z.A. Douglas at Hot Springs. He is a brother of Messrs. John A., R.R., E.A., Reuben and Brown Douglas. In the New Home community was the marriage, Saturday, June 18th, of Miss Nannie Belle Harrison and Mr. Ellie Belcher by Rev. Bennett Davis. She

is daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Harrison. He is a son of Mr. & Mrs. Sunny Belcher and by occupation a farmer.

Twelve years earlier, 1920, Miss Eva Drake and Mr. Horace Wheeler were married. Ex-Mayor Shurling erected a home on North Marcus. School was suspended on account of the flu epidemic. Snow fell in Wrightsville.

Miss Louise Reynolds and Mr. Beverly B. Hayes were married. Sheriff-Elect Jonah Davis died of pneumonia before taking the oath of office.

But few politicians ever went around this country boasting of being able to "give any county to anybody", to say nothing about the peanut fellow. Georgia had a man one time who could and did have that honor, but all generations since the time Noah and his old boat, there have been but few Tom Watson's.

Montine family got a call from Ceedra!

Ceedra Montine called her family here in Johnson County last week. She is still at the Bar None Ranch in Colorado with the Rusty and Almarie Finnegan family. She still enjoys Ms Almarie's wagon wheel biscuits (they don't call them "cathead biscuits" out there) with steaks that cover the plate. It's been a while since we heard from Ceedra. If you are a recent fan of this column, or if you don't remember her because of all the exciting reading you have been doing here, let me refresh your memory about our Ceedra.

Ceedra is the daughter of Cedric and Cedrene Montine who run log trucks. They have been very busy since Hurricane Helene swept through east central Georgia. Ceedra and 'ol Blue came home to help with area clean-up for a couple months. But now they are back in Colorado with the Finnegans. Her mama and daddy put in on her to call more often, so she is trying to do better about keeping in touch. Some of you know how it is with these kids who are so busy they don't get in touch very often.

'Ol Blue is Ceedra's stripped-down, souped-up pulpwood truck. Cedric gave

Dan King R.F.D. South

it to her for her fourteenth birthday. The cab was pretty much blue when she got 'ol Blue, but Ceedra has run the truck under so many tree limbs in the woods until the paint is almost gone. That girl loves to get into the woods and just tear up the patch until both she and 'ol Blue are breathing so hard they can hardly stroll back out to the road. I don't know how old Ceedra is now, but it is hard to think of her as anything other than an eighth-grader with a new toy. Actually, 'ol Blue was far from new when she got it, but it still runs pretty much like it did when Cedric worked it over and gave it to Ceedra.

Ceedra told her parents in the call that she had to go to court there in Colorado. Ceedra said a vehicle pulled up close behind 'ol Blue at a fast-food restaurant where she had stopped. The driver got out and was walking up beside 'ol Blue. Ceedra said she got uneasy and spurred 'ol Blue in the floorboard. The truck's special tread tires dug a chunk of asphalt out of the parking lot surface and hurled it into the wind-

shield of the vehicle behind them. The driver jumped back into his newly-ventilated vehicle and chased Ceedra and 'ol Blue for about thirty miles before a box-in maneuver of four law enforcement units got her stopped. It was then that she found out she and 'ol Blue kicked a piece of pavement into a state trooper's means of travel.

The trooper had stopped behind 'ol Blue at the fast-food place to tell Ceedra that 'ol Blue had one taillight hanging by a piece of haywire. The judge warned Ceedra and Rusty Finnegan, who was at court with her, that the repair must be made before the truck would be allowed back on public roadways.

Cedric and Cedrene were reminded of some of their own shenanigans and that apples don't fall far from their trees.

Dan King Sr's professional background includes pastor, classroom teacher, long-term care social worker, pastoral counselor, court mediator, and hospice chaplain. He entertains community groups with tall tales. You may text or voicemail at 478-279-2992. Copyright 2026, Daniel M. King Sr. All rights reserved.

TELL IT!



Remember a couple of months ago when the government tried to make us panic about the hanta virus? We refused to go through that again so we didn't believe them...and now it's gone? Coincidence? I think not.

For the past month or so, we have been having the worst time with our mail delivery! We aren't getting our bills on time or even at all and we are constantly getting other people's mail. I will be glad when our normal mailman gets back, he knows what he's doing. I hope the post office realizes what a jewel they have in him.

The required hourly pay to afford a house these days is around \$60.00 per hour as opposed to \$22.00 per hour in 2010. Inflation has destroyed the value of a dollar and made it almost impossible for people to become homeowners.

Congratulations to JCRD's 14U Girls for tying for fifth place in the Class C district tournament. Thank you girls for a great season!

Submit your Tell It! Call 478-864-0007 after hours and leave a message, or email johnsonjournalnews@gmail.com. We reserve the right to print any or all comments.

WORTH REPEATING

One day you will wake up and there won't be any more time to do the things you've always wanted. Do it now.

Paulo Coelho

THE GOOD WORD

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of the many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Luke 4:40-41

THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

A member of the Georgia Press Association
The Johnson Journal (USPS 016221) is published weekly for \$31.00 in county, \$37.00 out-of-county and \$40.00 out-of-state annually by The Courier Herald Publishing Company, Inc., 8664 South Marcus Street, Wrightsville, Ga. 31096. Periodicals Postage Rate paid at Wrightsville, Ga.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: The Johnson Journal, 8664 South Marcus St., Wrightsville, Ga. 31096. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is (478) 864-0007.

Copyright 2002, The Herald Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Publisher Emeritus.....Dubose Porter
General ManagerPam Burney
Editor.....Deidre Ledford
AdvertisingDeidre Ledford

FIREWORKS SEASON IS HERE: A PSA

During last year's Fourth of July celebrations more than 13,000 Americans reported to emergency rooms across the country due to fireworks-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number was down from over 14,700 in 2024.

How many people lost fingers, or worse, in backyard explosions is unknown. I don't think there is a commission that keeps up with that. At least not publicly. You can assume around 1,700, if my math is correct.

With the United States' 250th birthday approaching, it's a safe bet that more people will be enjoying amateur pyrotechnics this year than in a long time. And why not? Few things celebrate freedom quite like turning your backyard into southern Lebanon with colorful blasts of gunpowder.

That's a topical geopolitical joke. Try to keep up.

I can remember when fireworks were illegal in Georgia. To get your hands on a Roman candle or a string of firecrackers you had to sneak them back from a family vacation or have a shady uncle who frequently visited the state line and came back with what were essentially little sticks of dynamite.



Kyle Dominy
New Southern Dad

Now you can get them anywhere. I was buying a gallon of milk the other day and right next to the checkout line, adjacent to the candy, chewing gum and other impulse buys, was a display case full of colorfully packaged explosives.

We can thank the ancient Chinese for the invention of fireworks. Dating back to the Song Dynasty, firework technicians would pack gunpowder into bamboo tubes. It was not long before they discovered that adding powdered chemicals would produce colorful blasts of light.

These pyrotechnicians of old were highly revered members of society. Their wares were sought-after commodities used in festivals and religious ceremonies. Now we've got Geesh and Skeeter, not a full hand of digits or complete set of teeth between 'em, all rockets red

glare at all hours of the night for any ol' excuse.

Don't get me wrong, I love fireworks and I think our Founding Fathers would want us to have access to them. Besides, fireworks were a part of the very first Independence Day celebration in 1777, one year after the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. But like many things, excess has taken the magic out of fireworks.

Few large tourist attractions do not include a nightly fireworks display; most major sporting events have celebratory explosions. They are a common sighting from small towns to mega metropolitan areas. Fireworks displays are much like parades, if you have seen one, you've seen them all.

We don't shoot off many fireworks in my family these days. We have too many dogs, and most dogs come pre-installed with PTSD. Loud noises make them cower or act rashly, like they are having flashbacks from Nam.

If you're going to celebrate this Fourth of July with a personal fireworks extravaganza, please do so safely. Secure your pets, stop at a reasonable hour and keep some ice handy.

You know, for when you blow your finger off.

American Red Cross issues advise to stay safe during the extreme heat

ATLANTA — Experts are warning that dangerously high temperatures are headed to Georgia this weekend. The American Red Cross of Georgia urges everyone to take three critical actions to stay safe:

1. Stay hydrated by drinking a cup of water every 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.

2. Stay cool by spending time in air-conditioned places. If your home is too hot, go to a mall, library or cooling center.

3. Stay connected by checking on others and asking for help if you need it. Make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

"Knowing what to do to protect yourself and loved ones from extreme heat can save lives," said Regional Disaster Officer, Adelaide Kirk. "We're asking everyone to check on friends and neighbors, especially older adults, people with chronic conditions, outdoor workers and athletes. You could make all the difference by sending a text, making a call or knocking on their door."

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO Remind everyone to drink water, even if they don't feel thirsty. Aim for a cup of water every hour and encourage people to avoid sugary, caffeinated or alcoholic drinks. Babies should be breast-fed or bottle-fed often. Fewer wet diapers or darker urine can be signs of dehydration.

Encourage athletes and outdoor workers to take breaks in the shade. They should drink a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20 minutes.

Help those without air conditioning find a safe place to go like a mall, library or cooling center. They can also

take cool showers or baths to help cool off. Remind people to wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothes in light colors.

Never leave a child or pet alone inside a parked car, and make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

HEAT ILLNESS SIGNS Anyone can become ill during extreme heat if their body can't cool down properly. It's critical to act fast as some types of heat illness can be deadly.

Heat cramps are signaled by heavy sweating and muscle pain. Take action by stopping what you're doing, resting in a cool place and drinking a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20 minutes. If you feel sick to your stomach, pause drinking. Get medical help if cramps last more than two hours or you have heart problems.

Heat exhaustion is signaled by heavy sweating, weakness, cool and clammy skin, muscle cramps, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting. Take action by stopping what you're doing, resting in a cool place and drinking a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20

minutes. Loosen your clothes and place a cool wet cloth on your body. Get medical help if you're vomiting, don't feel better in an hour, or if you have heart or kidney problems.

Heat stroke is a deadly condition signaled by high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, confusion, headache, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting. Call 911. Move to a cooler place, remove extra clothing and use a wet cloth or a cool bath to cool down. If possible, sip a sports drink or water.

IF THE POWER GOES OUT When a heat wave and a power outage happen at the same time, it can be even more dangerous. Stay in air conditioning either at home or at a mall, library or cooling center. Keep an ice-filled cooler stocked with food, water and medicine, so that they don't spoil. More information is available here.

Finally, download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for real-time weather alerts and heat safety information.

LORAN

you expect from the proprietors and staff.

Add to all that this frequent scene: Mark and Mindy Horne, who live on Milledge Circle, would call Trent for another special delivery re-

quest. Mindy would meet Trent with a big dish and her credit card, handing all over the fence between the restaurant and the Hornes' backyard. When the tiramisu is baked, the over-the-fence ex-

change takes place again.

That would never happen in a metropolitan city. It only happens in the Classic City when restaurateurs like the Slaters hang out one of their many shingles.

From Page 4

Atlanta Gas Light atlantagaslight.com/safety

Smell Gas? Act Fast!

Natural gas is a colorless and odorless fuel. For safety reasons, a chemical odorant called mercaptan is added for easy detection of a suspected natural gas leak. This odorant has a distinctive "rotten egg" type odor.

If you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air:

- Do not try to identify the source or stop the leak yourself.
- Leave the area immediately, and move a safe distance away from the potential leak, while avoiding any action that may cause sparks.
- Avoid using any sources of ignition, such as cell phones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines, as natural gas can ignite from a spark or open flame, possibly causing a fire or explosion. While natural gas is non-toxic, in confined spaces it can displace oxygen, potentially leading to asphyxiation.
- Call Atlanta Gas Light at **877.427.4321** or **911** once you are out of the area and in a safe place.

Para solicitar una copia de esta información en español, visite atlantagaslight.com/safetyspanish

WRIGHTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS NOW HIRING

The city of Wrightsville is seeking qualified candidates for the position of a Police Officer.

Applicants must meet the following:

- 21 years of age or older
- Have a High school diploma or GED
- Have a valid GA drivers license
- Pass a medical physical
- Pass a background check
- Pass drug screening
- Pass criminal and drivers history
- POST CERTIFICATION PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED

Applications can be picked up from the City Hall or from the Police Department, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m - 4 p.m.

For more information Contact Chief Aaron Price or Captain Logan Fahey at 478-864-2180.

Georgia

LOCAL MATTERS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only \$350.

Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776

WE DON'T KNOWINGLY ACCEPT ADVERTISEMENTS THAT DISCRIMINATE, OR INTEND TO DISCRIMINATE, ON ANY ILLEGAL BASIS. NOR DO WE KNOWINGLY ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENTS THAT ARE NOT BONA-FIDE JOB OFFERS. ALL REAL ESTATE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND WE DO NOT ACCEPT ADVERTISING THAT IS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. THE LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, HANDICAP OR FAMILIAL STATUS.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 6/28/26

CELLULAR

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

HEALTH CARE

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-652-0640

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-625-0433. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-917-6746

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-914-0502

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-236-3738. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-877-606-2120

MISCELLANEOUS

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704

Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not May Qualify for Tax Deduction - Call (888) 515-3813.

TV/INTERNET

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468

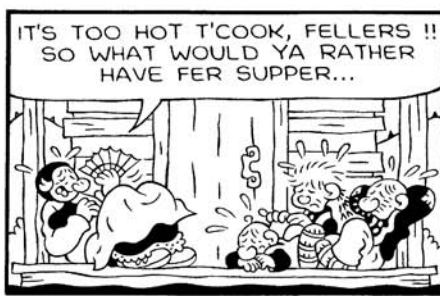
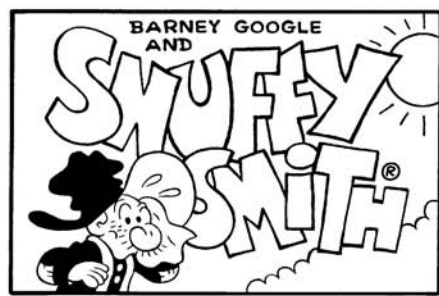
COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS BY GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842

WANTED

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329

THE JOHNSON JOURNAL FAMILY FUN PAGE



The Spats



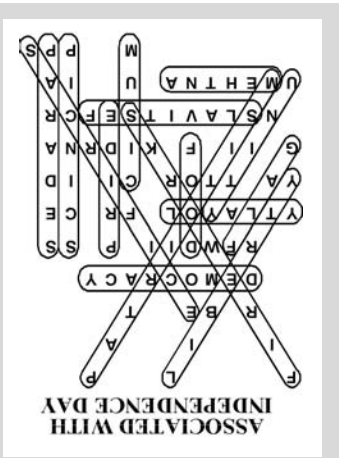
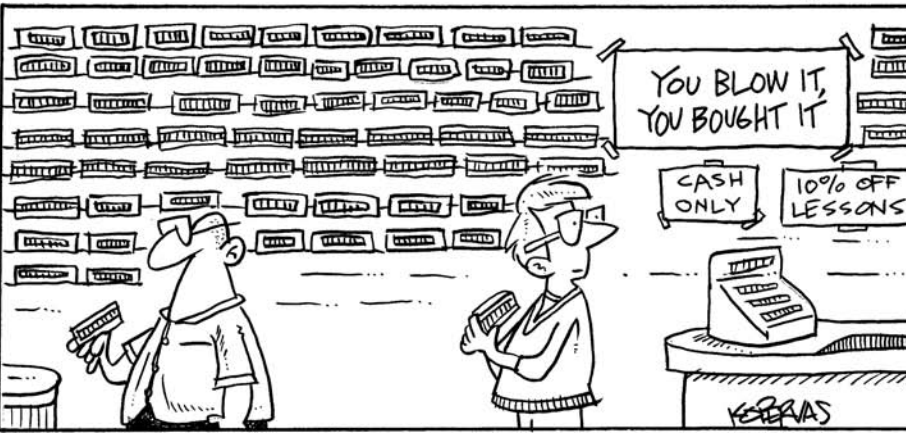
by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



King Crossword Answers

King Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 "Chocolat" actor
5 Audio giant
9 Prune
12 Antioxidant berry
13 Egg
14 — budget
15 Plumbing problem
16 Firsties
17 TiVo precursor
18 Foolproof
19 Sch. URL ender
20 Borscht base
21 Sailing hazard
23 — Victor
25 Daughter of Muhammad
28 Lynx
32 "West Side Story" role
33 Prefix meaning "water"
34 Ocean bottoms
36 Grapevine talk
37 Chow down
38 "— was saying ..."
39 Scoff
42 Half of bi-
44 Sod
48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
49 Mideast gulf
50 Verifiable
51 Brit. record label

DOWN

1 June honorees
2 Beige
3 Two of a kind
4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
5 Grocery store
6 Roman poet
7 Outlying area
8 Ambulance letters
9 Zero, in tennis
10 Formerly
11 Section
20 Date night hire
22 D-Day beach
24 Some Pacific salmon
25 Passing craze
26 Chemical suffix
27 Gratuity
29 LP successors
30 NPR's Shapiro
31 Pinnacle
35 Recording site
36 Olympic swimmer
39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
40 Tennis star
41 Grand tale
43 Legendary loch
45 Language of Pakistan
46 Carpets
47 Shoe fillers
49 Illustrations

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● ASSOCIATED WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY

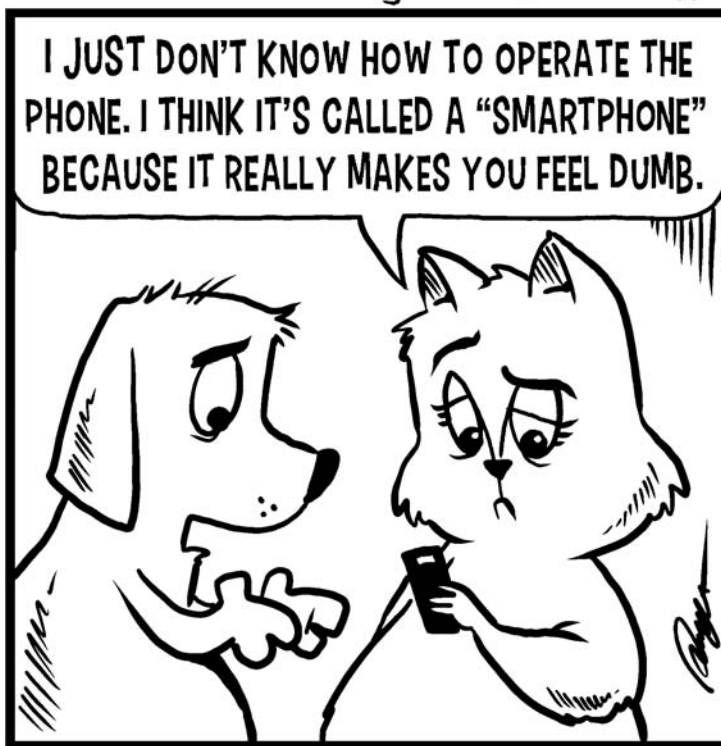
C F B Y W U R L P N K P I G D
B Z I X V S I Q O M A K I G E
C A Y R W B E U S T Q P N L J
H F E D E M O C R A C Y C A Y
X V U R F W D I I S P Q S S F
P Y T L A Y O L N F R M C E A
K Y A J T T O R H C I F I D T
E G C I I B F Z K I D R N A H
Y X N S L A V I T S E F C R E
V U M E H T N A U U T R I A R
Q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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE FOUNDING —

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Anthem | Flag | Music | Pride |
| Democracy | Food | Parades | Sacrifice |
| Festivals | Liberty | Patriotism | Unity |
| Fireworks | Loyalty | Picnics | |

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Store windows are moved. 2. License plate is missing. 3. Bow tie is added. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE
IN YOUR LOCAL PAPER!**