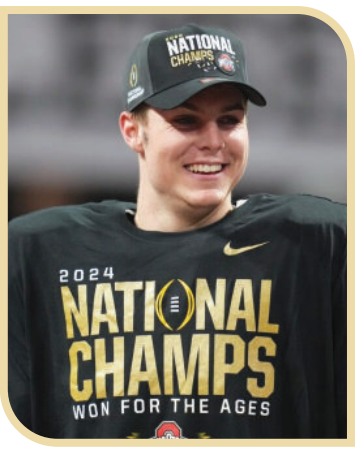


Perspectives
Marc Hyden
• Page 4A

The Albany HERALD

Serving readers and online viewers in Metro Albany, Camilla, Tifton and Americus



NCAA Champs
Ohio State downs Notre Dame
• Page 9A

$1.50 ©2025 GTLN Vol. CXXXIII, No. 176 ALBANYHERALD.COM Thursday, January 23, 2025

Qualifying for Ward VI special election rescheduled due to weather

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Qualifying for a vacant Albany City Commission seat has been postponed due to severe winter weather that is expected to impact southwest Georgia.

City and Dougherty County offices were closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. The latter day was originally scheduled as the first day in the qualifying period for commission Ward VI. The seat was left vacant with the death of Commissioner Demetrius Young, who died on Dec. 29 with three years remaining on his term.

The qualifying period has been rescheduled to hold two full days for candidates to qualify, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m.-noon on Monday, Benny Hand, vice chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Elections, said on Tuesday.

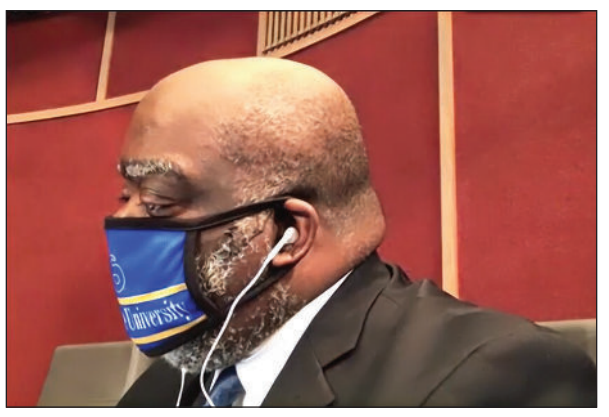
The qualifying fee to appear on the ballot is $684. The qualifying fee is set at 3% of the annual salary for the elected office, which is $22,800 for an Albany commissioner.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 21 years old, have been a resident of Albany for at least two years and have lived in Ward VI for at least three months prior to election day, Dougherty County Election Supervisor Ginger Nickerson said.

The state requires a 2 1/2-day qualifying period for a special election, she said.

The election board approved a Ward VI special election for March 18. If only one candidate qualifies, no election will be necessary and that candidate would be declared the winner.

Elections in City Commission Wards II, III and V will be held in the fall of 2025.



File Photo
A special election to fill the seat of late Commissioner Demetrius Young has been rescheduled.



Special Photo: Tara Fletcher
The National Weather Service said Wednesday a large portion of southwest Georgia received from 4 to 8 inches of snow on Tuesday after a winter storm moved into the area.

WAKING TO A WINTER WONDERLAND

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- City officials closed some entry points to the Liberty Expressway Wednesday morning, citing unsafe conditions at exchange points on the busy highway after more than 7 inches of snow fell on paårts of the area Tuesday.

The National Weather Service said Wednesday a large portion of southwest Georgia received from 4 to 8 inches of snow on Tuesday after a winter storm moved into the area. Snow started shortly after 3 p.m. and continued up until just past midnight, accumulating up to 8 inches in Camilla and 7 inches in parts of Albany and Lee County.

Happy southwest Georgians stood out in the rare snowstorm, taking photos, building snowmen -- and women -- engaging in snowball fights and generally marveling as a light dusting quickly turned into a genuine storm, covering lawns, vehicles and leaving many neighborhoods a sea of white.



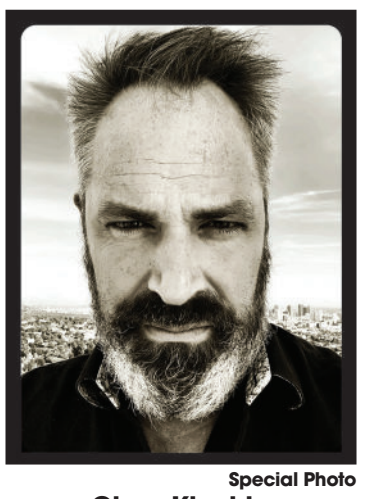
Special Photo: Tara Fletcher

City of Albany Chief Information Officer Krista Monk said in an appeal to media, "While we have not had many issues with vehicles getting stuck or stranded, there have been a few. We need to prevent any further issues on the Liberty Expressway since this is the exchange point for our first responders. We have reached out to GDOT, and they will make it here even-

See **WINTER**, 2A

Blues Traveler set to bring 'full Monty' to Albany venue

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com



Special Photo
Chan Kinchla

LOS ANGELES -- When you get the call at 4:15 that you'd been expecting at 4 p.m., and the caller opens by profusely apologizing for calling late, you understand why Blues Traveler guitarist Chan Kinchla is known as one of rock and roll's really good guys.

When you indicate the minor wait was no big deal, that you were just re-reading "The Scarecrow," one of Michael Connolly's best books, Kinchla is intrigued. He asks you about the author.

"He was a Miami reporter who moved to LA and worked for the Times," you say.

"I'm an LA guy," Kinchla, who also is an avid reader, says. "Tell me a little about him."

Eventually the conversation turns to music and '90s favorites Blues Traveler's Jan. 28 show at the Albany Municipal Auditorium, and Kinchla reveals that he's as much a music fan as you are.

"All of us in the band grew up listening to the Allman Brothers, Santana, Led Zeppelin, the Grateful Dead ... all those classic bands," he says. "I was influenced by them because I got to see all of them live ... well, all but Led Zeppelin."

"I'm one-up on you," you say. "I got to see Led Zeppelin."

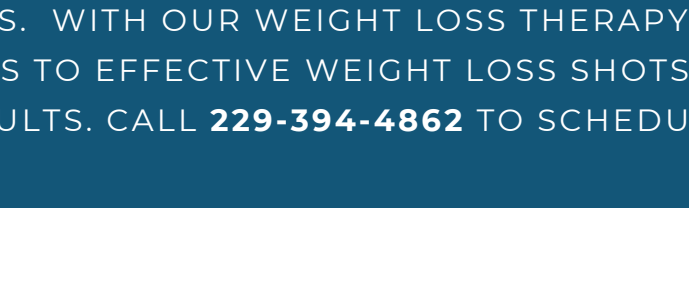
"You bastard," Kinchla says, not with malice but rather admiration.

"Yeah," you say, "but I've never got to see Blues Traveler live, and that's on my bucket list."

"I'll trade with you," he says

See **BLUES**, 2A

Albany VFW Post 2785 looking to build on 100 years of history



Special Photo
VFW Post 2785 has been serving veterans in the Albany area for more than 100 years.

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Veterans of Foreign War's presence in Albany dates back more than a century, but for 2025 the local organization is looking to the present and future in both its mission to serve those who fought in the nation's wars and as an entertainment spot for the public.

While the Pecan Post was formed in 1924, the current iteration of the VFW as Barr-Allen Post 2785, which celebrated its 80th birthday last year.

Currently, the post consists of some 300 members from all military services, and contrary to the perception of some, it is not a dark room filled with grizzled old men swapping yarns.

"When I got out (of military service), I thought the VFW was a bunch of old men sitting around smoking cigarettes, telling war stories," Post Commander Paul Murray said. "Sometimes after you get out after combat, you do want the camaraderie of your fellow veterans. Our purpose is to serve veterans. The primary function is fraternal ... I say 'fraternal,' but we have men and women."

The Albany area has a rich history of military service. It

See **VFW**, 2A

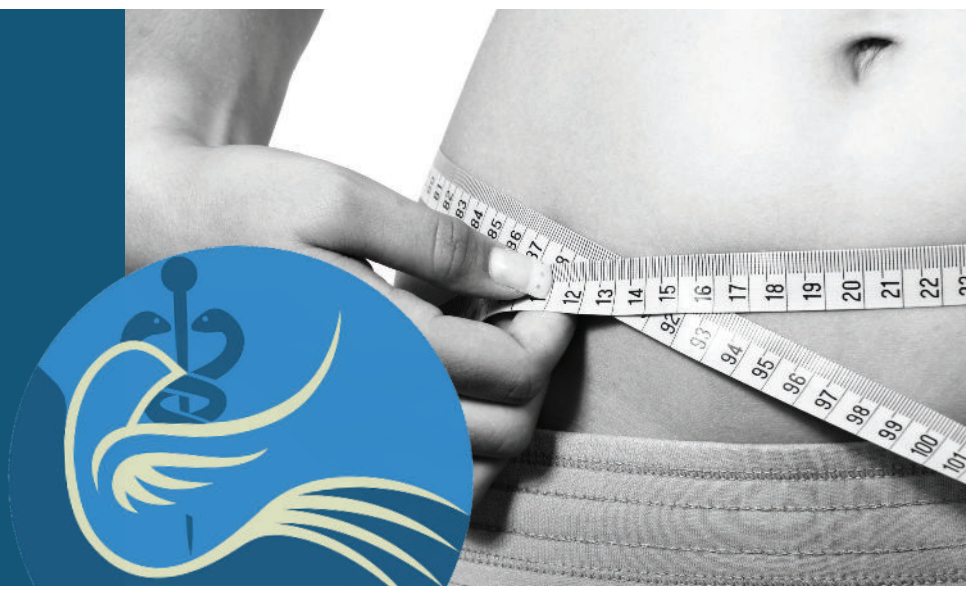
INDEX

Classifieds 11A	Crossword 11A	Local News/Obituaries 8A	Sports 9A-10A	TV 5A
Comics 6A-7A	Horoscopes 3A	Perspectives 4A	Squawkbox 3A	Weather 3A

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Special Photo: Tara Fletcher



Special Photo: Walt Specht



Special Photo: Tara Fletcher



Special Photo: Tara Fletcher

From 1A

WINTER

tually to help clear the roads. However, we need to protect the public now. We are asking that you encourage everyone as much as you can to stay off the roads."

Lee County Sheriff Reggie Rachals sent out similar warnings through the night Tuesday, encouraging citizens to avoid any unnecessary travel. Rachels said that by 8 p.m., his officers already had responded to incidences of vehicles sliding off roadways.

Calhoun County officials were among some in the state who enacted a curfew that was in effect until 6 p.m. Wednesday, and Emergency Director Richard Martin warned citizens that anyone driving on city and county roads during the curfew would be ticketed.

Georgia Power, meanwhile, reported that some 34,000 Georgians were without power by 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, and an additional 14,000 Emergency Membership Corp. members were without electricity. Most of those reporting outages were in southeast Georgia.

Schools, including Albany State University and Albany Technical College, businesses, and Albany, Dougherty and Lee County government offices were closed Wednesday and Thursday, as NWS indicated temperatures both days would remain at or below freezing. The sun should melt some of the snow on Wednesday, weather officials said, but the melt is expected to freeze back over Wednesday night when temperatures are expected to bottom out near 20 degrees.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency prior to the winter storm, and state emergency personnel are on standby to help with problems that may arise across the state. Most of Georgia received measurable snowfall during the winter storm, with accumulations of up to a half-inch in parts of north Georgia to the larger accumulations in south Georgia.

From 1A

VFW

was home to naval and Air Force stations, once housing the giant B-52 bombers, and is host to Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany. A number of those service members retired or returned to southwest Georgia after completing their military service.

"We have a high concentration of veterans here. In order to qualify for the VFW, you have to have served overseas in a combat zone," said Murray, whose service in Korea, where the United States is in a state of armistice with North Korea, met the requirements. "That service can be 30 days consecutive or 60 days nonconsecutive."

Relatives of veterans who served overseas are eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary. Those members help support veterans, service members and their families and assist in the VFW's mission in other ways.

In addition to assisting veterans, the organization coordinates with local Junior ROTC programs in the three Dougherty County high schools and in Lee County.

It also participates in the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program for high school students through democratic- and patriotic-themed recorded essays and the Patriot's Pen, a written essay competition for students in grades 6-8.

At its heyday, when there were 1,600 members, the VFW's weekend dances could get rowdy, with sheriff's deputies hired to help keep things under control. Today the atmosphere is more relaxed, and the public is invited to attend weekly dances on Friday with live bands.

"We have the second-largest dance floor in Albany, after the Hasan Temple," Murray said. "People like to come in here and dance, and that's what we're trying to convey is that we're open to the public. In order to support veterans and help veterans, we need the income."

Each Tuesday, Post 2785 hosts a pool tournament with three competition tables.

In addition, the facility at 315 Philema Road is available for rent for events like birthdays and anniversary celebrations.

"We're here, and we're open to the public," Murray said. "We do serve the community. We've been here over a hundred years. We hope to continue to be here."

QUALIFYING FOR THE MARCH 18, 2025, SPECIAL ELECTION, CITY OF ALBANY COMMISSIONER WARD SIX SEAT WILL BE HELD IN THE ELECTIONS OFFICE, SUITE 220 OF THE GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING.

THE **UPDATED HOURS OF OPERATION** ARE FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH. MONDAY JANUARY 27TH 9 AM TO 12 NOON.

THE QUALIFYING FEE IS $684.

FOR FURTHER IN INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 229.431.3247.

GINGER P. NICKERSON, SUPERVISOR
ALBANY/DOUGHERTY COUNTY ELECTIONS

Albany church destroyed by fire set during burglary, minister says

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – An east Albany church is trying to recover from the destruction of a Saturday-morning fire that gutted the building in an incident that church and city officials said was a case of arson.

A mailbox at a church a short distance away also was reportedly set on fire, and the building was burglarized.

Asked the congregation of about 60's plans for the immediate future at the 1016 Wingate Ave. Harvest Temple Faith Ministry, Bishop James Morris said he was at a "standstill" at the moment. He described the structure as a total loss.

"I don't know," he said. "It's such a shock to me. I'm so out of it right now. Someone broke into the church on Saturday morning, and after they got what they needed to get out of it they set it on fire.

"We're seeing what we can do to rebuild. We're not going to let this stop us. We're going to regroup and rebuild."

The minister estimated that the damage to the structure is at least $100,000.

"It's bad to do it to our church," Morris said. "We've been in this neighborhood for seven years. From Day 1 we've come into this neighborhood and tried to help people."



Special Photo

Bishop James Morris of the 1016 Harvest Temple Faith Ministry Church said that a Saturday morning fire set during a burglary totally destroyed the structure, causing at least $100,000 in damage.

The church regularly holds food and clothing drives and has even assisted people with paying bills, he said.

"We have kids' activities all the time," Morris said.

At a nearby church at 710 Moultrie Road, the mailbox was set on fire and the church was vandalized, he said.

A laptop computer also was stolen from the second church a few hundred feet from the church destroyed by arson, Albany City Commissioner Jon Howard said,.

On Monday the Albany Fire Department refused to provide information about the fire at Harvest Temple.

Donations may be made to Harvest Temple Faith Ministry, 408 Holly Drive, Albany, Ga. 31705, or to Morris through the https://cash.app/ account of $65James-Morris.

From 1A

BLUES

wistfully, and you continue a conversation that turns out to be one of the two or three best interviews you've ever been a part of.

Kinchla, who met up with BT singer/harmonica player John Popper in high school and started playing music together in 1987, talked with The Albany Herald about the band's longevity, a long-awaited new album that's in the works and plans for the show in Albany before an anticipated '90s cruise out of Tampa later in the year.



Special Photo

Nineties super group Blues Traveler will perform at the Albany Municipal Auditorium on Jan. 28. The band's guitar player Chan Kinchla talked with the Herald about the show.

ALBANY HERALD: You guys have been playing together going on 40 years now. Looking back, was that part of some grand master plan or was there that kind of script for you?

CHAN KINCHLA: We were a high school band, a bunch of kids with all kinds of crazy dreams. We just loved playing together, and we knew right away that John (Popper) was a singular talent. So, yeah, we always had those high school dreams that it would be cool to be in this band and keep making music together.

AH: Blues Traveler has always been part of the musical and, really, American consciousness. How have y'all kept from drifting apart, which pretty much every band not named the Rolling Stones eventually does?

CK: It helps that we were all high school friends. But this was always more than just being part of a scene for us. We've always loved playing live most; we love to improvise as we play. We never get tired of that. Through making records, having our stuff played on the radio and the live shows, that's what's kept us going. We've always said as long as it remains fun, we'll keep doing this.

AH: People who "must" classify music tend to lump you guys into that mythical "jam band" category. But I don't know of other jam bands that have had Top 10 radio hits. Does that label reflect who Blues Traveler are?

CK: We've always been weird that way; we straddle a lot of different genres. We came along before "jam band" was even a term. We grew up with a lot of musical influences, and we just kind of put our own spin on it. We thought of ourselves as a kind of neo-hippie band. I've always loved just writing cool songs, and I believe we're more about songwriting than we are jamming. We're quirky like that; we love all kinds of music. We don't really ID with any one type of music.

AH: Blues Traveler's music has been played in so many movies, TV shows, etc. I'm sure that's lucrative; how did that come about?

CK: We don't really have a lot to with that. Sometimes guys who are making a movie or whatever ask specifically to use our music. Other times, there are guys who do that for a living, find the music for a particular project. We're all OK with that.

AH: What music do you listen to, assuming, of course, that you are into music?

CK: Oh, my God, I listen to music all the time. We grew up on what's called "Classic Rock" now to the point that I'm almost burnt out on it. When you hear these same songs over and over, they kind of lose a little of their magic. I do love to play it, but I don't listen as much as before. I listen more now to the singer/songwriter types, and it goes all over the place. I like Elliott Smith, Phoebe Bridgers, Death Cab for Cutie, Billie Eilish, McGee -- there's a lot of good Gen-Z music out there. In LA, there are a lot of cool acoustic shows to listen to. In fact, I released an album like that with my side project, W4RHORS3. With a unique voice like John's, he's Blues Traveler's singer, so I kind of did an album with some of the best LA studio musicians where I do the singing.

AH: I'd heard about the album ("And the Horse They Rode in On") and read good things about it. How did that come about?

CK: I quit drinking about five years ago, and being off the road I kind of became a Mr. Mom. I said I'd like to get a hobby, do something I like, and what I like to do is play guitar. So I got together with some great studio musicians -- Paul Hill, Max Butler, Wally Ingram -- and we made the album. It was a little different than playing with my "main squeeze." The album is available now in day-glo green. When I was young, one of the first bands I obsessed over was the Police. (Drummer) Stewart Copeland made solo albums, and they were always that day-glo green, so this was tribute to him.

AH: You guys have worked with a lot of musicians over the years. Do you have favorites?

CK: We got a chance to play with the Allman Brothers, so that was amazing. We were doing a memorial show for Bill Graham at Golden Gate Park and got to sit in with them. Carlos Santana sat in with us one time, but he didn't have a guitar. He played my old guitar and amp, and do you know what he sounded like? Like Carlos Santana!

AH: It seems the generation that grew up on Blues Traveler music is now the one with disposable income. Are they the primary fans you see at your shows, or are there multiple generations of fans?

CK: It's pretty cool that the kids of the '90s make up a good chunk of our audience now, but there are all ages at our shows. It's always shocking -- in a good way -- when another new generation hears our music and comes to our shows.

AH: John Popper's one of those charismatic kind of entertainers to those of us on the outside looking in. Is he a fun guy to play music with?

CK: He's great. We were high school buddies, and even back then he was a singular, unique individual. We were obviously good buddies, but over these 40 years we've always stayed close.

AH: Any plans for new Blues Traveler music?

CK: We are slowly getting our head space together in that direction. We've done Blues and Soul music the last couple of years, so we're moving toward some new music. We're slowly dipping our toes in the water.

AH: I appreciate your time so much. I'll make this the last one: What can fans in Albany expect from you guys?

CK: It will be a full-on Blues Traveler show, the full Monty. We've been off a while, and we're getting ready to do a '90s cruise out of Tampa, so we decided to book some shows leading up to that. It will be a fun time.

Horoscopes

Approach opportunity and changes with enthusiasm and the intent to make the most of whatever comes your way. Refuse to let uncertainty mess with your mind or cause you to miss out on something that can improve your life. Update your skills and increase your income.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Channel your energy into getting what you want out of life. Say yes, try new things, meet interesting people and expand your awareness while creating opportunities. It's up to you to take charge.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Live and learn. What you discover or experience today will shape how you move forward. Network and participate in functions that interest you. Someone you encounter will offer a valuable perspective.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Pay attention, be the one to make a difference and speak on behalf of the vulnerable. Choose peace, truth and practical solutions over anger, force and temporary fixes. Physical activity will ease stress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- You'll discover your potential if you update your skills. Take an opportunity to make your life and relationships better. A positive attitude will put you in the running for something that could change your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Exaggeration and misinformation will thwart your plans. Refrain from letting disappointment set in. Explore the possibilities and turn your dream into a reality. A change of scenery will spark your imagination.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Spend time doing something you enjoy. Take care of paperwork issues. You'll be surprised by the interest you receive from potential clients. Stop dreaming and start doing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Search for innovative ways to excel and expand your interests and skills. Revisit old ideas and apply new information to them. Attend events that connect you to people who have something to contribute to your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A diversion will be a wake-up call. Take the path that excites you and pour your energy into inspirational projects. Helping someone or something you care about will raise awareness and give you peace of mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You need a nudge or confrontation to push you in a new direction. Seek out alternatives that better align with your emotional, spiritual and financial needs. It's time to shift your focus.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take time for what truly matters. Participate in events that allow you to share your vision and connect with like-minded people. An emotional meeting will change how you move forward with your plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Ease your way into whatever you do. Caution and observation will help you ward off scammers or situations that can pose a risk to your health and well-being. Protect your assets and decrease your liabilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Keep the momentum flowing. Play to win, and you won't be disappointed. It's up to you to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Don't hesitate to step into the limelight.

DO JUST ONE THING
by Danny Seo

Does your kitchen or bathroom drain have an unpleasant odor? Instead of dumping chlorine bleach down the drain to neutralize the odor, try this non-toxic solution: regular salt. Sometimes decomposing organic matter like food scraps can be stuck on the sides of pipes. The salt helps dislodge the stuck-on waste and acts like a mini scrubber for your pipes. Simply pour about 1/2 to 1 cup of salt down the drain and turn on the tap to try this tip.

Today in History

Today is the 23rd day of 2025 and the 34th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1845, Congress passed an act designating that all presidential elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell graduated from Geneva Medical College in New York, becoming the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States.

In 1922, insulin was injected into 14-year-old Leonard Thompson in Toronto and successfully treated diabetes for the first time.

In 2005, Viktor Yushchenko was sworn in as president of the Ukraine, only four months after becoming seriously ill as a result of dioxin poisoning.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Hancock (1737-1793), statesman; Stendhal (1783-1842), author; Edouard Manet (1832-1883), artist; Ernie Kovacs (1919-1962), comedian; Chita Rivera (1933-), actress/dancer; Rutger Hauer (1944-2019), actor; Princess Caroline of Monaco (1957-); Mariska Hargitay (1964-), actress; Tiffani Thiessen (1974-), actress; Michael Stevens (1986-), educator/internet personality.

TODAY'S FACT: Chita Rivera was the first Hispanic woman to receive a Kennedy Center Honor.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1944, the Detroit Red Wings set a record for the most one-sided hockey game by beating the New York Rangers 15-0.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The more generally a man pleases, the less deeply can he please." -- Stendhal, "On Love"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 10 -- performing acts making up the charter class of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on this day in 1986. Those inductees were Little Richard, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Fats Domino, the Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter moon (Jan. 21) and new moon (Jan. 29).

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't join the book-burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book."

Dwight D. Eisenhower,
U.S. general/president (1890-1969)

CORRECTION

This newspaper is committed to publishing fair and accurate information. Errors should be brought to the attention of Editor Carlton Fletcher at (229) 888-9300. Corrections or clarifications will appear in this space.

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
39°	41°	46°	49°	53°	56°	65°
22°	20°	22°	36°	39°	45°	45°



BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

FIRST A DEFENSE, THEN A DECLARER PLAY

Friedrich Nietzsche said, "All truth is simple. Is that not doubly a lie?"

Deals that offer opportunities for both sides can be doubly instructive; that's no lie. For the next two days, let's look at this deal, first from the point of view of the defense.

West leads the heart four against three no-trump, East puts up the 10 and South takes the trick with his jack. Declarer plays a diamond to dummy's jack, then runs the club queen. After winning with his king, what should West do next?

North decided not to use Stayman with such a weak spade suit -- a reasonable decision. Remember, if responder uses Stayman and does not find a 4-4 major-suit fit, he has given free information to the defenders about declarer's hand.

What has West learned about the South hand?

The declarer must have the ace, king and jack of hearts; East was playing third hand high and the best he could do was the 10. South also holds the diamond king because East would have had no reason to duck. And declarer surely has the club ace. That makes a total of 15 points. This marks East with the spade king; otherwise, South would have been too strong to open one no-trump.

So West should shift to the spade five, his lowest card in the suit, saying that he has at least one spade honor and is trying to win tricks in this suit. East will win with his king and return the 10, the higher of two remaining cards, and the defenders will take one club and four spades.

What might declarer have done differently? Tune in tomorrow.

North 01-23-25
♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ 8 5
♦ A Q J
♣ Q J 10 9

West
♠ A Q 9 5
♥ Q 9 7 4 2
♦ 6 5
♣ K 4

East
♠ K 10 7
♥ 10 6
♦ 10 9 7 4 2
♣ 8 7 3

South
♠ J 8
♥ A K J 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 6 5 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 4



ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Vegan housemate constantly criticizes friend's food choices

Dear Eric: I took a job in D.C. at the behest of my close friend, who also invited me to live with her. She said she was retiring and moving back to her Midwest hometown. She offered to rent her townhouse to me for a really reduced rate while she's in transition.

Well, not only is she not making any attempts to move, but she also comments on my eating choices and constantly gives me unsolicited advice. She's vegan and a diabetic, so she's very strict with her diet; I mean really strict.

I'm grateful for her help in offering me cheap housing close to my great new job, but I'm hesitant to say anything. When she gets on the topic of me (a vegetarian) eating string cheese or drinking sports drinks, I feel the steam coming out of my ears. For God's sake, I'm 61 years old and don't need her approval or permission to eat what I want.

I've pushed back with polite statements shutting her down, or I just walk away, but it's like she can't help herself. I'm afraid that I will explode the next time she says something about my food choices. I don't want this to ruin our 30-year friendship, but I've had it. Any suggestions?

– Eyes on Your Own Plate

Dear Plate: Oof, it can be so hard to realize that close friends don't always make good housemates. It's also likely scary, in this case, because you've uprooted your life for the promise of inexpensive D.C. digs (no small promise). However, you made this move thinking you'd be living solo after a while, and that's a part of the original plan that needs revisiting.

If she's not making moves to, well, move, then you should, if possible. Take a look at your finances and decide what's possible for you, real estate-wise. And let her know what your timeline is so she's not blindsided. It may feel awkward to say, "I had planned on a solo space eventually, and I'm finding that that's an important need, as much as I enjoy being with you," but it's not an unreasonable expectation.

Since she hasn't responded to the boundary you're setting with food, I doubt that extended conversation about it will change much. There's a control she's exhibiting that has more to do with her own internal monologue than with you. The best way to keep someone's eyes off your plate (and preserve your friendship) is to get out of that particular kitchen.

Dear Eric: I'm writing about "Work Disappointment," who was passed over for a promotion in favor of two co-workers who the letter writer said weren't as qualified. I had a similar thing happen to me. While it was scary, I made an appointment with the person who made the choices and very respectfully told her that I sincerely wanted to know what in my performance needed improvement, so I could work on those areas for future opportunities.

I was very proud of myself for having the courage to carry this out. While this administrator did not, in my opinion, present the same courage back to me, she did later recommend me for a promotion that was over the folks promoted earlier. And I accepted that gratefully. I always tell my staff, "The interview is an inherently flawed process. But it's the best one we have."

– Promoted

Dear Promoted: Wonderful advice. The ability to ask for and incorporate constructive feedback is crucial to success at every point in a career. Moreover, a no, while disappointing, can often be an opportunity to learn, reframe or re-evaluate one's goals.

Dear Eric: I love your column and find your responses thought-provoking. Your answer to "Dad's Wife," whose estranged stepdaughter wants contact with her now that the stepdaughter had a baby left out a question or two in my opinion.

Most important to me is whether the husband and wife want to build a relationship with their granddaughter and how her decision impacts that. We all live with polite fictions sometimes. If the grandchild is important to them, Wife may want to go through the motions and look for the positives, possibly even changes in the new mother, while still being a bit wary.

She also didn't mention her husband and the son-in-law's awareness and role in the daughter's behavior. There are five people now involved.

– Reader

Dear Reader: The phrase "we all live with polite fictions" is spot-on and so vivid. And also quite true, for better or worse. The letter writer felt used and belittled by the stepdaughter, so there's work to do to keep the peace. But if grandparenthood is a priority for the letter writer, it may be worth opening up a blank document on the relationship and composing some fiction.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric.com or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, Pa. 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at rericthomas.com.

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

For years I wondered when Trump supporters were going to wake up and realize he's a liar, a crook and a narcissist who doesn't care about anybody but himself. Then it finally hit me. Facts and truth are no longer important to them; when you're in a cult, the "savior" is all that matters. It's that simple. That Man Without a Family

Hey, Frank Wilson, great choice to speak at the MLK March Monday. It's been a while since I heard such racist garbage. You always claim your events are for "all people" in the region, but this clown's babble was only for militants who hate whites. Bet your money I'll never be back to this event.

Compare and contrast the MLK breakfast, hosted by HEART, and the racist speech before the annual MLK March. I can promise you that I will never be part of the latter again.

To all those people who need mental therapy because Donald Trump is the new president, let me just say this: We survived four long years of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, there is no doubt in my mind you will survive the next four years of Trump as president.

Carltonism: We now live in an era of smart phones and stupid people.

A bit of buyers remorse on Jalen Johnson? You hired him, you fire him. Don't whine to us about your screw-up. You'll be saying the same thing for the next four years, I'm sure, if you are allowed. You bought the cow that was known to have hoof-and-mouth disease, now live with it. BTW there is no cure for that disease and it is highly, or as your cow would say, "bigly," contagious.

Joe Biden spit in the face of every patriotic American when he awarded Hillary Clinton and George Soros the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation's highest civilian honor. All three are traitors.

Don't you think having a MLK holiday, a Juneteenth holiday, and a black history month is a little much? We only have one day a year for veterans. That is a crying shame that America got so carried away with the black thing.

Squawker, if Trump doesn't have minorities in positions of power, who are you and he going to blame your failures on? After all, minorities are running the country, making all the wrong decisions, which is why you are in such dire straits, isn't it?

Hey, Frank Wilson, great speaker at your black power rally. Bet your a$$ I will never again attend any event you have anything to do with.

To those Democrats wondering if Pete Hegspeth is qualified to be Secretary of defense ... I am wondering if those Democrats are even qualified to determine if Pete Hegspeth is qualified or not.

To say that in order to be a Trump cabinet member you have to have the morals of an alley cat is an insult to cats. But to put forth nominees who are clearly unqualified to run departments like Defense, National Security, Health, and the FBI is a sign that the good old boy metric for choosing personnel is back. Trump is not even a Southerner, but he is the best Boss Hog I have seen.

READER'S GUIDE

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PERSPECTIVES

The Albany Herald

Carlton Fletcher, Editor

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Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Legislature weighs expanded drug-checking tools

No state has been spared from the ongoing drug overdose crisis, including Georgia, where thousands of people die annually from ingesting various controlled substances — sometimes unknowingly. It has become an inescapable reality, and the Legislature, to its credit, has worked feverishly to try to stem the tide of the crisis with varying degrees of success.


Marc Hyden

Last year, the Georgia General Assembly introduced a slew of bills to prevent overdose deaths, although most of them failed to cross the finish line, but often the key to combating crises doesn't require a novel legislative solution. Rather, sometimes lawmakers need to revise well-intentioned — albeit flawed — laws. In fact, that is what Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, R-Marietta, aims to do: expand access to life-saving drug-checking tools by tweaking a 2023 law that has a curious origin story.

On April Fool's Day 2022, then-Senator Jeff Mullis, R-Chickamauga, sipped a glass of milk as he presented HB 1175 to the Georgia Senate. The legislation was intended to legalize the sale of raw milk to consumers. Despite misgivings from some members, it passed both chambers by wide margins, and it went into effect the following year.

It was a huge win for the raw milk lobby, but the most important provision of the bill had nothing to do with dairy. Tucked within the proposal was critically important language that legalized "any testing equipment used to determine whether a controlled substance has been adulterated and contains a synthetic opioid." In layman's terms, it legalized fentanyl test strips, which are a critical frontline weapon that allow people to easily determine if a controlled substance has been tainted with fentanyl.

Georgia wasn't a leader on this, but rather a follower. Nevertheless, nearly every single state now permits tools like this to check for the presence of opioids like fentanyl, and the legalization was sorely needed.

A host of Georgians have inadvertently overdosed because controlled substances have been adulterated with fentanyl and other potentially deadly synthetic opioids.

"From 2019 to 2022, fentanyl-involved overdose deaths in Georgia increased by 308%. That's 1,601 lives lost in one year alone," Georgia's Office of the Attorney General reported. In 2020, 67% of overdose deaths in Georgia involved fentanyl.

Thankfully, Georgians now have access to fentanyl test strips, but the law legalizing them was a job half-done. The manner in which policymakers drafted HB 1175 means that such testing equipment is legal only if they are testing for a synthetic opioid, not other substances.

The problem is that there is a wide range of adulterants being laced into controlled substances and making Georgians ill, or worse, killing them. One such drug is xylazine, which is a potent non-opioid tranquilizer, and it is on the rise in the Peach State and making its way into other drugs, unbeknownst to many.

When ingested, xylazine can cause your heart rate, breathing and blood pressure to plummet — often leading to death. Once ingested, people have few options since there is no reversal agent available for humans, underscoring the importance of testing for its presence. From 2020 to 2022, deaths involving xylazine surged 1,380%, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. HB 1175 doesn't legalize testing equipment to detect this drug, even though at least 23 other states already have enacted such measures.

The issue goes far beyond xylazine, too. As the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education notes, there is a wide range of other pharmaceutical adulterants harming Georgians. What's more, as new drugs and chemicals are continually developed, there is no telling what the next deadly substance might be that will kill myriad unsuspecting Georgians.

Without legalized drug-checking equipment, Georgians are at risk. While I don't condone illicit drug use, I understand that prohibitory laws have failed to prevent it. Abstinence-only approaches simply don't work for every Georgian. Thus, it makes sense to seek ways to reduce harm — when that harm cannot be eliminated — by legalizing drug-checking equipment.

To that end, Kirkpatrick has introduced a bill to fix the current statute. If adopted, it will permit the use of tools to check for current and future adulterants to keep Georgians safer. Georgia's legislative session is a quick marathon consisting of only 40 legislative days. So time is of the essence as Georgia remains mired in crisis.

Marc Hyden is the director of state government affairs at the R Street Institute. You can follow him on X at marc_hyden.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR ■ MICHAEL C. HALL

Californians fail to learn

To the editor:

I do not understand! In the last 10 years, forest fires have become endemic in California. Everyone in California should know by now that fire danger is going to be a part of their lives for the foreseeable future. Why does no one in California apparently want to do anything to reduce their own risk in case of a forest fire?

It seems like every day on the evening news, there is coverage of a new out-of-control forest fire in California. If one looks at the news videos, almost no one in a neighborhood that is currently endangered (as in: "the fire is coming over the next hill right now") has done anything substantial to reduce the risk of losing their home to a forest fire.

Every news video showing a fire also seems to show a burning house surrounded by burning trees, burning ornamental bushes and burning long grass or other ground cover. Does no one in California own a chainsaw, pruning shears or lawnmower? If I lived in California and owned a house in a wooded area, I would want my house to be surrounded, at least to the edges of my lot, with things that do not burn. Of course, that would not be pretty, which seems to be an absolute requirement of California homeowners.

The same news video almost always shows that nobody in California wants to have a metal roof or fire-resistant siding. Expensive, granted, but not in comparison with losing a home and all contents. Doing this kind of improvement might even persuade an insurance company to not cancel your home insurance.

The same news videos usually show a significant number of burned or burning vehicles in front of many houses. If one assumes that the owners of a burning house got out and drove away in a single vehicle, I assume that it was just too much trouble to move the extra vehicles to a safer location once a fire has been reported in the area.

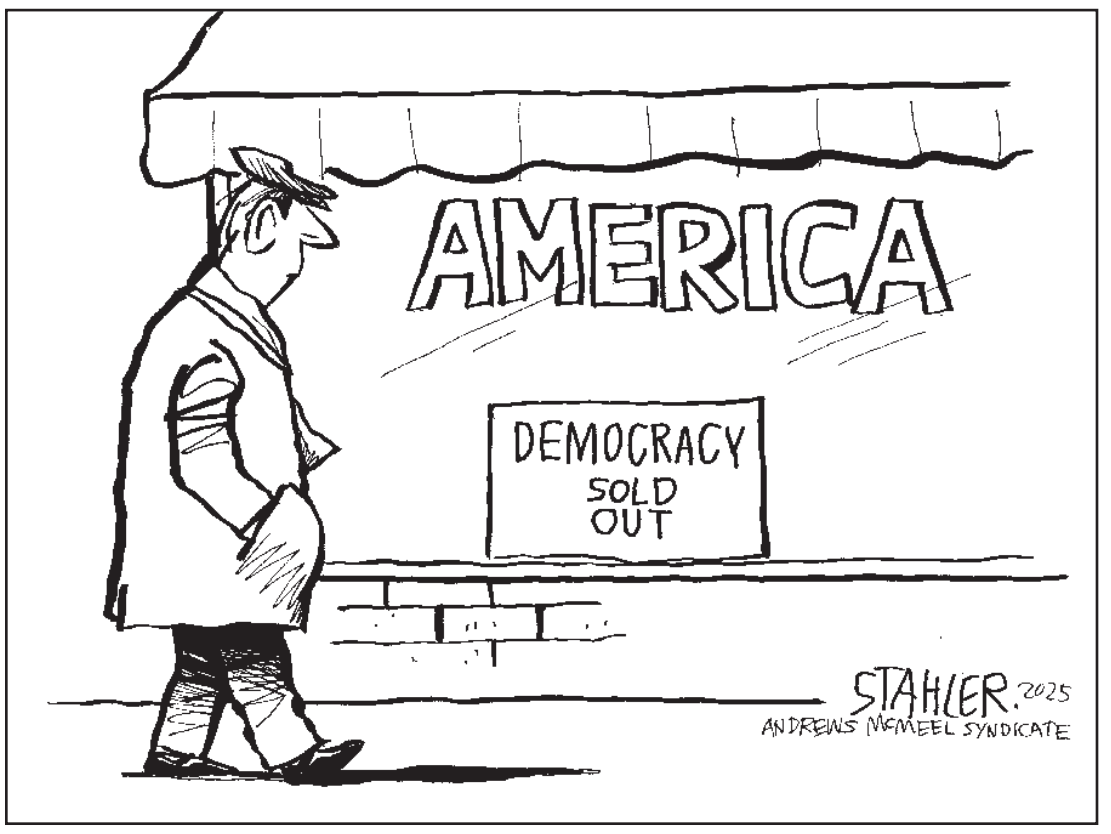
When the owner of a burned or burning house is interviewed on the news, he or she usually exclaims that the fire came so quickly that they could save little or nothing. Insofar as I can tell, nobody in California pays any attention to a fire until it gets within 50 feet.

And to put a cherry on the top of the ice cream sundae, many of those being interviewed after losing their homes are enraged that the state, county or city failed to provide them with adequate fire protection.

Finally, I do not understand why homeowners in California refuse to learn that extreme fire danger is not going away anytime soon. I personally believe that the cause is climate change, but whatever the cause, as Winston Churchill once said, quoting George Santayana, that "people who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Michael C. Hall

Michael C. Hall is a partner in the Albany-based Hall & Williamson P.C. law firm.



COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

Fact-checkers? Who needs fact-checkers?

Every few months, I look back through the inbox to review comments and questions from my cherished readers. Let's open the mail.

Dear David: It's been a while since you have posted anything political. With a new administration taking office, you must have something to say. Or after your various Trump jokes over the years, has the cat got your tongue? Ken in Chatsworth


David Carroll

Well Ken, I have cracked a few Trump jokes over the years, often greeted by considerable pushback. I cracked a few Biden/Harris jokes, too, with comparatively little response. I am always supportive of the President of the United States, whoever it may be. When presidents have succeeded (keeping us at peace, presiding over a strong economy, boosting our morale), I have succeeded as well. When presidents have failed, it has usually trickled down to me.

I am thankful that jobs seem to be plentiful, and that even though some prices are high, most people are going where they want to go, and doing what they want to do. The sold-out ball games are fun to watch, compared to the cardboard cutout fans of 2020.

If the new management can indeed lower the prices of gas, groceries, insurance, health care, automobiles, housing and electricity, while also curing bird flu, improving schools, and passing meaningful legislation, Americans will rejoice. And if not? Well, Americans have a short memory.

Dear David: My local paper just started running your column, and I have enjoyed the ones I have read so far. I'd like to get your take on the recent decision by some news organizations and Facebook to eliminate fact-checkers. Are you for or against this idea? Alex in Johnson City, Tenn.

Welcome aboard Alex. In my day job (as a TV news guy), I serve as a fact-checker every day. That is not my title, but many of my coworkers are quite young. So I correct them if they assume Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is the son of a former president, or if they say no president has served more than two terms. (FDR would beg to differ.) I am a huge fan of actual fact-checkers who have been battling to stop disinformation in this "alternate facts" era. I do not take offense when a fact-checker corrects me. I am thankful that someone cares enough to make me get it right. Like Mark Twain said, "Eighty percent of the quotes on the internet are made up, and you can't believe the other 30%."

Dear David: I'm a new reader in Dalton, and forgive me if you've already written about this. But are you as sick as I am of those pharmaceutical commercials on TV? It seems like they're pushing a new drug every five minutes. Thank you, Sarah Anne

My wife and I were just talking about this, Sarah Anne. I have been intending to weigh in on the subject. I'm envious of the people in those commercials. Have you noticed? They are always singing, dancing, frolicking, cavorting, and having way too much fun. As for me, if I get a stuffy nose, I'm bed-ridden for a week. These people are suffering from diabetes, skin rashes and scurvy, and they're outside hosting a hoedown. Still, the message is effective. I'm almost ready to pop those pills until they hurriedly read the list of disclaimers:

"Do not take if you are allergic to grass, trees, peanuts or hard work. Also discontinue this medication if swelling occurs, if you experience temporary confusion, or if something falls off your body. Whatever you do, don't tell your doctor. Let's keep this between us." I'll take these commercials seriously when they show some poor schlub celebrating a successful trip from the bed to the bathroom.

Finally, someone asked me what Mike Pence said to Donald Trump at Jimmy Carter's funeral. It was the first time they had spoken in four years. I read that Pence said to Trump, "I can't stay. My wife said I shouldn't hang with you."

I don't know if that's true, but I saw it on Facebook. That's what you get when there are no fact-checkers.

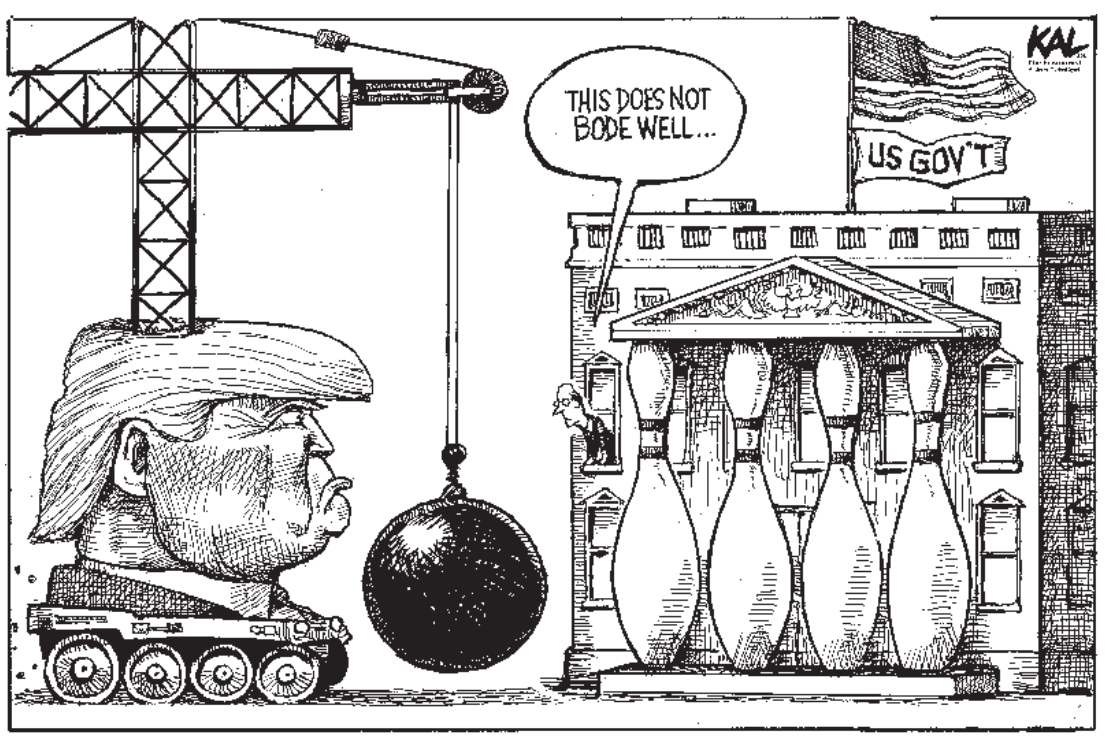
Email T. Gamble at wtg@colliergamble.com.

"Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."

Psalms 86:11

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701



What to watch

THURSDAY

January 23, 2025

All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Carl Weber's The Family Business: New Orleans

BET+ ■ New Series

This spinoff of The Family Business welcomes a new branch of the Duncan family tree — the New Orleans side, who are known for their popular casino/nightclub Midnight Blues, where tourists, titans of industry, and trap kings and queens party side-by-side. But the club also holds secrets so dark that it could turn the Big Easy upside down. Brandon T. Jackson, Lela Rochon, Benjamin Stephens, Pooch Hall, Quincy Brown, David Banner, Yvette Nicole Brown and Orlando Jones lead the cast. The series kicks off with two episodes today, with new episodes available Thursdays.

The Night Agent

Netflix ■ Season Premiere

The last time viewers saw Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso), he was used to picking up the phone. Now, as this action thriller that was Netflix's most watched series by views in 2023 returns, he will be the one making the calls as he finds himself fully immersed as a Night Agent in the mysterious world of Night Action, a top-secret organization rife with deadly threats.



'The Night Agent'

NETFLIX

2025 Prevagen U.S. Figure Skating Championships

USA Network, 7 p.m. Live

The best figure skaters and ice dancers in the country compete in Wichita, Kansas, for the national championship. Tonight's events include the pairs and women's short program competitions. USA Network, Peacock and NBC air coverage through Sunday.

Hollywood Squares

CBS, 8 p.m.

The revival of the classic game show continues with the new back-to-back episodes "It's a Kiss Party" and "Sixty for Swifty." Celebrity guests include Tyra Banks, Tiffany Haddish, Andrew Rannells, Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, Julie Bowen, Margaret Cho, Leslie Jones, Kevin Nealon and RuPaul. Nate Burleson hosts with Drew Barrymore as the center square.

Police 24/7

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 2 of the action-packed reality series that goes behind the scenes of real police departments nationwide starts tonight.

Law & Order

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Greater Good," when a music mogul is found dead, Shaw (Mehcad Brooks) and Riley (Reid Scott) clash with an undercover officer unwilling to cooperate, while Price (Hugh Dancy) and Baxter (Tony Goldwyn) disagree on how the victim's reputation could sway the jury's verdict in the case.

Crime Nation

The CW, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The second season of the docuseries that delves deep into riveting true-crime sensations that have captured the attention of the nation begins tonight.

Lost Treasures of the Bible

Nat Geo, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The first season concludes with "The Real King Herod," in which archaeologists reveal the truth about the Bible's murderous monarch.

Found

NBC, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Missing While Outed," a college student disappears after a fraternity prank outs him as gay, and M&A mobilizes to trace his whereabouts. Meanwhile, the pressure for Gabi's (Shanola Hampton) arrest reaches a boiling point, and Sir (Mark-Paul Gosselaar) becomes increasingly bold in his quest for Gabi.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Tag'

WARNER BROS.

Airplane II: The Sequel (1982, Comedy) Robert Hays, Julie Hagerty **BBC America, 6 p.m.**

National Treasure (2004, Adventure) Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger **AMC, 6 p.m.**

Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance-comedy) Ashley Williams, Ryan Paevey **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Crocodile Dundee (1986, Comedy) Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Murder on the Orient Express (1974, Mystery) Albert Finney, Lauren Bacall **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Secrets Between Sisters (2024, Suspense) Jessica Morris, Daniel Stine **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005, Children) Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore **Freeform, 8:30 p.m.**

Armageddon (1998, Science fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

Her Fatal Family Secret (2021, Suspense) Anita Leeman Torres, Sabrina Stull **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Marry Me (2022, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Owen Wilson **USA, 11 p.m.**

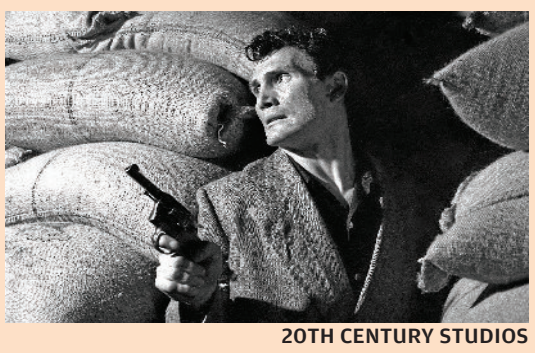
Tag (2018, Comedy) Ed Helms, Jon Hamm **TBS, 11 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

Noir to Die For!

MOVIES!, beginning at 6 a.m.

Enjoy a day of thrilling film noir titles from the golden age of that genre, with a lineup featuring **The Hoodlum** (1951), led by Lawrence Tierney and Allene Roberts; **I Love Trouble** (1948), with Franchot Tone and Janet Blair; **Backlash** (1947), starring Jean Rogers and Richard Travis; **Suspense** (1946), with Belita (former Olympic skater-turned-actress Belita Jepson-Turner) and Barry Sullivan; **The House on 92nd Street** (1945), featuring William Eythe and Lloyd Nolan; **Shock** (1946), starring Vincent Price and Lynn Bari; **The Bigamist** (1953), led by Edmond O'Brien, Joan Fontaine and Ida Lupino; **The Amazing Mr. X** (1948), with Turhan Bey and Bari; **The Unfaithful** (1947), starring Ann Sheridan, Lew Ayres, Zachary Scott and Eve Arden; **The Snake Pit** (1948), with Best Actress Oscar nominee Olivia de Havilland, Mark Stevens, Leo Genn and Celeste Holm; **Vicki** (1953), led by Jeanne Crain and Jean Peters; 1950's **Panic in the Streets (pictured),** starring Richard Widmark, Paul Douglas, Barbara Bel Geddes and Jack Palance; and **Dangerous Passage** (1944), with Robert Lowery and Phyllis Brooks.



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



What to watch

FRIDAY

January 24, 2025

All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

College Basketball

ESPN2, FOX & FS1, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

Highlights of Friday college hoops action include Villanova at Marquette, Penn State at Iowa and UCLA at Washington (FS1); Saint Joseph's at Dayton (ESPN2); and Michigan at Purdue (FOX).

NHL Hockey: Vegas at Dallas

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

Jack Eichel leads the Vegas Golden Knights into Dallas to skate against Matt Duchene and the Stars tonight on ESPN.



'Masters of Illusion'

THE CW

Penn & Teller: Fool Us

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The magic continues with the legendary entertainment duo of Penn & Teller and host Brooke Burke as they return for Season 11.

My Best Friend's an Animal

Nat Geo Wild, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Season 1 concludes with back-to-back hourlong episodes. "Penny, Chunk and Faith" visits Penny the pigeon and a refugee who finds comfort in beekeeping, while in "Jasper, Terry and Gumbo," an invasive nutria becomes a part of the family, and we meet Gumbo the goose.

Masters of Illusion

The CW, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 11 of this mystifying series featuring escape artists, cutting-edge illusionists and talented performers begins tonight.

Harpoon Hunters

Discovery Channel, 9:05 p.m. ■ New Series

Armed with 10-foot electrified spears, multigenerational fishing families race against the clock to catch one of the fastest fish in the world — the bluefin tuna — off the coast of Cape Cod. With each fish worth as much as $10,000 and a fishing season of only four weeks, time is of the essence in this high-octane world.

NFL Icons: DeMarcus Ware

MGM+, 10 p.m.

The NFL Films documentary series continues with a look at DeMarcus Ware, who was a ferocious pass rusher for the Dallas Cowboys (2005-13) before joining the Broncos and helping guide Denver to a win in Super Bowl 50.

Tennis: Australian Open: Women's Final

ESPN, 3:30 a.m. Live (late night)

The Australian Open women's singles final takes place at Melbourne Park. ESPN2 airs an encore presentation later Saturday morning.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Iron Man 3'

ZADE ROSENTHAL

When Mom Becomes a Murderer (2024, Suspense) Matreya Scarrwener, Lauren K. Robek **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Thor: Ragnarok (2017, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston **FX, 7 p.m.**

Cut, Color, Murder (2022, Mystery) Julie Gonzalo, Ryan McPartlin **Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m.**

Gladiator (2000, Historical drama) Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow **SYFY, 8 p.m.**

Kong: Skull Island (2017, Adventure) Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson **TBS, 8 p.m.**

My Family's Killer Affairs (2025, Suspense) April Martucci, Isabella Carlsen **LMN, 8 p.m.**

ATL (2006, Comedy-drama) Tip Harris, Lauren London **BET, 9 p.m.**

Transformers (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson **TNT, 9:30 p.m.**

Murder Runs in the Family (2023, Suspense) Laura Lieben, Bryan J. McHale **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Uncle Drew (2018, Comedy) Kyrie Irving, Lil Rel Howery **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

It Was All a Dream?

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

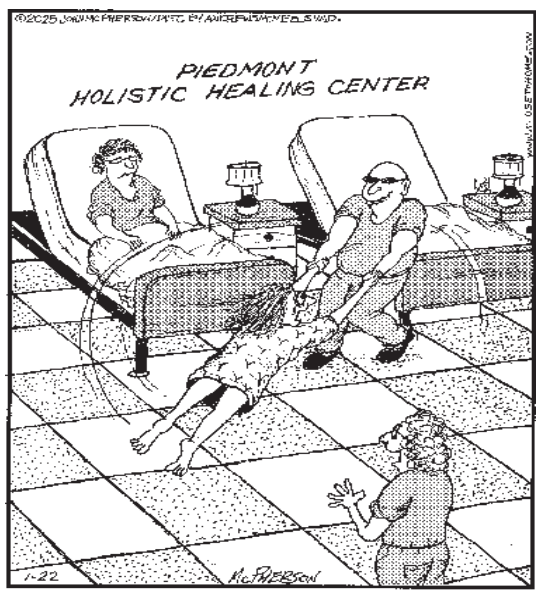
Turner Classic Movies' monthlong look at notable films that have used dream sequences, featured stories that turned out to be only a dream or used other aspects of dreams, daydreams and nightmares onscreen continues tonight. Up first is the classic musical **Oklahoma!** (1955), featuring a lovely "dream ballet." Another musical follows: 1943's **Cabin in the Sky (pictured),** notable, especially for its time, for its all-Black cast, including Ethel Waters, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson and Lena Horne. Jack Benny leads the next film, director Raoul Walsh's comedy/fantasy **The Horn Blows at Midnight** (1945). The lineup concludes with the silent comedy/drama **The Kid** (1921), starring Charlie Chaplin in his first full-length film as a director, and 6-year-old Jackie Coogan as a young foundling baby; **I Married an Angel** (1942), a musical led by Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy; and the fantasy comedy/drama **Turn Back the Clock** (1933).



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.

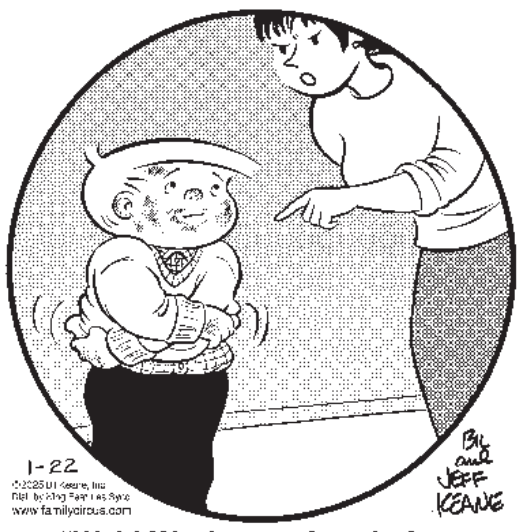
From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



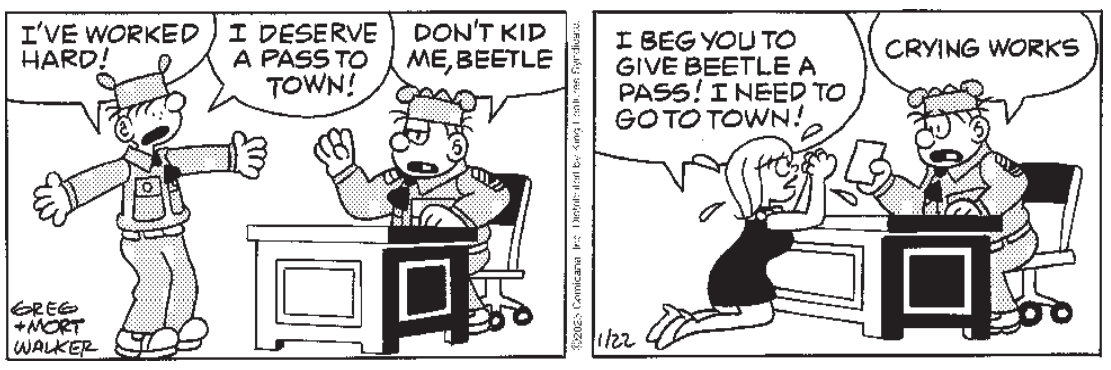
"You're doing great, Mrs. Clavner! Just relax and let the centrifugal force pass your kidney stone!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

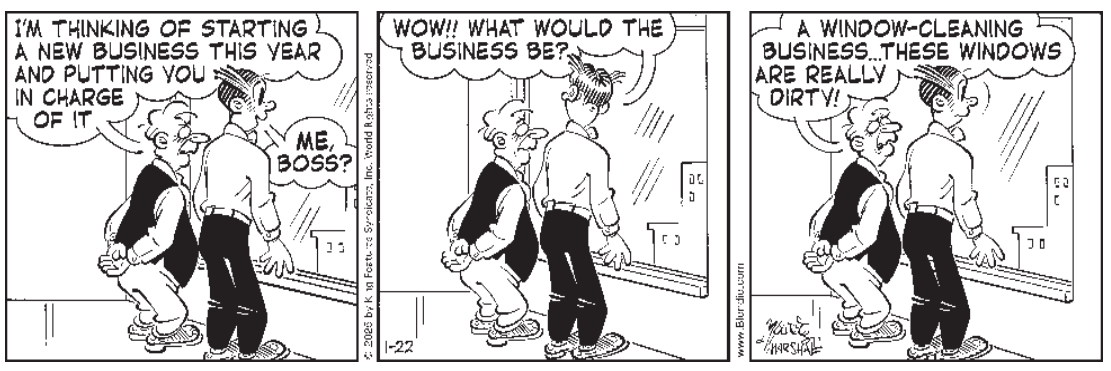


"Wait! Wash your face before you pull that sweater over it."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



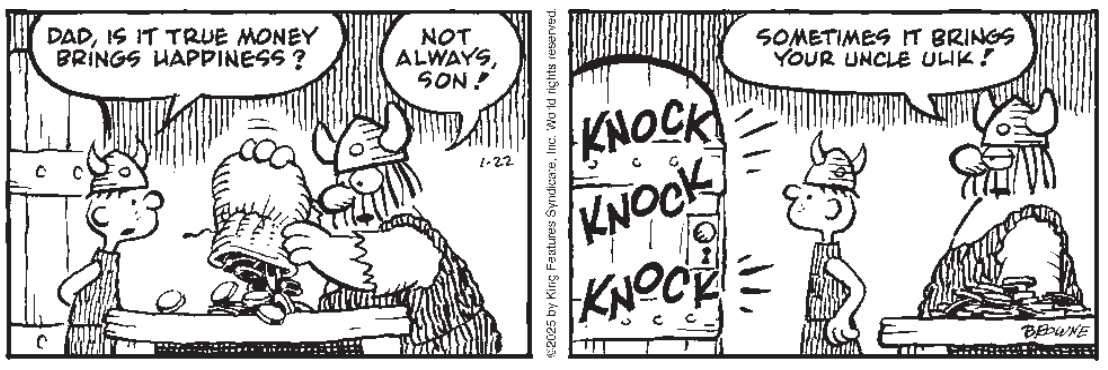
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



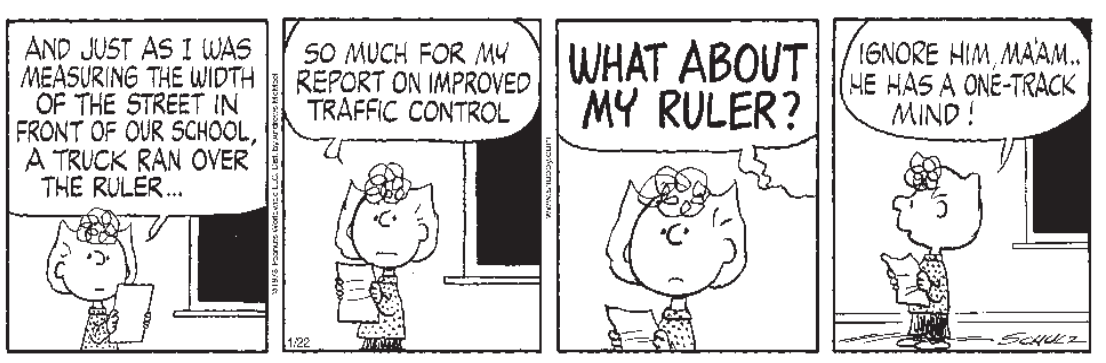
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



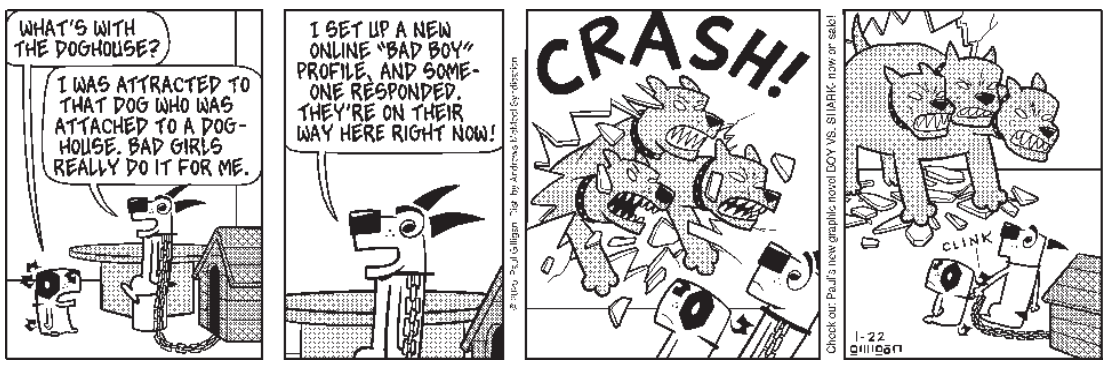
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



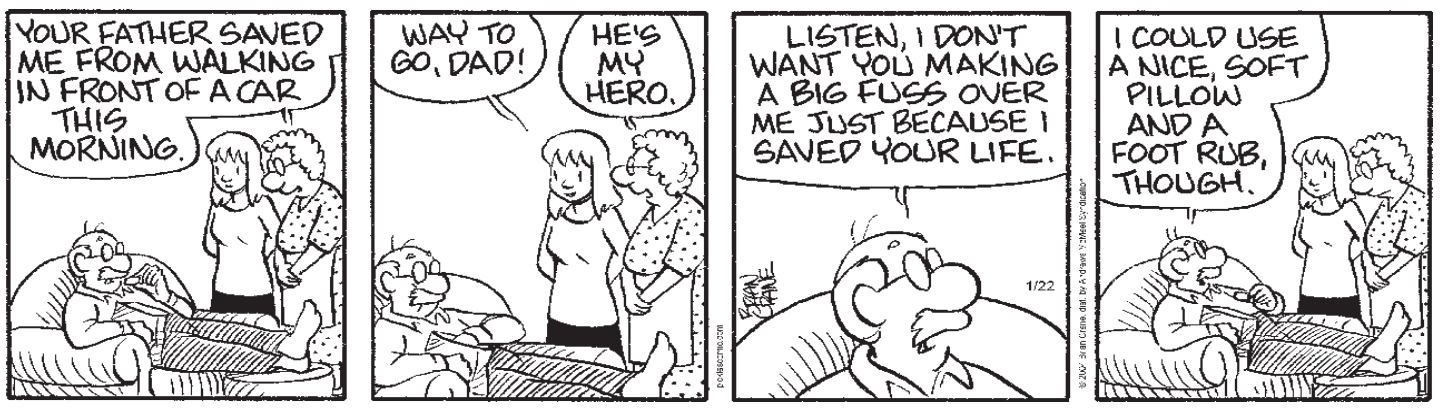
GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

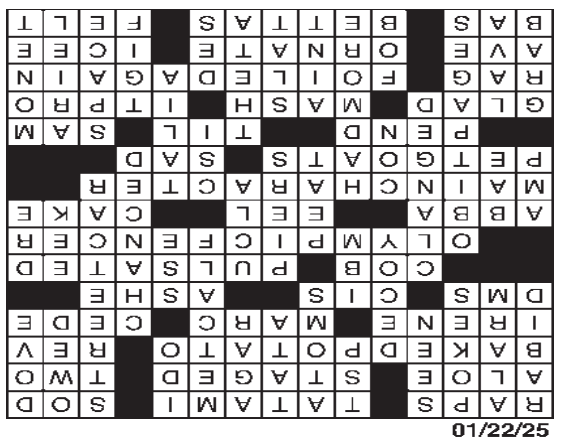
ACROSS

1 Saweetie songs
5 Japanese mat
11 Turf
14 Burn application
15 Preplanned, as some viral videos
16 Duo
17 "Another layer of wrapping before I'm cooked!?"
19 Gun, as an engine
20 "Fame" singer Cara
21 Designer Jacobs
22 Give over
23 Private convos
24 Trans- opposite
26 Queens stadium eponym
28 Corn core
29 Throbbed
33 "Another touch point for my opponent!?"
35 "Mamma Mia" group
37 Fish used as currency in medieval England
38 Soap unit
39 "Another literary figure whose qualities contrast my own!?"
44 Kids playing in the backyard?
45 Blue
46 Remain unsettled
47 Up to, briefly
48 "Stay With Me" singer Smith
51 Hefty alternative
53 Bangers partner
56 Computer expert, briefly
58 Untrustworthy paper
59 "Another plan thwarted!," or another way to phrase three clues in this puzzle?
61 Wide st.
62 Flowery, as prose
63 Frozen drink with a domed lid
64 Some degs.
65 Aquarium fighters
66 Muppet material

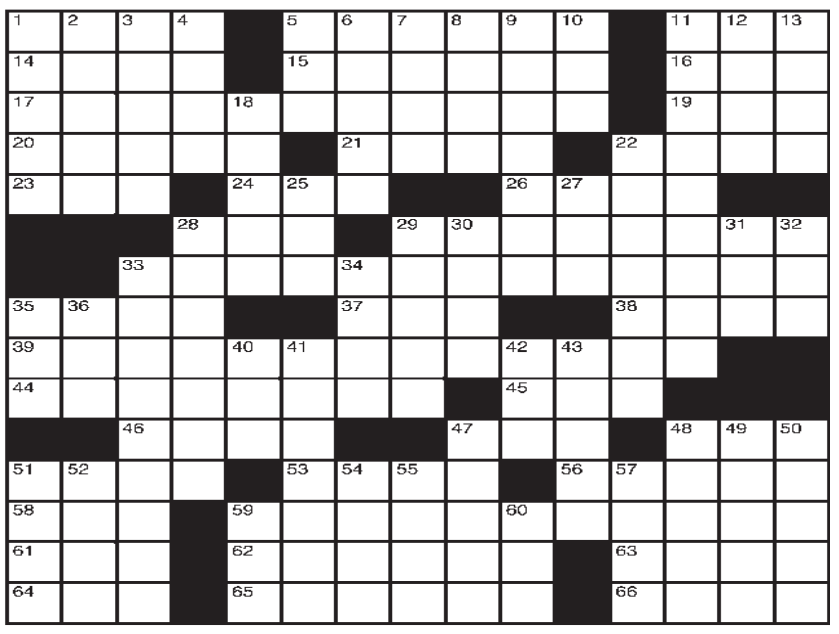
DOWN

1 Overzealous
2 First smartphone alert of the day, for many
3 Jabs
4 "I feel __"
5 Baking amt.
6 Small matters?
7 "Toodles!"
8 Food thickener
9 "Lady Bird" Oscar nominee Laurie
10 Words one utters in an altar-ed state?
11 Transport largely replaced by light rail
12 Outstanding
13 Peace sign
18 Diversionary tactic
22 Risked
25 ThinkPad maker before Lenovo
27 NNW opposite
28 Sounded like heavy metal?
29 Fishing spots
30 Sch. based in Westwood
31 "A mouse!"
32 Beats by __
33 Newspaper section with notable passages?
34 Bog makeup
35 Source of feedback for a guitarist?
36 Hon
40 Mark against
41 Went for seconds
42 Forensic drama with regional spinoffs
43 Actress Shire
47 Eta follower
48 Elbow room
49 Mermaid played by Halle Bailey
50 "Water Lilies" painter
51 Snag
52 Floor material, in a children's game
54 Casual contraction
55 Thin strip
57 "Yay, the weekend!" letters
59 Car remote
60 __ Plaines, Illinois

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



01/22/25



By Parker Higgins
(c)2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

01/22/25

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

						9		
		8		6	2			7
2		6	7		1	4		
		2		8				3
	8			7			9	
5				3		6		
		1	4		6	7		2
4			8	2		1		
		7						

1/22

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SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repitition.

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

4	5	8	3	1	9	7	2	6
9	6	1	7	2	8	3	5	4
2	3	7	6	5	4	1	9	8
8	7	6	4	3	2	9	1	5
1	9	2	5	7	6	4	8	3
5	4	3	9	8	1	2	6	7
6	2	9	1	4	3	8	7	2
3	1	4	2	6	7	5	4	9
7	8	5	8	9	5	6	3	1

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ALA♥SKA

Wiarz ©2025 Paul Gelens

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Love in a Cold Climate

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE' (FILM) **Solution: 9 letters**

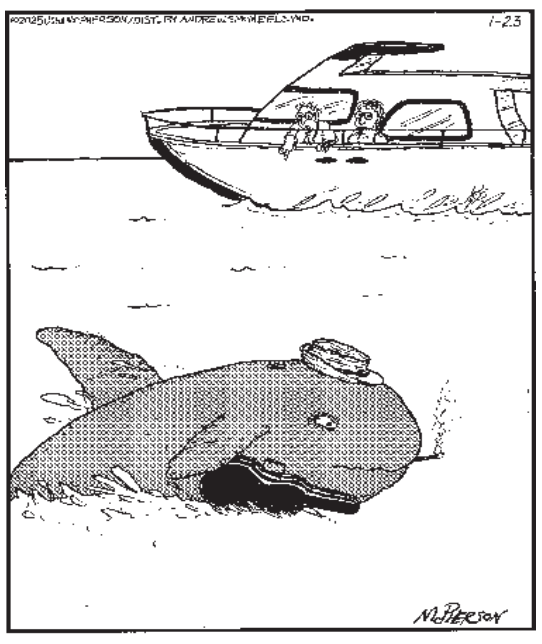
C A T H E R I N E G N E V E R
H W S C A R Y S H A R K A O A
R I A H N E E R G A E E R S R
Y L I M A F A N T A S Y T S A
P L T D A F O E T U M R S T H
R E I E A L G O O O I D Y S O
E M M L L R N H N D E E N I R
D I B O Z O K I O L W T N C T
Y C U R J T C J I S E N A R E
R H R E A A E A C E T U D O G
E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

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Artsy, Astrid, Bio-exorcists, Bob, Catherine, Clive, Creepy, Dafoe, Danny, Dark, Dead, Deetz, Delia, Delores, Family, Fantasy, Ghost, Green Hair, Haunted, Home, House, Jane, Jenna, Jeremy, Keaton, Lydia, Michael, Monica, Nightmare, O'Hara, Olga, Ortega, Place, Revenge, Rory, Ryder, Scary, Shark, Tim Burton, Willem, Winona, Winter, Wolf Jackson

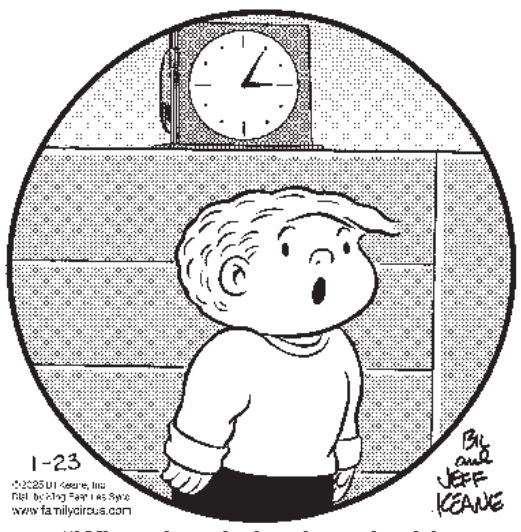
TODAY'S ANSWER: Halloween

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



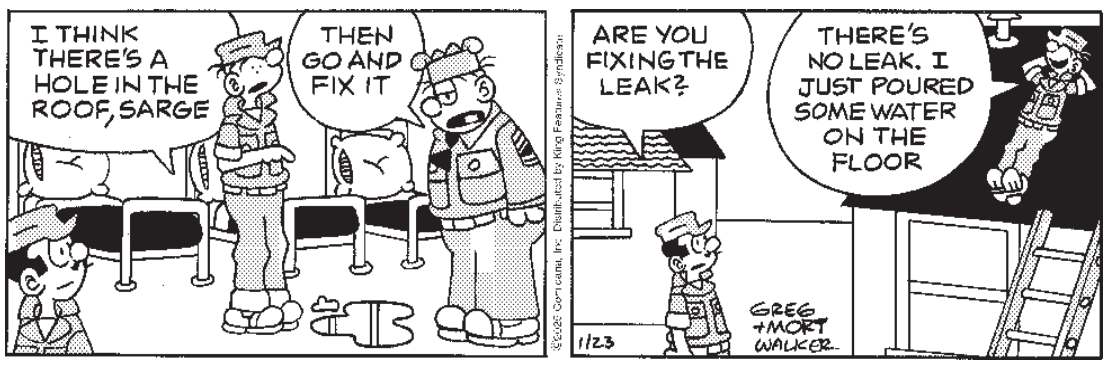
"Denise, look! It's a killer whale!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"What time is it when the big hand's on a dot and the little hand's on a line?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



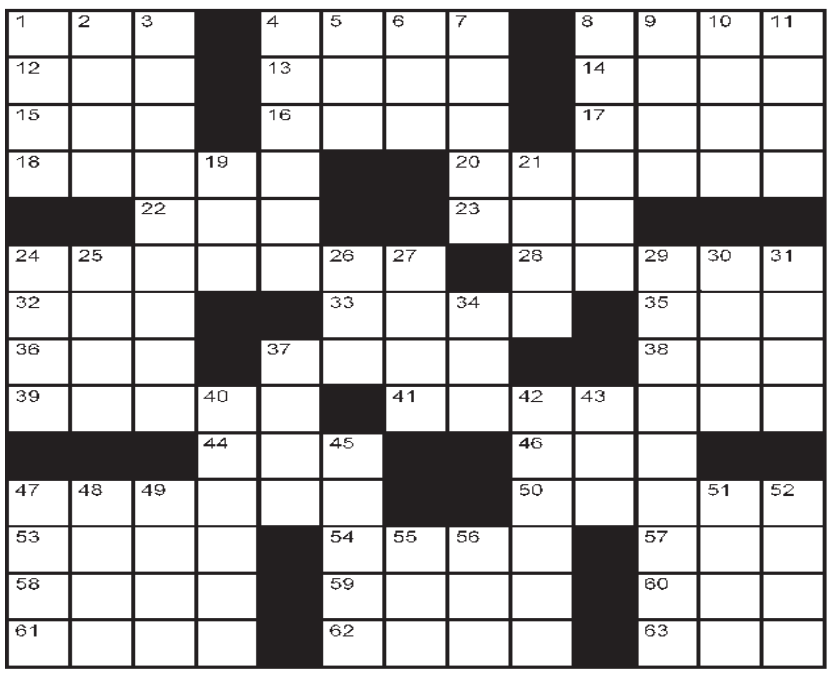
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Venomous snake
4 Pal
8 Time of year
12 Lass
13 Suffer defeat
14 — vera
15 — before beauty
16 October birthstone
17 Muse number
18 Tears
20 Pancake mixture
22 Fasten
23 State near Miss.
24 Revolving pin
28 Cry of surrender
32 Magical being
33 Cheese variety
35 Actor — Linden
36 — de parfum
37 Line of symmetry
38 High card
39 Supporting structure
41 Statement in math
44 Dove's cry
46 — soda
47 Impassioned
50 Glide over ice
53 Stew meat
54 Round dance
57 Done — — turn
58 — — time
59 Online auction site
60 — poetica
61 Chair
62 Splits
63 After deductions

DOWN

1 Food thickener
2 Wise
3 Abundant
4 Sign on a shop door
5 Jump
6 Place near Can.
7 — toast
8 Game also called "Sevens"
9 Dismounted
10 — Star State
11 Lascivious look
19 Racket
21 Former student, for short
24 Ooze
25 Make music
26 "Superman" villain — Luthor
27 Amend
29 Trickster
30 Openwork fabric
31 Grammar sch.
34 Powder remains
37 Soon
40 Big cat
42 Compositions
43 Hard wood
45 Different
47 Rara —
48 Actress — Russo
49 Actor — Carvey
51 Shredded
52 Bridge seat
55 — -Wan Kenobi
56 Knock



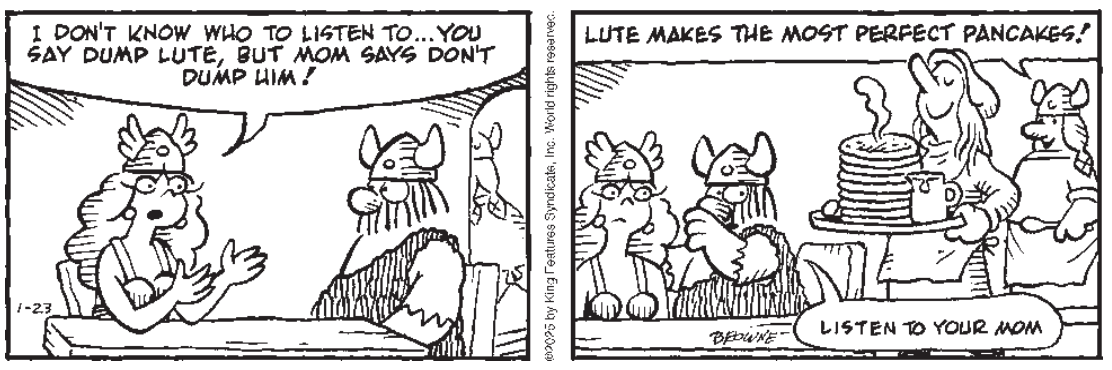
1-23

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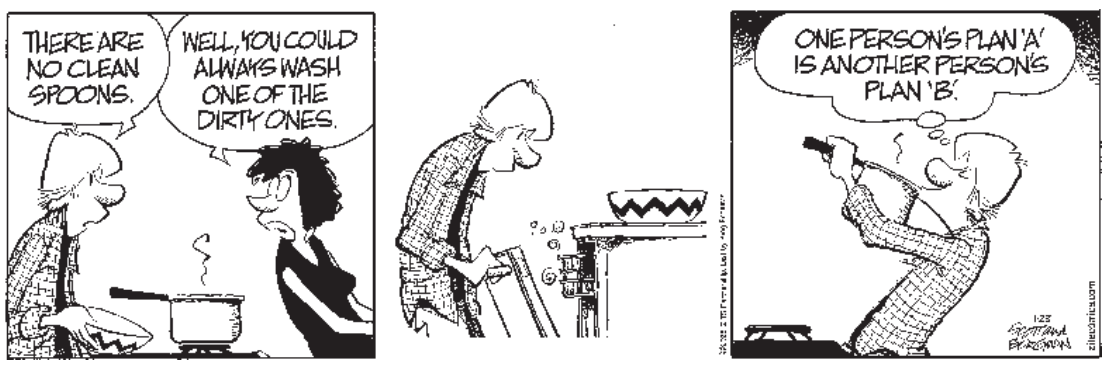
TODAY'S SOLUTION:



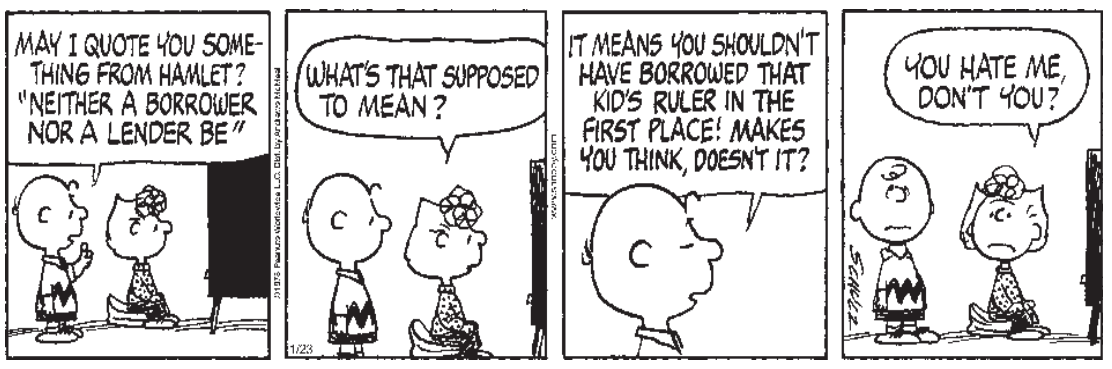
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



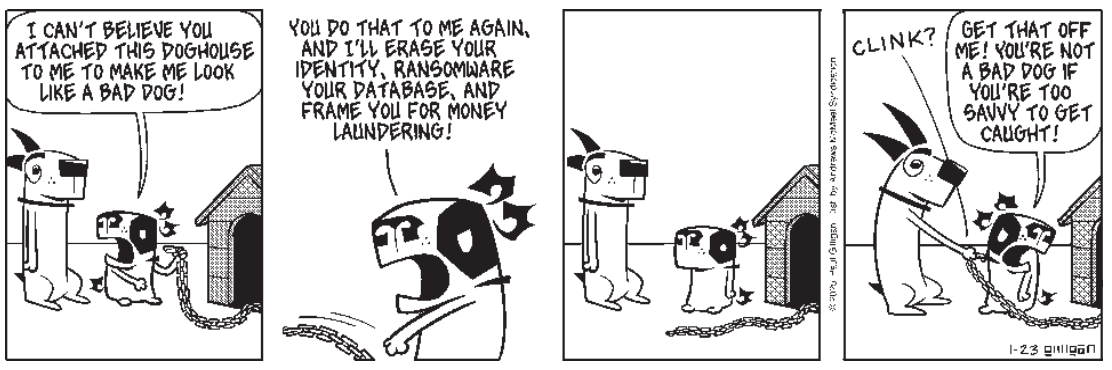
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



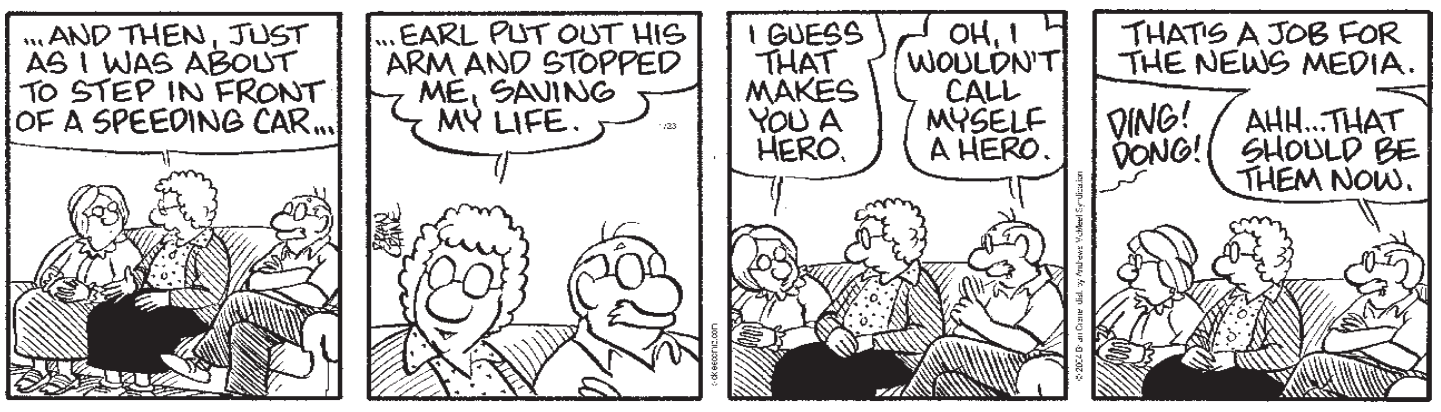
GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CELLOPHANE — **Solution: 7 letters**

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

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Bags, Bakery, Cellulose, Colors, Compost, Crinkly, Crisp, Decorate, Durable, Environment, Film, Filter, Flexible, Flower, Fridge, Gift Basket, Gold, Holiday, Iridescent, Light, Meat, Membrane, Natural, Oils, Package, Permeability, Polymer, Preserve, Roll, Shelf Life, Shiny, Sleek, Soft, Strong, Treats, Vapor, Viscose, Waterproof

TODAY'S ANSWER: Dessert

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

	8			7	5			9
4	9		8	3		5		
	7			9	6			1
	3			2				
1	5						2	7
				5			6	
5			3	1			8	
		8		4	9		5	3
9			5	8			1	

1/23

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

12:00 BIRTH
12:01 BIRTH
12:02 BIRTH

Whatzit ©2025 Paul Sollors

SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repitition.

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

2	1	6	7	8	5	3	4	9
3	5	7	1	4	9	6	8	2
4	8	9	2	1	3	7	5	6
8	6	4	3	5	1	9	2	7
7	2	3	8	6	9	4	1	5
5	9	1	4	2	7	8	3	6
9	3	2	5	7	6	1	8	4
6	4	5	9	3	8	2	7	1
1	7	8	6	9	2	5	3	4

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

There's one born every minute

OBITUARIES

Patricia "Knight" "Trisha" Hall

Patricia Knight "Trisha" Hall, 76, of Albany, GA, passed away Sunday, January 19, 2025 at Lake Blackshear, GA. A memorial service will be held Friday at 11:00 am at The First Baptist Church of Albany. Dr. William E. "Butch" Knight will officiate.

Trisha was born in Albany, GA on November 18, 1948 to the late James E. and Beatrice Knight. She was a lifelong resident of Albany and graduated from Albany High School in 1966. Trisha graduated from Albany Junior College and worked in Administration with Oak Tree Children Center DCSS for thirty-seven years, retiring in 2022.

Trisha loved the Lord, being a very active member of The First Baptist Church of Albany, and bible study and fellowship with the Adult 7 Sunday School Class. She loved her friends, making children happy at school, going to the beach and lake, walking and hula hooping, and working in the yard. She especially loved Tommy and her three sons, her daughters-in-law and grandchildren, all the rest of her big family, and her loyal protector, Carlee. Trisha also loved her family traditions including coffee every morning with the Golden Girls at Mema's, breakfast with Dianne and Don on Tuesdays, and laughing with the Lunch Bunch on Friday's.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy Hall of Albany, GA, her sons, Chris (Amber) Hall of Albany, GA and Jason Hall both of Albany, GA and Chad (Ashley) Hall of Marietta, GA, her siblings, Diane (Cecil) Fowler of Albany, GA and Don (Shelia) Knight of Lake Blackshear, GA), her grandchildren, Knox Hall of Albany, GA, Eady Hall of Athens, GA, Fletcher Hall of Albany, GA and Isla Hall and Townes Hall both of Marietta, GA, nieces and nephews, Celia (Jimbo) Boykin of Jesup, GA, Manday Mandy (Lawson) Swan of Alpharetta, GA, Brent Fowler of Lee County, GA, Brent (Noel Nicole) Hall of Cumming, GA and Angela Silvi and Allison (Patrick) Coleman all of Jacksonville, AR.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at their residence.

Those desiring may make memorials in memory of Trisha to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD, 21741or to The First Baptist Church of Albany, GA, 145 Oakland Parkway, Leesburg, GA, 31763.

To sign our online registry, or to send condolences to the family, you may visit Mathews' website at www.mathewsfuneralhome.com.



Gysilla "(Tilla)" Stuckey (Coker)

Gysilla "Tilla" Coker Stuckey, 99, of Albany, GA passed away Friday, January 17, 2025. Graveside funeral services will be conducted Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) at the Dothan City Cemetery, Dothan, AL. Rev. Charles Jones will officiate.

She was a member of Central Baptist Church in Albany, GA and a member of the Etta Edwards Sunday School Class.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hosea Coker and Hattie Mae Watson, her husband, Alex Talmadge Stuckey and a son, Donald L. Stuckey.

Survivors include her children, Gayle S. Womble, Albany, GA, Kenneth Stuckey (Barbara), Pearl, MS, Ray D. Stuckey (Londa), Lakewood Ranch, FL, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. Frank "Bucky" Henderson TurpinIII

Dr. Frank "Bucky" Turpin III, age 78 ended a 26-year battle with heart disease on Sunday, January 19, 2025. He was at peace, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Americus, GA on April 4, 1946. He was the son of the late Frank Henderson Turpin, Jr. and the late Sarah Wise Turpin. Bucky spent his childhood in Americus and established a reputation for being tenacious, fun-loving, and a jokester. His incredible work ethic led to a scholarship to play football at Clemson University and optometry school in Chicago. Bucky was passionate about football and visiting his Clemson teammates for games and continued to visit into his late seventies. He was a linebacker for the first-ever back-to-back ACC championship teams.

He led the fight and was instrumental in passing the Glaucoma Bill of 1992, expanding optometric scope for optometrists to use and prescribe medications for their patients. He was voted Optometrist of the Year in Georgia. He showed that one person can make a difference as he traveled across the state, meeting with colleagues to engage them and encourage their involvement. His enthusiasm was contagious.

He was passionate about sports, genealogy, history, antiquing with his family, and playing hide-and-seek with his grandkids. He loved fishing, landscaping, and gardening, particularly camellias and azaleas.

After his diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure, giving him only a few years to live, he needed a 'project' for his heart and mind. Bucky decided to purchase a bank that closed during the Great Depression. Along with his son, they tore down the bank by hand and rebuilt it in their backyard. He transformed it into a family museum to showcase his antiques and collectibles.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Luke Turpin of Albany; a son and daughter-in-law, Frank "Beau" Henderson Turpin IV (Carrie) of Atlanta and a daughter and son-in-law, Alexa Turpin Fowler (Dustin) of Watkinsville, GA. Frank is also survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Jean Turpin Thurston (Eugene) Goode, VA; a brother and sister-in-law, Fred Singer Turpin (Linda) of Albany, GA, a brother-in-law, Fielding Walker and four grandchildren, Sarah Banks Fowler, Adley Allen Fowler, Emily Turpin and Daniel Turpin.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, January 25th at Aldridge Funeral & Cremation Services in Americus from 12:00 - 1:45pm followed by a graveside service at Oak Grove Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

The Turpin's are accepting family and friends Friday night from 5-9pm and Saturday after service at 702 Tallahassee Road in Albany.

In addition to his parents, Frank was Preceded in death by a sister, Sally Turpin Walker.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to the following

https://shop.alivingtribute.org/products/plant-a-tree-in-honor

https://shop.arborday.org/trees-in-memory

https://www.heart.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give?sc_camp=74BDCAFF54BB-490B8E37C664AE727101

To sign the online guest book and share your condolences with the family, please visit aldridgefuneralservices.com. Aldridge Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of the arrangements.

"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter."

— Nicolas Chamfort

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE OF LIQUOR BEER & WINE LICENSE

I, Hitendra Veean, CEO of Simple Spirits Inc. trading as Tate Liquor's at 2424 Sylvester Rd. Albany Georgia 31705, give notice that I have applied for an alcohol license location change.
Albany Herald
Run Dates:
January
18, 21 & 23

Ga. lawmakers to debate pros and cons of data centers

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – Business leaders are gearing up to defend the growing proliferation of power-hungry data centers in Georgia from an expected pushback in the General Assembly by critics worried about the industry's impact on electric rates.

Gov. Brian Kemp vetoed a bill the legislature passed last year that would have temporarily suspended a state sales tax exemption aimed at attracting data centers to Georgia.

Republican legislative leaders had supported House Bill 1192, arguing the rapid growth of data centers is putting a strain on the state's energy grid.

"They put an enormous demand on electric and water resources," energy lawyer Bobby Baker, a former member of the Georgia Public Service Commission, said. "If these data centers come in, you're taking an enormous amount of electricity that could power a manufacturing plant that creates a lot more jobs and eliminating that option. It's going to hurt Georgia."



Chris Clark

But Chris Clark, president and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, which urged Kemp to veto the bill, said data centers are springing up in Georgia and elsewhere because people want them. The latest example is an application submitted Thursday for a proposed 2.5 million-square-foot data center complex in Newton County occupying nine buildings.

"These data centers are a response to consumer demand," Clark said.

Georgia House Speaker Jon Burns announced earlier this month the creation of a special committee to develop a resource management plan for the state that will take into account the anticipated effects of the growing demand for energy and water on supplies. While Burns said the panel will not specifically target data centers, they are likely to occupy a good deal of its time.

"We haven't had a state energy plan since 2006," Clark said. "It's a smart move."

State Rep. Brad Thomas, R-Holly Springs, who will chair the committee, said its work will continue after the General Assembly adjourns the 2025 session in early April.

"We'll do the bulk of our work in the off-season," he said. "We can't just go in and take a bite at such an important piece of our economy in nine weeks."

Baker said the tax incentives last year's legislation was seeking to suspend are neither necessary nor justified. He and other critics of data centers say they don't provide the economic impact to justify offering tax breaks.

"They create a handful of jobs," he said. "There's no benefit to Georgia."

Baker also argued that the volume discounts such large users of electricity get drive up electric rates for residential and small business customers, which have soared by 37% in the last two years.

Georgia Farm Bureau donates $20,000 to Feeding Georgia

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MACON – For the 14th straight year, Georgia Farm Bureau is supporting Feeding Georgia by making a financial donation.

Funds for the $20,000 donation were raised through Farm Bureau's Harvest for All campaign, which included donations from county Farm Bureaus and the organization's state office. The Harvest for All campaign is coordinated by GFB's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

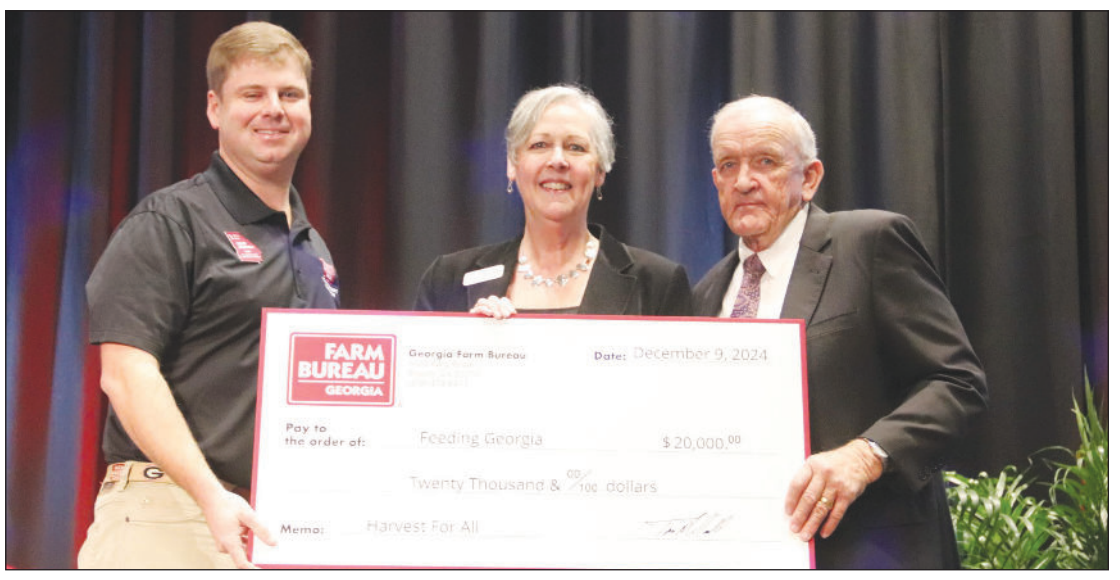


Photo courtesy of Georgia Farm Bureau

2024 Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Chairman Cleve Jackson, left, and GFB President Tom McCall, right, present a $20,000 Harvest for All donation to Feeding Georgia Executive Director Danah Craft during the GFB Convention.

"Georgia Farm Bureau takes pride in serving communities around the state," agency President Tom McCall said. "Our Harvest for All donation is one way we give back to our communities by providing proper nutrition for those who are struggling. We are happy and proud to support Feeding Georgia and its programs."

Monetary donations to Feeding Georgia help offset costs associated with collecting and distributing donated food, and they allow the organization to purchase food items to round out a nutritional diet.

McCall and GFB YF&R Committee Chairman Cleve Jackson presented the check to Feeding Georgia Executive Director Danah Craft.

The Young Farmers & Ranchers Harvest for All Program provides funding that enables food banks to purchase food like protein, fruits and vegetables to round out their offerings to families. This means that they can provide all the food components necessary for a healthy meal.

"We are grateful to the YF&R and the entire Georgia Farm Bureau family for this generous contribution and their ongoing commitment to helping food insecure neighbors in their communities," Craft said. "The donation will be split equally between the seven Feeding America food banks serving Georgia's 159 counties."

Craft said the Feeding America food banks in Georgia distribute more than 173 million meals each year through a community-based network of 2,400 pantries. Feeding Georgia is a partner state association of Feeding America.

Feeding America says each dollar given helps provide 10 meals for families facing hunger, meaning GFB's donation makes approximately 200,000 meals possible.

According to the 2023 Georgia Hunger Study commissioned by the Georgia Department of Human Services and conducted by the University of Georgia, 60% of Georgians who use food banks are employed but do not make enough money to pay for all their essential needs. Often, they are forced to choose between buying food and paying for utilities, transportation, medicine or housing.

Of Georgians who turn to food banks for nutrition, 12.2% are veterans or current military members and 42.8% have some level of college education. Another 35.2% have completed high school or earned a GED.

Georgia Farm Bureau's Harvest for All donation will have a statewide impact. Feeding Georgia distributes the funds to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia in Savannah, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank (Food Bank of Northwest Georgia), Feeding the Valley in Columbus, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia in Athens, Golden Harvest in Augusta, the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank in Macon and Second Harvest of South Georgia in Valdosta.

Since 2004, GFB has coordinated annual Harvest for All campaigns through which GFB members across the state have donated about 49,000 pounds of staple food items and more than $300,000 in cash donations distributed to the food banks located throughout Georgia affiliated with Feeding America.

New Aspire Clubhouse brings activities, support for Worth Co. children



Photos by Alan Mauldin
Left: Officials from Sylvester and Worth County participated with Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services during a Friday ribbon cutting at the new Clubhouse in Sylvester. The Clubhouse will provide activities and services for children ages 6 through 15. Bottom: Sylvester Mayor Harold Proctor, left, and Devin Williams, community support individual at the Dougherty County Aspire Clubhouse, have a conversation prior to the ribbon cutting for the new Clubhouse facility in Worth County.

Alan Mauldin
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SYLVESTER – Friday was a joyous day for Worth County with the opening of a new facility that will support children with mental health and behavioral health issues.

The ribbon-cutting at the new Clubhouse, operated by Albany-based Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services, also served as the facility's grand opening.

The Clubhouse, located at 502 Ashburn Highway, has picked up 17 participants during the soft opening over the past few weeks, and Aspire officials say they hope that number will grow. In addition, Aspire staff are working with five children in the Worth County School System.

The new Clubhouse is the fourth to open in the eight counties served by the agency, joining those in Dougherty, Early and Lee counties.

For Sylvester Mayor Harold Proctor, the grand opening was his first time inside, but he said he thinks it will be a positive development.

"I've ridden by the building several times," he said during remarks prior to the ceremony. "I said it had to be something awesome. This is much-needed. Thank you for investing in our city."

Afterward, Proctor told a Herald reporter that he is eager to visit the Albany Clubhouse to see how the program works.

"I'm excited to see one that's up and running and been working for a while," he said. "We are willing to help in any way that we can."



The Sylvester Clubhouse will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, with some after-hours programming, and its staff of three will serve children ages 6 through 15.

MLK CLASSIC

Westover wins battle with Bible Baptist

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Westover Patriots narrowly escaped with a victory Monday at the MLK Classic at Monroe, holding off the Bible Baptist Wolves from Statesboro for a 41-40 win. The Wolves missed several last-second attempts as the clock expired, allowing the Patriots to improve their season record to 13-4. Westover has now won 11 of its last 12 games.

Neither team started strong, but Westover head coach Dallis Smith sent in his second group of five players to spark the offense. Back-to-back three-pointers followed by a steal and slam dunk from Jalen Holmes gave the Patriots a 13-5 lead.

The Wolves, however, responded with a rally, tying the game at 19-19 by halftime and opening the third quarter with two quick baskets to take a 23-19 lead.

Westover regained momentum midway through the third when sophomore Tyler Alls hit a three-pointer to reclaim the lead. Tykwavious Johnson added a powerful dunk, and Holmes drained another three-pointer. Baskets from Johnson and Alls extended the Patriots' advantage to 33-25.

Bible Baptist refused to back down. Keith Johnson hit three consecutive baskets, and teammate Eardjy Acelorme slammed in a dunk to tie the game at 38-

SEE **WESTOVER**, 10A



Westover's Jalen Holmes slams in two points for the Patriots during Monday's MLK Classic game against Bible Baptist of Statesboro. Holmes led the Patriots with 11 points in Westover's 41-40 win.

Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County teams take two victories

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Lee County High School basketball teams claimed victories Monday during the MLK Classic at Monroe High School in Albany. The Lady Trojans opened the event with a dominant 51-27 win over Bainbridge, while the Trojans secured a 57-40 victory over Valdosta. The wins improved the Lady Trojans' record to 14-6 and the boys' record to 13-5.

The Lady Trojans surged to a 22-9 lead in the second quarter, but Bainbridge cut into the deficit with a pair of three-pointers before halftime, making it 24-15 at the break.

Taliyah Porter scored two quick baskets to open the third quarter, but Lee County's

SEE **VICTORIES**, 10A

No. 3-ranked Randolph-Clay defeats Bainbridge with dominant defense

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The No. 3-ranked Randolph-Clay Red Devils (16-2), fresh off a Saturday night win over region rival Calhoun County, overcame a slow start in their MLK Classic matchup against Bainbridge on Monday. With a dominant defensive effort in the second half, the Red Devils secured a 52-40 victory at Monroe High School in Albany.

Neither team found much offensive rhythm early, and Bainbridge held a 9-3 lead after the first quarter. By halftime, the Bearcats were up 21-13, while Randolph-Clay struggled from the free-throw line, missing all six of their first-half attempts.

Momentum shifted quickly in the third quarter when Adrain Price hit a three-pointer from the top of the key to start the scoring. Later in the period, Price nailed another three from the corner in front of the Randolph-Clay bench, giving the Red Devils their first lead of the game.

Heading into the fourth quarter with a slim 32-30 advantage, Randolph-Clay took control. Tyrion Smith sparked a 14-2 run with back-to-back steals and layups, setting the tone for the final stretch. Jes'Us Daniels capped the run with a three-pointer and dominated the fourth quarter, scoring 12 of his game-high 18 points.

Price and Jaleen Gibson added 12 points each to round out the Red Devils' scoring.

The Red Devils will host Mitchell County Friday night and Quitman County Saturday night.

CELEBRATING TALENT



Photo by Tony Walsh/UGAAA

Olympic legend Simone Biles poses with the University of Georgia gymnastics team after Friday night's home meet in Athens. Biles came to Athens to show support for her longtime coach, Cécile Canqueteau-Landi, who is now co-head coach for the GymDogs.

Olympic legend Simone Biles visits GymDogs; Georgia women's tennis team opens season with win over Tech

By John Frierson
UGAAA

It's not every day that a living legend, someone who has fundamentally elevated and altered what's possible in their sport, strolls past you in a sold-out Stegeman Coliseum. But gymnast Simone Biles was there on Friday night, on hand at the Steg to support her longtime coach, Cécile Canqueteau-Landi, who was making her home debut as co-head coach of the Georgia gymnastics team.

Biles, an 11-time Olympic medalist — seven of them gold — and the 2024 Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year, was at the GymDogs' meet against Boise State alongside her husband, Jonathan Owens, a safety with the Chicago Bears. Seated next to them was 1996 Olympic all-around gold medalist Lilia Podkopayeva of Ukraine. Biles was the all-around champion in 2016 and 2024.

But they were far from the only current or former standout athletes at the Steg or at Georgia's athletic facilities on Friday. While the gymnasts were getting started in the coliseum, over at the Lindsey Hopkins Indoor Tennis Facility the top-ranked Georgia women's tennis team was opening its season with a 4-0 win over Georgia Tech in front of a large, spirited crowd.

The Bulldogs are loaded with talent, including fall NCAA singles champion Dasha Vidmanova, last spring's NCAA singles runner-up, Anastasiia Lopata, and last spring's NCAA doubles champions, Vidmanova and Aysegul Mert. Last spring, Georgia shared the SEC regular-season title with Texas A&M, then beat the Aggies in the finals of the SEC tournament. The Bulldogs also reached the finals of the NCAA team event, falling to A&M.

Georgia's women's tennis has spent more time ranked in the top 10 over the past 20 years than perhaps any other Bulldog program. First under Jeff Wallace and now second-year coach Drake Bernstein, the Bulldogs keep excelling and reloading. Except this year, they didn't have to reload at all — all of their top players are back from 2024 and they even added some talent, including Sofia Rojas, a transfer from Oklahoma State.

Rojas made her Georgia debut Friday, winning 6-0 at No. 2 doubles with

SEE **TALENT**, 10A

> "The meet went by fast. It was loud, but it was awesome. It carried us throughout the meet and really helped the whole team. It was a really fun night. I can't wait for the next one."
>
> — Cécile Canqueteau-Landi on her debut meet as Georgia GymDogs co-head coach

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ohio State holds off Notre Dame

Field Level Media

ATLANTA — Quinshon Judkins had two rushing touchdowns and one receiving score and quarterback Will Howard had a near-perfect first half as No. 8 seed Ohio State held off No. 7 seed Notre Dame 34-23 in the College Football Playoff championship game on Monday.

The Buckeyes (14-2) led 31-7 in the third quarter before Notre Dame (14-2) rallied on TD receptions of 34 and 30 by Jaden Greathouse and a pair of two-point conversions to make it 31-23 with 4:15 left in the game.

An Ohio State third-and-11 pass reception of 56 yards to Jeremiah Smith put the ball at the Notre Dame 10 with 2:29 to go, and Jayden Fielding made a clinching 33-yard field goal with 26 seconds left.

Howard was 17 of 21 for 231 yards and two

SEE **CHAMPIONS**, 10A



Photo courtesy of Field Level Media

Ohio State quarterback Will Howard completed 17 of 21 passes with two touchdowns in the first half of Monday night's National Championship game against Notre Dame. The Buckeyes built an early lead and held off the Irisih to take home the trophy.

Will Howard shines, carries team to title

Field Level Media

All Ohio State quarterback Will Howard ever wanted was a chance to show off his talents.

The spotlight was all his on Monday night.

Howard built off a record-breaking first half to complete 17 of 21 passes for 231 yards and two touchdowns, lifting the Buckeyes to a 34-23 victory over Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff title game in Atlanta.

It was after a 56-yard completion to Jeremiah Smith with 2:38 left in the game that reality seemed to set in for Howard, who took some time to showboat a bit by throwing his arms up while

SEE **HOWARD**, 10A

Monroe takes big wins in annual MLK Classic on Monday

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Monroe basketball teams cruised to decisive victories Monday during the annual MLK Classic on their home court. The Lady Nadas dominated Fitzgerald 66-35, while the Golden Tornadoes rolled over New Faith Christian Academy of Riverdale 76-37. The Monroe girls improved to 14-5, and the boys extended their strong run to 11-8, having won 10 of their last 12 games.

In the girls' game, Fitzgerald opened with a three-pointer, but Monroe's Kei'Aundria Acree quickly answered, scoring seven consecutive points to help the Lady Nadas take a 13-6 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Monroe pushed the lead to 19-6 before Fitzgerald went on a 9-0 run to close the gap to 19-15. After a timeout called by head coach Jennifer Acree, the Lady Nadas regained control, scoring 11 straight points. Senior Jocelyn Thomas knocked down a three-pointer, and Acree followed with a steal and layup to send Monroe into halftime with a 30-15 advantage.

In the second half, Monroe's three-point specialist, Taylor McKinzy, found her rhythm. After scoring just four points in the first half, McKinzy exploded for 20 points in the second, helping the Lady Nadas pull away decisively.

Acree delivered a standout performance with 33 points, 14 rebounds, six assists and four blocks. McKinzy finished with 24 points and five steals.

In the boys' game, 10 Monroe players contributed to the scoring as the Golden Tornadoes built a commanding 39-18 halftime lead and never looked back. Nehemiah Tinch led the way with 24 points, and Lammond Seadrow added 10.

Monroe's Tuesday night game against Dougherty was postponed due to weather and rescheduled for Feb. 1. The Golden Tornadoes will host Cairo on Friday and Terrell County on Saturday in Albany.



Monroe's Kie'Aundria Acree scored 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the Monroe girls to a big win over Fitzgerald Monday in the MLK Classic in Albany.

Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

MOVING THE CHAINS

Key takeaways from CFP National Championship game ... and more

By Scott Ludwig
MagicLudwig1@gmail.com

On the eve of the College Football Playoff National Championship game in Atlanta, I found an interesting dichotomy between the coaches of the two teams competing: Ryan Day of Ohio State and Marcus Freeman of Notre Dame.

The last time the Buckeyes won the National Championship, Urban Meyer was their head coach, and Ryan Day was the offensive coordinator at Boston College. The last time the Fighting Irish won the big game, Lou Holtz was their coach ... and Marcus Freeman was barely 3 years old.



Scott Ludwig

When *Meyer left Ohio State in 2018, his offensive coordinator, Ryan Day, was left holding the keys to the Buckeye Nation. When Notre Dame head coach departed South Bend in 2021 for the greener pastures of Baton Rouge, Marcus Freeman, his defensive coordinator, was left holding the bag. Freeman went winless in his first three games as coach, none more alarming than a home field loss to Marshall.

*It's always been difficult to pin down exactly why Urban Meyer left one job or another.

It could have been any number of things: he resigned, he was forced out, he was ill, he was burned out, he wanted more family time, he had another job lined up, he was going to join the circus ...

Meyer has always had such a hard time keeping his stories straight, he should have considered running for public office.

Based on their respective levels of experience and gridiron maturity, the outcome of Day and Freeman's head-to-head encounter seemed pretty obvious, right? Well, duh.

***

For the fourth consecutive time in four playoff games, Ohio State scored a touchdown on its first possession — only it didn't come until the second quarter, because a 9-minute-and-45-second, 75-yard game-opening drive by Notre Dame took up most of the first. The Buckeyes followed up their first score with two more second quarter touchdowns to take a 21-7 lead into halftime.

With 12:46 left in the third quarter, Ohio State built its lead to 31-7, at which point the Buckeyes hit the snooze button: wake us when the confetti starts falling. Bad choice, as their lead shrunk to 31-15 by the end of the period, thanks to a Notre Dame touchdown and two-point conversion.

In the fourth quarter, Notre Dame scored another touchdown and followed it with a second two-point conversion (they made them both look easy, incidentally) to cut Ohio State's lead to 31-23.

That's when the Buckeyes decided to wake up and make one final, time-consuming drive that forced Notre Dame to exhaust their timeouts. The drive resulted in a 34-yard field goal and an 11-point lead with 26 seconds left in the game.

Which is how it ended: Ohio State — 34, Notre Dame — 23.

***

Let's take a look at how the 12-team playoff "experiment" has worked out.

In round one, all of the higher-seeded teams won (i.e. the teams playing on their home turf won). Therefore, things went according to plan: i.e. the teams that were supposed to win advanced.

In the round two quarterfinals, all of the teams winning in the first round, who were now the lower-seeded teams, won again. In this case, things did NOT go according to plan, as the teams ranked in the top four in the playoffs, who all had first round byes, were eliminated right out of the gate.

In the semifinals, the two lower-seeded teams won again, also not according to plan. And, in case you missed it, not a single conference champion reached this round. In the final game, the No. 8 team beat the No. 7 team, putting an exclamation point on the fallibility (shortcomings?) of the ranking system.

In no short order, the ranking/seeding system adopted by the playoff committee needs to take a long hard look at their "evidence" before the experiment moves on to its next evolution for the 2025 season — because the teams aren't following the script. Also take note that, for whatever reason, television ratings for the playoffs are down this season.

And while the committee is at it, they might want to consider the possibility of discontinuing the conference championship games. Do we really need to allow "automatic qualifiers" for the playoffs, as is the case in college basketball? Take a look at what happened this year: Clemson upset SMU in the ACC championship game and received an automatic berth in the playoffs, thereby kicking more deserving teams — like Alabama and Miami — to the curb.

And remember, Notre Dame never has to play in one.

In a press conference leading up to their semifinal game against the Fighting Irish, Penn State coach James Franklin commented, "It's about representing our schools and our conferences," before correcting himself with "or our conference, excuse me."

Although Franklin didn't mean it as a cheap shot against Notre Dame, I wouldn't have had a problem with it if he did.

I know it's just my opinion, but I think this season's 12-team format gave college football a black eye. (See: television ratings.)

And with college football already out of control and looking like something out of the wild, wild west, that's really hard to do.

So I'll end with one last opinion, and that is to revert to the old days of picking the two best teams — PERIOD — to play for the national championship. No rankings. No polls. No convoluted strength of schedule formulas. No Rorschach tests. Just a simple eye exam.

Think about it: The powers-that-be have seen the teams in action throughout the season. After three months of action, they should have a pretty good idea which two teams should be competing for the national championship. So just pick them and be done with it.

This year, my personal eye test singled out Ohio State and Texas, who wound up meeting in the semifinals. Yes, I realize neither team even won their conference. And yes, Texas lost to Georgia — twice — and Ohio State lost their two biggest games of the year (Oregon and Michigan). However — and again, it's just my opinion — they were the two best teams in the country.

To the members of the playoff committee: Stop thinking so hard. It's not rocket science.

Scott Ludwig is an Albany Herald columnist, a University of Florida alumnus and an independent author who lives in Senoia. All of his books can be found on Amazon.

From 9A

TALENT

Guillermina Grant, and then clinching the 4-0 win with a straight-set victory at No. 6 singles.

Vidmanova, meanwhile, played like the top-ranked player she is, teaming up with Mert for a 6-1 win at No. 1 doubles before dropping just two games in her match at No. 1 singles.

As women's tennis was wrapping up its shutout, the GymDogs were just getting rolling in the Steg. But before they and the Broncos began the competition, about a dozen young gymnasts from the Athens Clarke Gymnastics Academy performed a routine on the floor, about 20 feet from Biles. For the rest of their lives, they will get to say that they performed in front of maybe the greatest gymnast of all time.

The first 300 children to stop by the kids' zone inside the Steg before the meet got a GymDogs gold medal. And who knows, maybe one of them was inspired by what they saw Friday night to pursue their own Olympic or athletic dreams. There were shining examples of greatness and strength all around them.

Friday night in the Steg wasn't just about the GymDogs competing at home for the first time under Canqueteau-Landi and co-head coach Ryan Roberts; nor was it just a venue for Athens to pay tribute to Biles and her almost endless achievements in her career. Friday was also about the past and the future.

Georgia gymnastics has won 10 NCAA team titles, including five straight from 2005-09 as legendary coach Suzanne Yoculan Leebern wrapped up her extraordinary career. No other Georgia program has 10 team championships. On Friday, the 2005 NCAA title team was honored, along with dozens of former GymDog alumni, including the Olympians.

"The meet went by fast," said Canqueteau-Landi, who last summer led the U.S. women to the gold medal at the Paris Olympics. "It was loud, but it was awesome. It carried us throughout the meet and really helped the whole team.

"It was a really fun night. I can't wait for the next one."

You're not the only one.

From 9A

CHAMPIONS

touchdowns, Smith had five catches for 88 yards and a score, and Judkins rushed for 100 yards on 11 carries.

Ohio State completed a four-game romp through the first 12-team CFP bracket, winning each of its playoff contests by a multi-score margin. The postseason blitz followed a regular-season-ending loss to rival Michigan that led to questions about the job stability of Buckeyes coach Ryan Day.

After recording both a receiving touchdown and a rushing TD in the first half, Judkins ran for 70 yards to the Irish 5 on the second play of the third quarter, the longest run in CFP final history. He then carried it in from the 1 three plays later to make 28-7.

The lead expanded to 31-7 on a 46-yard field goal by Fielding after a Notre Dame fake punt failed.

The Fighting Irish pulled within 31-15 with 3:03 left in the third on a 34-yard reception by Greathouse of a pass from Riley Leonard and a two-point-conversion pass from Leonard to Jeremiyah Love.

The Buckeyes fell behind for the first time in four playoff games when Notre Dame scored on the opening possession, but the Buckeyes responded by scoring on all three of their first-half drives for a 21-7 lead at the break.

Howard set a CFP championship-game record by completing his first 13 passes for 138 yards and was 14 of 15 for 144 and two TDs in the first half.

Leonard capped an 18-play, 75-yard drive with a 1-yard run on Notre Dame's first drive. He had nine carries for 34 yards in the series.

Ohio State then had scoring drives of 75, 76 and 80 yards using a combined 33 plays and 16:37 of possession.

Leonard wound up 20 of 29 for 255 yards, and Greathouse made six catches for 128 yards and the two scores.

From 9A

HOWARD

running downfield while Ohio State coach Ryan Day jumped for joy on the sideline and Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James celebrated from box seats.

Such a moment was always the goal for Howard, a Kansas State transfer who had always dreamed of performing on college football's biggest stage.

"If you were to ask a 19-year-old or 18-year-old Will Howard if he'd be at Ohio State playing in the national championship, I think he'd probably say, 'You're crazy, man,'" Howard said earlier this week.

Now, Howard is a champion, and teammates think that this is just the beginning for the 23-year-old.

"Just the type of quarterback he is, in my eyes he's a first-round draft pick," Smith said. "Will's just a great leader — on and off the field."

Howard made CFP championship game history by completing his first 13 passes on Monday, and he was 14-for-15 passing for 144 yards and two TDs before the break. Ohio State scored a touchdown on all three of its drives in the first 30 minutes of action to build a commanding 21-7 lead by intermission.

The Fighting Irish rallied but couldn't find a way to get past Howard and the Buckeyes, with the Ohio State signal-caller being named Offensive MVP following the game.

"They've changed my life in more ways than I can say, man," Howard told ESPN, referring to the impact that Day and his new teammates have had on him. "Coach Day and these guys here have completely, completely changed my life. ... I can't believe God gave me the chance to be a Buckeye."

From 9A

WESTOVER

38 with two minutes left.

Westover's Bryson Carter stepped up, scoring a basket and converting a free throw to give the Patriots a 41-38 lead with 45 seconds remaining. The Wolves had multiple opportunities to take the game, but a flurry of missed shots and rebounds kept them from pulling ahead. As time expired, a final basket by the Wolves cut the deficit to one point, but it wasn't enough.

Holmes led Westover with 11 points, the only Patriot in double figures. Gregory Williams added eight. Keith Johnson paced the Wolves with a game-high 15 points.

The Patriots will host Bainbridge on Friday night and Colquitt County on Saturday night at Westover.

From 9A

VICTORIES

offense cooled after that. Late in the third, Jaliyah Crump hit a three-pointer to reignite the Lady Trojans' attack.

With head coach Tondra Davis urging her defense to take control, the Lady Trojans started the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run and outscored the Lady Bearcats 17-6 in the final eight minutes to seal the win.

Porter led all scorers with 18 points, Camya Hutcherson added 12 and Crump contributed eight points for Lee County.

In the boys' game, offense was hard to come by early for both teams. Valdosta led 8-6 after the first quarter and 13-11 midway through the second before the Trojans went on a 9-2 run. Kam Sanders sparked the surge with three steals, as Lee County's defense picked up the pace. Torren Williams drained a three-pointer later in the quarter, helping the Trojans take a 24-19 lead at halftime.

Lee County broke the game open in the third quarter, outscoring Valdosta 23-10. Sanders scored 10 points in the period, and Matthew Hardwick added six. The Trojans slowed in the fourth quarter, scoring just 10 points, but Hardwick's eight points in the frame ensured the Trojans held on for the win.

Hardwick led the Trojans with 17 points, Sanders scored 13, and Braden Moore added 12.

Both Lee County teams are scheduled to host Thomas County Central on Saturday night.

Classifieds

NEAT AND TIDY WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ACTIVITY
CLOSETS
CLUTTER
COLLECTIBLES
COMMON AREA
CONTAINERS
DONATION
FILING
GARAGE
GROUPING
LABELS
MAINTENANCE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZING
PACKRAT
PERFECTIONIST
PROCRASTINATION
PURGING
REPURPOSE
SEQUENCING
SORTING
SYSTEM
TIDYING
VERTICAL SPACE

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Construction/ Service Bids

Ruby-Collins, Inc. is soliciting quotes from Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business (DBEs) subcontractors for work associated with the construction of the Joshua Street WPCP Miscellaneous Improvements project located in Albany, Georgia. The project bids on February 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM. Email or fax bids for the following scopes of work by 5:00 PM on February 19, 2025 to estimating@ruby-collins.com or 770-432-8238 respectively. Include proof of DBE status when you submit your bid.

Scopes of Work include: demolition, electrical, erosion control, concrete paving and coatings. Complete plans and specifications can be found on our website, www.Ruby-Collins.com .

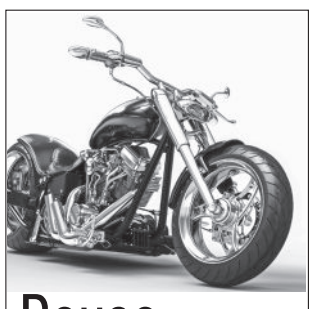
Ruby-Collins, Inc. will assist interested bidders in getting required bonding or insurance coverage for the Contract at issue or provide alternatives to bonding or insurance. Ruby-Collins, Inc. will work with bidders to break down or combine work to facilitate participation. All negotiation will be in good faith.

Ruby-Collins, Inc. is soliciting quotes from Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business (DBEs) subcontractors for work associated with the construction of the Joshua Street WPCP Solids Handling Upgrades project located in Albany, Georgia. The project bids on February 20, 2025 at 2:30 PM. Email or fax bids for the following scopes of work by 5:00 PM on February 19, 2025 to estimating@ruby-collins.com or 770-432-8238 respectively. Include proof of DBE status when you submit your bid.

Scopes of Work include: demolition, masonry, metal/TPO roofing, overhead doors, storefront windows, drywall/ACT, coatings, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, erosion control, paving and fencing. Complete plans and specifications can be found on our website, www.Ruby-Collins.com .

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CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"F R N C N X U H U W L Y C N I X D I W D
M Y H G U W L J I M W C K D N C O D D C V Y W
X Y G D Y B D O N I W ' N J Y A . U C ' N Y H H
Y E I R C B Y A U W L U C Z I O M Y O J ."
— X Y O U N G Y K Y O L U C Y A

Previous Solution: "Poets are always ahead of things in a certain way, their sense of language and their vision." — Screenwriter Jim Jarmusch

TODAY'S CLUE: U = a/e/n/b e

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 covered in gravy, perhaps (5)	_____
2 lessening (11)	_____
3 most perilous (8)	_____
4 soloist's classical piece (8)	_____
5 taste of spice (4)	_____
6 Croatian or Serbian (6)	_____
7 area of "inclination" (8)	_____

LLS	SA	ALL	TO	SK
ST	NG	RI	HI	EV
KAN	IAT	ZI	UCY	CER
ING	IDE	CON	IE	BAL

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Wednesday's Answers: 1. WATERLOGGED 2. GAUDINESS 3. DITTO 4. IDAHOANS 5. WAIST 6. RANDOMIZED 7. THOMAS 1/23

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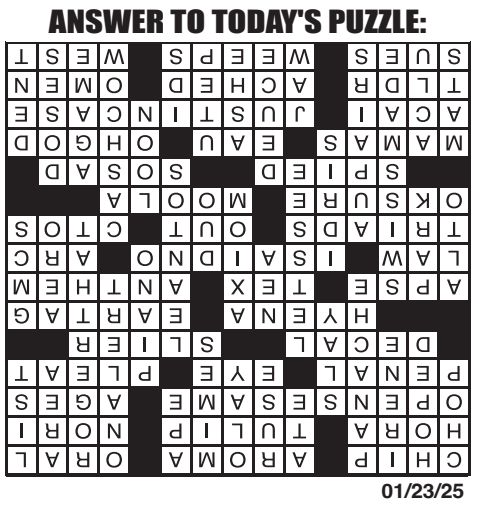
Call Carlton Fletcher 229-888-9300 or carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

CROSSWORD

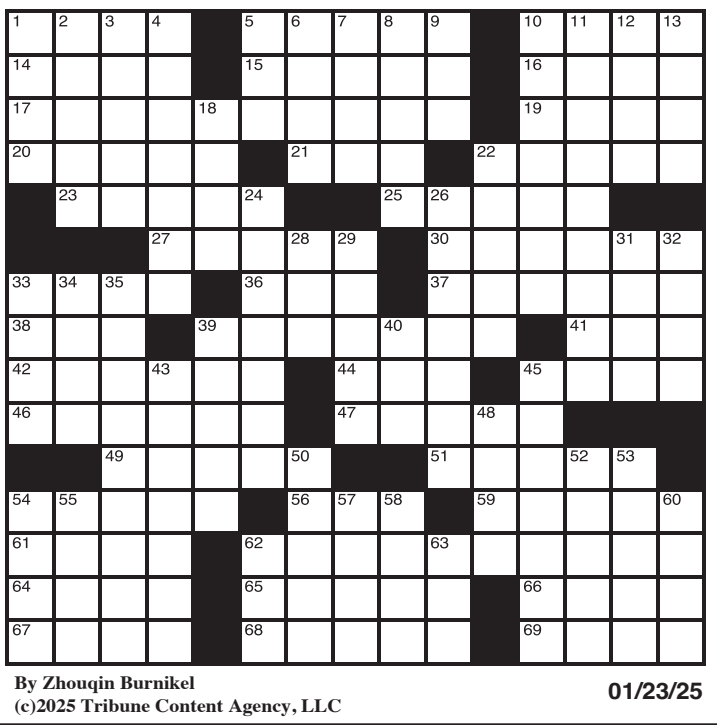
ACROSS
1 Vase flaw
5 Fragrance
10 Like a thesis defense
14 Bar mitzvah dance
15 Bloom from a bulb
16 Wrap for onigiri
17 Keywords?
19 Seemingly forever
20 Word with code or colony
21 Organ protected by lashes
22 Kilt detail
23 Sticker
25 More crafty
27 Laughing relative of a meerkat
30 Wildlife tracking device
33 Abbey space
36 __-Mex
37 Japan's "Kimigayo," for one
38 __ of averages
39 Crosswords?
41 Path of a fly ball
42 Three-note chords
44 No longer trendy
45 Corp. scientific execs
46 "Why not"
47 Green
49 Worked as a secret agent
51 "What a shame!"
54 Parents honored in May
56 __ de parfum
59 "Good heavens!"
61 Purple berry high in fat
62 Safewords?
64 Acronym after a lengthy post
65 Felt a workout later
66 Foreboding sign
67 Brings legal action against
68 Lets tears flow
69 Libya-to-Algeria direction

DOWN
1 Pork cut
2 Crossed one's fingers
3 Leader of the girl group Red Velvet
4 Dashing style
5 Enjoyed a mochi doughnut, say
6 Ploy
7 Beauty brand with a Retinol 24 line
8 Silent performers
9 Tailless primate
10 Ready for action
11 Catchwords?
12 63, for a 7x9 rectangle
13 Reminder on the fridge
18 Defeat, as a dragon
22 Steinway product
24 "As I remember it ... "
26 Primitive shelters
28 Org. that awards grants to orchestras
29 Self-evident truth
31 Flight-related prefix
32 Yukon and Sierra
33 Midrange voice
34 Get into a spot?
35 Watchwords?
39 Elba who played Luther
40 Half a quartet
43 Live-in nannies
45 Reliable moneymaker
48 Lake bird with an eerie call
50 Tie score in tennis
52 Peak performance
53 Amounts of medicine
54 Judo class surfaces
55 Org. with a Women's Rights Project
57 "Days of Grace" memoirist Arthur
58 Sch. that publishes the bilingual magazine Minero
60 Ding on a bumper
62 Mouth part
63 Cards shown to bouncers

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



01/23/25



By Zhouqin Burnikel
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01/23/25

Lawsuit charges Houston County with violating Voting Rights Act

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – The Justice Department has filed a voting rights lawsuit against Houston County challenging its at-large method of electing county commissioners.

The lawsuit, filed last week in federal court, alleges that electing the county's five commissioners at large rather than by districts gives black citizens less opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

While black residents account for more than 31% of the county's voting-age population, black-preferred candidates for the county commission have routinely lost.

"The Voting Rights Act guarantees that all eligible citizens have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to elect representatives of their choice, regardless of race or ethnicity," Kristen Clarke, the assistant U.S. attorney general of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said.

"The Justice Department has a solemn duty to protect the right to vote by enforcing the Voting Rights Act and ensuring that all communities have a fair and equal chance to participate. We look forward to working with Houston County officials to bring the county into compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

In a statement, county officials said they have had discussions with Justice Department officials.

"If we agree with DOJ regarding a possible violation of the Voting Rights Act after reviewing all of the documents and evidence, we will take appropriate action at that time," the commissioners said.

The lawsuit seeks a federal court order implementing a new method of electing county commissioners.



Contributed Photo

The city will start a pilot program that will impact three of its bus routes on Jan. 29.

City Transit plans route revision pilot program

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The city of Albany Transit Department will begin a pilot program on Jan. 30 that will include revisions to Transit's Bus Line Blue Route A, Blue Route B and Purple Route.

The pilot program will consist of revisions to the routes but not the bus stops. All three routes will continue operating during regular business hours.

The route changes will benefit the community by allowing connections to the Albany Mall and to the Walmart shopping center located at the corner of North Gillionville Road and South Westover Boulevard.

Due to the route changes, arrival times may change.

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Leesburg man gets 12-year prison sentence on drug, gun charges

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG – A southwest Georgia man has been sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for distributing methamphetamine from his Leesburg residence.

Shaun Anthony Akins, 44, of Leesburg, was sentenced to serve 144 months in prison to be followed by four years of supervised release by Chief U.S. District Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner. Akins previously pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of methamphetamine. There is no parole in the federal system.

"Armed methamphetamine trafficking is very dangerous, and these kinds of deadly drugs are killing our citizens," Lee County Sheriff Reggie Rachals said. "This case shows that dealers who continue to push illegal drugs in Lee County will wind up spending a lot of time behind bars for their crimes."

"The armed distribution of methamphetamine and other deadly and addictive drugs are the types of cases that are being quickly elevated to the federal level for prosecution," Acting U.S. Attorney C. Shanelle Booker, said in a news release. "Our office will continue to use all of the tools at our disposal to support the efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement to make our communities safer and seek justice."

"Shaun Akins valued the profit from his drug trade over the lives of his customers," Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Division Robert J. Murphy said. "Wherever you operate, if you sell drugs, DEA will hold you accountable."

"This sentencing underscores the ongoing commitment of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and our law enforcement partners to dismantle drug trafficking networks and hold those accountable who poison our communities with dangerous substances like methamphetamine," GBI Director Chris Hosey said. "This case is a reminder that those who engage in the illegal drug trade will face significant consequences, and we will continue to aggressively pursue those who seek to undermine the safety of our citizens."

According to the plea agreement and other statements referenced in court, law enforcement had received information from multiple citizen complaints dating back to 2022 that Akins was selling methamphetamine out of his Leesburg residence. A confidential source working with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation contacted Akins to purchase methamphetamine. Akins was recorded selling methamphetamine to the CS at his Leesburg residence on Jan. 30, 2023, Feb. 6, 2023, and Feb. 24, 2023.

On May 8, 2023, the Lee County Sheriff's Office conducted surveillance on Akins and observed an individual quickly arrive and depart from Akins' residence, which law enforcement determined was consistent with a drug customer. LCSO conducted a traffic stop on the individual and recovered approximately 33 grams of methamphetamine, baggies and a digital scale. The investigation revealed Akins had just sold the individual the methamphetamine.

Soon after, LCSO conducted a lawful search of Akins' residence and recovered 162 grams of 98% pure methamphetamine in his bedroom, additional quantities of methamphetamine throughout the house, as well as plastic baggies, digital scales, several rounds of ammunition, two semiautomatic pistols and a semiautomatic rifle. LCSO subsequently searched Akins' cellphone and located several incriminating photographs depicting the same firearms recovered from the residence, as well as quantities of suspected methamphetamine.



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