

2026 NFL season preview

Rams look built to win it all in their own stadium

ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

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EAT ATHENS



The Ring of Fire burger with fries and a peach limeade at Clocked diner in downtown Athens. PHOTOS BY ANDREW SHEARER/ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

25 years of tasty burgers at Clocked diner

Andrew Shearer
Athens Banner-Herald
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Clocked has long felt like the culinary sibling of Athens’ indie rock scene, rooted in creativity and individuality. Just as local bands continue to expand and rewire the sound that made the city famous, Clocked built its reputation by interpreting diner fare in exciting ways. For 25 years, the downtown restaurant has attracted students, artists, musicians, and locals with inventive burgers, sandwiches, and unmistakable Athens character. Located at 259 W. Washington St., Clocked is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., just a few steps from Flicker Bar,

Low Yo-Yo Stuff Records, and the 40 Watt Club. Being in such proximity to a time-honored corner of an artistic ecosystem that has fueled the city’s music scene for decades, the diner is a favorite spot for bands and concert-goers to grab a bite before or after shows. Clocked opened in 2001 when David Zwart and Lisa Yaconelli converted the former Marrakech Express restaurant into a colorful and eccentric space. For years, a small TV ran weird old movies on repeat throughout the day. Flock wallpaper, vintage sci-fi and horror posters, quirky art, and other throwback touches give the space an unforgettable and distinctive feel. I also spotted at least seven “Best Burger

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The Washington Street store front of Clocked diner.

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Georgia podcaster probes unsolved case

Natalie Jones died mysteriously after July 4 party in 2020

Wayne Ford
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Georgia podcaster Sean Kipe has released a true crime story that focuses on the death of a young woman who died under mysterious circumstances in 2020 after she left a July 4th party in Alabama. Kipe, the Marietta resident who aired the nationally popular “Red Clay” podcast about the life of notorious outlaw Billy Sunday Birt of Winder, said this week in a telephone interview that he would like to see answers arise from the podcast on the death of Natalie Jones, 27, whose body was found in a Heard County field 92 days after her disappearance in Alabama. “What really happened?” he asked. “It’s a big question mark for everyone, including law enforcement.” Two episodes of “The Truth About Natalie” have been posted, and subsequent episodes come out on Mondays in the following weeks. Kipe explained that while there are a lot of unsolved crimes in Georgia, this podcast was suggested by a person who is an advocate for Natalie Jones’ family. “I realized pretty quickly after speaking with that person, there is a large group of advocates for Natalie and for her case,” said Kipe, who is a former guitarist for the rock band The Calling, a group known particularly for the 2001 hit “Wherever You Will Go.” Telephone records from Natalie’s phone show she was driving “sort of aimlessly” around Heard County between midnight and 5 a.m., according to Kipe. That phone is missing. Strangely, there was no evidence of foul play found at the death scene, but Kipe said there are indications someone was in the car with the woman. In completing the podcast, Kipe had



Jones

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There has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that tracks the movements of vehicles and creates a searchable database for law enforcement agencies. COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER/COLUMBUS DISPATCH FILE

Flock cameras stir concerns across U.S.

Opponents worry about privacy, police misuse

N’dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

License plate readers have been shot at in Tennessee, hit with a truck in California, beaten with a baseball bat in Virginia, cut down with a saw in Texas and splattered with paint in New York. And they’ve been regularly blocked by a protester in Florida.

There also has been bipartisan criticism of a coast-to-coast network of cameras that continues trying to track the movements of vehicles. People are raising privacy concerns as well as others about misuse, mistakes and road safety in city council meetings, lawsuits and a planned national week of action in late August. Chad Marlow, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union who focuses on privacy, surveillance and technology issues, said the technology triggers concerns about govern-

ment overreach on the right and worries about who is being targeted on the left. “For people in the center or the non-politically engaged are even like, ‘I don’t want to be tracked everywhere I go,’” he said. “And so there’s different reasons, but everyone is arriving at the same position, which is mass government surveillance in this country has gotten completely out of control and needs to be reined in immediately.” Though multiple companies sell the

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