

METRO

Q&A on the News

Q: I noticed that 7/1/17 reads the same backwards and forward. After 8/18/18 and 9/19/19 when will this happen again? – Lance DeLoach, Thomaston

A: Calendar dates expressed only in terms of the rightmost two digits of the year number are referred to as palindromes with two-digit year numbers, Aziz Inan, an engineering professor at the University of Portland (Ore.) who studies palindromes, told Q&A on the News via email.

“Note that unlike the palindromes that include all four digits of the year number, the two-digit year palindromes completely ignore the leftmost two digits of the year number,” Inan wrote. “For this reason, these palindromes repeat every century.”

This year contains 11 such palindromes, all occurring in July, Inan wrote. One was 7/1/17. The remaining 10 are consecutive dates, from 7/10/17 through 7/19/17.

In years where the day and first digit of the two-digit year are nonzero (such as 7/1/17), there exists one of those palindromes in every year in this century, except years 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090 and 2100. For example, 5/2/25.

He provided a table to Q&A on the News of palindromes from 2017-2035 that shows two-digit year palindromes dates will occur every year.

For example, in 2020, there are 11 palindromes, all in February. For example: 02/11/20.

In 2021, there are 22 palindromes, in January and December. For example: 1/2/21 and 12/22/21.

After 2030, the number of palindromes are fewer per year. In 2032, there is just one palindrome: 2/3/32.

Fast Copy News Service wrote this column. Do you have a question? We'll try to get the answer. Call 404-222-2002 or email q&a@ajc.com (include name, phone and city).

BEST FROM THE BLOG POLITICAL INSIDER

An early look at down-ticket races

The crowded race for governor was the top fundraising draw this year, and the six leading contenders for the seat have already raised or loaned themselves more than \$7.4 million in the opening months of the contest.

But a quieter financial battle is brewing for down-ticket races. Three incumbents didn't raise a single dollar for their re-election campaigns. Others were locked in heated multicandidate battles. Here's an early look at how those races are shaping up:

Lieutenant governor

With Casey Cagle running for governor, three Republicans are in the race to succeed him.

Senate Pro Tem David Shafer raised \$900,000, among the largest initial fundraising hauls ever for a candidate for Georgia's No. 2 job. He spent only about \$5,000 of that sum.

One of his top rivals, state Sen. Rick Jeffares, reported collecting more than \$350,000 in the month since he entered the race – and he had almost that figure in cash on hand. It was a

surprising total for a low-profile candidate who didn't launch his bid to succeed Cagle until late May.

A third Republican, state Rep. Geoff Duncan, raised about \$230,000 and loaned himself an additional \$100,000. About \$300,000 was left in his campaign coffers.

No Democrat has formally announced for the office, though ex-state Sen. Doug Stoner is said to be considering a bid. A fourth Republican, state Sen. Steve Gooch, is also exploring a run.

Attorney general

Republican Chris Carr, appointed to the post late last year by Gov. Nathan Deal, has moved quickly to defend his seat. He raised about \$233,000 since the session's end in late March, on top of the nearly \$250,000 he took in through late last year. He's got about \$350,000 on hand.

These are some of the many items readers could find this past week in the Political Insider blog on AJC.com. Look there for breaking news and to gain insight about Georgia's political scene.

Carr faces no opponent yet, and he dodged a bullet when state Sen. Josh McKoon decided to seek the secretary of state seat rather than run for the state's top attorney post. But that's likely to change, and several Democrats have rumbled about a run.

Secretary of state

The race to succeed Brian Kemp – who is also in the hunt for governor – is one of the top draws. Four Republicans and two Democrats are in the contest.

Alpharetta Mayor David Belle Isle led the pack by raising about \$290,000 – and the Republican had spent only \$20,000 of that sum through June.

State Rep. Buzz Brockway raised roughly \$60,000 and reported about \$56,000 in his coffers.

State Rep. Brad Raffensperger raised less than

\$20,000 and loaned himself an additional \$75,000. He's got about \$80,000 in his campaign coffers.

Two Democrats in the race struggled to gain traction. Former Rockdale Tax Commissioner R.J. Hadley loaned himself about \$4,000 and had \$200 left in the tank. State Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler reported raising no cash.

One of the biggest names in the race had nothing to report: State Sen. Josh McKoon, the Columbus Republican who spearheaded the ethics and “religious liberty” drives in the statehouse, jumped in the race last week – just after the reporting deadline.

Superintendent

Richard Woods, elected in 2014, raised nada this year for a 2018 run and had only \$3,300 left in the bank. Two Democrats who filed paperwork to challenge the Republican didn't fare much better.

Sid Chapman, the president of the Georgia Association of Educators, raised zilch through June. And Otha Thornton, the immediate past president of the National

PTA, hadn't yet filed a report.

Insurance commissioner

Incumbent Ralph Hudgens didn't raise a single dollar for his re-election bid, raising questions about whether the Republican will seek re-election (he has said he will). He had about \$130,000 left in his campaign coffers from earlier fundraising bouts.

Two others in the race had negligible fundraising: Republican Shane Mobley reported \$500 in his bank account. Democrat Tomeka Kimbrough had \$235.

Labor commissioner

Incumbent Mark Butler also didn't raise any additional campaign cash this year, and he reported about \$66,000 in his war chest. No one has yet filed to challenge the Republican.

Ag commissioner

Gary Black, in his second term as the top agriculture official, took in about \$60,000 this year and had nearly \$90,000 in his campaign coffers. No one has filed to challenge the Republican. GREG BLUESTEIN

Bond set at \$50,000 for 'parking lot rage' suspect

By Steve Burns
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A DeKalb County judge set bond at \$50,000 on Thursday for a woman who allegedly shot a man in a “parking lot rage” incident outside a Target store, Channel 2 Action News reported.

Tara L. Moody told the judge via a video feed at the DeKalb jail that she is the “sole provider” for her

husband and 14-year-old daughter, the news station reported.

In setting the bond, the judge said she didn't think Moody, 40, of Covington, would offend again, according to Channel 2.

Moody was charged with aggravated assault after Tuesday's shooting outside the Target on Lavista Road near I-285, police said.

Police said she shot 47-year-

old Robert Herwing of Decatur after he apparently poured bottled water on her and her car. Herwing left his SUV after he and Moody tried to drive around a truck at the same time in the parking lot, police said.

Herwing was taken to a hospital in critical but stable condition, police said at the time. No further information was available on his condition.

Insider

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In a state GOP convention speech to a thousand or so attendees, Williams pronounced himself an enemy of “Big Corporate” and crony capitalism. He claimed proof, pointing backstage.

“Not 25 minutes ago, back there in this room, I was offered the appropriation chairmanship for the Senate if I did not run,” Williams said. Friends of Cagle, who as lieutenant governor is president of the state Senate, immediately sent word that Williams was bearing false witness.

Afterward, we members of the media at the Augusta meeting invited Williams to prove what he had just said. He smiled and said he had no more to add. For now.

And so we come to last Thursday. Williams again claimed that the unnamed powers of the Capitol had offered a veteran of a mere three sessions of the Legislature (Williams was first elected in 2014) major say-so over a \$23.7 billion state budget. If only he wouldn't rock their boat.

And the corroborating details? Plenty of time for that later, Williams said.

Now as for the “reprehensible actions” by Cagle. There were no murdered puppies, no grandmothers robbed of savings. Bottom line: Two of Williams' bills didn't pass this spring, and he blamed the lieutenant governor.

Gov. Nathan Deal had included a hefty raise for members of the State Patrol in the fiscal year that began on July 1. Sheriff's deputies and police officers paid by counties and municipalities weren't part of the largesse.

Williams introduced two bills to address law enforcement pay across the state. Senate Bill 254 was filed on Feb. 23, a month into the session and 12 days before a March 7 deadline that required passage of the bill by his Senate colleagues. Only two other senators signed on. SR 377 was filed March 6.

Neither made it out of the Senate public safety committee. Asked why he blamed Cagle, Williams pointed to his fellow Republican senators: “The comments that they made to me.”

Names? Corroborating evidence? Williams declined. (His bills, by the way, are very much alive, and can be taken up next year.)

Afterward, we members of the media at the Augusta meeting invited state Sen. Michael Williams to prove what he had just said. He smiled and said he had no more to add. For now.

This Life

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When asked why she thought taxpayers should pick up the tab for Effie, Eidex said he hasn't made any progress in DeKalb schools and that she believes her son would be better off with 24/7 care. Eidex, who says she can no longer care for Effie, plans to file an appeal.

Effie is 14, the middle child of five. He is profoundly autistic, with the cognitive ability of a 2-year-old.

Eidex, a psychologist in private practice, noticed that as an infant Effie, short for Ephraim, was slow rolling over but didn't think much of it until his pediatrician suggested she take him to a developmental specialist.

“We thought it was a motor delay,” she said. “The pediatrician confirmed that but suggested he needed some physical therapy.”

She and her husband enrolled the infant in Babies Can't Wait, a state-funded therapy program.

By 19 months Effie still wasn't walking even though he had good muscle tone. His therapist surmised the reason was more likely fear.

Still, they persisted with the physical therapy sessions. By Effie's second birthday, he had started repetitive purposeless behavior such as walking around the coffee table over and over and over. The few words he had acquired started to disappear.

“As the mother of three and a psychologist, I knew that was not normal development,” Eidex said.

At the time, Effie was enrolled at Beth Jacob preschool at the family's synagogue. One of the teachers there noticed he wasn't doing things like the other kids.

The Eidexes took him back to the pediatrician at the Marcus Institute. She wasn't ready to diagnose autism but told them to proceed as if she had.

“The words came down like a lead balloon,” Eidex said. “My husband was devastated. He knew it wasn't



Rivkah Eidex sports a black eye she received while trying to remove splinters from her son Effie's feet while he was sleeping. Effie, 14, has severe autism. CONTRIBUTED

good. I was in denial.” At home, Barry Eidex went right to bed. The next morning, he started researching autism.

“In two days, my husband had transformed into a powerhouse of information on the subject,” Eidex said.

Therapists began coming to their home. State case-workers explained available benefits. Effie was enrolled in an early intervention program at the Marcus Institute, now the Marcus Autism Center. In September 2005, the Eidex's fourth child – another son – was born, and a month later a slot opened for Effie at Emory Autism Center's Walden Preschool.

“I'd been practically stalking the director. When they called, I was over the moon,” Eidex said. Not only was Walden open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. five days a week, 12 months a year, it allowed typically developing children to model age-appropriate social behavior for the students with autism. At the time, 98 percent of its pre-K grads were being mainstreamed into regular kindergarten. Effie wasn't one of them.

The next year, Effie was enrolled in a DeKalb special needs class. After school, he attended the Language and Learning Clinic at Marcus, where he learned, among other things, scripted phrases like “what's your name?” “what's your phone number?” “your parents names,” things he could tell a policeman if he were lost.

Meanwhile, Effie was getting bigger and stronger.

Yet he had the coordination of an 18-month old. He could only feed himself with his hands. He wore diaper pants because he wasn't toilet-trained.

It was a habit of his to spread excrement on the walls and floors; to take food from the refrigerator and freezer and strew it throughout the house; to just take off running.

“Our home was always on edge,” Eidex said.

They tried locks on the fridge and out of fear for his safety, reverse locks on his bedroom door.

Eventually, Effie's parents separated, which left his mother to go it alone most days. Trying to bathe Effie was the toughest, she said. More than once, baths ended with her bruised and battered.

By 2015, it had become pretty clear Effie needed more than she or DeKalb could offer him.

Eidex started a search for residential schools. There were none in Georgia for Effie, but she eventually found five, including Bancroft in southern New Jersey near Philadelphia and close to extended family and friends.

Bancroft had been around more than 40 years, had a good reputation for caring for kids with special needs and autism and was building a state-of-the-art new facility scheduled to open in 2018.

Effie would have the best of everything and they had an opening. There was only one problem: It would cost