



Phoebe pharmacy
Hospital expands services • Page 4A

Easing water restrictions

Farmers have ongoing concerns about continued restrictions on groundwater

By **Lucille Lannigan**
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CAMILLA – For the first time since 2012, Georgia will allow southwest Georgia farmers to drill new wells to make groundwater withdrawals from the Flint and Chattahoochee river basins.

It's a modification – not a complete lift – to a moratorium that was put in place in 2012 after a period of extreme drought. Aquifers lie under southwest Georgia like a layered cake. Too much water was being taken from the Floridan Aquifer, a vast

reservoir that sits beneath the southeastern U.S., resulting in historically low flows in tributaries along the Flint.

Farmers will be able to apply for three different permits, beginning April 1. One of these permits opens the door for new water sources and additional irrigation acreage, but it comes with drought restrictions.

Georgia's EPD will take data from 15 monitoring wells located in the suspension area. If any five of these 15 wells falls below their monthly 10th percentile water

level, the entire suspension area is placed under drought restrictions.

A huge piece of the drought restriction is protecting federally threatened or endangered freshwater mussels, which live throughout the river basin. Rachel McGuire, an outreach and education coordinator with the Jones Center at Ichauway, a center for natural resource management and conservation, explained that these mussels aren't very mobile. They



Farmers speak with EPD staff about potential permits for their farm at a meeting in Mitchell County Thursday.
See **WATER**, 2A

Staff photo: Lucille Lannigan

Southwest Georgia's water resources immense but not limitless

By **Alan Mauldin**
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ALBANY – For nearly all southwest Georgia residents, every day is one spent walking on water, or at least over it.

A vast underground ocean of water is in places just 200 feet or less below the surface, and the Floridan aquifer's presence can actually be seen in the springs whose familiar blue plumes contrast with the brownish water of the creeks and rivers into which they burst.

The most prominent example locally is Dougherty County's Radium Springs, the largest natural spring in Georgia and one that attracts visitors from all over the world.

The source for those springs is the aquifer system that contains billions of gallons of fresh water that flows underneath nearly the entirety of Florida, about half of Georgia as well as parts of Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

There are several aquifers across the region that are recharged by rainwater, but the others pale in comparison to the Floridan, which is utilized for countless residential wells. The city of Savannah was the first recorded to drill into the system in the 1880s, and other municipalities in Georgia also tap into the source that provides drinking water to some 10 million people.



Farmers will be able to drill wells into the Floridan aquifer that sits beneath the Flint River.
See **RESOURCES**, 2A

Staff photo: Lucille Lannigan



Special Photo: Tara Fletcher

The Floridan Aquifer provides water that flows into Radium Springs in Albany, above, and for southwest Georgia farmers who irrigate their crops.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Dougherty STAR students, teachers honored at ceremony

By **Lucille Lannigan**
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ALBANY – Six STAR students from local schools were recognized alongside their chosen STAR teacher Wednesday, but only one was chosen to represent Dougherty County at regional competition.

The student was Shivani Yadavalli, a Deerfield-Windsor School senior, who said she aspired to major in Biology once she chooses which college or university she'll attend.

This was the Albany Area Cham-

ber's 67th annual Dougherty County STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition Program) luncheon. To qualify for the STAR competition, a student must have the highest score on a single test on the three-part SAT and be in the top 10% (or Top 10) of students in their graduating class based on grade-point average.

This event is a function of the Chamber's Talent Catalyst division, which has a mission to impact and strengthen the education-to-work force pipeline and cultivate the community's next generation of leaders.

"Our students, our future talent pipeline, are perhaps the most critical piece of our economy's future," Albany Area Chamber CEO and President Bárbara Rivera Holmes said. "Working with our educators and employers on this long-term initiative of the Albany Area Chamber and the Albany Area Chamber Foundation is critical and central to our business success and thus to our regional success."

Yadavalli chose her fourth-grade teacher from DWS, Shay Bradshaw,

See **STAR**, 2A



Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan

From left: Shay Bradshaw, Shivani Yadavalli and Barbara Rivera Holmes. Yadavalli was chosen to represent Dougherty County at the regional STAR student competition.

INDEX

Classifieds.....2B-4B	Crosswords.....4B,5B,11B	Obituaries.....11A	Sports.....9A-10A	TV.....6B-7B
Comics.....9B-12B	Horoscopes.....3A	Perspectives.....6A	Squawkbox.....3A,5A	Weather.....3A

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From 1A RESOURCES

The aquifer also provides water for Georgia's largest industry, agriculture, as well as industrial and recreational uses like swimming in and around the springs that interplay with the streams.

But despite its abundance – the Florida alone pumps more than 1 trillion gallons out annually including some 90% of regional drinking water – it is not inexhaustible.

During severe drought events in the past, the massive pumping of water to keep thirsty crops healthy has caused localized drops in water levels, in some cases forcing residents and municipalities to dig deeper wells.

At Radium Springs in Dougherty County, the flow of water can drop from the average of 70 million gallons per minute to a trickle, depending on the severity and duration of a drought.

While Atlanta and other cities to the north depend on surface water, it was a dispute over the sharing of the two rivers that commenced the long-running “water wars” between Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

The first of those is the Chattahoochee River, whose origin is in Union County, and the Flint River, which starts as groundwater seepage that makes its first appearance in Hapeville and flows underneath the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International airport before re-emerging and eventually meeting the Chattahoochee to form the Apalachicola River.

The first salvos were fired in 1990 when Alabama and Florida filed a lawsuit against the state of Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contesting the allocation of the shared waterways. Other lawsuits followed. Among Florida's concerns was the flow of water into the Apalachicola Bay to sustain the state's oyster

population. Georgia's farmers, who depend on water from the Floridan aquifer for irrigation, were dragged into the fray because the springs both feed the river systems and a reduction in flow due to overuse of water during a drought can drop those stream levels.

During the decadeslong legal struggle, Georgia has taken several steps to protect water resources, both surface and below ground, during droughts.

“We have done an awful lot of work in getting a better understanding of our ag water resources and putting in place ways to protect those resources,” Mark Masters, executive director of the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany State University, said.

He pointed to state legislation, including the Flint River Drought Protection Act of 2000, and the updated Drought Protection Act approved in 2014.

A key provision of the 2000 legislation includes paying farmers not to irrigate land during severe droughts. A major component of the updated drought legislation was requiring more efficient irrigation systems.

In 2003, the state required monitoring the use of water from all new agricultural wells permitted beginning on July 1 of that year.

“All of the work, including the metering, field mapping the irrigated areas, getting a handle on what areas are being irrigated from what source (gave a) very accurate accounting of Flint River Basin water use,” Masters said.

Technology also has advanced significantly over the past few decades. Today's drip irrigation systems are much more efficient, and irrigation systems can be programmed to apply more water in dry parts of a field and apply less in areas where it is not needed.

A farmer can even monitor irrigation systems on a cell phone and shut off an irrigation unit pumping water during a rain event.

“The old saying is we're getting a lot more crop per drop,” Masters said. “With the irrigation technology, there are two things: One, it helps farmers understand what crop needs are through soil moisture sensors, and their adoption has improved significantly. They're able to monitor use better.”

“The other thing that's important to understand is our farmers have been very efficient in their use. Over 90% of the irrigated acres have highly efficient irrigation. We know our farmers are doing a good job with their irrigation efficiency.”

Masters said the most water-intensive crops in the region are the top row crops: corn, cotton and peanuts and pecan orchards.

“Of those four, pecans are the biggest,” he said. “Our pecan growers are also highly efficient. There is amazing work coming out of UGA (University of Georgia) on exactly how to irrigate to maximize the growth of that tree.”

Farmers have a big incentive to use irrigation efficiently: Using water can bring significant costs for the diesel and electricity used to pump and apply it.

While the state will begin accepting applications in April to drill new irrigation wells, there will be protections for current users after those new wells are in operation during times of drought, Anna Truszczynski, the assistant branch chief of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch, said.

Those who put new wells into use will be required to provide a plan outlining how they will operate during a drought.

During drought conditions, farm permit holders will be able to use surface water from a farm pond or from another aquifer such as the Claiborne and Cretaceous aquifers, Truszczynski said.

“We have a pretty good bit of interest” in applying for permits, she said.

From 1A STAR

as her STAR teacher. Yadavalli said elementary school is a formative time in a person's life, and Bradshaw was an encouraging source of motivation who pushed her to step outside her comfort zone to be more confident.

“I was a really shy kid, but she always pushed me forward and made me meet new people,” Yadavalli said.

Bradshaw gave Yadavalli her love of the math subject, the senior said.

“I'm taking AP Calculus now, and I still remember her silly little songs in my head every time I'm doing math,” Yadavalli said.

Bradshaw said she is not surprised to see Yadavalli chosen as the STAR student.

“When I taught her, she was so bright, so driven, and I'm so proud,” she said. “To the teachers, never underestimate how your words, your actions, your lesson plans, and silly songs impact.”

Other students and teachers recognized include:

Payton Bush, the STAR Student from Westover Comprehensive High School and her STAR Teacher, Angela Wiley, also from Westover Comprehensive High School.

Tocara Ayanna Thomas, the STAR Student from Monroe Comprehensive High School and her STAR Teacher, Dehavilland Moody from Lamar Reese Elementary Magnet School of

the Arts.

Samantha M. Aberdeen, the STAR Student from Dougherty Comprehensive High School and her STAR Teacher, Antonio Laidler, also from Dougherty Comprehensive High School.

Luke Evan Bergrab, the STAR Student from Sherwood Christian Academy and his STAR Teacher, Vicki Davis also from Sherwood Christian Academy.

Caleb W. Haynes, the STAR Student from Byne Memorial Baptist School and his STAR Teacher, Nichole Wise from Thomas University

Bush will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology, majoring in computer engineering. She said she aspires to take part in research and work for the IBM Technology company in advanced computing and quantum computing. As far as her STAR teacher, Bush said Wiley conducted an interactive classroom that inspired her to pursue her dreams and even take part in a state science fair competition.

Thomas will attend North Carolina A&T to study mechanical engineering and finance. The Monroe High senior got choked up describing her STAR teacher.

“She's the first teacher that I felt genuinely had my best interest at heart,” Thomas said. “I'm honored to have been your student.”

Aberdeen said she doesn't know where she will start her undergraduate journey, but she has a plan. The Dougherty High senior said she plans to get her bachelor's degree in biology and

a master's degree in education with a science track. Then, she said she plans to go to Mercer Law School.

“I know that's a lot,” she said. “But, that's why I chose Mr. Laidler because ... he encouraged me to do great things.”

Bergrab said he plans to attend Georgia College and is still deciding on his career path. He said he chose Davis, who was his technology teacher, because she entertained in-depth discussions about the world and its relationship with technology. He said he also fell in love with film class.

“I learned the importance of story and real stories and how they impact people's lives,” Bergrab said. “Whatever I end up doing, I want to tell stories that matter.”

Haynes will attend Kennesaw State University, majoring in marketing and minoring in business. He chose Wise as his STAR teacher.

“She took time to dissect deep subjects and consider my opinions with sincere interest,” he said. “With her help, I learned the importance of being quiet and listening to opposing views with respect.”

Holmes concluded the ceremony by encouraging students to go out and experience the world.

“But, remember where you came from,” she said. “We need you back one day to invest and continue to grow and to inspire other students just like yourself.”

From 1A WATER

rely on being carried by host fish or large rainfall events and big pulses of water to move downstream.

“They're very susceptible to habitat water quantity,” she said. “They can only survive so long out of water.”

These mussels contribute important ecosystem services like water quality improvement and nutrient cycling. Groundwater withdrawals from the Floridan can have a direct impact on flow along the Flint River Basin.

McGuire said researchers at the Jones Center think the moratorium modifications with extra drought protections on permits are environmentally sound. The group contributed much of its data on mussels and water levels needed to sustain their populations to the EPD to help come to the recent change.

“This is a great example of how EPD has taken a lot of time and solidified important partners to get the data they needed to more responsibly manage the water resources in southwest Georgia,” McGuire said.

“In the long-term, we're not going to sustainably protect these ecosystems if we can't balance the human need in the basin.”

For many regional farmers, this semi-lift signifies a step in the right direction. But many still have some concerns.

Casey Cox Kerr, the National Peanut Board chair and a Camilla farmer, said she feels hopeful that EPD and the farming community is working toward striking a balance between protecting natural water resources and allowing the continued growth of Georgia's No. 1 industry, agriculture.

Kerr said she remembers attending “water war” meetings alongside her family. She said farmers understood the need for the moratorium, but there was a lot of frustration.

“We in south Georgia collectively had to pause the growth of our agricultural community, but there weren't similar restrictions across state lines, even though we were using the same aquifer,” she said. “There was this immense pressure to protect our right to water.”

Clay Hudson, a sixth-generation Baker County row crop farmer, attended a meeting Thursday in Mitchell County with EPD to learn more about the different permits available and what the options for his

farm might be.

Hudson said he relies on water from the Floridan aquifer to irrigate his 1,000 acres.

“When they first said we had to permit all the wells back in the 90s, they weren't really clear,” he said. “We permitted very conservatively on what we had. Had we known they weren't going to issue any new permits, and potentially penalize you for going out of compliance, we would have permitted excess acres.”

Hudson said the 2012 moratorium restricted growth on his family's small farm, and most farmers with less acreage are struggling to break even. Not having enough water to irrigate his crops means getting into a bind during low-profit years.

“The largest industry still in Georgia is farming, but we're getting to be a smaller population as years go by,” he said. “The threat of banks foreclosing on something is very real. So, to ask for a little bit of water to help grow a crop, I don't think it's unreasonable.”

Hudson said he knows protecting the environment is important.

“You're probably not going to find a better steward than a farmer,” he said. “It's in our best interest to make sure we're taking care of this land. It's what we want to pass on from generation to generation.”

Hudson now has acreage that he'd like to put into production, but he has to first figure out if anything in his farming operation is out of compliance with EPD permits and what he needs to do to get back to being compliant.

He said the drought-restricted permits are not an option for his farm.

“Those wells are very expensive to put in, and how's a bank going to loan you money on a crop you may or may not make if it goes into drought protection and we can't get any water?” Hudson said.

Jerry Heard, a farmer with acreage across Baker, Decatur, Early and Mitchell counties, shares a similar concern. He said the drought-restricted permit, which cuts farmers off in the case of drought, is risky. Farmers are given a 24-hour notice to cease water usage.

“To dig a well, and then they're going to cut you off – a corn farmer, if you cut him off two weeks before it's time to cut him off, you'll drastically reduce the yield,” Heard said.

Heard said he believes farmers should at least be able to “finish the crop out” before they

are shut down under drought conditions.

Heard's acreage is also spread out – with as many as 30 miles between parts of his land. To be compliant under these potential permits, farmers would be able only to share wells across contiguous acreage. But Heard said he believes farmers need more flexibility.

“If we've got a well with 200 acres on it, you're only using half the acres, and I've got a well over here that I'm short 30 acres on ... I feel like I should be able to transfer those acres from one well to another,” he said. “We should be able to move over county lines, the acres on the well, to get us in compliance.”

Heard expressed these concerns to EPD during Thursday's meeting.

“At least we're at the table discussing it,” he said. “I'm sitting at the table today for the future – my sons and our family farm. I'm sitting here today speaking out for them to be able to have enough water to feed and clothe the people in this country.”

Farmers developing more efficient irrigation practices with water conservation in mind also played a role in this moratorium change, coupled with flow and mussel habitat research.

Gordon Rogers, the executive director of the Flint Riverkeeper, said he's anticipating the next drought to see how all the changes that have been put in place will work together. In some parts of the Flint and Chattahoochee River Basins, Rogers said Georgia FIT are helping implement drought swap projects, drilling wells to different aquifers in the case of drought affecting the Floridan. This work was made possible with federal funds.

He said the decision to modify the moratorium was not made lightly – but was backed by rich data from a diverse group of stakeholders.

“Will there be things that happen that are unexpected? Absolutely. Will they be disastrous? Highly unlikely,” Rogers said. “Even if we approach something that appears to be an imminent disaster, we've got the tools to pull back from the edge.”

He said he doesn't expect to see low flow as drastic as during the 2011-12 droughts.

“I think we're right on the edge of solving this thing,” Rogers said.



DCSS SHINING Stars

Each year, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce honors local high school students who are at the top of their class academically through the Star Student Luncheon.

The event honors one student from each high school who scored the highest on the SAT and whose Grade Point Average is in the top 10 percent of the class.

This year, Monroe's Samantha Aberdeen, Dougherty's Tocara Thomas and Westover's Payton Bush were honored for their incredible accomplishments.

Additionally, each student got to pick the teacher that has had the biggest impact on them. Aberdeen chose Monroe's Antonio Laidler; Thomas chose Lamar Reese Elementary's Dehavilland Moody; and Bush chose Westover's Angela Wiley for their work in guiding them along their path.

Horoscopes

Shake off the negative energy holding you back. It's time to free your mind, body and soul to move forward with excitement and a vision of what's possible. Look for opportunities, and you'll discover you have more control than you imagine. Don't let others dictate change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- When one door closes, another opens. Refrain from laboring over what's ending when embracing new beginnings will optimize your chance to advance. Talk less and do more.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Stick close to home. Venturing out will lead to tempting offers. Choose to concentrate on health, diet and exercise, not on indulgent behavior. Refuse to let an emotional situation take control.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Go over every detail and change whatever is necessary. Take care of matters personally and be secretive regarding your choices. Emotional spending will set you back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Concentrate on what matters most to you and clear a path forward. Getting personal papers in order will ease your mind. It's up to you to create opportunities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Approach every issue openly and honestly. Decisiveness will help you gain trust, and proof that you know what you are doing and saying is accurate will seal the deal. Put your emotions on the shelf and do your best.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Think before you act. Emotions will surface quickly and require restraint if you

want to avoid trouble. Avoid hasty decisions and unnecessary changes. Pay attention to your health and emotional well-being.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Pay attention to detail; research, learn and be creative with the information you gather. Attend a reunion or function that will bring back memories or prompt you to revisit a pastime that brings you joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Experience is golden. A change will spark your imagination and encourage you. Heading to a destination you've never been to and participating in something that intrigues you will encourage new friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Refuse to let someone's angst or emotional madness affect your plans. Look at the big picture; consider how others react and socialize with those who share your sentiments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Let your creativity take over your life. Get together with people who spark your imagination and encourage you to pursue your dreams. Travel and physical endeavors will help put things in perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Stick to what and who you know and trust. Refuse to fold under pressure just to keep the peace. Find common ground and incentives to ensure that equality prevails.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Emotional manipulation is apparent. Look for solutions instead of getting bogged down in what-ifs. Refuse to jeopardize your health or risk damaging a meaningful relationship.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have opinions of my own -- strong opinions -- but I don't always agree with them."

George Bush,
U.S. president (1924-)

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.

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

I'd love to know how many federal employees voted for an incompetent, bitter and vindictive old man, and now may lose their jobs because of his pettiness. To them I say, don't expect any thoughts and prayers from me. And for those who are cheering him on, just remember this: He doesn't care about you either. That Man Without a Family

The True President has given Elon Musk access to the Treasury Department payment system. SMRs better start looking for their Social Security checks.

Trump investigating, demoting, firing, former opposition, military and judicial leadership is not a pendulum swing of righteousness but the irreversible turn of the corner in the loss in integrity, confidence, safeguards and continuity of the republic. These evils' destruction you champion is not the devil you fear.

When will the UGA football team start recruiting better quality men?

I hate to tell the ignorant, informed squawker, but Bishop, Warnock and Ossoff all voted yes on the Laken Riley Act. Get your facts straight

If Persley needs the governor's office to help write eight measly seatbelt tickets over three days, this is a crisis. Albany's roads are the most dangerous in south Georgia. An innocent grandmother was killed this weekend. Officers are known simply to ignore extreme speeding and loudly modified vehicles. God help us, because the City Commission doesn't care.

The media needs to continue to fact check the president. Fentanyl deaths in the last year were half what he claimed.

How on Earth is it possible that a local government in 2025 allows unsanitary condemnable hotels to operate as permanent housing, with no registration requirements? It's almost unbelievable. The complete idiocy of today's Albany City Commission never ceases to amaze.

SMRs, Trump is going to raise your taxes and cut seniors' benefits to give the folks at Doublegate and Stonebridge tax cuts. Remember, you voted for him.

Squawker: I don't hear you speaking Cherokee. This country was founded on illegal immigrants who couldn't make it in their country of origin and stole a historically great people's land and tried to destroy their culture. Immigrants just want the jobs people in this country won't do. They are so hard-working for very little. You have a lot of nerve demanding English.

While the U.S. wants Panama to return the canal, maybe France will want the return of the Statue of Liberty.

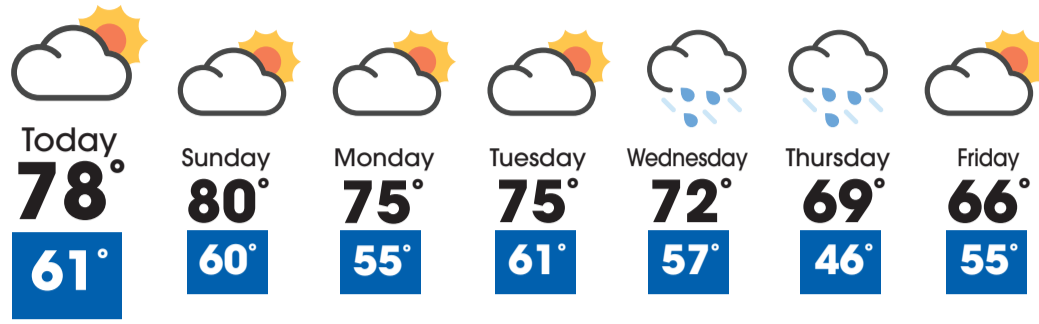
The U.S. Senate has become a disgusting cesspool of vaccine worship, and they are attacking RFK Jr., the one person who dares to stand up against Big Pharma corruption and fraud.

I note the long lines at the coffee shop on 82. Amazing, with all these folks supposedly struggling with inflation, they can afford high-end coffee instead of just brewing it at home.

Amazing how preacher Warnock, Ossoff and Sanford Bishop changed their votes, against, on the Laken Riley bill, to for after the outrage from Georgia voters.

South Georgia lost all economic support when they started electing right-wingers.

Weather Forecast



BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

IF IT LOOKS WEIRD, IT IS WEIRD

Hunter S. Thompson, a journalist and author who died in 2005, said, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

If it looks weird, talks weird and smells weird, it must be weird -- especially if produced by a pro.

In other words, if a competent player does something weird, it is (almost certainly) not because he has lost his marbles, but because he is hoping to sneak a trick past an unsuspecting opponent.

In today's deal, South is in three no-trump. East is in the spotlight. West leads a fourth-highest club six. What should East be thinking?

First, though, let's look at declarer's problem. He has only eight top tricks: five spades,

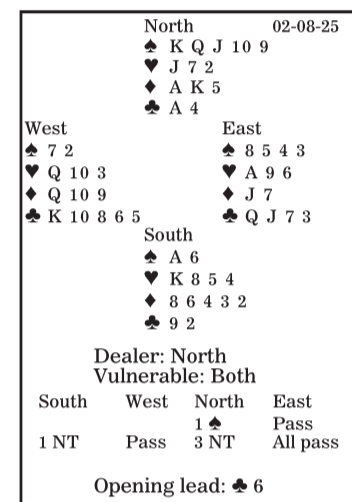
two diamonds and one club. And with clubs wide open, he must hope that East has the heart ace and is sleeping soundly. South should win the first trick and call for the heart jack, trying to look like a man about to take a finesse.

What should East conclude now?

Initially, East should have asked himself this question: What is declarer likely to do at trick two? Here, if South doesn't have the spade ace, he will surely establish that suit. So, when South doesn't do that, it is because he has the spade ace. Ergo, the suit is ready to run and declarer has eight top tricks: five spades, two diamonds and one club. Why is he calling for the heart jack?

South must be trying to sneak his ninth trick.

East mustn't fall for it: He should jump in with the heart ace and play clubs. If East ducks, South, in desperation, will put up his king and, when it wins, claim.



ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Domestic abuse survivor wants to keep son from dangerous patterns



Dear Eric: I stayed in an abusive marriage for too long, and for a wide variety of reasons, including that we needed my ex's income and health insurance to cover chronic medical needs.

My now-adult son does not know the extent of the abuse in my marriage because I hid it. Regardless, he is three times more likely to become an abuser himself simply because he grew up in an abusive home.

Sadly, I have heard him berate and insult his lovely wife multiple times. I have made gentle corrections to him following his comments. The last time was at a holiday family gathering. I immediately stated that I spent years planning on leaving his father because of similar treatments, and that I knew he could be a better man and husband. I stated that his wife deserves to be treated with kindness and respect always.

I do not want to be a buttinsky into someone else's marriage, but I do not want to sit by silently thus perpetuating another generation of abuse/domestic violence. Will I be out of step to have a private conversation with my cherished daughter-in-law and then my son? Please help me to respectfully parent my adult son.

— Mindful Momma

Dear Momma: Your instincts are absolutely correct. You're in a unique position to make a difference as your son's mother and a survivor of abuse. This isn't meddling; it's brave and responsible parenting.

Furthermore, your guidance can help steer your son from dangerous learned and observed behavior, as well as protecting your daughter-in-law. As you

well know, having someone outside of the marriage who can offer support, protection and resources will immeasurably help your daughter-in-law. It can also help your son to find a pathway to getting help for himself. If you're looking for ways to start the conversations, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) has a wealth of resources. You can also search for domestic violence intervention programs in your area.

You don't have a responsibility to "save" your son. However, your desire to offer your wisdom is invaluable. Please have the conversations that feel safe for you and also talk with a counselor or trusted friend about the emotions this brings up for you.

Dear Eric: I am the aunt to two amazing young people. I have always been a big part of their lives, especially when my brother and their mom divorced. When each of them was born, I opened a savings account in their names and have been steadily adding money every month.

Five years ago, my brother married a lovely woman with two kids of her own, who we have welcomed wholeheartedly into our family.

My nephew is 17 and is applying to colleges and my 16-year-old niece will be doing the same next year. I always intended the money to go to college, or a car/house if they chose not to go to college. When I mentioned giving my nephew the money for college to my brother and sister-in-law, she said she thinks the money should be divided equally among the four kids.

Now, look, I like her kids. But my niece, nephew and I have a special bond, and they have gone

through a lot in their lives. I feel like they shouldn't have to share this particular gift. I hate what money can do to relationships. What do you think?

— Don't Want to Share

Dear Share: Ahh, money. You're right: It can create terrible situations, especially in families. But ultimately, money doesn't tear families apart; people's behavior and unmanaged emotions do.

Frankly, you can and should do whatever you want with the money. I understand your sister-in-law's concern for the futures of her kids, but I wish she'd framed it more as a request or, better yet, worked with your brother to help her kids manage any emotions around the gift.

However, it may be best for the maintenance of your relationship to think about creative solutions. The ages of your sister-in-law's kids might be a factor -- if they're younger and not headed to college right away, perhaps giving the bulk to your brother's kids and investing the remainder for the other kids is a happy medium.

The amount of money is also something to consider. Is this enough money to cover all of the tuition? Or is it an amount that's meaningful but wouldn't meaningfully help with college if split four ways?

In the end, though, this is your gift to do with as you please. Any relatives of your sister-in-law's kids also can do as they please. You wouldn't be depriving your sister-in-law's kids by not giving them a gift they weren't expecting. But it may save you a headache to consider some alternatives before doing what you want and have every right to do.

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 verichthomas.com.

READER'S GUIDE

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DO JUST ONE THING

by Danny Seo

Take the time to delete unnecessary email from your inbox today to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Here's why: Unread or saved emails in your inbox are archived on the servers that hold your account data. Those servers (which use a ton of energy) are continuously on, which means every saved or unread email is using up energy on those servers. By deleting emails, you help reduce the strain on servers and reduce CO2 emissions at the same time. Be sure to empty spam folders and delete unnecessary photos on your phone to help reduce energy use, too.

Today in History

Today is the 39th day of 2025 and the 50th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY:

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed on suspicion of plotting to murder her cousin Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1971, the NASDAQ stock exchange began trading.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into law, leading to a drastic overhaul of U.S. media regulations.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891), U.S. general; Jules Verne (1828-1905), author; Lana Turner (1921-1995), actress; Jack Lemmon (1925-2001), actor; James Dean (1931-1955), actor; John Williams (1932-), composer; Ted Koppel (1940-), journalist; Nick Nolte (1941-), actor; Robert Klein (1942-), comedian/actor; Mary Steenburgen (1953-), actress; John Grisham (1955-), author; Gary

Coleman (1968-2010), actor; Mary McCormack (1969-), actress; Seth Green (1974-), actor/producer; Cecily Strong (1984-), actress; Julio Jones (1989-), football player; Klay Thompson (1990-), basketball player.

TODAY'S FACT: "Saturday Night Live" star Cecily Strong, who joined the NBC sketch-comedy series in 2012 and departed in 2022, is the longest-tenured female cast member in the show's 50-year history.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1998, Finland beat Sweden 6-0 in the first women's Olympic ice hockey game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Privileged people don't march and protest; their world is safe and clean and governed by laws designed to keep them happy." --John Grisham, "The Street Lawyer"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 1 million -- estimated youth membership of the Boy Scouts of America in 2024.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter moon (Feb. 5) and full moon (Feb. 12).

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Special Photo: Phoebe

A new pharmacy is now open on Phoebe's main campus in Albany to serve Phoebe patients and employees, as well as the general public.

Phoebe opens new specialty, retail pharmacy; expands access to medications

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY— A new pharmacy is now open on Phoebe Putney Health System's main campus in Albany to serve Phoebe patients and employees, as well as the general public. The new Phoebe Pharmacy, located on the first floor of Medical Tower I, offers enhanced convenience, expanded services, and a more patient-friendly experience.

"This is more than just a new space; it represents our commitment to improving access to essential health care for our community," Phoebe Vice President of Pharmacy Services Darren Evans said in a news release. "In today's world, we know how important it is for patients to have access to the medications they need, whether for managing chronic conditions or navigating complex treatments. Our goal is to make that access easier, more convenient, and more personal."

The new pharmacy combines Phoebe's employee and spe-

cialty pharmacies and includes expanded retail options. The Phoebe Specialty Pharmacy opened in 2020 in the lower level of Medical Tower II. The Phoebe Employee Pharmacy, previously located across the street from the hospital, has served hospital staff since 1998, offering a convenient and affordable option for employees covered by Phoebe's Group Health Benefit Plan. The new, combined first-floor location is more accessible and offers expanded services.

"Our new location is easier for people to access," Evans said. "There will also be new programs coming for our employees and patients, and this space allows us to carry out these programs, which wasn't possible in the previous locations."

The new pharmacy includes curbside pickup, allowing employees and patients to call upon arrival and have prescriptions brought directly to their vehicles. While it pro-

vides a convenient location for patients to get prescriptions filled when they are discharged from the hospital and as they leave appointments at clinics in the Medical Towers, the Phoebe Pharmacy is open to anyone.

Phoebe's Specialty Pharmacy serves patients with complex medical needs who require specialized medications or prescriptions for treatment of chronic conditions. It ensures quick access to medications and provides financial, clinical and medication management support.

"With this new pharmacy, we're bringing together the best of both worlds: advanced specialty care for those with complex medical needs, alongside the personalized service of a local pharmacy that truly understands our patients," Evans said. "We are not just filling prescriptions — we are building relationships, offering guidance, and helping people live healthier lives."

GSW accounting students offer free tax preparation through VITA program

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS— Georgia Southwestern State University accounting students, in partnership with the Sumter County Extension Service, are offering free tax preparation services to the Americus community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). This initiative aims to improve family economic well-being and stability while providing GSW students with hands-on experience in tax preparation and financial literacy.

Developed by the Internal Revenue Service, VITA provides free tax assistance to low- to moderate-income individuals, generally those with a household income of \$60,000 or less, who may need help preparing their federal and state tax returns.

Services are available by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 3, between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., on the first floor of the Business, History, Political Science building on GSW's campus. To schedule an appointment, call (229) 924-4476.

The VITA program is integrated into GSW's service-learning course in federal individual taxation. Through this hands-on experience, students complete IRS certification, conduct client interviews, gather and review tax documents, accurately prepare federal income tax returns, and meet with clients again to finalize filings and offer future financial planning, enhancing their understanding of community engagement and social responsibility.

"This project is central to the mission of the College of Business and Computing,"



Special Photo: GSW

From left, Georgia Southwestern students and program directors Mathura Ramalingam of Cumming; Jackson Kiff of Montezuma; Braden Rubsam of Leesburg; Chris Bentley of Clarksville, Tenn.; Connor Briggs of Leesburg; Mitzi Parker; John Cook of Cordele, and Carol Bishop are taking part in a program through which they provide free income tax preparation.

Carol Bishop, an accounting professor and associate dean of undergraduate programs, said. "As a regional institution in an economically challenged area, COBAC focuses our societal impact efforts on reducing poverty in southwest Georgia through financial literacy and economic development. Our accounting team began this service-learning project to assist community members with the complex task of tax preparation and financial planning."

GSW is partnering with County Extension Coordinator and Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Mitzi Parker with the Sumter County Extension Service to facilitate this initiative.

Mathura Ramalingam, a senior accounting major from Cumming, said she is eager to serve the community and grow in the process.

"I am very excited to be involved in the VITA program at GSW for the opportunity to apply what I have been taught and gain hands-on, practical experience while also serving the community in a meaningful and fulfilling way," she said.

Connor Briggs, a junior accounting major from Leesburg, said, "I am excited for the opportunity to play a part in benefiting my community through VITA. It's always good to help people and improve your skills at the same time. I am thankful to be able to apply what I've learned in class to help others."

GSW students, staff, and faculty also are eligible to participate in VITA's free tax preparation program.

For more information or questions, contact Parker at mitziparker@uga.edu or Bishop at carol.bishop@gsu.edu.

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SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX ■
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I am more concerned about these crazy Jan. 6 criminals running free in our streets than any undocumented immigrant.

Your so called “true president” wants the U.S. to take over and rebuild Gaza now and even send our troops. No telling what that will cost in money and lives.

Rubio appoints Darren Beattie to be his underboss, a person who was fired in the first Trump diabolic for attending and being on a panel at the H.L. Mencken Club White Nationalist meeting. In his most recent statements, he said, “Only competent white men in charge can make things work.” posted to X in October. Thanks for nothing, Little Marco

If you think the stuff Carlton writes is bad, you should hear the stuff he keeps to himself.

To the concerned, but uninformed, squawker: Do you really think that the students at St. Teresa’s School will be sitting on the floor? I can assure you that they will not. Referring to wi-fi, tablets, etc. ... what did teachers do before they had that technology? They taught, which our teachers will continue to do. My advice to you: Get the facts first and then comment intelligently.

\$500,000 for speed limit cameras that can’t write a ticket. This is a joke. Albany’s dangerous drivers know they are speeding, and many relish it since APD isn’t going to stop them. Flashing a light isn’t going to change anything. This is more of Persley’s laziness, and Albany’s families deserve better.

21 PPP fraudsters ... joke, right? Said then and now PPP the biggest fraud program in U.S. history. DoCo data shows (East Albany) Sands Drive recipients and lender, then not registered to do business in Georgia and now bankrupt Kabbage Inc., most likely prolific \$20,883 strata for fraud. There’s more, but who’s looking, who’s listening?

I haven’t seen liberals this upset since yesterday.

It’s funny how all those people who proclaimed Trump their god and supported him no matter how much illegal activity he was involved in — like trying to overthrow the government — have grown amazingly quiet since they’ve seen the agenda he’s pushing. We may survive this creep, but it’s going to be a struggle for anyone not a millionaire.

Two questions to city of Albany: I thought you had a big celebration, ribbon-cutting for Driskell in January? So, why did you have another grand opening on Feb. 3? To the commissioners: That was a waste of money to have two. Second question: Who in the city gave Grouchy a job?

Oh, joy! With the new tariff on China, everything in the dollar stores just went up in price 10%.

So the naive squawker thinks since the only gun fired on Jan. 6 was by police, as rioters were pushing in the door into Congress, it was not that serious. I assume then the flag poles, shields and bear spray used to attack the Capitol police were just normal tourists at the Capitol.

Wondering if Elon and Trump have discussed internment camps for Democrats.

The True President’s revocation of Biden’s executive order to lower drug costs will hurt older SMRs that were scammed into voting for him.

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Lawmakers miss the mark on nicotine taxes

There are few things that some politicians love more than to control your money and behavior — regardless of whether it is harmful — and some recently-filed bills perfectly encapsulate this reality.

In what is almost certainly a well-intentioned effort to curb smoking rates, Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, filed a couple of measures to raise taxes on nicotine products and signaled her plan to direct the windfall to “address health care issues” of Georgians.

For many of my readers, that may sound like a fantastic idea. But after a deeper reading, these pieces of legislation present some serious problems. They also telegraph health-related misinformation and may worsen — rather than improve — Georgians’ health.

The two bills in question are HB 83 and 84, and they focus on nicotine products, which are already taxed. In fact, tobacco users pay a sales tax and an excise tax — also known as a “sin tax” — which governments levy on products they deem harmful, ostensibly to dissuade their use. That appears to at least partially be Au’s intention.

If adopted, HB 83 would raise cigarette taxes from 37 cents to 57 cents, and HB 84 would more than double the taxes levied on e-cigarettes from 7% to a whopping 15%. Both measures contain a clause stating the plan is to direct more money to health care issues.

That seems great, prima facie, but what health care issues would it go toward? Tobacco-related illnesses maybe? That would make the most sense. After all, nearly 12,000 Georgians die a year from tobacco use. But the legislation doesn’t specify what health issue it would address. That leaves it open to interpretation, but just about everything has some sort of health angle.

Everyone knows that cigarettes are bad for your health, but don’t confuse them with e-cigarettes. They work differently, and their health impact is virtually incomparable. According to Public Health England, they are 95% less harmful than combustible cigarettes, and the reason is that e-cigarettes don’t employ the combustion process that cigarettes use. That process releases more than 7,000 chemicals, at least 69 of which are carcinogenic.

What’s more, adults have been using e-cigarettes as cessation tools in increasing numbers. E-cigarettes are even the No. 1 quit tool, and a 2020 study showed that they are more effective at aiding smokers to quit than traditional cessation therapies like the patch and gum. Put simply, e-cigarettes are far less dangerous than combustible cigarettes and are helping people quit smoking for good. That is cause for excitement.

Considering this, it is a bit of a head-scratcher that a lawmaker would want to hike taxes on e-cigarettes. “Sin taxes” like this serve to punish people for using e-cigarettes and disincentivize adults from trying them as a means to quit smoking. That’s bad policy. Yet, even coupled together, Au’s legislation leaves me with further questions.

That’s because she is seeking to more than double the taxes on e-cigarettes, while far more dangerous cigarettes wouldn’t face as dramatic a rate increase. That flies in the face of a grounded public health strategy because it seems to imply that combustible cigarettes are less

dangerous, which they absolutely are not. That is not the impression that officials ought to create. A more rational approach would be to endorse a risk-proportionate taxation framework that is based on the dangers posed by products, rather than raising taxes on them seemingly at random.

I don’t smoke cigarettes or vape. It’s just not for me, but I understand the public health value of e-cigarettes. If the 28.9% of Georgians who smoke finally quit, we could greatly reduce untimely tobacco-related deaths, and there are ways to encourage them to do so. Rejecting bills like HB 83 and 84 and ensuring that our tax scheme represents actual risk is a great start.

It seems unlikely that this legislation will pass this year, but weirder things have happened under the Gold Dome. Even if they fail, lawmakers have plenty of other ways to try to control your cash and behavior.

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



Marc Hyden

COLUMNIST ■ GAIL DRAKE

The compelling story of the premiere black swan

On a sunny afternoon in 1996 in San Pedro, California, a shy little girl of Italian, German and African-American descent named Misty walked into a local Boys & Girls Club. Her mother had separated from her third husband, and after living with various friends and boyfriends, Misty and her five siblings were living at the Sunset Inn, sleeping on the couch and floor. Her middle school drill team coach had encouraged her to attend the free ballet class taught at the club each week.

Misty stepped on the basketball court and started to learn classic ballet steps at age 13. The teacher, Cynthia Bradley, invited her to attend her own small ballet school. Within three months, Misty was dancing “en pointe” (on her toes). Her mother told her she would have to give up ballet, but Bradley wanted Misty to continue and offered to host her.

Soon, Misty was living with her mother on the weekends and with the Bradley family during the week. She lived there for three years and enjoyed quality ballet training as well as their close-knit family and Jewish traditions. The next year, Misty won a national ballet contest. She was cast as Clara in her high school’s “Nutcracker” — and the show drew 2,000 guests per performance. At age 15, she won first place in the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight awards in March 1998, garnering media attention.

Sadly, her mother resented the Bradleys’ influence and decided to

end Misty’s dance involvement. What followed was a highly publicized, volatile custody dispute involving celebrity attorney Gloria Allred, cross-filing an emancipation petition and restraining orders. Once resolved, Misty returned to her mother and enrolled in another dance school. For summer 2000, Misty was offered an opportunity to enroll in the American Ballet Theatre, one of the top three classical ballet companies in the U.S. She studied for two summers, danced the role of Kitri in “Don Quixote,” and was selected to join the ABT Studio Company.

At that time, Misty was a flyweight of 108 pounds, a common situation for ballet dancers. Then Misty suffered stress fractures to her lumbar. Her doctor suggested medication to strengthen bones and promote puberty. Misty gained 10 pounds in one month. Her body shape changed to curves, leading to body image struggles and eating disorders. Recognizing Misty’s isolation and self-doubt, ABT’s artistic director asked board member/writer Susan Fales-Hill to mentor her. Fales-Hill introduced Misty to black women trailblazers who encouraged Misty and helped her gain perspective.

Anchored and focused, Misty flourished. Reviewers noted she was more radiant than higher-ranking dancers and recognized her standout roles in multiple productions. She was promoted to a soloist in 2007, one of the youngest dancers ever to be so honored. Pages could be filled reciting her resume and accomplishments in classic and modern ballet repertoire. On June 30, 2015, Misty was promoted to principal ballerina,

the first African-American woman so honored in ABT’s 75-year history.

During her tenure at ABT, Misty was the only African-American ballerina and often felt cultural isolation. In her eighth book, “The Wind at My Back,” Misty shared her friendship with ground-breaking ballerina Raven Wilkerson, her mentor.

“Raven is really everything that we are told black dancers are not and cannot be,” Misty wrote.

Wilkerson is credited as the first black ballerina employed full-time in a major ballet company. She started ballet at age 9 at the Ballet Russe School in New York City with well-known Russian Bolshoi Theatre dancers. She continued training through high school and auditioned for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1954. On her third try, she was accepted and toured throughout the U.S. Wilkerson was light-skinned and was asked to wear white makeup on stage and not to disclose her race.

Traveling through the Jim Crow South, she encountered harsh racism. An Atlanta hotel owner barred her from staying there. KKK members interrupted a performance in Alabama. And the role opportunities were limited. A fellow dancer told her, “We couldn’t have a black swan.”

In 1966, Wilkerson moved to Europe and was appointed a soloist with the Dutch National Ballet, where she performed for seven years. In the ’70s and ’80s, she performed with the New York City Opera.

“Raven was powerful and soft and graceful,” Misty said of her mentor’s artistic skills. “She had just these incredibly articulate feet and hands and warmth in her face that I think

allowed for everyone ... to connect and relate to her.”

Misty credits Raven with helping her find grace when facing race issues.

“Raven looked at these (racist) people with ... a broader way to seeing the world, where ... everyone’s experiencing something in their lives,” she wrote. “I learned so much about how to have empathy for other people, and grace, and the incredible hope that she always had.”

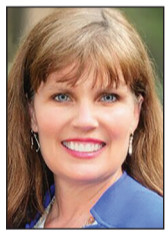
Misty praised her mentor, “who had paved this path and blazed the trail for me to even be in the position that I was in.”

Misty recounted that before major performances, her friend would call her and say, “Let me be the wind at your back.” When Misty completed her debut performance as the white swan Odette in “Swan Lake” at New York’s Metropolitan Opera House, she was presented roses — by her friend, Raven Wilkerson, on a stage where Raven had never performed.

They were the extraordinary black swans.

How important, healing, and consequential are mentorships, especially intergenerational relationships with those of shared callings and values? My life has been significantly enriched by older women who took time to listen, nurture, instruct and encourage me. How important it is to take time to build bridges with those who come behind us and to help them succeed.

Gail Drake practices probate, adoption, mediation and children’s law in Albany. She is a frequent columnist for The Albany Herald.



Gail Drake

COLUMNIST ■ KYLE DOMINY

It’s all in your head: A plastics problem

Modern science has done it again. We can now estimate how much plastic is in our brains. Scientists can’t tell you how it got there or prescribe any method to get rid of it, they can just tell you that it’s there, and that it’s most likely bad for you.

What an age to be alive. Of all the things to happen over the past five years, I’d never expect finding plastic on the human brain to make the list. I’m sure there are several people who would accuse me of having a plastic brain, but never plastic on the brain.

A recently released study from the University of New Mexico found that the average brain contained about 7 grams of microplastics. That’s enough to make a standard disposable plastic fork. Talk about recycling. Some

brains had more, others less. Dementia patients had the most.

Microplastics have long been the worry of medical scientists and health nuts. These nanoparticles are the left-behind bits of decomposing plastic goods, and are apparently everywhere, from the depths of the oceans to the meaty bits inside our bodies. How they find their way to our vital organs is still a mystery, but researchers suggest it is by eating, drinking and breathing.

So by the essentials of daily living. Even if you somehow led a plastic-free life, it’s in the air and the water. You can’t run and you can’t hide from the plastic apocalypse. I suppose that garbage island is still floating around somewhere in the Pacific making matters worse, distributing more microbits into the environment.

I try not to worry about such things, but as a parent it’s difficult not to. I don’t want my children to grow up in a world where a fork’s worth of plastic in the brain is a common thing, but that cat is out of the bag. I guess in a few years I’ll have two forks’ worth and won’t remember what’s going on anyway.

Even Consumer Reports, the customer advocacy group, suggests ditching most things plastic to combat the spread of these microscopic flecks. Not to be a conspiracy theorist, but it sounds like a ploy by big dish soap to force us to wash more dishes. Life’s too short for dishpan hands. Back off, Palmolive. Toss your plastic, and you’d soon find you own very little. But you don’t have to look far to

find something to worry about, and I’ll take our plastic age to, say, any time during the medieval period, or the 1970s. Disco? I don’t think so.

Things are faring well in my portion of this seemingly chaotic world. I’ll try not to let my plastic-infused head organ dwell on things out of my control. Worry only robs you of time that could be better spent and further clogs up the brain. So scientists, quit telling me how much plastic is floating around my skull and get back to me when you know how to get it out.



Kyle Dominy

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PERSPECTIVES

The Albany Herald

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COLUMNIST ■ GENE LYONS

Life is too short for four more years

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is Gene Lyons' last syndicated column.

After giving the matter some thought, I have decided that I've become unsuited to the low art of writing newspaper columns any longer. My deficiencies to participate in the current conversation are many. For one thing, I have never listened to a podcast. I prefer reading things, a more efficient way to gather and retain information.

For example, while I've heard of this Joe Rogan fellow, I've no good idea what he's all about. I gather he endorsed Donald Trump, and that's enough for me. But then I used to listen to Rush Limbaugh on my truck radio sometimes and generally found him preposterous. I suspect Rogan has inherited his audience of ignorant soreheads and members of the "I hate girls" club — yearning desperately for female companionship, but ashamed to admit it.

Furthermore, I do not own, nor have I ever wanted, an iPhone. My sainted wife, maybe the least "tech savvy" person you could ever meet, spends a great deal of time struggling with hers, arguing constantly with that snippy bitch Siri.

I get by with a steam-powered flip phone which rings about twice a week — normally a call from somebody I'm not eager to talk to.

Gifted with the fashion sense of a cowherd, I have never wanted to become an "influencer" anyway. When I really want to dress up, I go with L.L. Bean.

Just the other day, I encountered the on-line meanderings of one Jack Posobiec, a right-wing influencer who came up with a brilliant idea: "What if instead of a vaccine we just were able to get exposed to a weak version of the virus that enabled us to build the antibodies we need to fight the real thing?"

Yeah, what if? Here is how Wikipedia defines the term: "A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing micro-organism and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe. ... The agent stimulates the body's immune system to recognize the agent as a threat."

Talk about re-inventing the wheel.

Something else I learned courtesy of Kevin Drum's invaluable website is that fewer than half of Republicans in an Axios/Ipsos poll say they trust the Centers for Disease Control for health information. Sixty-eight percent trust Trump.

Don't tell me it's not a cult.

So, yes, the main reason I'm calling it quits as a newspaper columnist — this will be my last outing in this space — is Trump, the incompetent sociopath and career crim-

inal who's gotten himself elected president of the United States. I'm not afraid of him; my contempt is absolute. I just don't want to spend the rest of my life thinking and writing about him.

That a near-majority thought him worthy of the presidency is too depressing to contemplate. One way or another, Trump will bring the American experiment to ruins. But nothing says I have to chronicle the catastrophe. I only get one life.

The happy misanthrope and Baltimore Sun columnist H.L. Mencken predicted all this more than a century ago. "On some great and glorious day," Mencken wrote in 1920, "the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron."

Dudes, we're there. Donald Trump isn't merely ignorant; he exists in fear and loathing of anybody who's not.

"The most costly of all follies," Mencken wrote on another occasion, "is to believe passionately in the palpably not true. It is the chief occupation of mankind."

Salon columnist Amanda Marcotte put it this way after watching one of those televised focus groups from the heartland on CNN: "What quickly becomes evident about the median voters in an American focus group is how profoundly opposed they are to even the most basic factual information. On the contrary, it's a community with a pathological aversion to reality, where people compulsively react to anything truth-shaped with hostility, running as hard as they can toward disinformation. They are addicted to BS."

When chronicles are written about the decline and fall of the American republic, the opening chapters will no doubt describe the founding of Fox News and the cowardly inability of other news organizations to confront the reality of a Soviet-style propaganda network in their midst.

But they won't be written by me, because I've reached the end of my rope. I do want to thank my editors in Kansas City and at newspapers large and small who have published my work over the years. Also, the many kind readers who have written inquiring about my health and commenting upon my work. Thanks as well for the brilliance and dedication of the medical professionals who have restored my health and congenital optimism over the past year. I do look forward to haranguing poor Diane and innocent civilians down at the dog park instead of churning out newspaper columns.

Take care, y'all.

Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President" (St. Martin's Press, 2000). Contact Lyons at eugenelyons2@yahoo.com.



Gene Lyons

FROM THE EDITOR ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

Trump helps usher in a new kind of (anti-)religion

"I don't believe that heaven waits for only those who congregate."

— Don Williams

The ascension of Trump — might as well call it a coronation, what with true believers and Republicans, as well as some Democrats, in Congress bowing to his every whim, no matter how counterproductive or outlandish — comes at a perfect time for Satan, his minions and the worldwide forces of evil. Americans are increasingly turning away from organized religion, and, following the actions of Trump and purported spiritual leaders who support him, are skewing the long-held tenets of their faith to suit whatever it is Trump might want them to believe, as his ever-more-feeble mind continues to diminish and they're too enamored to say so out loud (i.e. the king has no clothes).

Yes, recent studies show that more and more Americans — an alarming number for churches that rely on a healthy, growing congregation to meet, among other things, financial obligations — have eschewed organized religion altogether, many for what they call "spirituality they don't get from churches and church leaders."

A common response to questions about religious preference: I don't get much from the increasingly hypocritical churches; I find spirituality within. I don't need some phony "pastor" telling me how to live my life while he's involved in the things I've always been taught true believers don't engage in.

(Only, let's be honest here, the literal translation of that statement is, basically: I don't like getting up on my day off and spending a couple of hours listening to some boring sermon — I've got a C-note on Sunday's Broncos-Packers game anyway — and I'd rather save my money for things I want to spend it on (see previous). That, in a nutshell, is 21st-century American "faith.")

It doesn't help that leaders of mega-churches — especially those in Southern states — have thrown their often substantial support behind Trump, a man for whom the Ten Commandments is little more than a reverse wish list. (Just did that one ... check No. 6 off.) Things the country's president has said, without, it should be noted, concerns that it might

cut into the fervent worship-like approval of his base, the overwhelming majority of whom call themselves "Christians" and do spend their time and money in support of their houses of worship, would have, in the not-so-distant past, gotten him banned from a lot of churches.

Houses of worship and religious groups in this country today fall somewhere between fun-houses, where, to drum up continued interest, leaders offer recreational and entertainment activities with "alternative" speakers who offer platitudes that are more a reflection of the modern ethos and neither look nor sound anything like that "old-time religion," and the rapidly diminishing but no less enthusiastic "fire-and-brimstone" congregations, whose fanaticism verges on cultism and provides a very narrow interpretation of accepted religious truths.

Instead of an all-day Sunday sing or a weeklong revival — with dinner on the grounds and special musical guests — adherents are now apt to see an interpretive dance production that tells the story of Jesus' resurrection as seen through the eyes of limber Roman soldiers — complete with "jazz hands" — who kept the crucifixion crowd at bay (think Monty Python's "The Life of Brian"). Instead of baptisms or bar mitzvahs, expect sprinkles and dance parties, complete with local hip-hop acts who agree to keep cursing to a minimum for an extra couple of hundred bucks.

The surveys don't say as much (fear of retribution? ... loss of tax-exempt status? ... disfavor with Lord Trump?), but Americans have always taken their cues for social/personal activism from their chosen leaders. (Imagine ... when John Kennedy ran for president, there was concern that he was unelectable because he was Catholic.) That trend continues under Trump. The moderately interested feel emboldened to, like Trump, say the kinds of things that would have, in the past, gotten them either reprimanded or excommunicated — and, let's face it, it's what they've always really felt — and the sanctity of their so-called faith continues to crumble.

To paraphrase Hank Williams Jr., I don't think Pinetta Baptist in Irwin County done it that way.

Email Carlton Fletcher at carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com.

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

Psalm 118:17

COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

A few things I love about America

Americans are arguing right now. And believe me, I get it. There is a lot going on. Everyone has differences of opinion.

But I wondered if we Americans couldn't put aside our disagreements for a moment, and agree on a few things we love.

I'll start.

I love quilting. Quilting bees, quilting circles, quilting parties. Americans didn't invent quilting, but it's an American artform nonetheless.

I used to watch my mother quilt with dogged persistence. Day after day. Month after month. She used birch-wood quilting hoops and pieced recycled fabric together. She could take seemingly unrelated scraps and make art.

My mother always said, "When life gives you scraps, you make a quilt."

Also, I love jazz. American fiddle tunes. And the way New Orleans smells on a summer morning, after tourists have spent all night urinating in the streets.

Stetson hats worn non-ironically. Case knives, butter yellow, dual blades. Moe Howard, Larry Fine, and Curly Howard. Shemp is OK.

The old men in cafes who still drink coffee in groups. And the young men who still idolize them.

Boys who still ask Santa Claus for BB guns. And their little sisters, who steal their GI Joes because Barbie needs a viable love interest.

Kids who still ride bikes. Children who play tag in their backyards, screaming and laughing, without ever once checking their phones.

I love Waffle House. An American in-

stitution. Yes, I realize eggs are expensive right now, raising the cost of an ordinary omelet to about the same price as a Range Rover Autograph. But I will continue to eat Waffle House fare until my end. Mainly, because I have eaten at Waffle House to benchmark the most important moments in my life.

I ate at Waffle House the morning after my own wedding. After the funerals of friends and family. God willing, I will eat at Waffle House the day after my own funeral.

I love baseball. Not just the game itself. I love the culture. I love how baseball terminology has crept into everyday vocabulary. "Just touching base." "I'll go to bat for you." "He's out in left field." "You knocked it out of the park."

I miss the grungy AAA ballparks of my youth. The smells of flat beer, cigar smoke, and meat-like rubber served on a hotdog bun. Back when the game was slow and pitchers still batted.

Davy Crockett. Louis Armstrong. Helen Keller. Dorothea Lange. Aretha Franklin. Andy Griffith. Groucho Marx. Lucille Ball. Laura Ingalls Wilder. Dolly Parton.

Willie Hugh Nelson.

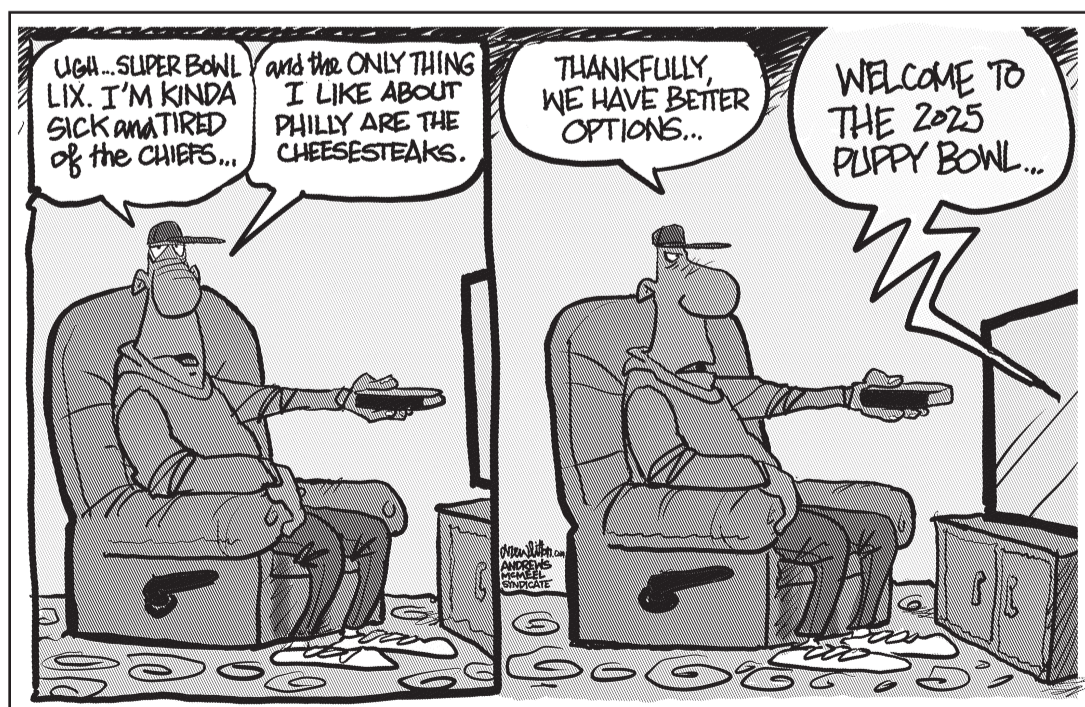
And I love you. Whoever you are. In fact you're what I like most about America. You're a great person. No matter how different we might be. No matter how we might disagree. No matter how dissimilar our backgrounds.

Maybe I am foolish enough to believe that, even though we appear differently, think differently, and believe differently, it is contrast that makes the scraps of a quilt truly beautiful.

Sean Dietrich is a columnist and novelist known for his commentary on life in the American South.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

EMAIL: carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com
MAIL: Albany Herald News
306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701



The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

Albany agrees to \$275,000 settlement with man unlawfully detained

By Alan Mauldin

alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Albany City Commission approved a settlement totaling \$275,000 for an Albany man who was charged in a 2017 death that occurred in what the Albany Police Department described as a gang shootout.

The Commission voted 6-0 on Tuesday to approve the settlement.

According to 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals documents in the case of Demeetrius Rashard Luke v. Jameel H. Gulley, the Albany police detective who took the arrest warrant, Luke was held for an excessively lengthy period without sufficient evidence for that detention.

Luke's arrest came during a police investigation into a

March 4, 2017, shooting that reportedly involved a group of South Side Bloods members who were gathered at a residence on South Jackson Street and members of the West Side Rattlers.

According to the court documents, the Rattlers group fired at the Bloods, some of whom returned fire.

Luke was one of eight people indicted in the incident, and he was indicted on counts of felony murder, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and violating the Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act.

Prosecutors later dismissed charges against Luke and two others.

The court ruled that the affidavit supporting the war-

rant was insufficient to hold the defendant for a prolonged period of time.

In its ruling, the federal court said that Luke's Fourth Amendment rights were violated based on "glaring deficiencies" in the warrant affidavit.

"As a result, the unlawfulness of Detective Gulley's conduct was clearly established when he acted and he was not entitled to qualified immunity," the court ruled. "Even if, as Detective Gulley argues, his investigation provided probable cause to arrest Luke, the record contains evidence that Luke was detained 'too long to be justified without legal process.' Luke was imprisoned 61 days. A seizure of that length cannot be justified without a lawful warrant."



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs, left, has a conversation with Mayor Bo Dorrough during a break at Tuesday's Albany City Commission meeting.

UGA has \$8.4 billion impact on state economy

By Mike Wooten & Susan Ambrosetti

mwooten@uga.edu; susan.ambrosetti@uga.edu

ATHENS – The University of Georgia contributed \$8.4 billion to the state's economy in Fiscal Year 2024, an increase of \$300 million from the previous year and a record for the state's flagship university.

The increased economic impact was powered by growth in the number of degrees conferred at the graduate and undergraduate levels, an increase in externally funded research and the positive effects of UGA's public service and outreach efforts across the state.

"Throughout every corner of Georgia, the impact of our

university's teaching, research and service is helping individuals and communities thrive," UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "Our outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni are proud to play a significant role in strengthening our state's economic vitality."

In the past year, UGA conferred more than 11,700 degrees, helped bring more than 60 new products based on its research to market and leveraged its statewide network of extension agents and public service and outreach units to support businesses, individuals and communities across Georgia.

Now in its eighth year, the economic impact study was conducted by UGA economist

Michael Adjemian, a professor in the department of agricultural and applied economics in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The report analyzed the impact of the university's teaching and instruction by calculating the increased earnings that degree holders can expect to receive based on their field of study. According to historical data from the UGA Alumni Association, two out of every three UGA graduates stay in Georgia, and their increased earnings contribute to the tax bases of their communities. Out-of-state and international students generate economic impact in Georgia through their spending on tuition and living expenses. Additionally, the study considered spend-

ing by prospective out-of-state students and family members who visited campus, as well as external grant funding related to teaching programs.

To determine the economic contributions of UGA's research enterprise, the study examined federal funding and other grants that brought money into Georgia from out of state. Using an economic impact model known as IMPLAN, the study estimated that each dollar of funding from federal agencies and out-of-state foundations generated an economic impact of \$2.13, as those funds were spent in Georgia on personnel and equipment. UGA's economic impact also included that of companies whose operations are based

on UGA discoveries, as well as licensing and royalty fees from the commercialization of discoveries and intellectual property produced by UGA faculty and staff.

The study noted that UGA's public service and outreach programs provided continuing education and training to thousands of Georgians employed in the public and private sectors in FY 2024, leading to operating efficiencies and new businesses. Public service and outreach efforts of other UGA units — including schools, colleges and units such as UGA Cooperative Extension — produced an additional impact.

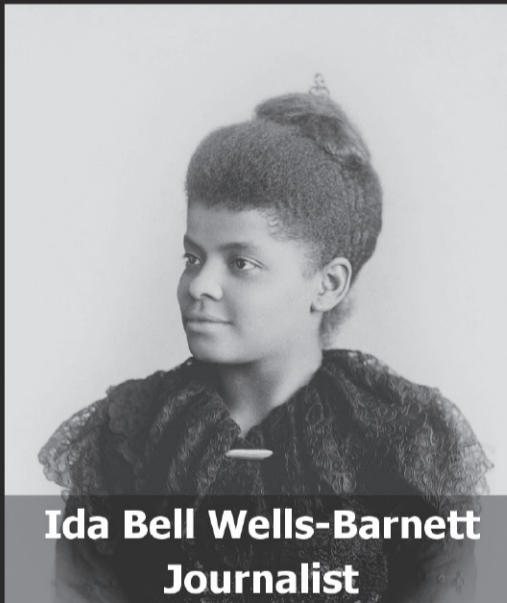
The report also calculated the economic impact of select UGA athletic programs.

Events featuring the university's football, men's basketball, women's basketball, gymnastics and baseball teams attracted 67,311 out-of-state spectators during their most recent seasons, and those visitors spent money on lodging, food, fuel and other expenses.

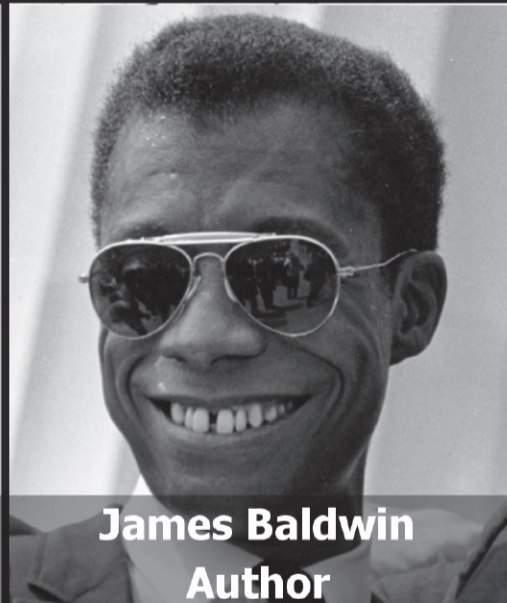
"As a land-grant and sea-grant institution, we have an enduring commitment to serve the people of Georgia," S. Jack Hu, the university's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, said. "We are thankful for the support our state provides to the University of Georgia, and we take great pride in our efforts to support people and business across Georgia."



HONORING THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



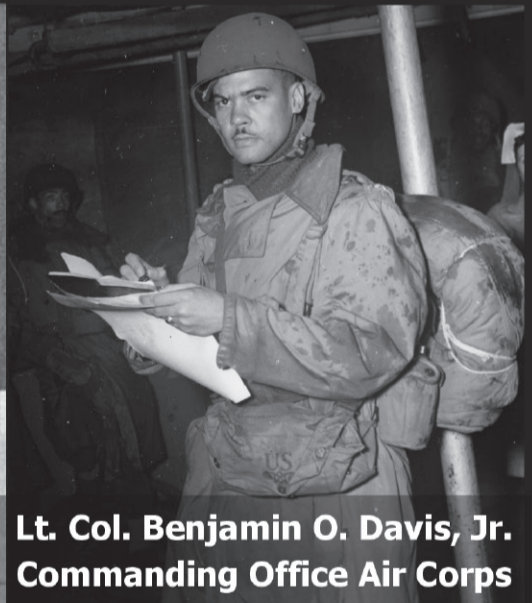
Ida Bell Wells-Barnett
Journalist



James Baldwin
Author



Marian Anderson
Singer

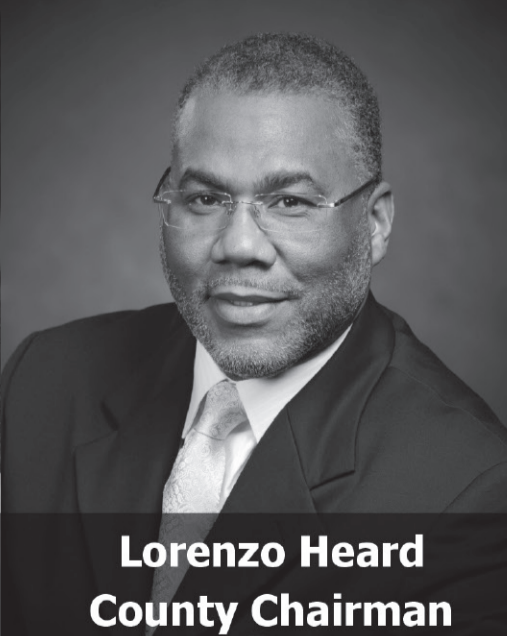


Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
Commanding Office Air Corps

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



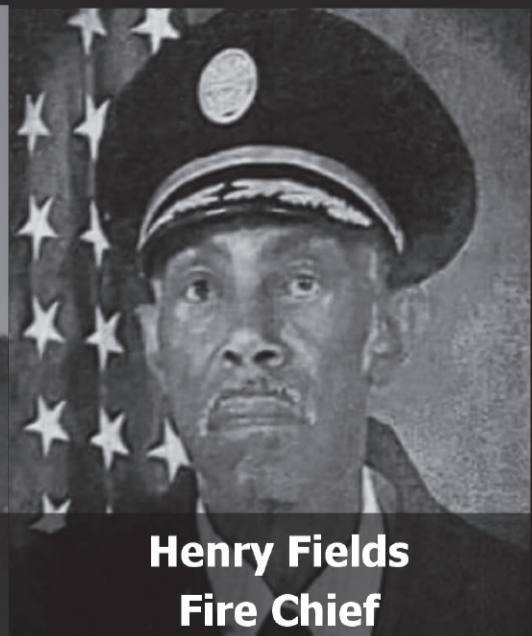
Mary Petty
COA Director



Lorenzo Heard
County Chairman



Wilma Griffin
Police Chief



Henry Fields
Fire Chief

And those who have made a local impact on our community

Albany Museum of Art Spring Break Camps to bring ‘color explosion’

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Albany Museum of Art’s Spring Break Art Camps promise “color explosions” for campers in K-5 through seventh grade. Each weeklong camp will be a creative adventure for young artists who love to explore the world of color as they unleash creativity.

The camps will be conducted March 31-April 4, and April 7-11. Full-day camp is 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and the half-day camp option is 9 a.m.-noon. Free early drop-off starts at 8 a.m. and free late pick-up goes until 5 p.m. Registration is open; the registration link can be found at www.albanymuseum.com/ama_programs/spring-break-camp.

“From mixing and blending

colors to experimenting with different artistic techniques, color explosion is about helping kids understand how colors can transform their artwork and bring their imaginations to life,” AMA Director of Education and Public Programming Anni Vanoteghem said.

Each Spring Break Art Camp: Color Explosion week will include highlights of color theory basics, tie-dye creations, rainbow paintings, abstract art exploration, and a collaborative color mural.

“Each day will be packed with hands-on projects that allow campers to experiment, explore, and express their creativity,” Vanoteghem said. “Whether they are painting, drawing, or crafting, they will be using all of the colors in the spectrum to create their



Special Photo

The Albany Museum of Art has opened registration for this spring’s full-day and half-day art camps.

works of art. Color Explosion also encourages collaboration and teamwork through group art activities.”

Activities each week also

will include visits to the AMA galleries, outdoor and indoor playtime, movies, games, and snacks.

The cost per full-day session

is \$35 for AMA donors at the reciprocal level or higher and \$40 for artist guild donors and non-donors. Each half-day session is \$15 for recip-

rocal level or higher donors and \$20 for artist guild donors and non-donors.

A camper can bring a brown-bag lunch, or the AMA will provide lunch for \$10 per day. On Fridays, when each camp wraps up, all campers enjoy a free pizza lunch party.

A limited number of scholarships are available. The scholarship application link can be found on the spring break camp webpage.

“We have professional artists and art educators who will guide students through the camps, but we also have opportunities for teenagers who would like to help out with the camps,” Vanoteghem said.

Teens interested in being camp aides can email her at annie.vanoteghem@albany-museum.com.

G-DOT awards 23 projects in December

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded a total of 23 projects in December 2024, including rehabilitation, resurfacing, bridge construction and safety improvements.

The largest investment, totaling approximately \$90 million, is allocated for a rehabilitation project spanning 3.381 miles of widening and reconstruction on State Route 15, from south of Pinnacle Drive to Cathey Road in Rabun County. The second-largest investment, valued at \$4.5 million, will cover 3.690 miles of concrete rehabilitation on Interstate 520/SR

415, extending from west of the SR 4 Overpass Bridge to east of the SR 56 Bridge in Richmond County. Together, these projects, along with four others, account for 60% of the awarded funds.

Approximately \$58 million of the total awarded funds are allocated for 11 resurfacing projects. The largest of these is in Douglas County, covering 7.871 miles of milling and plant mix resurfacing on I-20/SR 402, stretching from east of the Liberty Road overpass to east of SR 5 overpass valued at \$14.9 million. This project, along with 10 other resurfacing projects, accounts for 32% of the awarded funds.

A single construction project, totaling nearly \$8 million or 4% of the awarded funds, includes the construction of a 0.121-mile bridge and its approaches on SR 180 over Slaughter Creek in Union County.

Three percent of the awarded funds, approximately \$4.5 million, are allocated for two bridge rehabilitation projects. The first, valued at \$3 million, focuses on rehabilitating a bridge on I-16/SR 404 in Laurens County. The second project involves bridge rehabilitation at multiple locations in Chatham County.

The remaining 1% of the awarded funds, totaling \$1.3 million, will support a safety improvement project. The largest safety project, valued at \$863,000, includes 6.930 miles of resurfacing, signage, pavement marking upgrades, and shoulder rehabilitation on Bold Springs Road beginning at SR 81 and extending to SR 11 in Walton County. The second-largest, at approximately \$398,000, focuses on railroad signage and pavement marking upgrades at various crossings in Elbert, Franklin and Hart counties. The final project, valued at \$68,695, will enhance signage and pavement markings on multiple county roads in Echols County.

The December awards bring the total construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2025 to \$1.19 billion. This total includes TIA, Design-Bid-Build, and locally administered projects. Fiscal Year 2025 began July 1, 2024.



Special Photo

Registration is open for this spring’s Paddle Georgia adventure that will carry paddlers into three states.

Registration opens for Paddle Georgia event

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS – Paddle Georgia, the Peach State’s annual weeklong canoe/kayak camping adventure, will venture across three states this summer with more than 300 paddlers expected to stroke through the Tennessee River basin in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

Set for June 15-22, Georgia Rivers (formerly Georgia River Network) will celebrate the event’s 20th anniversary with this one-of-a-kind adventure achievable only in far northwest Georgia where streams originating in Georgia flow north into Tennessee and then into Alabama.

Considered the largest event of its kind in the country, the journey will highlight the South Chickamauga Creek Water Trail and the Tennessee RiverLine, a transformative water trail initiative that encompasses a continuous 652-mile-long system of outdoor recreation experiences along the Tennessee River. Interested parties can

register online at www.garivers.org/paddle-georgia.

While most participants join for entire seven-day journey, two-, three- and four-day registration options also are available. Registration fees for adults range from \$160 for two days to \$460 for seven days. The fees include campsites with showers and flush toilets, shuttle and guide services, daily educational programs, event T-shirt and decal, overnight boat security, and daily river maps and guides. Substantial discounts are offered for children and families. In addition, a limited number of scholarships are available for women, people of color, recent immigrants and low-income individuals.

Catered meals for the week and special indoor accommodations may be purchased separately during registration. Participants must provide their own boats; boats may be rented from nearby outfitters.

The trip will begin in Ringgold on South Chickamauga Creek, a narrow stream that

flows beneath spectacular limestone bluffs, over playful shoals and (unusually) underground before emptying into the Tennessee River just east of Chattanooga. The journey’s final five days will follow the course of the Tennessee as it winds through Chattanooga and the river’s historic and scenic gorge into Nickajack Lake. After locking through Nickajack Lock and Dam in their vessels, participants will float into northeast Alabama for the adventure’s final two days. The seven-day trip will cover more than 80 miles.

“This is our 20th year of doing these annual adventures,” Rena Peck, the executive director of Georgia Rivers, said. “We’ve skirted South Carolina on the Savannah River and even stroked into Florida on the Withlacoochee and Suwannee, but this one will be unique. It’s a GA-TENN-BAMA adventure!”

The event will shine a spotlight on the South Chickamauga Creek Water Trail and a section of the Tennessee RiverLine water trail. These boating trails offer public access and passage down these streams, connecting people with outdoor recreation opportunities. The South Chickamauga Creek Water Trail runs some 30 miles from Ringgold to Chattanooga. The Tennessee RiverLine runs 652 miles from Knoxville to the Ohio River.

“We are thrilled to partner with Paddle Georgia on their 20th anniversary event,” Brad Collett, the executive director of the Tennessee RiverLine, said. “This journey exemplifies our shared commitment to connecting people with the river, fostering environmental stewardship, and celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the Tennessee River Valley.”

On the water by day, Paddle Georgia participants will have the opportunity to visit the region’s iconic off-water destinations throughout the week, including downtown Chattanooga and the Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, Russell Cave National Monument, Nickajack Cave Wildlife Refuge and Neversink Pit.

FOR VOTERS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY OF ALBANY COMMISSION WARD SIX DISTRICT THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE MARCH 18, 2025, SPECIAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025.

VOTERS WHO WISH TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL FOR THE MARCH 18, 2025, SPECIAL ELECTION MAY SUBMIT A **WRITTEN APPLICATION** PROVIDED BY THE GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE ELECTIONS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 1827, ALBANY, GA 31702. FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025, IS THE LAST DAY ABSENTEE APPLICATIONS MAY BE ACCEPTED.

EARLY VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THREE WEEKS, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, AND CONTINUING THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025. THOSE VOTERS WHO WISH TO VOTE EARLY MAY DO SO AT THE RIVERFRONT RESOURCE CENTER 125 PINE AVENUE, FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY VOTING WILL BE HELD AT THE RIVERFRONT RESOURCE CENTER, 125 PINE AVENUE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 AND MARCH 8, 2025, FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 229.431.3247

NOTICE

CONTACT: DOUGHERTY COUNTY ELECTIONS
(229) 431-3247

THIS SERVES TO ADVISE THAT LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING OF THE BALLOT MARKING DEVICES TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE MARCH 18, 2025, SPECIAL ELECTION WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025, BEGINNING AT 8:30 A.M. AND SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL COMPLETION. TESTING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE ELECTIONS OFFICE, 222 PINE AVE., AS WELL AS THE ELECTIONS WAREHOUSE LOCATED AT 2507 DAWSON ROAD (NORTHWEST LIBRARY).

ALL CANDIDATES, MEDIA AND INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT TO OBSERVE TESTING.

GINGER P. NICKERSON, SUPERVISOR
FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Chiefs eye three-peat; Eagles out to avenge SB LVII loss

Field Level Media

NEW ORLEANS — With history at their fingertips, the Kansas City Chiefs are familiar with holding the Lombardi Trophy and growing more ac-

customed to getting the Birds. Two-time defending champion Kansas City draws the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LIX on Sunday at Caesars Superdome, the ninth overall rematch and the sec-

ond in a three-year span in Super Bowl history. The Chiefs won Super Bowl LVII 38-35 over the Eagles, overcoming a 10-point deficit early in their run of dominance. The Chiefs are 49-11 — 9-0 in

the playoffs — since the start of the 2022 regular season. Chiefs coach Andy Reid and quarterback Patrick Mahomes team up for their 21st postseason game boasting a record of 17-3, four previous Super Bowl

appearances and three rings. All that winning has led to a sentiment among fans and media that maybe someone else should get a turn now. “I get it,” Kansas City defensive end Chris Jones said. “If

I was on the outside looking in, I would be saying the same thing, ‘I’m sick of the Chiefs.’” To add a fourth ring and become the first team to ac-

SEE CHIEFS, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

The Radium Springs Panthers celebrate with their Deep South Conference championship trophy after a thrilling comeback victory over Albany Middle School on Thursday night at Monroe. The win capped a perfect 19-0 season for head coach Montravious Gilbert and his undefeated Panthers.

FLAWLESS RECORD

Radium Springs completes perfect season; Lee East wins girls title

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Radium Springs Panthers capped a perfect season with a dramatic second-half comeback, defeating crosstown rival Albany Middle School 53-43 to claim the Deep South Conference championship Thursday night at Monroe. The win secured a flawless 19-0 record for the Panthers in an electrifying middle school showdown.

In the girls' championship game, Lee East avenged its only loss of the season by defeating Crisp County 27-16 to claim the Deep South Conference title. The Lady Trojans finished with an impressive 23-1 record.

Radium rallies for title

Albany Middle came out strong, building an early lead behind guard Micah Joyner, who repeatedly drove the lane and dished to Ernest Townsell in the paint. Townsell's aggressive play forced three early fouls on Radium Springs' Robert Adams, sending him to the bench.

With Adams out, Albany Middle extended its lead to 21-11 before Radium Springs' Rodriquez Martin scored inside and Jherel Gibson knocked down a three-pointer. The



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

The Lee East Lady Trojans, led by head coach Brandy Black, celebrate their Deep South Conference championship after defeating Crisp County Middle 27-16 on Thursday afternoon at Monroe. The victory capped an impressive 23-1 season for the Lady Trojans.

Indians still led 24-16 at halftime.

Radium Springs turned up the defensive pressure in the second half with a full-court press that led to quick points. But Albany Middle managed to stay in front

until Gibson converted a three-point play to tie the game at 35-35 with just over five minutes left.

SEE RECORD, 10A



Photo by Kameron Taylor for the Albany Herald

Atlanta Hawks superstar Trae Young scored 32 points and tied the game with just eight seconds remaining, but the Spurs scored late to win the game.

De'Aaron Fox stars in debut, helping Spurs edge Hawks

Field Level Media

Victor Wembanyama made a go-ahead free throw with 2.9 seconds remaining and De'Aaron Fox shined in his Spurs debut as San Antonio escaped with a 126-125 win over the host Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

Fox, acquired from the Sacramento Kings on Monday as part of a three-team trade that also involved the Chicago Bulls, poured in 24 points on 11-of-22 shooting and dished out 13 assists. One of his misses led to a Wembanyama putback dunk that put the Spurs up 125-123 with 30.4 seconds left.

Atlanta's Trae Young sank a floater with 8.5 seconds remaining to tie the game, but Onyeka Okongwu fouled Wembanyama on the next possession.

Wembanyama intentionally missed his second free-throw attempt, and Young followed with a 45-foot heave that was off the mark.

Wembanyama paired 24 points with 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who won despite getting outshot from the field (52.7 percent to 50.5 percent). Devin Vassell added 20 points and Jeremy Sochan supplied 15 off the bench as San Antonio won for just the third time in 10 games.

Young led all scorers with 32 points. He also had 12 assists but committed nine turnovers.

Okongwu (30 points), De'Andre Hunter (22) and Dyson Daniels (19) also scored in double figures as Atlanta lost for the ninth time in its past 10 games. Okongwu pulled down 12 rebounds, Hunter had 10 rebounds, and Daniels added eight boards and seven assists.

The Spurs were up 61-52 after Okongwu split a pair of free throws with 2:08 to go in the second quarter. Fox then connected on three jumpers during an 11-2 run that gave San Antonio a 72-54

SEE SPURS, 10A

Dougherty players accept football scholarships

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Five Dougherty Trojan football players signed to play college football during a ceremony Wednesday morning at Dougherty High School. The band played, the dance line swayed and the cheerleaders energized the crowd in front of an auditorium filled with Dougherty's senior class and many of the school's athletes.

“This is why I coach,” Dougherty head coach Uyl Joyner told the crowd. “It’s days like this. There is no better feeling than seeing these parents with big smiles on their faces because their child gets a chance to go to college. This is the reason I do what I do. There is no bigger victory. This is my ‘why,’ and it is the greatest feeling you can get as a coach.”

Joyner emphasized that the five players who signed Wednesday reached this moment because of their work ethic and perseverance.

“We had some tough days this season, but we didn’t have any



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

The five Dougherty Trojans who signed letters of intent on National Signing Day are, from left, TyShawn McGhee, Jamarius Lewis, Stanley Walker, Braylen Still and Jaquavus Hallman.

quitters,” Joyner said. “They fought through the hard times, and this is what you get. Sometimes signing a paper is better than putting on a ring. That ring is nice, but this paper can make a real difference.”

The first to sign was lineman TyShawn McGhee, who committed to play at Andrew College in Cuthbert.

He will be a teammate of Lee

County linemen Dom Vigil and Brandon Whitlock, who also signed with Andrew College on Wednesday.

Next, wide receiver Braylen Still, an All-Albany standout, signed with Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Broncos compete in NCAA Division II's Central Intercollegiate

SEE PLAYERS, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County head football coach Dean Fabrizio, standing, right, joins 10 of his seniors who have signed to play at the college level. Seated, from left, are Dom Vigil, Durrh Butler, Brandon Whitlock, Ryker Moye, Jacori White and Jayden Daniels. Standing, from left, are Ousmane Kromah, Weston Bryan, Dylan Richardson and Jace Molden. Jeramiah McCloud, who also signed, has already enrolled at the University of Florida.

Lee County athletes sign letters of intent on National Signing Day

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Six more Lee County Trojan football players signed national letters of intent Wednesday to continue their academic and athletic careers at the college level — five in football and one in baseball.

That brings the total to 11 seniors

from Lee County's region championship team, which finished in the final four with a 13-1 record. Five Trojans signed during the early signing period in December.

“I’m really happy for these young men,” head coach Dean Fabrizio said.

SEE SIGNING, 10A

Sherwood's Collyer Alderman signs with Huntingdon College

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Sherwood Christian Academy kicker Collyer Alderman signed a national letter of intent Wednesday to play college football at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama.

Alderman, a key contributor to the Eagles' undefeated state championship season, also played wide receiver and cornerback. However, his biggest impact came in the kicking game, where he ranked third nationally in kickoff yards, totaling 4,400 yards with 38

touchbacks.

"I'm excited for Collyer because he has worked hard. He is dedicated and committed to being his best," Sherwood head coach Doug Eason said, "but I while I like a tough, hard-nosed football player — which Collyer is. I was really impressed with his commitment to his faith and his relationship with the Lord."

Despite receiving multiple college offers, Alderman chose Huntingdon because of its coaching staff, facilities and winning culture.

"I really liked the coaches," Alderman said after the signing

ceremony. "The head coach has been there for 23 years, which brings a lot of stability. Their facilities are top-notch, and it's a winning program. They push to be the best."

Huntingdon competes in NCAA Division III's USA South Athletic Conference under long-time head coach Mike Turk. Huntingdon is a private Methodist College.

Alderman plans to major in pre-med and pursue a career in medicine like his father. He is the son of Dr. Troy and Carley Alderman and has three brothers: Will, Connor and Cooper.



Sherwood Christian's Collyer Alderman, center, signed to kick for the Huntingdon College Hawks on National Signing Day. With him, from left, are Connor Alderman, Troy Alderman, Carley Alderman, and Cooper Alderman.

Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Georgia puts away LSU with strong second half

Field Level Media

Asa Newell scored a team-high 17 points as Georgia pulled away for an 81-62 victory over visiting LSU on Wednesday in Southeastern Conference play.

RJ Godfrey and De'Shayne Montgomery added 12 points apiece, while Blue Cain collected 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists as the Bulldogs (16-7, 4-6) outrebounded LSU 47-26 for their second win in three tries.

The Tigers (12-10, 1-8) dropped their fifth straight and have lost eight of nine. Jordan Sears led the way with 11 points, followed by Daimion Collins and Cam Carter, who chipped in 10 apiece.

After leading by six at halftime, Georgia saw its advantage shrink to three after Sears' triple and Carter's free throws cut LSU's deficit to 49-46 with under 15 minutes left.

From there, Montgomery, Cain and Newell's buckets extended the Bulldogs' edge to nine. Mike Williams III's free throws stopped the bleeding for the Tigers, but Cain's three-point play began a 12-2 Georgia run, stamped with Godfrey's dunk at the 8:27 mark.

Dakota Leffew's 3-pointer just over a



Photo by Conor Dillon/UGAAA

minute later gave Georgia a 70-52 lead — the Bulldogs' largest of the night to that point. After LSU pulled within 13, Newell scored seven straight points to push the Bulldogs' advantage to 20 with 2:06 left.

LSU connected on five of its first six 3-point attempts and grabbed a 15-13 lead on Dji Bailey and Sears' consecutive treys.

After Newell's back-to-back buckets, Bailey's second triple gave LSU an 18-17 advantage at the 13:15 mark.

Curtis Givens III drained a 3-pointer to knot the score at 27 with 7:43 remaining, before Montgomery's triple put the Bulldogs ahead by three 24 seconds later.

Fort Valley State names new head football coach

Staff Reports

Fort Valley State University is proud to announce the appointment of Marlon Watson as the head football coach of the

Wildcats. A seasoned coach with a track record of success at multiple collegiate levels, Watson brings a wealth of experience in player development, defensive strategy and special teams excellence.

Over the past two seasons, Watson was a key member of the Prairie View A&M University coaching staff, serving as the special teams coordinator and defensive ends coach. During his tenure, he played an instrumental role in PVAMU's 2023 SWAC Western Division Championship and led improvements in multiple statistical categories, including PATs,

field goals and net punting. He also helped mentor top athletes, including All-SWAC honorees and future professional players.

"We are excited to welcome Marlon Watson to the Wildcat family," said President Paul Jones, Ph.D. "His depth of experience, leadership qualities and ability to elevate student-athletes on and off the field make him an outstanding choice to lead our football program. We look forward to seeing the energy and excellence he brings to Wildcat Nation."

"I look forward to seeing Coach Marlon Watson's leadership as our head football coach. He is an outstanding and authentic man with a strong passion for developing young men," Interim Athletic Director Daphnie Johnson said. "His track record of competitive success at the collegiate levels makes me confident that he will lead our football program to new heights."



Marlon Watson

From 9A CHIEFS

comply a three-peat in Super Bowl history, the Chiefs have to contend with Eagles running back Saquon Barkley and Philadelphia's top-ranked defense.

Mahomes, 3-1 in the Super Bowl, was MVP of Super Bowls LIV, LVII and LVIII. He has seven touchdowns and five interceptions in his four Super Bowl appearances. A fourth Lombardi Trophy would pull Mahomes even with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw for second on the all-time QB Super Bowl wins list. Tom Brady is at the top with seven and played in 10 Super Bowls during his 23 NFL seasons.

Mahomes (43 postseason TD passes) could also pass Montana — and Aaron Rodgers, both of whom have 45 — for second in all-time playoff TDs thrown. Brady is the leader with 88.

Eagles defensive coordinator Vic Fangio is 0-8 against Mahomes since he was head coach of the Denver Broncos, losing twice as coordinator of the Miami Dolphins. But this Fangio defense led the NFL in passing defense at 174.2 yards per game.

"Every time I've played Coach Fangio, there's been different changeups and different things that he's thrown at us," Mahomes said. "I think that's what makes him so great is he's not going to just do exactly what you saw the last

time. I'm sure there will be blitzes during the game, I'm sure there will be times where they play coverage. It's going to be a chess match."

Reid doesn't mind a good game of chess.

No NFL head coach has more playoff games than Reid. He'll hit No. 45 on Sunday, and he has 28 career postseason victories, trailing only former New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick (31).

Barkley is not among the 27 holdover starters between the two teams from their Super Bowl shootout two years ago.

Barkley has 2,447 rushing yards this season, including 442 in the postseason, on the verge of the all-time single-season record held by Terrell Davis. The former Broncos running back gained 2,476 rushing yards in 1998.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts had three TD runs and passed for 304 yards and a TD in the loss to Kansas City in Super Bowl LVII. He logged a career-high 387 passing yards in a 42-30 defeat to Kansas City in the 2021 regular season.

"It's had a great driving force," Hurts said of the Eagles' runner-up finish in 2023. "It lit a flame, lit a fire in me, and to have this opportunity again is exactly what you work for."

In Philadelphia's 21-17 win over the Chiefs in the 2023 regular season, Hurts was sacked five times, intercepted once and completed 14 of 22 passes for 150 yards but rushed for two touchdowns.

Philadelphia has leaned heavily on a large, athletic

offensive line to help break Barkley for huge plays. The Eagles attempted 536 passes, 544 runs in the 2022 regular season en route to the Super Bowl. The imbalance skewed toward Barkley and Hurts running the ball in the 2024 regular season, as Philadelphia logged 448 pass attempts to 621 rushing plays.

Barkley averaged 2.64 yards before contact this season and led the NFL with 46 carries for gains of 10 yards or more and seven of 40 or more.

"He's just a total running back," Chiefs linebacker Drue Tranquill said. "He can make you miss in tight spaces. He can also run you over. He's got a good stiff-arm. He's got a good spin move. He's got a good jump cut. And he can go the distance. He's got the speed to take it."

All Chiefs players were full participants at practice on Wednesday, with Mahomes' passing performance being described as "sharp."

Philadelphia defensive end Brandon Graham (elbow) and tight end C.J. Uzomah (abdomen) were designated to return from injured reserve last week. Uzomah was a full Wednesday practice participant, while Graham was limited. Also limited for the Eagles were defensive tackle Jalen Carter (illness), running back Kenneth Gainwell (concussion, knee) and wide receiver DeVonta Smith (hamstring).

"They're doing everything they can to get themselves ready to go," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said.

program this year. Clayton State's 2025 schedule includes Andrew College, so McGhee and Lewis will compete against each other.

Defensive standout Jaquavus Hallman was next.

"This is a turning point for me and my family, and I am beyond excited," Hallman said before signing his letter of in-

tent to play at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. He will be teammates with Lee County's Jayden Daniels, who also signed with Texas Southern on Wednesday.

Finally, Stanley Walker, a 6-foot-4, 300-pound defensive tackle, signed with Southern Union Community College in Wadley, Alabama.

From 9A RECORD

Albany Middle briefly regained the lead with three-pointers from Karson Knox and VJ Chambers, but Martin tied it again at 43-43 with 2:13 remaining. Seconds later, he sank two free throws to give Radium Springs its first lead of the game.

Albany Middle head coach Tenorris Knox called a timeout, hoping to rally his team, but Radium Springs never lost control down the stretch. Martin continued to ice the game at the free-throw line, earning chants of "MVP, MVP!" from the crowd. As the final seconds ticked away, Adams put an exclamation point on the victory, sinking a three-pointer at the buzzer to seal the 10-point win.

"We started slow and got into early foul trouble," Radium Springs head coach Mon-

travious Gilbert said. "In the second half, we put the press in, and that's what helped us get the win."

Martin, who was not in the starting five, came off the bench and dominated in the paint and scored 11 of his game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter. Gibson finished with 15 points, while Adams added 11.

Joyner led Albany Middle with 15 points, followed by Townsell with 11 and Detavious Poole with seven.

Lee East girls claim championship

Neither team found an offensive rhythm early in the girls' title game. Lee East's Kamari Franklin hit a three-pointer in the first quarter, helping the Lady Trojans take a 10-6 lead into halftime.

Crisp County closed the gap to 12-10 in the third quarter before Lee East head coach Brandy Black called for a full-court press, sparking a late

push. By the end of the third, the Lady Trojans had extended their lead to 16-10.

Franklin swished another three-pointer early in the fourth, pushing the lead to 19-10, and the Lady Trojans controlled the game from there.

"This was probably the worst game we played all season, but we pulled it off," Black said. "We went through a lot of frustration and nerves, but the girls came together in the end as a team."

Franklin finished with 12 points to lead the Lady Trojans.

Black praised her squad's resilience, reflecting on their journey to the championship.

"One word we always talked about was REDEMPTION," she said. "The work we put in during the offseason got us here. Last season, we went 23-2. This year, we finished 23-1. We took those lessons and capitalized on them. This is an amazing group of girls — this group is special."

From 9A SIGNING

"They've worked hard in the classroom, the weight room, and on the practice field. They have been a huge part of our success."

Durrah Butler signed a scholarship to play baseball at ABAC in Tifton. Butler, who played tight end for the Trojans in football, is a pitcher and infielder on the baseball field. He will play both positions at ABAC.

Jayden Daniels, a 6-foot-3, 355-pound offensive lineman, signed with Texas Southern University, an HBCU in Hous-

ton, Texas, that competes in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. He will be teammates with Dougherty High School's Jaquavus Hallman, who also signed with Texas Southern on Wednesday.

Kicker Ryker Moyer signed with Wingate University, a private university in North Carolina. The Wingate Bulldogs, a Division II program in the South Atlantic Conference, finished last season with a 9-2 record and a 6-1 mark in conference play.

Defensive back Jacori White, at 6-foot, 180 pounds, is staying close to home after signing with the Albany State Golden Rams.

Two Trojans will continue their careers at Andrew College's newly established football program in Cuthbert. Offensive lineman Dom Vigil and defensive end Brandon Whitlock will once again be teammates.

During the early signing period, Lee County had five other seniors sign letters of intent. Quarterback Weston Bryan and offensive lineman Jace Molden signed with Georgia Southern, running back Ousmane Kromah signed with Florida State, Dylan Richardson signed with Charleston Southern and defensive end Jeremiah McCloud signed with the Florida Gators.

From 9A PLAYERS

Athletic Association.

Wide receiver Jamarious Lewis followed, taking down his hair before putting on a cap to reveal his commitment to Clayton State University, which is launching its football

From 9A SPURS

cushion at the break. A Fox layup 22 seconds into the third quarter made

it a 20-point game, but the Hawks gradually chipped away at their deficit before using an 11-0 spurt toward the end of the frame to get within 93-90.

Daniels picked Stephon Cas-

tle's pocket and threw home a dunk at the other end of the floor during that run to light a fire under the home crowd.

However, the Spurs never gave up the lead and went into the fourth ahead 103-97.

Tifton man pleads guilty to trafficking meth

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – A Tifton resident faces up to 40 years in federal prison for distributing kilograms of Mexico-sourced methamphetamine after he was caught with a pound of methamphetamine while wearing an ankle monitor for a prior drug trafficking charge and attempted to flee from deputies.

Travarious Deshawn Mike, 29, of Tifton, pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of methamphetamine before U.S. District Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner on Feb. 3. Mike faces a maximum 20 years in prison per count, to be followed by at least three years of supervised release and a \$1 million fine. A sentencing date will be determined by the court. There is no parole in the federal system.

“The defendant was transporting large quantities of

methamphetamine from an Atlanta source into the Tifton community,” acting U.S. Attorney Shanelle Booker said in a news release. “Even after his initial arrest, he willfully continued to violate the law and traffic dangerous drugs into southwest Georgia.

“Our office collaborates closely with local, state and federal law enforcement to ensure that repeat offenders who are causing significant harm in the Middle District of Georgia are stopped and held accountable for their actions.”

“This investigation resulting in the seizure of meth, heroin and firearms is a clear reminder of the dangerous networks we continue to dismantle,” GBI Director Chris Hosey said. “The GBI remains committed to disrupting drug trafficking and criminal activity, especially those tied to dangerous sources of supply. This is a significant step in

protecting our communities.”

According to court documents and statements referenced in court, GBI agents recorded Mike providing methamphetamine during a controlled buy utilizing a confidential informant on Aug. 15, 2022, at the Church’s Chicken in Tifton. A court-authorized tracking device monitored by the GBI captured Mike departing Tifton for Atlanta on Aug. 30, 2022. GBI agents observed Mike travel to two Mexican restaurants for brief periods, then immediately begin to travel back down Interstate 75 toward Tifton.

Crisp County Sheriff’s Office deputies initiated a traffic stop on Mike’s vehicle after it observed a defective brake light and a window tint violation. A CCSO trained K9 made a positive alert on Mike’s car. During a search of the vehicle, agents seized 502 grams of heroin in Mike’s bookbag. At the same time, GBI re-

quested the Tifton Police Department’s assistance to conduct surveillance on Mike’s Tifton residence. TPD initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving Mike’s residence, locating 8,068 grams of 67.9% pure methamphetamine. The occupant was a drug courier delivering the narcotics from a Mexican source of supply near Atlanta to Mike and had made the trip before. GBI executed a court-authorized search warrant at Mike’s residence that same day and found four semi-automatic pistols, a revolver, rounds of ammunition, methamphetamine and a set of digital scales.

A vehicle parked outside Mike’s residence and belonging to a co-defendant contained 783 grams of 80% pure methamphetamine, 168 grams of a heroin and fentanyl mix-

ture, 97 oxycodone/fentanyl pills, seven grams of crack cocaine, plastic baggies and a digital scale.

Interviews, evidence and text messages on seized cell-phones belonging to Mike and co-defendants revealed that Mike was purchasing methamphetamine from a Mexican source of supply based in the metro Atlanta area.

Mike subsequently bonded out of jail. On June 5, 2024, the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office observed a white Dodge Charger driven by Mike commit a traffic violation in Monroe County. MCSO deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but Mike tried to escape and reached speeds over 125 mph. During the pursuit, Mike discarded a brick-shaped package out the window, which burst into a white crystal-like substance.

Other MCSO officers secured the scene where the substance was discarded, finding approximately one pound of methamphetamine.

Mike lost control of the vehicle and crashed onto the side of the highway. He attempted to flee on foot but was immediately apprehended. At the time of his arrest, Mike was wearing an ankle monitor and said that he was out on bond for another drug-trafficking incident.

The case was investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Georgia State Patrol, the Tifton Police Department, the Crisp County Sheriff’s Office and the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Redavid is prosecuting the case for the government.



Chris Hosey

Georgia Southwestern honors outstanding alumni at Gold Force Gala

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS – Georgia Southwestern State University hosted its third annual Gold Force Gala recently, bringing together more than 250 guests for an evening of celebration and philanthropy. The black-tie fundraiser honored GSW’s 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award winners and helped raise critical scholarship funds.

“This signature event serves as a testament to the unwavering support GSW alumni have for their alma mater,” Alumni Engagement Specialist Angela Smith said in a news release. “Celebrating our Outstanding Alumni Award winners is always an

honor, as they exemplify the caliber of students we are producing today.

“I am incredibly humbled by the outpouring of support from those who made an event of this magnitude possible - GSW’s Alumni Association board of directors, physical plant, the Gala Planning Committee, GSW marshals, community partners, custodial staff and the many volunteers who contributed time and talents.”

The sold-out evening featured a silent auction that raised more than \$12,500 for scholarships, inspiring words from scholarship recipient and student leader Boone Prince of Cairo, and an appeal from GSW Presi-

dent Michelle Johnston to launch a comprehensive career development effort with a \$25,000 goal to give future alumni a jump-start to their life after college. Scott Westbrook served as emcee, guiding the evening through the recognition of the distinguished 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award winners, followed by live music from the Emerald Empire Band to bring the evening to a memorable close.

The 2025 Alumni Award winners include:

Aeolian Award recipient: Marty McDonald, ‘86
Canes Community Champions: Ann and Bill Harris
Leewynn Finklea Award recipient: Cheryl Fletcher,



Special Photo: GSW

Johnston welcomed alumni and supporters during the university’s recent awards ceremony.

’82, ‘91

Visionary Award recipient: Tiwa Williams (aka Tiwa Works), ‘02

Young Alumni of the Year: Luke Ellis, ‘08

Family Legacy Award recipients: The Murray & Smith Families

Hall of Fame inductee: Tommy Knight, ‘87, ‘92

The event was also made possible thanks to generous support from gold sponsor Aladdin Campus Dining and blue sponsors Citizens Bank and Phoebe Sumter Medical Center.

The full ceremony is available online at youtube.com/georgiasouthwestern and photos from the evening can be found on GSW’s Facebook page.



Special Photo: GSW

Among the Georgia Southwestern State University award winners honored at a recent event were, from left, Tommy Knight, Tiwa Williams, Marty McDonald, Luke Ellis, Justin & Emily Smith, Sherrill (Murray) House, Jacky Smith, Tony Smith, Cheryl Fletcher, Ann & Bill Harris.

Railway plans to close rail crossing near Cordele for repairs

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

CORDELE -- Norfolk Southern Railroad has notified the Georgia Department of Transportation of its plans to replace rails at a crossing on State Route 33 Connector/Rock House Road in Crisp County.

The railroad’s actions will require closing the road to non-local traffic. The railroad expects maintenance to take one day.

Non-local traffic on SR 33 Connector/Rock House Road will be directed to use Interstate 75, SR 300 and SR 7 as detour routes.

Work on the project is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Monday, but the date and work schedule are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.



Special Photo: DOTX

The Department of Transportation has announced a road closing in Crisp County for work on a railroad crossing.

OBITUARIES



Robert Peavey

Robert Raymond Peavey, 85, of Palatka, FL, passed from this life on Friday, January 17, 2025 at Vintage Care Senior Living in Palatka following an extended illness. Born in Apalachicola, Florida, he had resided in Palatka since 2023 coming from Leesburg, Georgia.

Robert had owned and operated an auto body repair business. He was also a very accomplished artist and was described by family and friends as an incredibly kind man.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert H. Peavey and Norma Hartley Peavey and a son, Robert Raymond Peavey, Jr.

Robert is survived by his wife of 64 years, Betty L. Peavey of Palatka, a daughter, Kathleen Harrison (Tripp) of St. Augustine, a sister, Susan Cole (David) of Apalachicola, 2 grandchildren, McKenzie Harrison (John) and Spencer Banks Harrison and a grandchild, Kacey Harrison.

Robert was laid to rest at Craig Memorial Park in St. Augustine, Florida on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witness in St. Augustine with Elder Ronnie Compton officiating.

Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family at Robert’s Book of Memories page at www.j-ofunerals.com

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home in Palatka.

Lyle Wayne Hampton

Lyle Hampton was born on May 29, 1931, in Helena, Montana and died on January 31, 2025. He went peacefully with his family at his side at the age of 93.

He was born to Luke Hampton and Elsie Dewey. The family moved to Oregon and settled in the Marion/Jefferson area, when he was a young boy. In 1950, he married Mary Lee Davis and celebrated 44 years together before her passing in 1994. Lyle worked for the railroad before going to work at the Aumsville Plywood Mill. When it closed in 1967, he went to work at Wah Chang until he retired.

He is predeceased by his parents and 3 siblings (Loren, Millie and Donald), and survived by a brother John (Mae), and 6 children, Jim Hampton (Mary) of Jefferson, Delores of Mill City, Jeff (Peggy) of Marion, Darlene of Salem, Jerry (Rhonda) Montana and Joe (Darta) of Aumsville. He has 10 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Services will be on February 13, 2025, at 2:00 at Fisher Funeral Home, 306 SW Washington St., Albany, OR 97321



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- ble and could be a wonderful office, playroom, work out space or just a place for your animal friends or plant babies (tile floors built in drainage system for watering!)
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UNEARTHING HISTORY

Artifact hunting presents challenges, leads to trophies and makes memories

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Turkey hunters aren't the only hunters counting down the days to a 2025 season opener. Following last week's generational snow event, it might be hard to believe that spring is just around the corner.

Within the next few weeks, depending upon the weather, farmers will begin prepping and tilling in their fields prior to planting. This marks the unofficial opening of the southwest Georgia arrowhead hunting season. Although firearms may not be involved, the challenge, trophies and memories are just as satisfying. I vividly recall the moment I found my first "point" in a field bordering Lake Blackshear more than 60 years ago.

The region is rich with prehistoric and historical artifacts. Many of these are lying near the soil's surface and are routinely exposed by the combination of tilling the soil and seasonal rainfall. The cultural artifacts found here date back as far as the Paleolithic period 15,000 years ago. It is also possible to find historical artifacts dating back to the colonial period or, in some rare instances, as far back as the period of initial European contact.

There are a number of important things that artifact hunters need to take into consideration. Although in and of themselves, many of these artifacts are not exceedingly rare, they are by nature concentrated in specific areas. Therefore, successful arrowhead hunting, like most other forms of hunting, requires research. This is especially important when looking for surface artifacts, considering hunters will generally be doing it by foot.

Considering that a square acre of land is roughly 209 square feet by 209 square feet and encompasses approximately 43,560 square feet of land, it takes the average human more than 5,000 steps through loose soil to do a thorough grid search of the area. This results in hiking approximately 2 miles per acre searched. Before expending this amount of effort, it makes sense to do the best you can to ensure you are not just taking a hike aimlessly through what is literally

and figuratively an empty field.

There are several ways to narrow down your choice of potential search areas, as it takes far more than owning or having access to a plowed field to make this effort worthwhile. One of the first steps is to get a general knowledge of the history of the location. Are there any historical references to precolonial or colonial contact between Europeans and Native Americans in the area? Are there any references to village sites or mounds on the property? Are there any streams, creeks or rivers cutting through the property? Has anyone ever found artifacts on the property?

There are many documented historical sites in southwest Georgia, and they many times relate directly to far earlier inhabitants of that site. Generally speaking, any areas in the region that border or are bisected by a waterway are likely sites to search for artifacts as these waterways provided a clean and healthy source of water for the inhabitants and provided the easiest routes for transportation and trade. Any location where tributaries or sources merge with a flowing waterway generally are excellent areas to search for artifacts related to permanent or temporary habitation.

Those who own property where they have previously found artifacts certainly have an advantage over other artifact hunters. Anyone with a hunting lease who is on good terms with the owner is ahead of the game as well. However, like any other form of hunting, the tried and true effort of knocking on doors and asking for permission is still productive. It is also much easier to locate landowners than it used to be. Not so long ago, the best opportunity of identifying the owner of a likely piece of property came when he or she was caught him on their tractor turning a likely field.

Today, hunters can go online and search Google, typing in "_____ County Tax Assessor, clicking "Search Records" and then choosing the map option. Once the area of interest is located, a click of the mouse will outline the property and provide the owner's information as provided on the tax digest.

Tyler McKay, a Game Warden



Staff Photo: Tom Seegmueller

Just as hunting for live game has rules and guidelines to follow, historic artifact hunters also must follow specific rules.

with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, highlighted the importance of this process.

"The person hunting artifacts must have written permission with them," McKay said. "Landowners are free to collect any surface finds on their property."

A surface find is any article that is visible on the surface of undisturbed ground or that has been uncovered by standard agricultural or construction practices. Artifacts located by metal detecting also are considered surface finds.

"Technically, if you are going to be digging for artifacts, you have to notify the state archaeologist so that they can determine if where you are going to dig is considered to be a cultural site," McKay said.

If and when written permission is granted, it is important to have clear understanding of when hunting is allowed. It is also important to understand that the landowner and farmer may not be one and the same. Generally, there is not a great deal of concern when it comes to walking in a field that has been tilled but not planted. Following planting is often acceptable to hunt a field after the crop has sprouted and hunters can avoid walking directly on the plants.

Weather is just as critical to the artifact hunter as it is to any other

form of hunting. Artifacts are more easily seen when they are literally and figuratively washed by a good rain. The rain washes the dirt off of them so they will be more likely to visibly contrast with the surrounding soil. In the case of a heavy rain, artifacts can sometimes be found resting on a pedestal of soil where the water has flowed around them. For anyone with "arrowhead fever," there's nothing quite like the sight of an artifact that has previously been buried for centuries lying fully exposed. Especially if it also has the benefit of being undamaged by use or the plow.

Just as the successful deer hunter doesn't look for a whole deer to appear before him, the artifact hunter scans the soil on the surface of the field they are walking through while playing a giant game of "all these things are the same, but one is different." The key to sorting out treasure from the endless field of soil and rock is to look for what is different.

A piece of chert or flint that has been "worked" or crafted into a tool will generally not only be a different color than the surrounding soil but may also have a shine to its surface. However, other tools or pieces of worked material may have a dull patina that is remarkably similar to the soil they were

buried in. Another clue is shape: Most tools have very straight lines. Any piece of material with a very straight or unnatural shape should be inspected.

If unsure whether a piece is an artifact, hold on to it for further analysis. When it comes to holding on to things while searching a field, the pockets of a simple cloth nail apron that can be found at any hardware store is great. It's also beneficial to have a walking stick or headless golf club shaft to flip items over without having to stoop or bend over to look at every partially buried "might be" rock.

Pieces of broken pottery are also interesting and valuable artifacts. Many of these seemingly simple earthenware shards will actually have intricately stamped patterns on their exterior surface, which can help date the artifacts being found at a site. It also is a good indicator of either short- or long-term habitation. Just as pieces of pottery stand out in a field, so do pieces of stone of a material not normally found in the area.

Many artifacts from indigenous inhabitants are made from materials that were not naturally available. Sandstone mortars and pestles were used for processing grains and nuts into food. Discoidal and game pieces often were manufactured from traded materials, including coastal sea shells that made their way up the Chattahoochee Flint River Basin into southwest Georgia. Identifying these articles can be challenging to the expert collector, much less the novice.

It is possible to now use phone apps to photograph and "search" for the purpose an artifact might have served. There also is a wide selection of books that can help identify tools and artifacts, as well as the period of history with which they are associated. There also is a variety of Facebook groups dedicated to the artifacts found in southwest Georgia. Local experts can provide invaluable information in identifying artifacts. However, the novice should be prepared to receive the verdict from either of these sources that their treasure is merely, "an Indian sex stone" with that verdict usually provided with a laugh. So happy hunting.

Invasive snails can harm environment when present, health if eaten

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE — Now, more than ever, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division is encouraging anglers, boaters and lake visitors across the state to help prevent the spread of invasive snail species, due to the recent discovery that these species can harbor a type of worm that can potentially cause illness in humans (if consumed).

In a recent cooperative study, WRD and Tyler Achatz's parasitology lab at Middle Georgia College examined two species of invasive aquatic snails, the apple and mystery snail, for various parasites.

In this study, apple and mystery snails were collected from multiple locations around the state and tested for the presence of various parasites. Test results confirmed a low-level presence of rat lungworm (a parasitic nematode) in both snail species. This parasite can be transmitted to people when snails or slugs



Photo Courtesy of Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources officials say invasive snail species in Georgia can be harmful to the environment and to humans' health.

are eaten raw or undercooked.

The likelihood of becoming infected with rat lungworm is very low. However, in extreme rare cases, infection may lead to eosinophilic meningitis, with complications including the possibility of death. While this newest

discovery is alarming, the Centers for Disease Control website notes that the parasite does not replicate in humans and human-to-human transmission does not occur.

Prior to this study, rat lungworm had only been discovered one pre-

vious time in Georgia, in rats near the Atlanta Zoo in 2019. While this parasite has been noted in invasive snails in other states, this is the first time it's been documented in snails in Georgia.

These positive tests mean it continues to be important to remain vigilant against invasive species, to protect your health and the health of Georgia waters.

Apple snails are originally native to South America and mystery snails are native to southeast Asia, Japan and Russia. But both species have been introduced into several states, including Georgia.

Apple and mystery snails are illegal to possess in Georgia since 2023. However, WRD remains concerned that people may continue to move or introduce these snail species to public waters or to handle and eat these invasive snails.

Invasive aquatic species can cause significant ecological and economic impacts across the state, from damaging vessels and other boating equipment, impeding access

to waterbodies, to disrupting the natural ecosystem by displacing and out-competing native species. They can additionally cause human health concerns, as seen with this recent discovery regarding apple and mystery snails.

Prevention is the first and most important step to reducing the risk of invasive species establishing populations in Georgia waters. Taking time to thoroughly wash down a boat, trailer and fishing gear after each outing on the water; choosing to not dump aquariums; or simply not intentionally releasing non-native species into waterbodies where they did not previously occur are just a few ways to help.

For more information on invasive species, including apple and mystery snails, and how to report sightings, visit georgiawildlife.com/ans. For more information on rat lungworm and its potential health implications, contact the CDC at Rat Lungworm Disease (angiostrongylus) | CDC (cdc.gov/angiostrongylus/about/index.html).

Classifieds

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INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE for rent. 1920 sq. ft. with four loading docks, office space, 2 bathrooms, 1.5 acres completely fenced. Call 813-996-6451 or 480-580-3636

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Garage Sale

YARD SALE!

1522 Westwood Dr. 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 8
Furniture, toys, L women's clothes, bed and bed linens. Most \$1

2-FAMILY YARD SALE!

1122 Old Pretria Road 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, February 8
Clothing, school uniforms, furniture, miscellaneous

Furniture/ Household Goods

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Construction/Service Bids

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Albany & Dougherty County Comprehensive Plan 2046 PROPOSAL REF. #25-043

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 5:00 PM, on February 27, 2025. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 10:00 AM, February 6, at the Procurement division office and through Zoom. Zoom credentials are contained within bid documents. Proposal documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Takhia Martin, Buyer I, at tmartin@albanyga.gov.

by/ Derrick L. Brown, Chief Financial Officer

INVITATION TO BID Power Conduit & Underground 12KV Primary Cable Installation BID REF. 25-046

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM, on March 4, 2025. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM, on February 10, at the Procurement division office. A 5% Bid Bond is

required of all bidders. Documents can be obtained from the Procurement Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and at www.albanyga.gov. For additional information, contact Joshua Williams, Procurement Manager, at jswilliams@albanyga.gov.

by/ Derrick L. Brown, Chief Financial Officer

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.

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.

Public Notice

Request for Proposals (RFP) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One-Stop Operator – Workforce Development Services

In accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the City of Colquitt, Georgia serving as Grant Administrator and Fiscal Agent for the Southwest Georgia Workforce Development Board, has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the One-Stop Operator starting program year (PY) 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

The Southwest Georgia Workforce Development Board sets policy for workforce development programs in the fourteen counties of the WorkSource Southwest Georgia workforce region. The business-led Board includes members from private industry, economic development, community groups, education and labor unions and employment services.

This RFP is being issued to solicit qualified organizations with the expertise and capacity to manage the day-to-day operations of the One-Stop Center and affiliate sites and to design, administer and coordinate the delivery of workforce development services outlined in WIOA and the RFP to job seeker and employer customers within the region. A single One-Stop Operator will be selected. Respondents may be a single entity (public, private, or non-profit) or a consortium of entities. If the consortium of entities is comprised of a One-Stop Partner, it must include a minimum of three of the One-Stop Partners as described in 20 CFR 678.400. The approximate level of WIOA funding available is \$115,000.

The RFP will be available beginning February 17, 2025. The proposal submission date is March 24, 2025 by 12:00 noon. The tentative effective date of the contract is July 1, 2025. All questions/requests for clarification must be submitted and received in writing via email to agodwin@colquittga.gov by March 13, 2025, no later than 12:00 noon. All responses to written questions/requests for clarification that are accepted will be posted to the WorkSource Southwest Georgia website by March 18, 2025 at https://www.worksourcesouthwestgeorgia.org/public-notices.

A **Letter of Intent** must be submitted by all agencies interested in submitting a bid in response to this RFP; the letter must be submitted via e-mail to the Operations Manager. Such letter must be received by the Operations Manager by 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on or before Monday, March 3, 2025. Bidders failing to submit a letter of intent by the stated deadline shall be disqualified.

To request a copy of the RFP application packet, please contact Amanda Godwin, Operations Manager via email at agodwin@colquittga.gov.

WorkSource Southwest Georgia 75 West Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia 31730 (229) 336-2378 www.worksourcesouthwestgeorgia.org

Corporations

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

Notice is given that Articles of Organization for **MJS FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SERVICES, INC.** was delivered and incorporated with the Secretary of The State of Georgia on 11/22/2024. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 3719 Castle Pines Lane, Albany, GA 31721 and its initial registered agent at such address is Tehensia Bass.

Notice of Incorporation

Notice is given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Edison Community Service Foundation, Inc have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 21320 Hwy 37, Edison, GA 39846 and its initial registered agent at such address is Elizabeth West.

Debtors & Creditors

NOTICE TO DEBTORS & CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of LAWRENCE RAMBO, late of Dougherty County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 22nd day of January, 2025. Florine R. Chapman Administratrix of the Estate of Lawrence Rambo, deceased c/o David W. Orlovski 1604 W. Third Avenue Albany, GA 31707 February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY.

NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of James Alwin Weaver late of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 16th day of January, 2025.

Linda Martin Weaver Executor of the Estate of James Alwin Weaver c/o Moorhead Law Firm, LLC 314 W. Residence Avenue Albany, Georgia 31701

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Jerry Austin Brooks, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Terry Brooks Executor of the Estate of Jerry Austin Brooks c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC PO Box 352 Albany, GA 31702 229-430-9989 Dates: January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 20252

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GAIL TYSON, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Gail Tyson, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Gail Tyson. This 10th day of January, 2025. Cheryl Vonretta Raye, Administrator of the Estate of Gail Tyson, deceased 401 Fulwood Boulevard Tifton, Georgia 31794 or MOORE, CLARKE, DUVALL & RODGERS, P.C. 2829 Old Dawson Road Post Office Drawer 71727 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727 229-888-3338

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY. NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Grace Ann Talley Crimmins late of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 3rd day of January, 2025. Timothy Edward Crimmins II, Executor of the Estate of Grace Ann Talley Crimmins c/o Moorhead Law Firm, LLC 314 W. Residence Avenue Albany, Georgia 31701

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF ALMA LUVENIA REESE, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Alma Luvenia Reese, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Alma Luvenia Reese. This 10th day of January, 2025. Cheryl Vonretta Raye, Administrator of the Estate of Alma Luvenia Reese 401 Fulwood Boulevard Tifton, Georgia 31794 or MOORE, CLARKE, DUVALL & RODGERS, P.C. 2829 Old Dawson Road Post Office Drawer 71727 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727 229-888-3338

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY. All creditors of the Estate of

Teodosio Hernandez deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us. This 9th day of January, 2025. Robert Hernandez Administrator of the Estate of Teodosio Hernandez 236 Frost Street Albany, GA 31705

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY. NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of FRANK H. WINGATE, deceased, to submit an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said Estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. JOEL BRYAN WINGATE, Co-Executor 53 Lagoon Way Fort Gaines, Georgia 39851

Notice to Debtors and Creditors All creditors of the estate of Hilda Marie Stickler late of Dougherty County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 22nd January, 2025. Name: Charles A. Stickler c/o Meyerson Law Firm Title: Administrator Address: 120 Village Circle, Senoia, GA 30276 February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Jacklyn Dennis, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Jesse Keith Dennis, Jr. Administrator of the Estate of Jacklyn Dennis c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC P.O. Box 352 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 430-9989 January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2025

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Patricia T. Wingate, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Payton Elizabeth Wingate Phillip Ashley Wingate, Jr. James Tombs Wingate Co-Executors of the Estate of Patricia T. Wingate c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC P.O. Box 352 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 430-9989 Dates: February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2025

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Patricia T. Wingate, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Joseph Vaughn Viramontez, Executor of the Nancy Louise Viramontez Estate 8038 E. Gilbert Street Wichita, Kansas 67207 or MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C. 2829 Old Dawson Road Post Office Drawer 71727 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727 229-888-3338

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Nancy Louise Viramontez, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Nancy Louise Viramontez. This 3rd day of January, 2025. Joseph Vaughn Viramontez, Executor of the Nancy Louise Viramontez Estate 8038 E. Gilbert Street Wichita, Kansas 67207 or MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C. 2829 Old Dawson Road Post Office Drawer 71727 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727 229-888-3338

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF NANCY LOUISE VIRAMONTEZ, DECEASED All creditors of the estate of Nancy Louise Viramontez, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Nancy Louise Viramontez. This 3rd day of January, 2025. Joseph Vaughn Viramontez, Executor of the Nancy Louise Viramontez Estate 8038 E. Gilbert Street Wichita, Kansas 67207 or MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C. 2829 Old Dawson Road Post Office Drawer 71727 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727 229-888-3338

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF MARGUERITE BENDAVID BLAND Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Marguerite Bland, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Barbara A. Whaley Executrix of the Estate of Benjamin Prymus Lewis c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC P.O. Box 352 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 430-9989 Dates: January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2025

NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Benjamin Prymus Lewis, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Barbara A. Whaley Executrix of the Estate of Benjamin Prymus Lewis c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC P.O. Box 352 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 430-9989 Dates: January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2025

Divorces

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Rossana E. Hernandez vs. Respondent: Niodee Jesus Vasquez.

Civil Action Case Number: 24CV-1090-2

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO: Noede Jesus Vasquez, Respondent Named Above:

This notice has been published to let you know that a Divorce case was filed against you in the Superior Court on 12/13/2024. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on 1/10/25. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 616 11th Ave., Albany, GA 31701. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an

Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything she asked for in the Petition for Divorce.

This the 10th day of January 2025..

Samantha Sebastian, Deputy Clerk Dougherty County Superior Court State of Georgia

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Rosalie Walker v. Respondent: Nickolas Walker 24CV-1013-3

NOTICE OF SUMMONS
TO: Nickolas Walker, Respondent
Named Above:
this notice has been published to let you know that a Dissolution of marriage w/kids case was filed against you in Superior Court on November 13, 2024. The court issued an order for service of publication summons by publication on January 13, 2025. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 1114 7th Ave, Albany, GA 31707. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to fine an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Petition for Dissolution of marriage w/kids. This 13th day of January, 2025.

DUI Notices

INVITATION TO BID Phase D Street Resurfacing BID REF. 25-040

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM, on February 26, 2025. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on January 30, at the Procurement division office. A 5% Bid Bond is required of all bidders. Documents can be obtained from the Procurement Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and at www.albanyga.gov. For additional information, contact Ricky Gladney, Buyer I, at rgladney@albanyga.gov.

by/ Derrick L. Brown, Chief Financial Officer

Local Government

INVITATION TO BID
P F Moon and Company Inc is currently accepting proposals from suppliers and subcontractors for the Albany GA - Joshua Street Water Pollution Control Plant Miscellaneous Improvements project. P F Moon and Company Inc is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage MBE/WBE participation. For more information regarding this project or other projects P F Moon and Company is currently bidding contact bidding 706.643.1524.

Miscellaneous

Haren Construction Company, Inc. is seeking qualified Small/Minority/Women Business Enterprises (S/MWBE) for construction of the Albany, GA - Joshua St WPCP Misc. Impvs Project. Subcontractor and supplier opportunities include but not limited to: Painting, Electrical, Concrete Repairs, and Pipe Suppliers. Quotes received by End of Business 2/19/2025. Please contact Samantha Nelson at 423-604-3038 for information.

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the name change of: Triche Nicole

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

I, Triche Nicole, file a petition in the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 13 day of January, 2025 to change my name from Triche Nicole to Brandon Lee Barnes. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed. Signed this 13 day of January, 2025

Triche Nicole Petitioner

Probate Court Administration

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT IN RE: ESTATE OF: WILLIAM ARELIOUS WEBB ESTATE FILE NO: 2024-ES-467

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: William Richard Webb has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of WILLIAM ARELIOUS WEBB, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before March 3, 2025.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court

Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102

Citation dates: February 8, 15, and 22, 2025
March 1, 2025

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT IN RE: ESTATE OF: GEORGE ALVIN LOWE ESTATE FILE NO: 2024-ES-429

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Julia L. Williams and Tamara L. Marshall have petitioned to be appointed administrators of the estate of GEORGE ALVIN LOWE, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before February 10, 2025.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102

Citation dates: January 18 and 25, 2025 February 1 and 8, 2025

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT IN RE: ESTATE OF: MINNIE LEE KING ESTATE FILE NO: 2024-ES-396

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Wanda Harris has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MINNIE LEE KING, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before February 10, 2025.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102

Citation dates: January 18 and 25, 2025 February 1 and 8, 2025

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT IN RE: ESTATE OF: MARGUERITE BENDAVID BLAND ESTATE FILE NO: 2025-ES-014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: David Lyle Bland has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MARGUERITE BENDAVID BLAND, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before February 17, 2025.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later

Storage on Stuart will Hold a public sale of the contents of the units listed below at 10:00 AM on February 27, 2025 at the location shown above. Units will be opened and the highest cash bid deemed suitable by the lien holder will be accepted. Note: Units must be cleaned out and broom swept within 24 hours.

Theresa Odum – Unit 034B
Contents – Personal Property

Daryl Rogers– Unit 040D
Contents – Personal Property

Nicholas Snead – Unit 015B
Contents – Personal Property

Keziah Bishop – Unit 039D
Contents – Personal Property

Jennifer Rice – Unit 058D
Contents – Personal Property

Tabathia Morgan– Units 031&065D
Contents - Personal Property

John Davis Units11CC & 23CC
Contents – personal property

Junetta DeLee – Unit 038D
Contents – Personal Property

Thomas Mock – Unit 044D
Contents – Personal Property

William McDaniel – Unit 49CC
Contents – Personal Property

Destiny Henson – Unit 070E
Contents – Personal Property

This Sale is being conducted to enforce the warehouseman's lien of Storage on Stuart

February 8th & 15th

Under the Authority of the Georgia Self Storage Act 10-4-210 to 10-4-215, Southern Self Storage will be conducting a sale on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM. The following self-storage unit contents will be sold for cash by Southern Self Storage, 1006 Philema Road/Albany, GA 31701. The sale will take place on www.StorageTreasures.com to satisfy a lien.

Unit #5136, Deborah Welch Dresser, Mirror, counter height stools, seasonal decor, totes, soundbar, twin/toddler mattress, crib, furniture

Unit #1203 John Wells Exterior Doors, Storm Windows, Twin Mattress, headboard, Shop Vac, Utility Sink

Notice of Public Sale Turner Field Self Storage 713 Turner Field Rd. Albany, GA 31705 (229) 785-4220. Property of the following tenant(s) will be sold to satisfy rental liens in accordance with the Georgia Code 10-4-213 et seq for Georgia Lien Statutes. All items will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Sales will be conducted online at storageauctions.com February 20, 2025 at 10AM EST. All goods will be sold AS IS condition. All items or spaces may not be available at time of sale. All sales are final, and a \$100 refundable cleaning deposit is required for all sales. The following units will be auctioned. Unit C55 Zakerriah Dunlap-Furniture.

Notice of Public Sale

Run for 2/1 & 2/8

**Storage Rentals of America
1604 CAMP LANE,
ALBANY, GA 31707**

Property of the following tenant(s) will be sold for cash to satisfy rental liens in accordance with the Georgia code 10-4-210 et seq for Georgia Lien Statutes. All items will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Sales will be conducted online at Lockerfox.com **February 21, 2025 at 1PM EST.** All goods will be sold "AS IS" condition. All items or spaces may not be available at time of sale. All sales are final, and a \$100 refundable cleaning deposit is required for all sales.

A317/**Quantori Bernard/BOXES, TOTES, TOOLS, FURNITURE, MATTRESS, BOXSPRING, BEDFRAME, TABLE AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

A504/**Destiny Cheeks/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, MATTRESS, BOXSPRING, COUCH, TABLE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, DRESSER AND NIGHTSTAND**

A510/**Ambubhai**

Barasadiwala/BOXES, TOTES, AND BAGS

A706/**Norma Holladay/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, DRESSER, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND CLOTHES**

BH46/**Hunter Mountcastle/BOXES, FURNITURE, DRESSER, LIGHT FIXTURES AND RUGS**

BH47/**Phaedra Jones/BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDS, CHAIRS, DRESSER, SOFA, KEYBOARD, BAGS, BLUETOOTH SPEAKER, TIRES, LUGGAGE AND KIDS' TOYS**

BH87/**Charles Dayhuff/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND MISC ITEMS**

BH104/**Hunter Mountcastle/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, WOOD SHELVING, COUCH, TV STAND, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND FILE CABINETS**

BH105/**Hunter Mountcastle/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, COUCH, DÉCOR, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND FILING CABINET**

O105/**India Hatcher/BOXES, TOTES, TV, APPLIANCES, DRYER, WASHER AND OUTDOOR GRILL**

O11617/**Aleciya Daniels/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, HEADBOARD, DRESSER, BABY BED, NIGHT STANDS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

O138/**Brianna Basden/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, MATTRESS, BOX SPRING, SOFA, LOVESEAT, BEDFRAME, ELECTRONICS, TV, APPLIANCES, WASHER, DRYER, MICROWAVE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, AND BAGS**

O147/**Leecory Walker/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, END TABLE, COUCH, LOVESEAT, DRESSER, MATTRESS, BOXSPRING, APPLIANCES, WASHER, DRYER, HOUSEHOLD, KITCHEN TABLE WITH CHAIRS**

O414/**Tameka Jones/BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE, MATTRESS, BOXSPRING, CHAIRS, END TABLE, BEDROOM SUITE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, AND KITCHEN TABLE W/CHAIRS**

O524/**Arthur Royal/ TOTES, FURNITURE, COFFEE TABLE, LAMP, WALL DECOR, APPLIANCES, WASHER, BAGS AND XMAS TREE.**

O706/**Shantori Jackson/ FURNITURE, DRESSER, MATTRESS, BOXSPRING, BEDFRAMES, COUCH, TV STAND, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND BAG**

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:

You are hereby, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (A) 2, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at: Strums Elite Towing & Recovery, 2800 Phillips Drive Albany Ga 31721. Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the business above.

Vin: KMHFH4JG3DA311469
Year: 2013
Make: Hyundai
Model: Azera

Vin:1HGCV1F11MA109119
Year:2021
Make:Honda
Model:Accord

Vin:1HGCP26828A075906
Year:2008
Make: Honda
Model: Accord

Vin: 5XGN4A79FG498340
Year:2015
Make:KIA
Model:Optima

Vin: 5N1AL0MN3DC301654
Year:2013
Make: Infiniti
Model:JX

Vin:3C4PDCAB4DT7238847
Year:2013
Make:Dodge
Model:Journey

Vin: 1N4AL3AP0JC214159
Year: 2018
Make: Nissan
Model: Altima

STRUM'S ELITE TOWING & RECOVERY
229-319-5924

Service by Publication

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, INC., Plaintiff,

v. TOMMY T. HOLLIS, SHARON SPENCER, AND YVONNE KLINE as heirs of Albert Edwards, and all the UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ALBERT EDWARDS. Defendant.

Civil Action No. SUCV2024000619

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

By order for service by publication dated, January --, 2025, Tommy T. Hollis, Sharon Spencer, and All Unknown Heirs of Albert Edwards are hereby notified that Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, Inc., filed suit against them for Declaratory Judgment on July 16, 2024.

Tommy T. Hollis, Sharon Spencer, and All Unknown Heirs of Albert Edwards are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, and serve upon Plaintiff's Attorney, Travis Andres, an answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the order granting service by publication.

Witness, the Honorable Victoria S. Darrisaw
This 23RD day of January, 2025.

CLERK, Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia
FOR: Travis Andres
Georgia Bar No. 302040
Attorney for Plaintiff

Fidelity National Law Group
4170 Ashford Dunwoody Road
Suite 475
Atlanta, Georgia 30319
Direct: 770-325-4811
Facsimile: 770-325-4843
Email: Travis.Andres@tnf.com

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ALBANY DIVISION

NAUTILUS INSURANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff,

v. EL 500 PINSON, LLC et al., Defendants..

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 1:24-CV-00132-(LAG)

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: SHAMEKA ANSWERSON, A/K/A SHAKEMA ANDERSON

By Order for Service by Publication dated January 21, 2025, you are hereby notified that on August 30, 2024, Nautilus Insurance Company ("Nautilus") filed a Complaint For Declaratory Judgment seeking a declaration that an insurance policy does not provide coverage to El 500 Pinson, LLC, Shameka Anderson, Aven Albany, LLC, and Aven Realty I, LLC, in the lawsuit, Xavier Daniels v. EL 500 Pinson, LLC, et al. in the State Court of Gwinnett County, Civil Action No. 24-C-03646-S5.

Nautilus has filed its Complaint for Declaratory Judgment in the above styled case, Nautilus Insurance Company v. El 500 Pinson, LLC, et al., United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia, Civil Action No. 1:24-CV-00132-LAG. You are required to file with the Clerk of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and to serve on attorney Philip W. Savrin, Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP at 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, an answer or other responsive pleading within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication.

Witness, the Honorable Leslie A. Gardner, Chief Judge, United States

District Court, Middle District of Georgia.

This 21 day of January, 2025.

Clerk of Court
United States District Court

Trade Names

APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER A TRADE NAME

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

The undersigned hereby certifies that it is conducting a business in the City of Albany, County of Dougherty, State of Georgia under the name of: America's AA Albany and that the nature of the business is auto auction and that said business is composed of the following:

(Corporation)Business address: America's Auto Auction Albany, Inc. 2 Meridian Plaza, 10401 N. Meridian St., Suite 400 Carmel, IN 46290

This affidavit is made in compliance with Georgia Code Annotated Title-10 Chapter-1 Section-49

Foreclosures

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

FORECLOSURE AD

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt, from **RODERIC WAYNE EVANS to BANK OF DAWSON** and filed for record on August 9, 2021, and recorded in Deed Book 4869, Pages 328-329, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the Courthouse in Terrell County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property, to wit:

Tract 1: Parcel No.: 00033/00003/004

All that lot, tract or parcel of land lying and being in Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as all of Lot 22, Sylvandale Subdivision, Section II, according to a map or plat of same recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 201, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Dougherty County, Georgia.

Tract 2: Parcel No.:

**000RR/00001/002
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 163 in the First Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows: All of Lot 22, of Briarwood Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 256, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide A-69), in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Dougherty County, Georgia, to which plat is hereby referred in aid of description.**

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt is evidenced by four (4) notes from **RODERIC WAYNE EVANS** in favor of Bank of Dawson, dated July 29, 2021, May 27, 2022, August 25, 2022 and March 30, 2023, in the principal amounts of \$89,115.86, \$15,450.00, \$15,900.00 and \$64,314.56 respectively.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt and evidenced by said four (4) notes have been and are hereby declared due and payable because of Grantor's failure to pay said notes as the same became due. The debts remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness including all accrued and unpaid interest thereon and attorney's fees and all expenses of said sale.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the person who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is as follows: **Barry Lyle, Bank of Dawson, Post Office Box 230, Dawson, GA 39842; Phone Number 229-995-2141.** Provided however, such person shall not be required to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of a mortgage instrument.

This property will be sold as the property of **RODERIC WAYNE EVANS**, who, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief is the parties in possession of said property.

Notice has been given of intention to enforce provisions for collection of attorney's fees and foreclosure in accordance with legal requirements and the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and note.

Said property will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, if any, and other restrictions and easements of record, if any.

This law firm is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Bank of Dawson
As Attorney-in-Fact For **RODERIC WAYNE EVANS**

**COLLIER & GAMBLE, LLP
As Attorneys For
Bank of Dawson**

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY**

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated June 21, 2022, from Justin Riner to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, recorded on June 22, 2022 in Deed Book 4989 at Page 224, Dougherty County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by Assignment, and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated June 21, 2022, in the amount of \$190,781.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Dougherty County, Georgia, on March 4, 2025 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 5 OF THE SECOND LAND

DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 28 OF DOUBLEGATE SUBDIVISION, SECTION III, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGES 12 AND 13 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-49) IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA; SAID PROPERTY BEING KNOWN AS 2807 NORTH DOUBLEGATE ROAD, ALBANY, GEORGIA.

The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Justin Riner and Katherine Elizabeth Riner.

The property, being commonly known as **2807 N Doublegate Dr, Albany, GA 31721** in Dougherty County, will be sold as the property of Justin Riner and Katherine Elizabeth Riner, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, 888-480-2432. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

Albertelli Law
Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC,
as Attorney in Fact for Justin Riner
100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 373-4242

THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

- 24-009783

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
Will Geer a/k/a Claude Wilson Geer, IV; Petitioner,

v. Mrs. Jake Cooper a/k/a Cecile B. Cooper or her Unknown Estate Representative or Unknown Heirs-at-law; City of Albany; Louis Zucker Cooper; Madeline Winegar Cooper; Edward Clissold Cooper; Yuku Cooper; Cecile Cooper; Elizabeth Cooper McQuaid; Jacob Harrison Cooper II; Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV2023001073

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO:

a. Mrs. Jake Cooper a/k/a Cecile B. Cooper or Any Unknown Estate Representative Or Unknown Heirs-At-Law (80 Central Park W Apt 11F, New York, NY 10023);
b. Louis Zucker Cooper;
c. Cecile Cooper;
d. Elizabeth Cooper McQuaid;

You are hereby notified that the above styled action, seeking to remove clouds on the Petitioner's title to certain real property caused by the equities of redemption following a tax sale, as specifically provided by O.C.G.A. § 23-3-44, related to property located at 220 Third Avenue, Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000F 00027 024 was filed against you in the Superior Court of Dougherty County on the October 13, 2023, and that by reason of an Order for Service of Summons by Publication entered by the Court on the 30th day of January, 2025 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon John Coleman, Attorney at Law, whose address is 675 Seminole Ave. NE, Suite 302, Atlanta, GA 30307 an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days. Concurrently with the publication of this notice, and pursuant to requirements of O.C.G.A. § 9-4-1(f)(1)(C), the undersigned Clerk hereby certifies that, within 15 days of the date of the filing of the Order for Service by Publication, the undersigned Clerk will send a copy of this Notice, together with a copy of the Order for Service by Publication and Complaint or Petition to the Respondents being served by publication at their last known addresses stated above.

WITNESS, the Honorable Joseph W. Dent, Judge of said Court. This the 30th day of January, 2025.

/s/ Evonne Mull
Evonne Mull,
Clerk of Superior Court, Dougherty County
February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2025

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
By virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed to secure debt given by Timothy Washington and Rhonda L. Washington (collectively, "Borrower") to Colony Bank, an office of Colony Bank Ashburn (together with its successors and assigns, "Lender") dated July 23, 2007, filed for record August 1, 2007, in Deed Book 3371, Page 225, in the Dougherty County, Georgia records, which was assigned to Teal Holdings, LLC pursuant to an assignment recorded on December 12, 2024, in Deed Book 5254, Page 110, Dougherty County, Georgia records (collectively, as modified, amended,

and assigned, the "Deed to Secure Debt"), said Deed to Secure Debt having been given to secure indebtedness in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Three and No/100 Dollars (\$25,993.00) as well as future advances, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2025, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 18, Block 30, Rawson Circle Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 242 (PLT Cabinet 1, Slide A-31), in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

The debt secured by the herein described Deed to Secure Debt has been declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness when due and in the manner provided in the under the documents secured by the Deed to Secure Debt. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorneys' fees.

The Deed to Secure Debt may be subordinate to a security deed executed by Timothy W. Washington and Rhonda L. Washington in favor of Washington Mutual Bank, FA securing an indebtedness in the amount of \$65,741.00 dated September 12, 2003, that was recorded on September 24, 2003, in Deed Book 2675, Page 322, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, and which has been assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, NA.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Deed to Secure Debt with the debtor is Teal Holdings, LLC, Attention: Justin Reay, (786) 972-5387. Please understand that the secured creditor is not required to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes that are a lien, but not yet due and payable); matters that may be disclosed by an accurate survey and/or inspection of the property; all assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, covenants, and restrictions; and any matters of record superior to this Deed to Secure Debt.

This sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Deed to Secure Debt. Teal Holdings, LLC, as Attorney-in-Fact for Patrick Timothy Washington and Rhonda L. Washington

Christopher H. Ezell
Holland & Knight LLP
701 Brickell Avenue, Suite 3300
Miami, Florida 33131
(305) 789-7592

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Jackie Marion Matthews to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Investors Corporation, its successors and assigns dated 6/2/2009 and recorded in Deed Book 3609 Page 158 Dougherty County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by PHH Mortgage Corporation, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$148,350.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 4, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and being more particularly described as all of Lot 469 in West Town Subdivision, Section 4 according to a Plat of said Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 4 Page 105 in the office of the clerk of superior court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Being the same property conveyed to Jackie Marion Matthews by deed from Joe L. Garner and Gloria M. Garner recorded 05/27/2008 in Deed Book 3491 page 218, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property is commonly known as 1101 Duke Lane #1, Albany, GA 31707 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Jackie Marion Matthews or tenant or tenants.

PHH Mortgage Corporation is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

PHH Mortgage Corporation 1661 Worthington Rd Suite 100 West Palm Beach, FL 33409 (800) 750-2518

Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters

which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

PHH Mortgage Corporation as agent and Attorney in Fact for Jackie Marion Matthews
Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400.
1017-7242A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACT

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Barbara Jean Reed or tenant or tenants.

Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1; and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is:

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Attention: Loss Mitigation Department
1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A
Anahem, CA 92806
1-800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt described herein.

This sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as attorney in fact for Barbara Jean Reed

Maner, Martin & Brunavs, LLC
180 Interstate N Parkway, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30339
foreclosuresales@rblmlegal.com

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MBFC15-013

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
DOUGHERTY COUNTY
WHEREAS, Gabriel D Carpenter, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED TO Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Synovus Bank, a Corporation, Lender which was dated 7/30/2021, and recorded on 8/2/2021, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 4866, Page 258-274, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$220,924.00 in Dougherty County, Georgia Register of Deeds. NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 3/4/2025 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Dougherty County, Georgia, 225 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31701 of Dougherty, the following described property situated in Dougherty County, Georgia, to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 8 IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 60 OF VAN CISE SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 232 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-3) IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Tax Parcel ID: 00334/00002/001 Being real property commonly known as 5001 EDITH DR ALBANY, GA 31721 The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagees to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is". The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 1600 S. Douglass Road, Suite 200 A Anaheim, CA 92806, Telephone No.:

800-561-4567 The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Gabriel D Carpenter Attorney Contact: Miller, George and Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 TS # 24-32681 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4832961 01/25/2025, 02/01/2025, 02/08/2025, 02/15/2025, 02/22/2025, 03/01/2025

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from ALBERT W THOMAS, III to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF GA, LLC, dated May 14, 2021, recorded May 26, 2021, in Deed Book 4839, Page 189, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of One Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Two and 00/100 dollars (\$171,352.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Dougherty County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, AND BEING ALL OF LOT NO. 86 OF GAILSHAR GARDENS SUBDIVISION "E", SECTION II, AS PER PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 270, (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-8) IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as 2108 SHARON DR, ALBANY, GA 31707.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is ALBERT W THOMAS, III, BERLINDA JONES, or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: M & T Bank, Loss Mitigation Dept., 1100 WEHRLE DRIVE, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221. Telephone Number: 1-800-724-1633. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC as Attorney in Fact for ALBERT W THOMAS, III

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100,
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992
Case No. MTB-23-03334-13
Ad Run Dates 02/08/2025,
02/15/2025, 02/22/2025, 03/01/2025
rslaw.com/property-listing

TO: Barbar Properties LLC and all other persons having record right, title, interest or lien in said property;

Take notice that the right to redeem the following described property, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being a part of City Lot 84, and being more particularly according to a plat prepared by William Lowe on December 10, 1963, and more specifically described in a deed of record in Deed Book 3633, Page 94 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Identified in Dougherty County Tax Records as Map and Parcel 0000B/00003/017 and being located at 510 W Oglethorpe Blvd, Albany, Georgia according to the present address system used by the City of Albany, Georgia.

will expire and be forever foreclosed

and barred on and after the date of February 25, 2025.

The Tax Sale Deed to which this notice relates is dated the 1st of August, 2023 and is recorded in Deed Book 5122, Page 149 in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the date of February 25, 2025 by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned representative of the purchaser and grantee of the Tax Sale Deed referenced herein at the following address: W. Douglas Divine, Attorney at Law, 600 N. Jackson St, Albany, GA 31701.

Be governed accordingly.

W. DOUGLAS DIVINE
Attorney for Bhumika Patel and Nandkishor Patel,
Grantees of the Tax Sale Deed

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

By Order for Service by Publication dated the 15th day of January 2025, you are hereby notified that on the 9th day of October 2024, Plaintiff filed suit against the Defendants a Petition for Quia Timet Against all the World to Establish Title to Real Property. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication. WITNESS, the Honorable JOSEPH W. DENT, Judge of this Superior Court.

This 23rd day of January 2025
DEPUTY CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
FOR:
TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, Attorney for Plaintiff
Georgia State Bar No. 213025
600 N. Jackson Street
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 883-1610
tim@dtdplaw.com

Land Sited in the County of Dougherty in the State of GA

ALL OF LOT 9 IN BLOCK 31 OF RAWSON CIRCLE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS THE SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 242, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Said property is known as 717 8th Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the secured creditor.

The property is or may be in the possession of The Representative of the Estate of Barbara Mitchell, successor in interest or tenant(s).

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. as Attorney-in-Fact for Barbara Mitchell

File no. 24-082393
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
211 Perimeter Center Parkway, N.E.,
Suite 130
Atlanta, GA 30346
(770) 220-2535
https://www.logs.com/
"THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE."

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

WUPA, LLC, Plaintiff

vs.
TAMMY H. WOOD, ASSET RECOVERY INC., AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN AND TO: THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: 2.83 ACRES, MORE OR LESS IN LAND LOTS 218 & 219, 1ST LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA DESCRIBED IN A DEED OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 4428, PAGE 10, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, ALSO KNOWN AS 4423 STAGECOACH ROAD, ALBANY, DOUGHERTY, GEORGIA, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV2024001041

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
By Order for Service by Publication dated the 13th day of January 2025, you are hereby notified that on the 19th day of November 2024, Plaintiff filed suit against the Defendants a Petition for Quia Timet Against all the World to Establish Title to Real Property. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication. WITNESS, the Honorable VICTORIA M. JOHNSON, Judge of this Superior Court.

This 23rd day of January 2025
DEPUTY CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
FOR:
TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, Attorney for Plaintiff
Georgia State Bar No. 213025
600 N. Jackson Street
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 883-1610
tim@dtdplaw.com

2/9/25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

SOUTHGATE HOLDINGS, LLC Plaintiff,

vs
L&P GRIMES REAL ESTATE A/K/A L&P GRIMES REAL ESTATE, LLC, JASON BURTON, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN AND TO THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: TRACT 5A HEATHCREST ESTATE SUBDIVISION CONSISTING OF 1.45 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ALSO KNOWN AS 908 S. SLAPPEY BLVD., ALBANY DOUGHERTY GEORGIA, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV2024000930

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

By Order for Service by Publication dated the 15th day of January 2025, you are hereby notified that on the 9th day of October 2024, Plaintiff filed suit against the Defendants a Petition for Quia Timet Against all the World to Establish Title to Real Property. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Publication. WITNESS, the Honorable JOSEPH W. DENT, Judge of this Superior Court.

This 23rd day of January 2025
DEPUTY CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
FOR:
TIMOTHY O. DAVIS, Attorney for Plaintiff
Georgia State Bar No. 213025
600 N. Jackson Street
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 883-1610
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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.

" M W M K J X D S W Z V T , F D V C V T R T V M N V R
Z Y V T V B J X A R E V M B M T V T M B Z X M A A K
V M T D F D S M A F C F D S G T F Z F D S
N X W F B . " — I J Y D G F A A F M N W

Previous Solution: "Happiness is a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes." — Charles Dickens

TODAY'S CLUE: M sjenba 0

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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 stuck like glue (7) _____

2 Doritos shapes (9) _____

3 post-wash cycle (4) _____

4 fingernail finish (6) _____

5 its currency is the lempira (8) _____

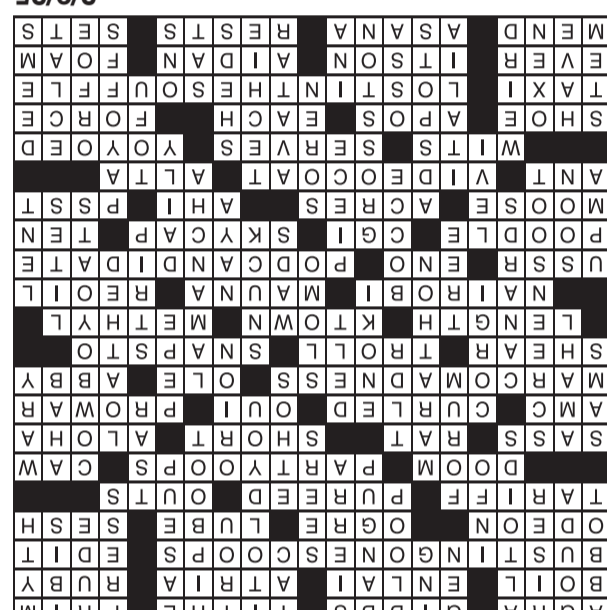
6 Netherlands' busiest airport (8) _____

7 point or wave (7) _____

IN ADH HON ANG SC
HI DU ED URE POL
ER GE PH ISH LES
OL TRI RAS SP ST

Friday's Answers: 1. LISTS 2. PLEASANT 3. STALEMATES
4. REHEARSED 5. EGGS 6. SPRINGBOK 7. ARKANSAS

2/9/25



ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

RELEASE DATE—Sunday, February 9, 2025

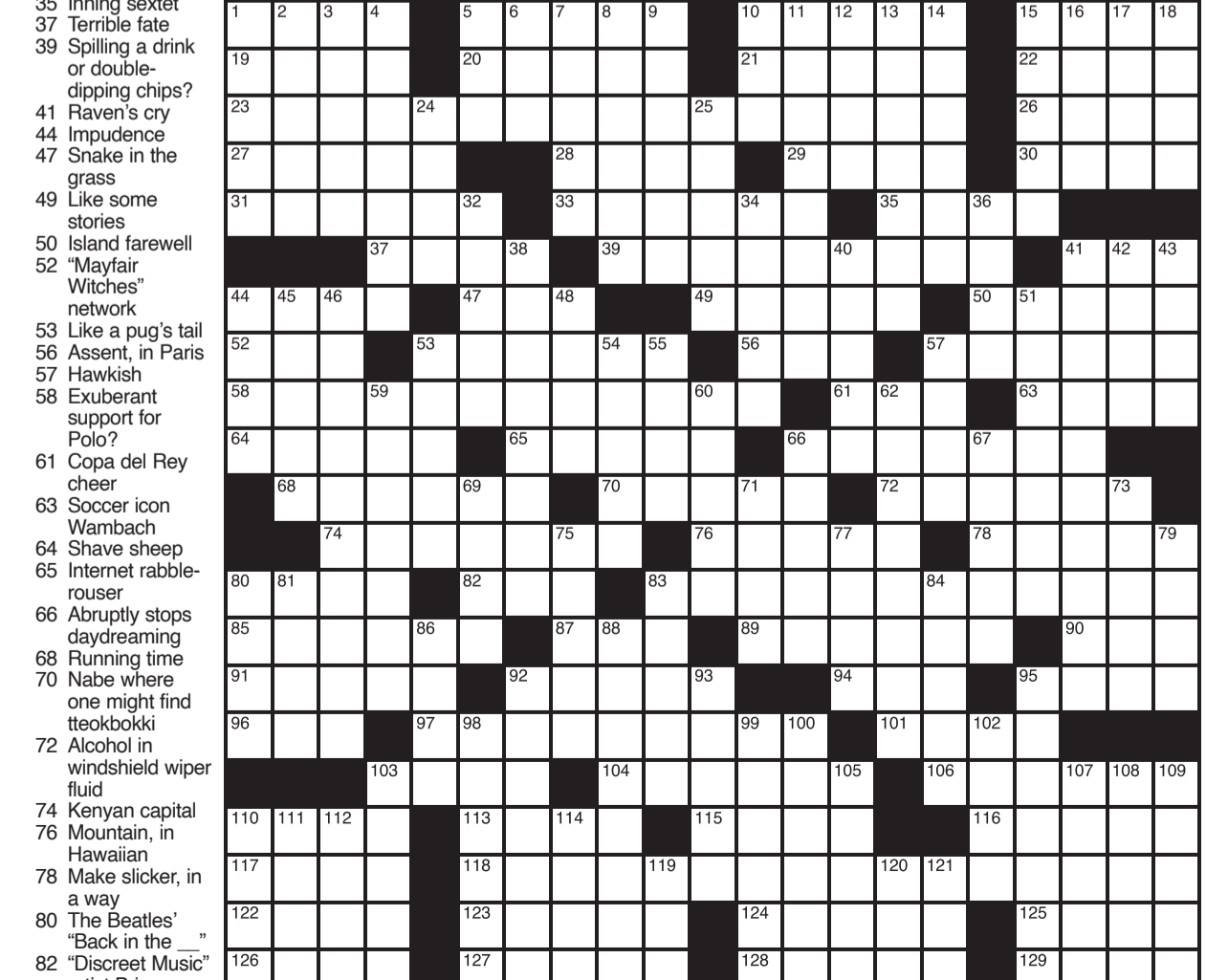
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

"H2O" BY TOM PEPPER & ZHOUIQIN BURNIKEL

ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal locale
5 The Bee Gees brothers
10 10% church offering
15 Proper partner
19 Prepare, as water for tea
20 Zhou of China
21 Ventricle's counterparts
22 40th anniversary gem
23 Destroying personal chicken pens?
26 Polish language?
27 Classical theater
28 Storybook baddie
29 Mechanic's job
30 Get-together, casually
31 Import tax
33 Reduced to mush
35 Inning sextet
37 Terrible fate
39 Spilling a drink or double-dipping chips?
41 Raven's cry
44 Impudence
47 Snake in the grass
49 Like some stories
50 Island farewell
52 "Mayfair Witches" network
53 Like a pug's tail
56 Assent, in Paris
57 Hawkish
58 Exuberant support for Polo?
61 Copa del Rey cheer
63 Soccer icon
65 Wambach
66 Abruptly stops daydreaming
68 Running time
70 Nabe where one might find teokbokki
72 Alcohol in windshield wiper fluid
74 Kenyan capital
76 Mountain, in Hawaiian
78 Make slicker, in a way
80 The Beatles' "Back in the ____"
82 "Discreet Music" artist Brian

83 Attendee at an orca training center?
85 ____-kirt
87 High-tech FX
89 Baggage handler
90 "____ in the Bed": classic counting rhyme
91 Large deer
92 Alaska's 365 million
94 Sashimi fish
95 "Hey, c'mere!"
96 Foraging insect
97 Cold comfort for a YouTuber?
101 Salt Lake County ski resort
103 Quick-with-a-joke types
104 Pickleball point starters
106 Swung up and down
110 Flip-flop, e.g.
113 Common blood type, briefly
115 Per person
116 Yoda's power, with "the"
117 Prepare for takeoff?
118 Relishing every bite of a fluffy French dessert?
122 ____ so slightly
123 "OK, we're doing this!"
124 Turner of "Rivals"
125 Fuel fire suppressant
126 Darn, say
127 Seated twist, e.g.
128 "Don't play" symbols
129 Hardens
DOWN
1 Man on a mission?
2 Mild yellow cheese
3 Choir platform
4 Tin mints
5 Next-____ hardware
6 Gerund suffix
7 ____ single
8 First-rate, as a job
9 Romeo follower
10 Tic-____toe
11 "Seel?"
12 Slacks, slangily
13 Half a pair of waders
14 Relax
15 Media coverage
16 "The disrespect!"
17 Bird with a curved bill
18 Prometheus, for one
24 Dirt, so to speak
25 Future readers
32 Message board
34 Community spirit
36 Pre-1917 autocrat
38 Race named for a Greek battle
40 Constellation containing Betelgeuse and Rigel
41 Grain for one who eats like a horse?
42 Starbuck's boss
43 Cautious (of)
44 ____ Club
45 Menotti's shepherd boy
46 Dirty film at a movie theater?
48 Letters before a recap
51 Really hated
53 Welsh herding dog
54 Mushroom in bulgogi hot pot
55 Muscle used in lateral raises
57 Cacio e ____ pasta dish
59 Baseless rumors
60 Replay effect
62 Don Quixote's home
66 Moved stealthily
67 Take it all off
69 Grove growth
71 Rolls of bills
73 Lo-cal brews
75 Lawn bowling
77 Dasani competitor
79 Time to give up?
80 South Indian semolina porridge
81 Any day now
83 King or queen, in chess
84 Newspaper
86 Jeans pioneer
88 2,240 pounds
92 Super Bowl commercials, e.g.
93 Existentialist Kierkegaard
95 Bribes
98 Torino locale
99 Carnation of Shiva
100 Gadget enthusiast
102 Vegan protein
103 Bizarro
105 Storage sites
107 "Friend ____?"
108 Brilliant display
109 Considers to be
110 Originate (from)
111 "____ a nice day!"
112 Farm workers
114 Peak in Thessaly
119 Cookbook writer
Garten
120 Warned the bench
121 Iron-____; heat-activated patches



2/9/25

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What to watch SATURDAY

February 8, 2025

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

Planet Earth: Asia

BBC America, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "The Frozen North," the nature documentary series looks at how life perseveres with remarkable resilience in Asia's northern and Arctic regions.

The '90s Boy Band Boom

The CW, 8 p.m.

Featuring exclusive interviews with those who lived through it, this special documentary will go behind the scenes of the boy-band boom of the 1990s. Go back to the time of MTV and oversized wall posters, and revisit the biggest names — some of which you may have forgotten about — to come out of this popular movement.

The Wish Swap

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Casey (Emily Tennant) and Henry (Jake Foy), strangers who are celebrating their birthdays at the same restaurant, both make wishes that come to fruition; however, they end up getting each other's wishes granted, not their own.

Robin Roberts

Presents I Will Survive: The Gloria Gaynor Story

Lifetime, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Tony Award winner Joaquina Kalukango stars as Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter and music legend Gloria Gaynor in Lifetime's new biopic that spans the superstar's 50-year career. Gaynor, who executive produces, recorded an original song for the film, as well. The movie features many of



CHRISTIAN PETERSEN

her iconic songs, including the legendary "I Will Survive," which became a cultural phenomenon and a powerful anthem of empowerment for millions worldwide.

Kobe:

The Making of a Legend

CNN, 9 p.m. ■ Series Finale

This docuseries about NBA legend Kobe Bryant concludes with its third installment, which follows Bryant as he, with the end of his basketball career looming, shifts his focus to storytelling, mentoring and fatherhood.

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar 2025: Best Picture Winners and Nominees/Oscar-Worthy Moms

TCM, beginning at 6:15 a.m.

Today's 31 Days of Oscar daytime lineup features films that were nominated for or won Best Picture: **Flirtation Walk** (1934; nominee), **Here Comes the Navy** (1934; nominee), **Captain Blood** (pictured) (1935; nominee), **Cimarron** (1931; winner), **How the West Was Won** (1962; nominee) and **All Quiet on the Western Front** (1930; winner). The evening theme is "Oscar-Worthy Moms," featuring **Places in**

Family or Fiancé

OWN, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Tonight's premiere is all about "Kissin' Cousins." James and Jamica met at a family funeral. While they are third cousins, naturally their immediate family has some heavy concerns for their union. Before they walk down the aisle, can these two put their loved ones' minds at ease?

When Calls the Heart

Hallmark Channel, 10 p.m.

Little House on the Prairie superstar Melissa Gilbert will appear in a two-episode arc beginning tonight. Gilbert said she will be playing the character Georgie McGill, who has "a surprising past with one special Hope Valley resident."

Incredible Northern Vets

Nat Geo Wild, 10 p.m. ■ New Series

Follow the busy daily lives of three Indigenous veterinarians at unique clinics across three provinces. Two half-hour episodes air tonight. First, in "City Vet, Country Vet," two vets help keep everything from foes to pigs happy and healthy. Then, in "The Cat Came Back," follow one vet on their first day, while a more experienced vet cares for a cat with a broken leg.



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.

the Heart (1984; Best Actress winner Sally Field), the TCM premiere of **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** (2017; Best Actress winner Frances McDormand), **Imitation of Life** (1959; Best Supporting Actress nominee Juanita Moore), **Mildred Pierce** (1945; Best Actress winner Joan Crawford) and **Mrs. Miniver** (1942; Best Actress winner Greer Garson).

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



SONY PICTURES / EVERETT COLLECTION

The Wedding Singer (1998, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore **Comedy Central, 6 p.m.**

Valentine in the Vineyard (2019, Romance) Rachael Leigh Cook, Brendan Penny **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Beverly Hills Cop (1984, Action) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold **USA, 6:30 p.m.**

Valentine's Day (2010, Romance-comedy) Jessica Alba, Kathy Bates **Bravo, 7 p.m.**

65 (2023, Science fiction) Adam Driver, Ariana Greenblatt **FX, 8 p.m.**

Black Panther (2018, Action) Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan **TBS, 8 p.m.**

Sisterhood, Inc (2025, Romance) Daniella Monet, Rachael Leigh Cook **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

She's All That (1999, Romance-comedy) Freddie Prinze Jr., Rachael Leigh Cook **CMT, 9:30 p.m.**

The Hunger Games (2012, Science fiction) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson **TNT, 10 p.m.**

Goodfellas (1990, Crime drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta **AMC, 10:30 p.m.**

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What to watch SUNDAY

February 9, 2025

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

The Madden Cruiser: A Bayou Adventure With Bill Belichick

FOX, noon

This one-hour special features eight-time Super Bowl champion Bill Belichick as he travels in John Madden's iconic Madden Cruiser bus on an unforgettable road trip through Louisiana's football country. Belichick visits with special guests Tom Brady, Michael Strahan, Curt Menefee and others on the journey to New Orleans and Super Bowl LIX.

Great American Rescue Bowl

Great American Family, noon

Beth Stern returns to host this event that showcases adorable — and, unfortunately, homeless — kittens, puppies, cats and dogs in an effort to help them find forever homes.

Puppy Bowl XXI

Animal Planet/Discovery Channel/TBS/truTV/Max/Discovery+, 2 p.m.; kickoff show at 1 p.m.

Two decades after it first debuted as a Super Bowl programming alternative, this cute



CHRIS GRAYTHEN

and cuddly competition returns for its 21st installment. The three-hour event will feature 142 rescue puppies from 80 shelters across 40 states and two countries. Team Fluff will be led by Julep, the competition's first-ever St. Bernard mix, and Smoosh, the only Pekinese to compete in the games, while Team Ruff will be led by Mr. Pickles, a pug-Chihuahua, and Tuani, a Chihuahua-German shepherd.

Super Bowl LIX: Kansas City vs. Philadelphia

FOX, 6:30 p.m. Live

The AFC champion Kansas City Chiefs and NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles compete for the Lombardi Trophy and a place in football history tonight at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans. The Chiefs have the chance to become the first team in NFL history to win three straight Super Bowls. Two years ago, the Chiefs defeated the Eagles 38-35 in Super Bowl LVII. Jon Batiste performs the national anthem, and Kendrick Lamar performs the halftime show.

Miss Scarlet

PBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "The Enchanted Mirror," Eliza (Kate Phillips) explores the cutthroat world of Victorian theater while finding herself growing ever closer to Inspector Blake (Tom Durant Pritchard).

All Creatures Great and Small

PBS, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Pair Bond," Carmody (James Anthony-Rose) gets an exciting opportunity, leaving Siegfried (Samuel West) wondering whether he's holding back his protegee, while Mrs. Hall (Anna Madeley) must deal with an unlikely emergency in Darrowby.

The Floor

FOX, 10:30 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The 100-contestant trivia quiz show hosted by Rob Lowe makes its Season 3 debut following FOX's coverage of Super Bowl LIX. New episodes air Wednesdays beginning this week.



WARNER BROS.

nominee), **The Good Earth** (1937; nominee), **Lady for a Day** (1933; nominee), **Libeled Lady** (pictured) (1936; nominee), **Gigi** (1958; winner) and **My Fair Lady** (1964; winner). The evening theme is "Oscar-Worthy Lawyers," featuring **To Kill a Mockingbird** (1962; Best Actor winner Gregory Peck), **Witness for the Prosecution** (1957; Best Actor nominee Charles Laughton), **Inherit the Wind** (1960; Best Actor nominee Spencer Tracy), **Trial** (1955; Best Supporting Actor nominee Arthur Kennedy) and **A Free Soul** (1931; Best Actor winner Lionel Barrymore).

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar 2025: Best Picture Winners and Nominees/Oscar-Worthy Lawyers

TCM, beginning at 6:45 a.m.

Today's 31 Days of Oscar daytime lineup features films that were nominated for or won Best Picture: **One Foot in Heaven** (1941;

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



20TH CENTURY FOX

Reality Bites: A Hannah Swensen Mystery (2025, Mystery) Alison Sweeney, Victor Webster **Hallmark Mystery, 6 p.m.**

Blade II (2002, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

13 Going on 30 (2004, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Deadly Wives Club (2024, Suspense) Erin Boyes, Matt Hamilton **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Hidden Figures (2016, Historical drama) Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer **Lifetime, 8 p.m.**

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **NBC, 8 p.m.**

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (2012, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Eugene Levy **BET, 8 p.m.**

Taken (2008, Action) Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace **FXM, 8:30 p.m.**

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017, Science fiction) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana **TNT, 9:30 p.m.**

Fourth Down and Love (2023, Romance-comedy) Pascale Hutton, Ryan Paevey **Hallmark, 10 p.m.**

You've Got Mail (1998, Romance-comedy) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan **TBS, 11 p.m.**

X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014, Action) Hugh Jackman, James McAvoy **FX, 11:30 p.m.**

From the editors of **tv** Weekly and **tvinsider.com**

What to watch

MONDAY

February 10, 2025

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

College Basketball

ESPN & ESPN2, beginning at 7 p.m. Live
Catch North Carolina at Clemson and Baylor at Houston on ESPN. Charlotte at Florida Atlantic airs on ESPN2.

The Neighborhood

CBS, 8 p.m.
A new community social app shakes up the neighborhood in the new episode "Welcome to the e-Neighborhood."

All American

The CW, 8 p.m.
In the new episode "Get By," Cassius (Osy Ikhile) and KJ (Nathaniel McIntyre) navigate their first day at Beverly and South Crenshaw High.

Extracted

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ New Series
What would your family do for a chance to win \$250,000? Would they let you endure the unthinkable? Think *Hunger Games* (without other contestants trying to kill you), and you'll get a bit of the general premise of FOX's new addictive "family" survivalist series, where 12 untrained competitors



FOX

attempt to survive grueling conditions, perilous terrain and the threat of fearsome predators in the unforgiving Canadian wilderness. Miles away, two of each survivalist's family members are locked down at a secluded headquarters watching them via a 24/7 live feed. The fate of each untrained contestant lies in the hands of their family members. Will they "extract" them when at their worst, or will they force them to endure?

The Voice

NBC, 8 p.m.
Coaches Kelsea Ballerini, Michael Bublé, John Legend and Adam Levine vie to discover and coach the next singing phenomenon on the second night of the blind auditions.

Poppa's House

CBS, 8:30 p.m.
Poppa (Damon Wayans) and Junior (Damon Wayans Jr.) hit a rough patch after Poppa makes jokes about the commercial Junior filmed for JJ's (returning guest star Geoffrey Owens) foam-roller company in the new episode "Dirty Laundry."

Rescue: HI-Surf

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ New Episodes
The action drama following lifeguards in Hawaii returns with new Season 1 episodes tonight. Sonny (Robbie Magasiva), Em (Arielle Kebbel) and the team face their most dangerous rescue yet when a literal minefield is discovered on the ocean floor.

Celebrity IOU

HGTV, 9 p.m.
Ocean's Eleven star Andy Garcia gets the help of Drew and Jonathan Scott to deliver a heartwarming renovation to someone special in his life.

The Hunting Party

NBC, 10 p.m.
In the new episode "Clayton Jessup," a deranged serial killer who targets happy families is on the loose and looking to kill again. The team must race against time to stop him before it's too late. In the process, Bex (Melissa Roxburgh) learns whom she can and can't trust.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



JASIN BOLAND

Bottled With Love (2019, Romance) Bethany Joy Lenz, Andrew W. Walker **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Crooklyn (1994, Drama) Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo **BET, 6 p.m.**

Kidnapping in the Grand Canyon (2023, Suspense) Gina Vitori, Philip Boyd **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Deadpool 2 (2018, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin **FX, 7 p.m.**

The Fugitive (1993, Action) Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Descendants (2015, Children) Dove Cameron, Kristin Chenoweth **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Royal Matchmaker (2018, Romance) Bethany Joy Lenz, Will Kemp **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Trapped in the Rocky Mountains (2024, Suspense) Aubrey Reynolds, Nick Puya **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Fifth Element (1997, Science fiction) Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

Mad Max: Fury Road (2015, Action) Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron **TNT, 9 p.m.**

American Fiction (2023, Comedy-drama) Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross **MGM, 10 p.m.**

Mile 22 (2018, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Lauren Cohan **AMC, 10 p.m.**

The Wedding Ringer (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Josh Gad **VH1, 10 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar 2025: Best Art Direction Winners and Nominees/Oscar-Worthy Kids

TCM, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Today's 31 Days of Oscar daytime lineup features films that were nominated for or won Academy Awards for their art direction:

Rashomon (1950; nominee), **The Prisoner of Zenda** (1937; nominee), **The Thief of Bagdad** (1940; winner), **America America** (1963; winner), **Moulin Rouge** (1952; winner) and **The Red Shoes (pictured)** (1948; winner). The evening theme is "Oscar-Worthy Kids," featuring **Kramer vs. Kramer** (1979; Best Supporting Actor nominee Justin Henry, who was just under 9 years old at the time and is still the youngest nominee for any competitive category in Oscar history), **Shane** (1953; Best Supporting Actor nominee Brandon De Wilde), **These Three** (1936; Best Supporting Actress nominee



THE CRITERION COLLECTION

Bonita Granville), **Skippy** (1931; Best Actor nominee Jackie Cooper) and **The Bad Seed** (1956; Best Supporting Actress nominee Patty McCormack).

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24/7 GRIDS
88-PAGES
PUZZLES

Kick Off a Winning Game Day with Guac

Touchdown-worthy apps to amp up the crowd

FAMILY FEATURES

The best watch parties have two things in common: good food and good company to root for your team with. Kick off your football feast with appetizers made with a game day favorite: avocados.

With nearly 2.5 billion pounds of avocados imported from Mexico annually, based on Hass Avocado Board Volume Data, the Big Game is the No. 1 occasion where avocados and guacamole are served and prepared. In fact, approximately 250 million pounds of avocados are imported in the weeks leading up to the Big Game, according to "Produce Blue Book" — that's enough avocados to go down and back the length of a standard professional football field more than 400,000 times.

Just as the first quarter sets the tone for the game, apps are your first opportunity to build excitement and get your guests cheering. Because

it's not game day without guac, start the party by mashing up a bowl of Championship Guac — a real craving crusher made with creamy, delicious Avocados From Mexico and crispy bacon — to sack hunger.

Take your viewing party to a whole new flavor level with Gronkamole. This all-star dip features shredded chicken, blue cheese, Buffalo sauce and the same flare that football great and Avocados From Mexico partner Rob Gronkowski played the game with, so you know it's ready to tackle every chip, cracker and veggie thrown its way.

These innovative spins on game day guacamole score big when made with fresh avocados, a nutrient-dense fruit everybody can cheer for. They taste good, are good for you and bring the good times on game day.

Find more touchdown-worthy eats, from dips and appetizers to main courses and desserts that are always good at BigGameGuac.com.



Gronkamole

Avocados From Mexico partner Rob Gronkowski's favorite guacamole recipe
Servings: 4

- 2 Avocados From Mexico
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 3/4 cup chicken breast, cooked and shredded
- 1/4 cup blue cheese, crumbled
- 3 tablespoons Buffalo sauce
- salt, to taste
- corn chips, for serving (optional)
- carrot sticks, for serving (optional)

In a small bowl, mash avocados and stir in lemon juice.

Add chicken, blue cheese and Buffalo sauce to guacamole mixture. Add salt, to taste.

Serve with corn chips or carrot sticks, if desired.

Championship Guac

Servings: 10

- 5 Avocados From Mexico, peeled and pitted
- 1 lemon, juice only
- 1/2 cup white onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes, diced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1 pound bacon, fried
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- tortilla chips, for serving (optional)
- crackers, for serving (optional)

To prepare avocado: In a bowl, use fork to mash the avocados and lemon juice until creamy. Then add the onion, tomatoes and cilantro.

To prepare bacon: Cut the bacon into squares then place it in a hot skillet over medium heat and cook 15 minutes, or until golden. Transfer to a plate to drain excess fat and let cool.

To prepare guacamole: Add the bacon, garlic powder, salt and pepper, to taste, to the guacamole; mix well.

To serve, put guacamole in bowl and serve with tortilla chips or crackers, if desired.

FURTHER BLACK MONTH REVIEW



ROSA KEPT HER SEAT

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

In the segregated South, African Americans were denied equality in the workplace, a chance for a decent education and the right to visit restaurants and use restrooms that white people also used.

In much of the South, African Americans were required to sit in the back of city buses and to give up their seats to white riders when buses were full.

That began to change on Dec. 1, 1955 — 70 years ago next December — when one woman on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus decided she had had enough of segregation and Jim Crow laws.

‘I DID NOT GET ON THE BUS TO GET ARRESTED; I GOT ON THE BUS TO GO HOME’

Rosa Parks, age 42, was commuting home from her job as a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair department store on Dec. 1, 1955, when she boarded a Montgomery city bus. She paid her fare and made her way to an empty seat near the middle of the bus, in the first row of seats reserved for “colored” riders.

As the bus continued on its route, the white-only seats began to fill up. At some point, all the white-only seats became occupied. The driver noticed there were some white riders forced to stand. He walked back to four Black riders and asked them to give up their seats.

The law in Montgomery — and in most Southern cities that had buses — was for Black riders to ride in the back and for white riders to ride near the front. But when white-only seats were filled, the driver had the authority to ask an African American rider to give up their seat.

Parks was more than just a store employee; she was also the secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP and an adviser to the organization’s youth council, where she helped young Black people to register to vote.

Three Black riders gave up their seats and moved to the rear. Parks, however, refused. “Why don’t you stand up?” the driver asked her. “I don’t think I should have to stand up,” she replied. The driver



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

National City Lines bus No. 2857 on which Rosa Parks rode that day is now on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

The photo below is usually labeled as Parks being fingerprinted after her arrest on Dec. 1, 1955. In fact, this was after her arrest on Feb. 22, 1956, for organizing the boycott.

The photo at the top of this page was arranged to show Parks on a Montgomery bus on Dec. 21, 1956, the day the city legally integrated its buses. The man behind Parks is a reporter for UPI who was covering the event.

summoned two police officers who arrested Parks and took her to jail.

On Dec. 5, Parks was found guilty of disorderly conduct and violating the city’s segregation laws, given a suspended sentence and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court costs.

But the day before, Parks’ activist friends had gotten busy organizing a boycott of Montgomery’s bus system. The day after Parks’ conviction, the city’s Black community carpooled, hired Black taxi drivers and walked. The one-day protest went so well that organizers decided to expand their efforts.

A group of ministers and activists met and formed what they called the Montgomery Improvement Association. They elected a 26-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. — a newcomer to the area and the pastor of a small Black church — as their leader.

The city’s transit system suffered serious economic losses with the absence of Black riders. That, in turn, caused tempers across the city to rise. Parks, King and scores of other leaders were arrested for conspiring to interfere with a business. King spent two weeks in jail before he was released. His home and four area Black churches were firebombed.

On Nov. 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Montgomery desegregated its city buses the next day. The boycott lasted 382 days.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

KEY MOMENTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

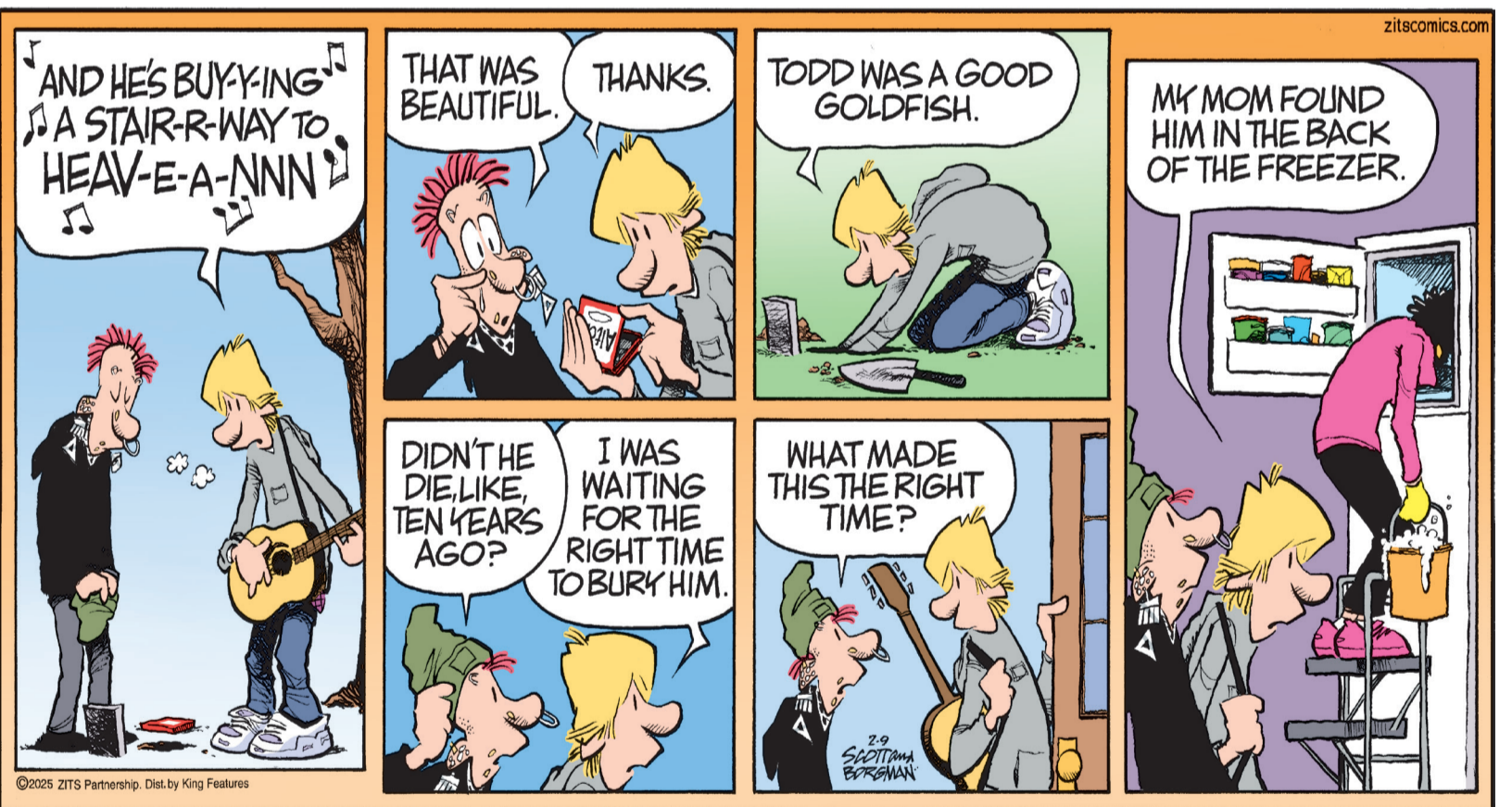
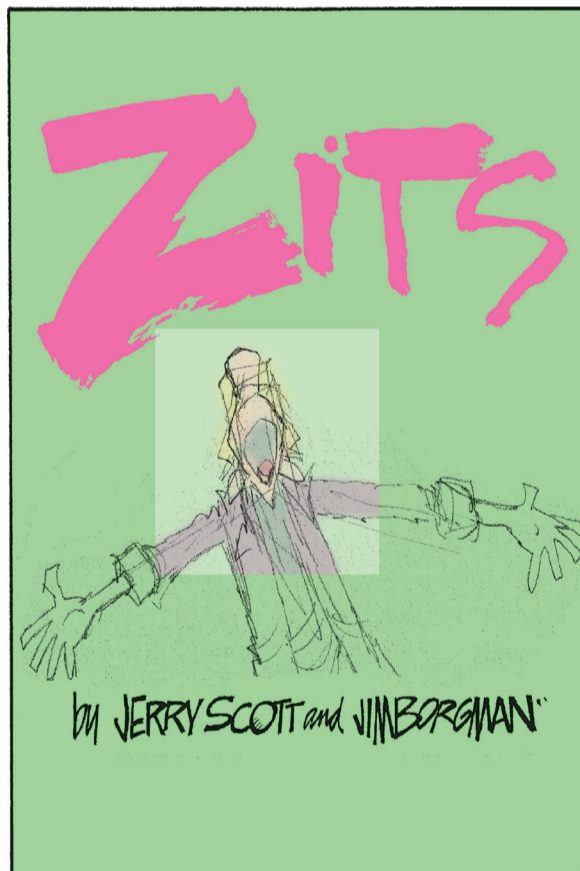
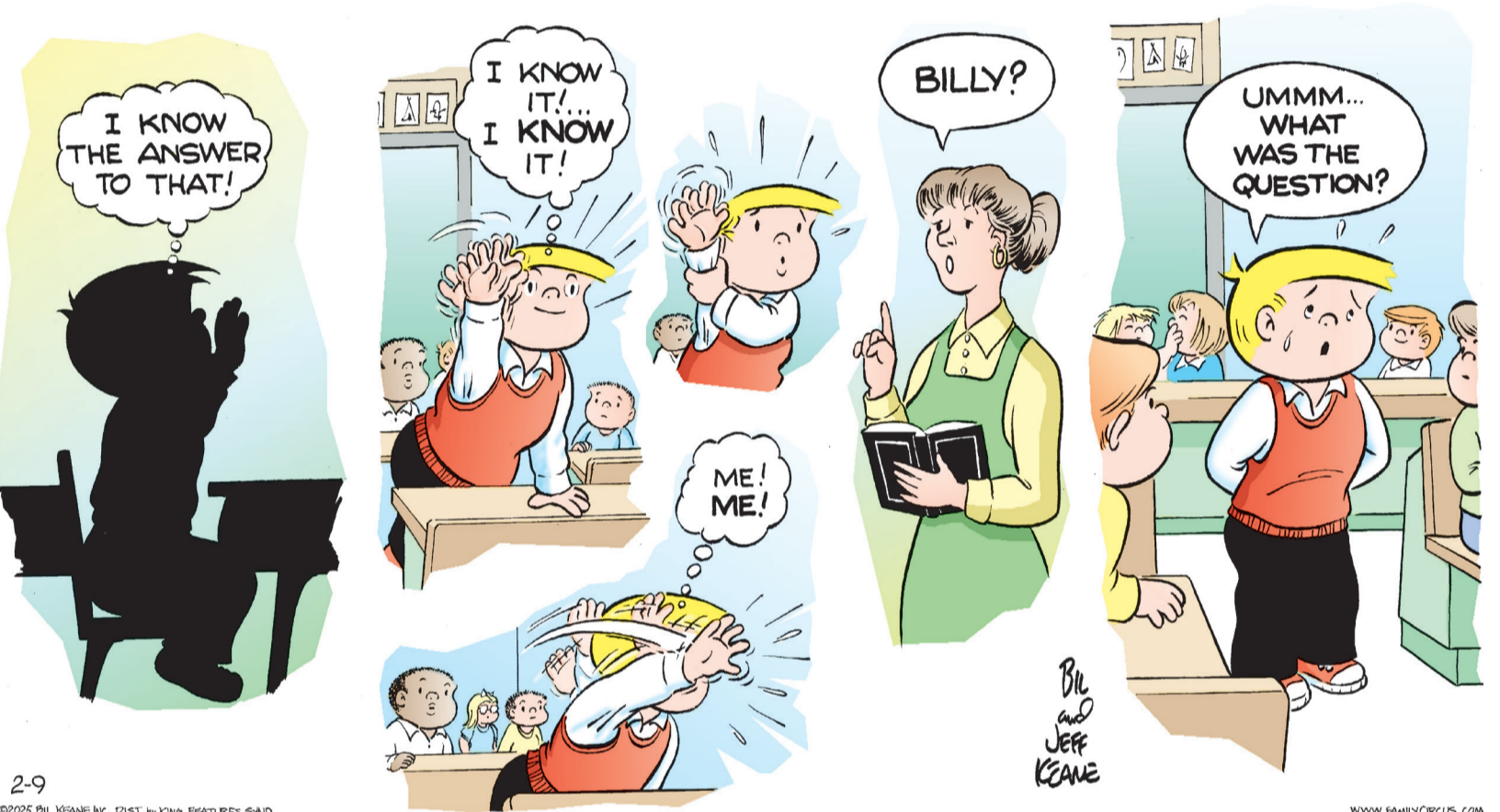
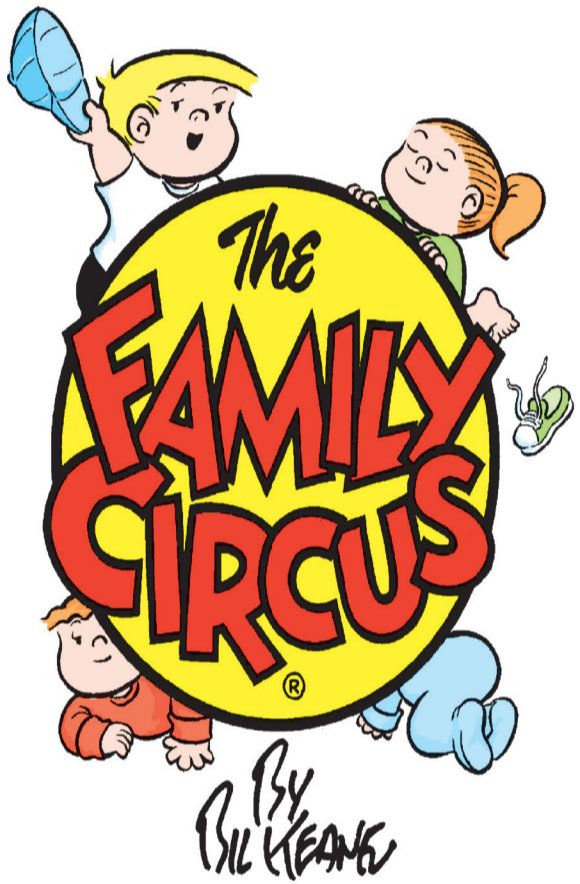
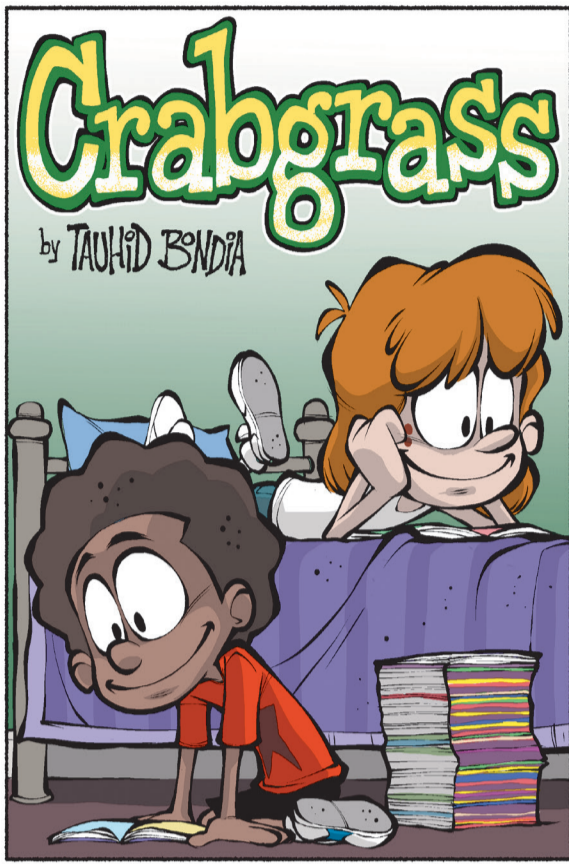
<p>July 26, 1948 President Harry Truman issues an executive order to end segregation in the U.S. military.</p>	<p>May 17, 1954 The Supreme Court rules in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> that segregation in public schools must end. Schools in many Southern states don’t desegregate, however, for many years.</p>	<p>Aug. 28, 1955 Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, is brutally murdered in Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white woman. A month later, his killers are acquitted.</p>	<p>Dec. 1, 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man. Her arrest leads to a yearlong bus boycott.</p>	<p>Jan. 10-11, 1957 Sixty Black ministers and civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., meet in Atlanta to coordinate protests against racial discrimination and segregation.</p>	<p>Sept. 4, 1957 Nine Black students are blocked from enrolling at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dwight D. Eisenhower eventually sends in federal troops to escort the students to school.</p>	<p>Feb. 1, 1960 Four college students sit down at a “whites only” Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina and refuse to leave. Their protest leads to similar protests throughout the South.</p>	<p>May 4, 1961 Black and white activists begin taking bus rides through the South to protest segregated bus terminals and “whites only” restrooms and lunch counters. They’re met with violence from white counterprotesters.</p>
<p>April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King is shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had traveled in support of African American sanitation workers protesting lower wages and poorer conditions than white workers.</p>	<p>Aug. 6, 1965 Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, which prevents the use of literacy tests as a voting requirement and allows federal observers to monitor polling places.</p>	<p>March 7, 1965 About 600 protesters attempt to march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to protest voter suppression. Police brutally attack the marchers. King and other protesters finally reach Montgomery on March 25.</p>	<p>July 2, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law, preventing employment discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion or national origin.</p>	<p>Sept. 15, 1963 Members of the Ku Klux Klan set off a bomb at an African American church in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four young girls and injuring several others.</p>	<p>Aug. 28, 1963 About 250,000 people travel to the nation’s capital to participate in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The event culminates in King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.</p>	<p>May 2, 1963 A series of anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Alabama, are met with arrests of protest leaders and then attacks on protesters by police officers, water hoses and police dogs.</p>	<p>Oct. 1, 1962 James Meredith is finally allowed to register as a student at the University of Mississippi, after months of court battles, resistance from state and university leaders and a riot that left two dead and more than 300 injured.</p>

Sources: “Dream a World Anew: The African-American Experience and the Shaping of America” by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, “The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks” by Jeanne Theoharis, Library of Congress, National Archives, National Park Service, Bill of Rights Institute, the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute of Stanford University, NAACP, National Women’s History Museum, the New York Times, Biography.com, History.com

The Albany HERALD ALBANYHERALD.COM

Weekend Comics

February 8-9, 2025



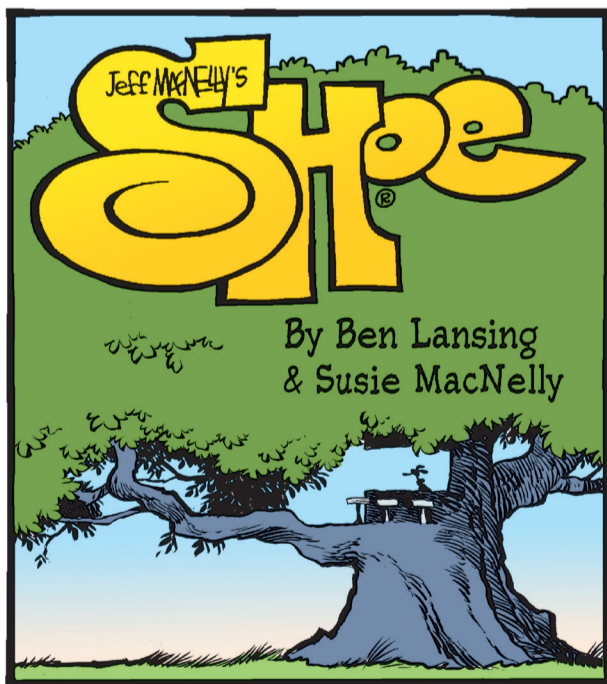
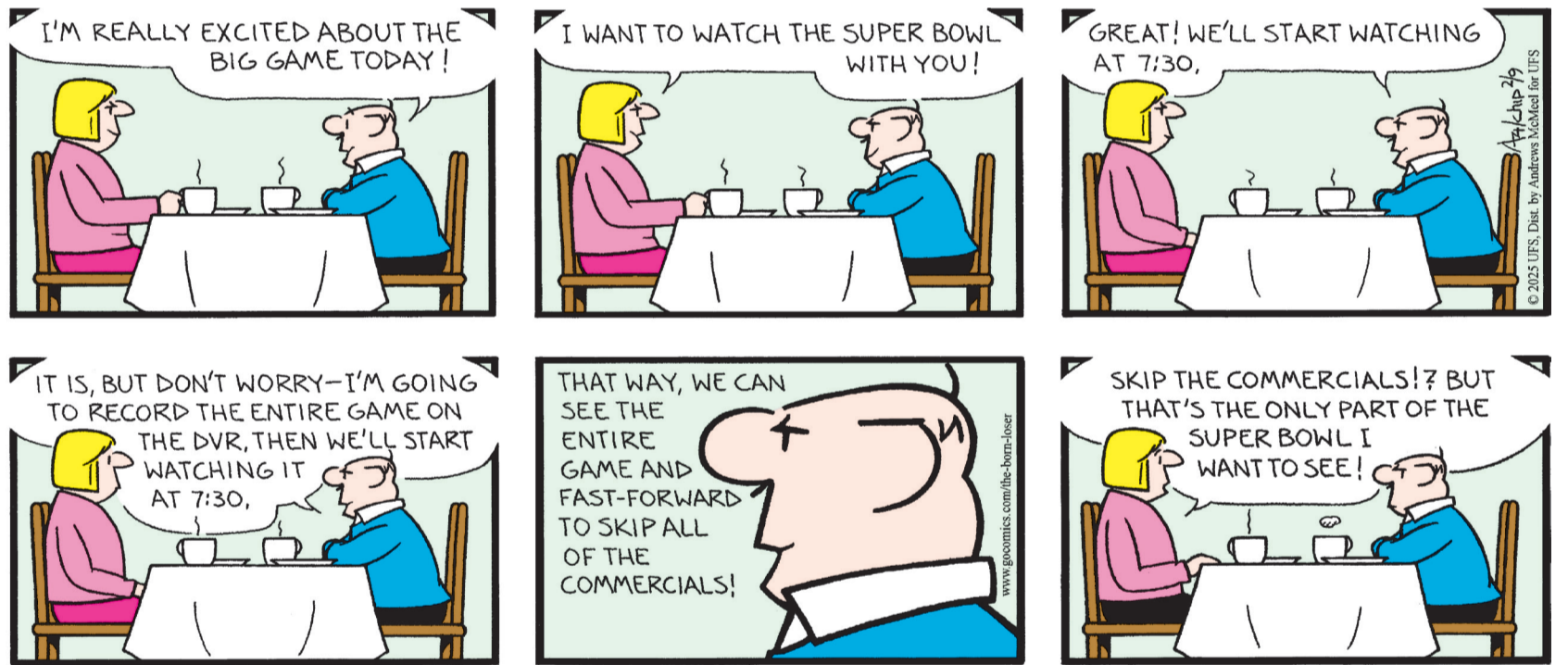
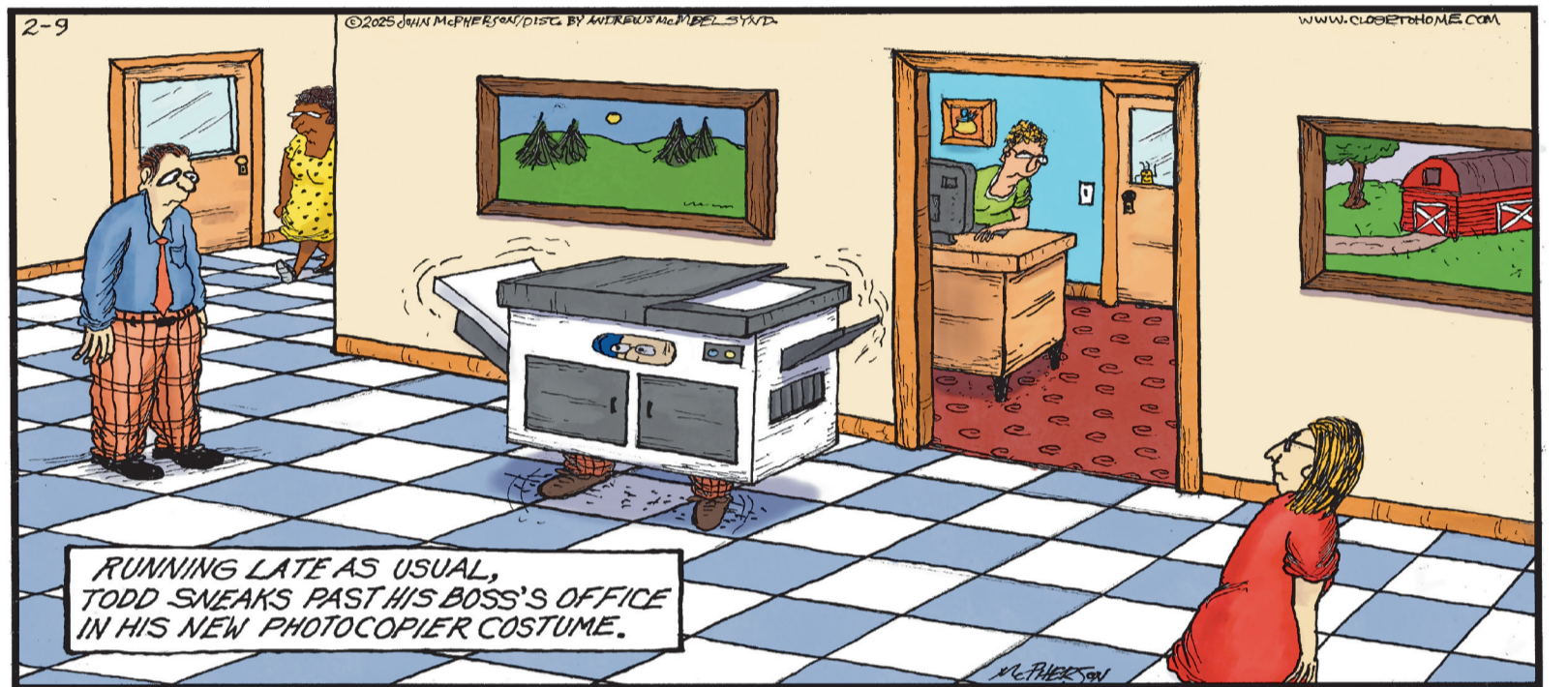
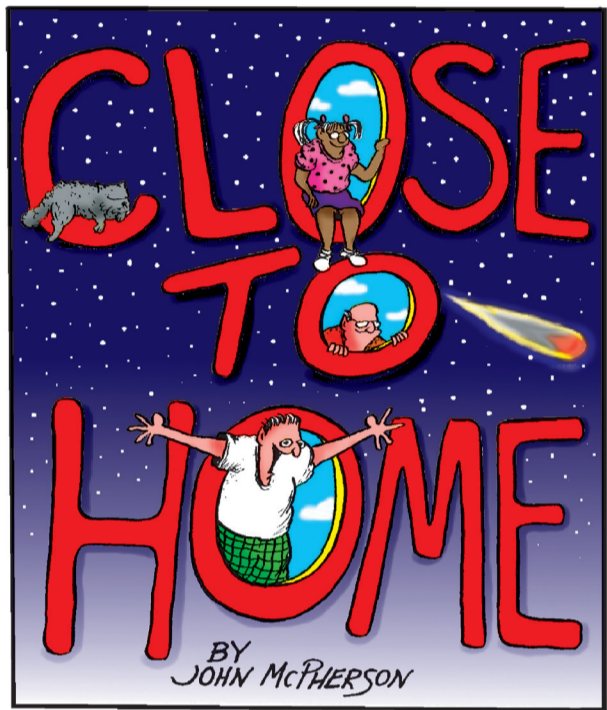
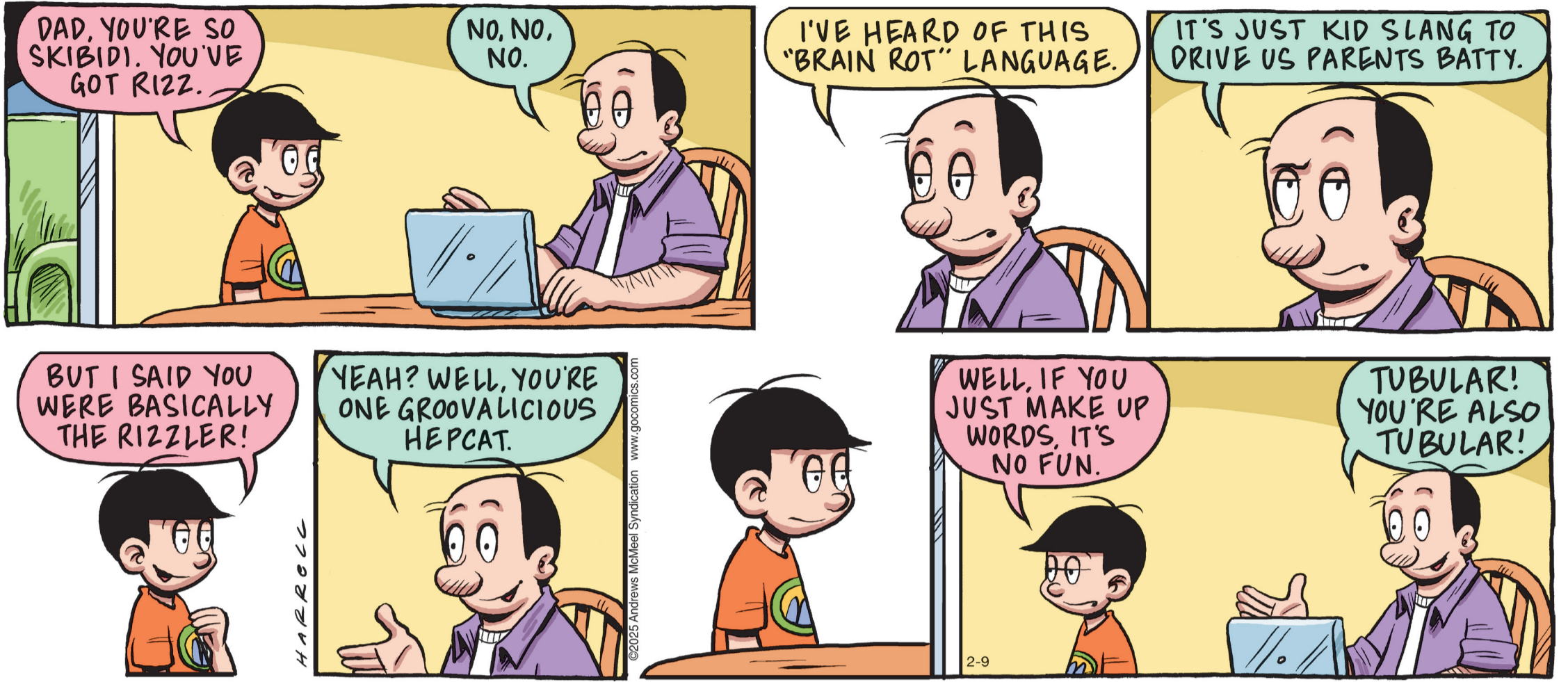
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

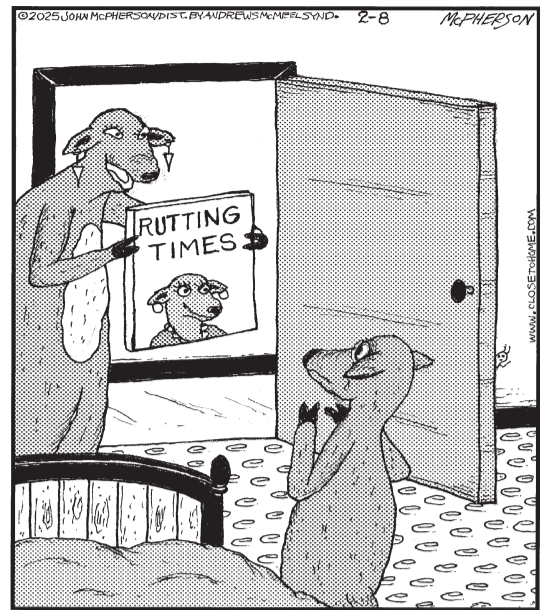


ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

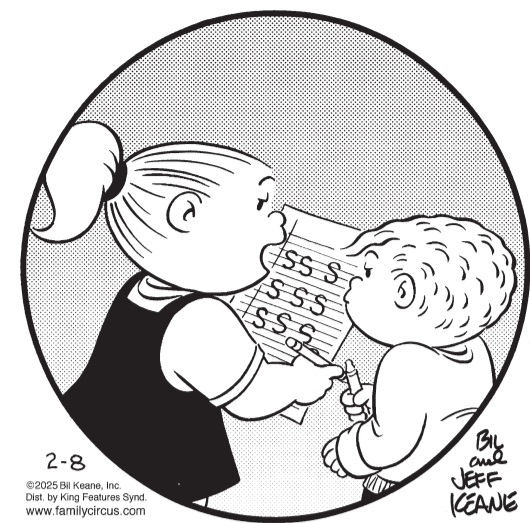


CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



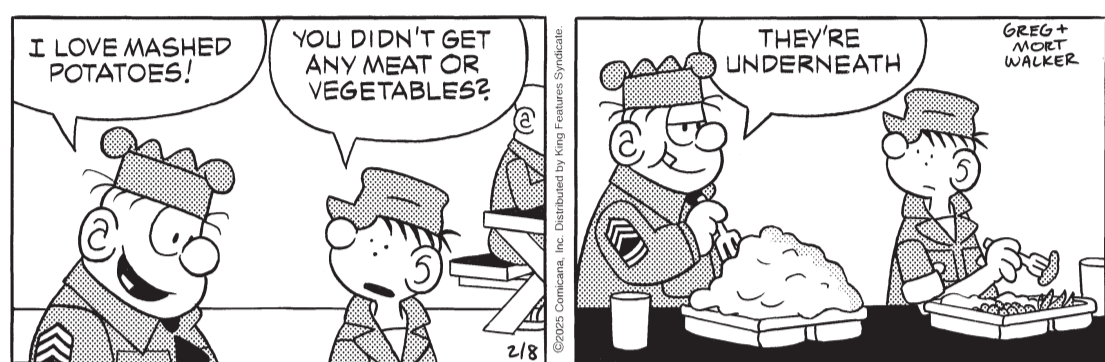
"So, buster, care to explain this magazine that I found under your bed?!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"To make an 'S' you just draw a worm kneeling down."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



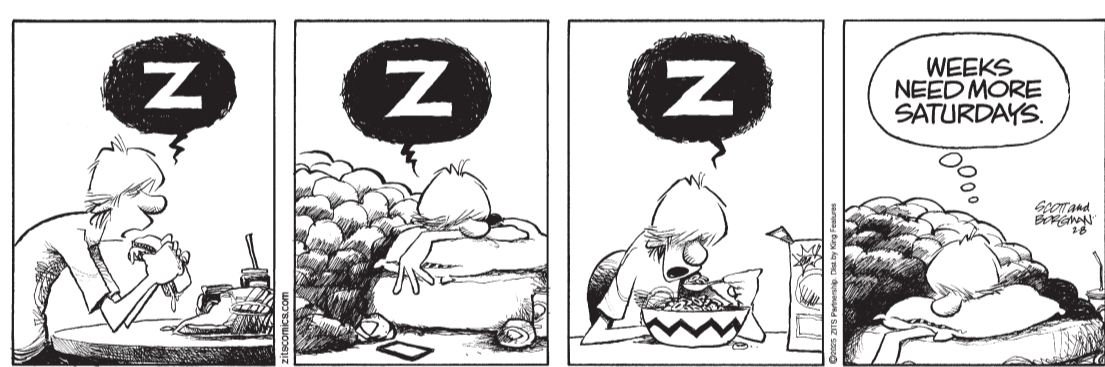
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



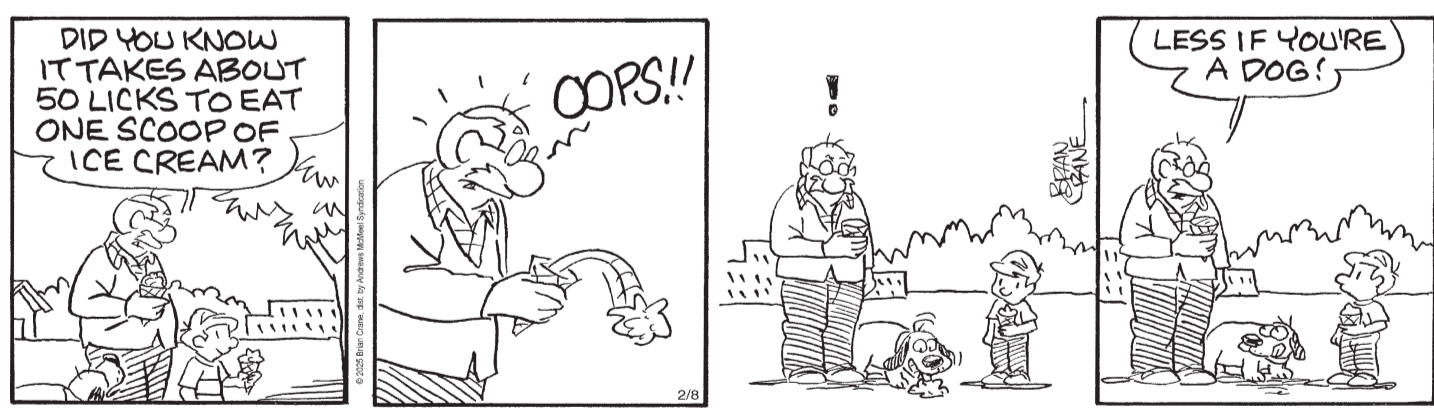
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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

getyouract

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Get your act together

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Turf for lawns
 - 4 Bills and coins
 - 8 Scourge
 - 12 Kimono sash
 - 13 Sandwich cookie brand
 - 14 Eye part
 - 15 Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix"
 - 16 Muse count
 - 17 Penny
 - 18 Spun around
 - 20 Pierces with horns
 - 21 — Alamos, New Mexico
 - 22 Abbr. on business cards
 - 23 Fast car
 - 26 Alike
 - 30 "— Town"
 - 31 Sew loosely
 - 33 Stephen King novel
 - 34 Streetcar
- DOWN**
- 1 Hymn
 - 2 Be compliant
 - 3 Fashion name

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

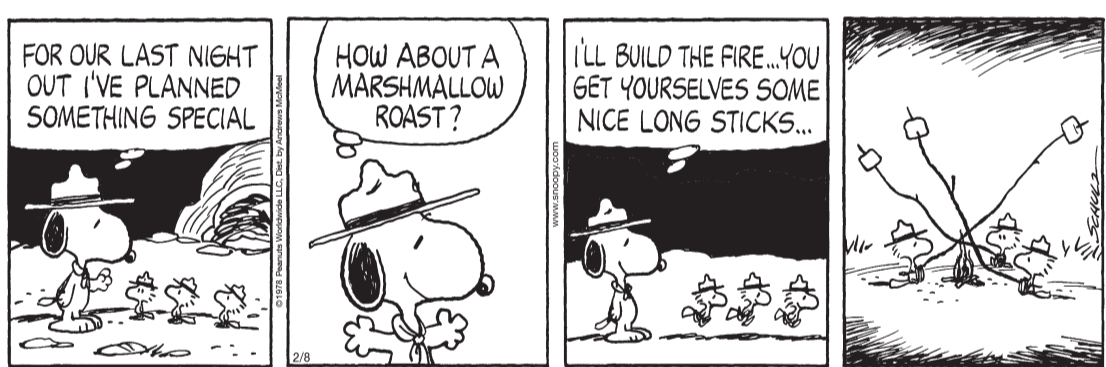
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P	O	P	T	S	I	T	A	L	T
I	N	E	S	T	I	N	I	D	R
R	V	A	B	C	L	O	C	A	V
E	H	O	T	E	N	I	B	V	C
P	A	N	R	I	V	A	M	A	T
O	J	U	C	K	C	A	T	R	O
L	A	R	S	I	M	S	A	C	E
S	E	R	E	G	E	D	A	T	R
T	N	E	C	E	N	I	N	O	N
A	V	E	U	O	R	E	O	B	I
B	A	N	E	H	S	A	V	C	S

- 4 Twist out of shape
- 5 Star sign
- 6 Deliver
- 7 Farm implement
- 8 Pastoral
- 9 Say confidently
- 10 Island goose
- 11 Dines
- 19 Cakes and —
- 20 Jewel
- 22 Polynesian idol
- 23 Mil. group on campus
- 24 Air
- 25 Grouch
- 26 "Begone!"
- 27 Moon goddess
- 28 Slightly open
- 29 Lariat
- 32 Actor — Guinness
- 35 Group of armed civilians
- 37 Farm bird
- 40 Show assent
- 42 Chapeau
- 44 Spree
- 45 — avis
- 46 Actor — Alda
- 47 Liquid measure
- 48 Father
- 49 — facto
- 50 Part of speech
- 51 Fencing item
- 53 Mire

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



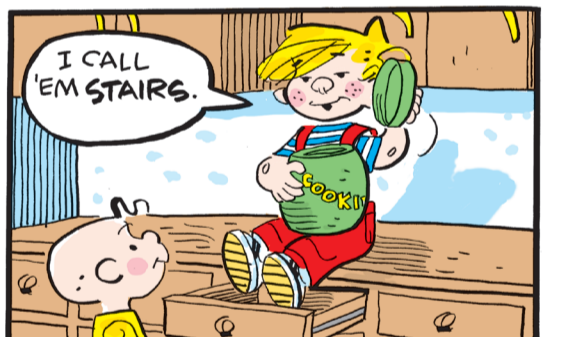
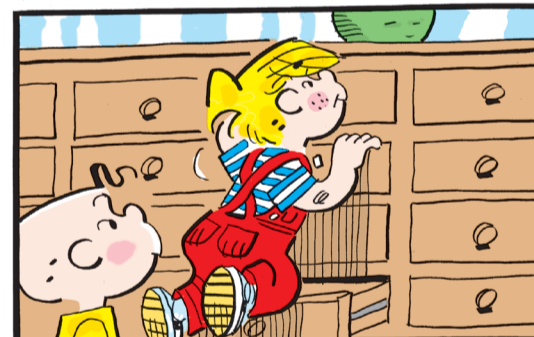
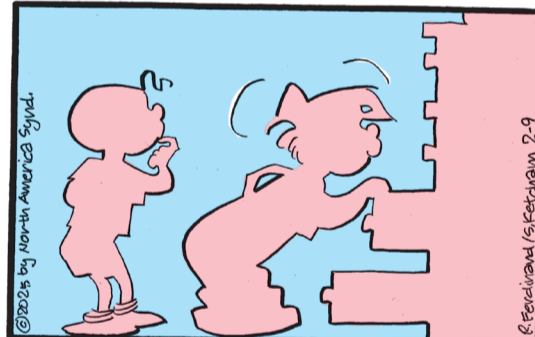
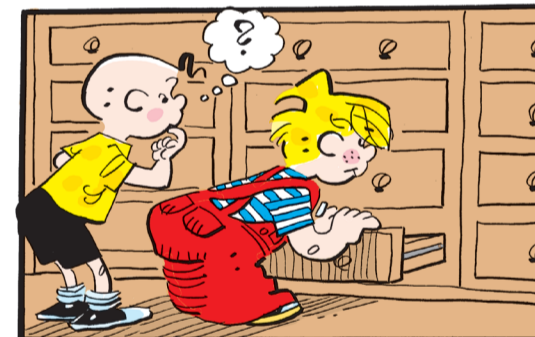
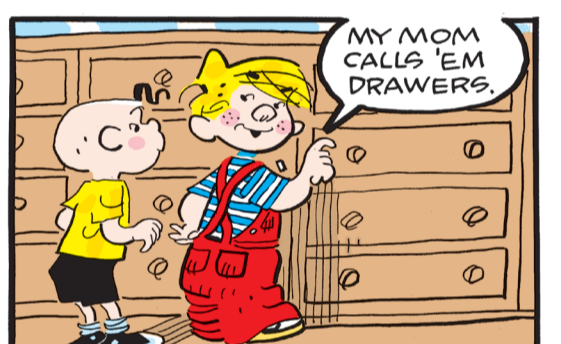
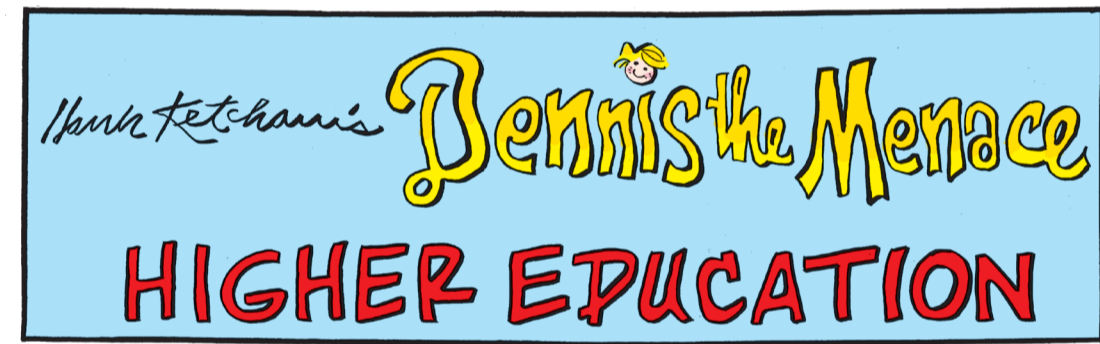
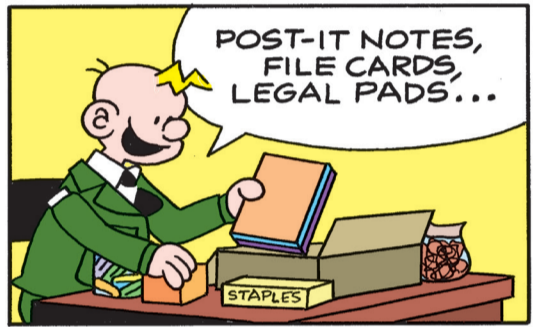
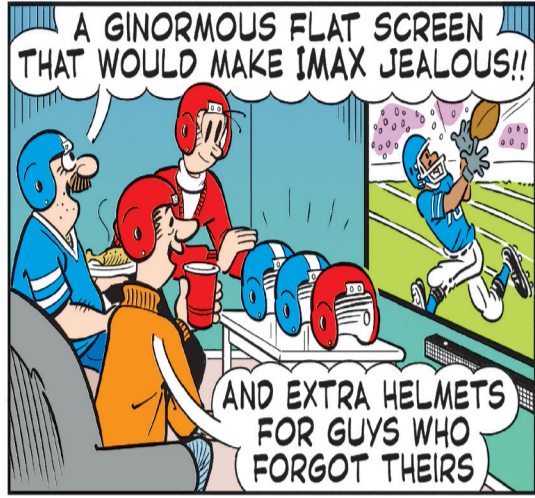
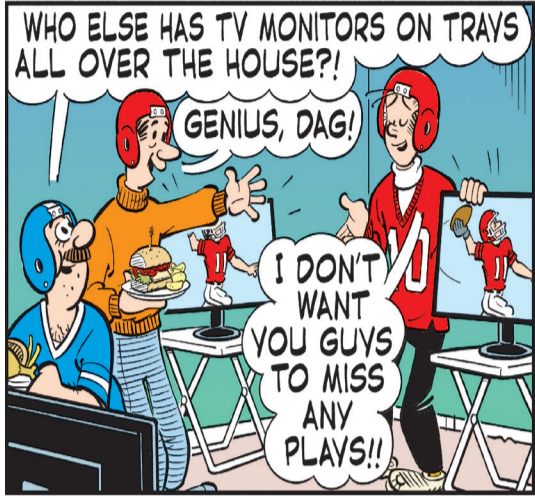
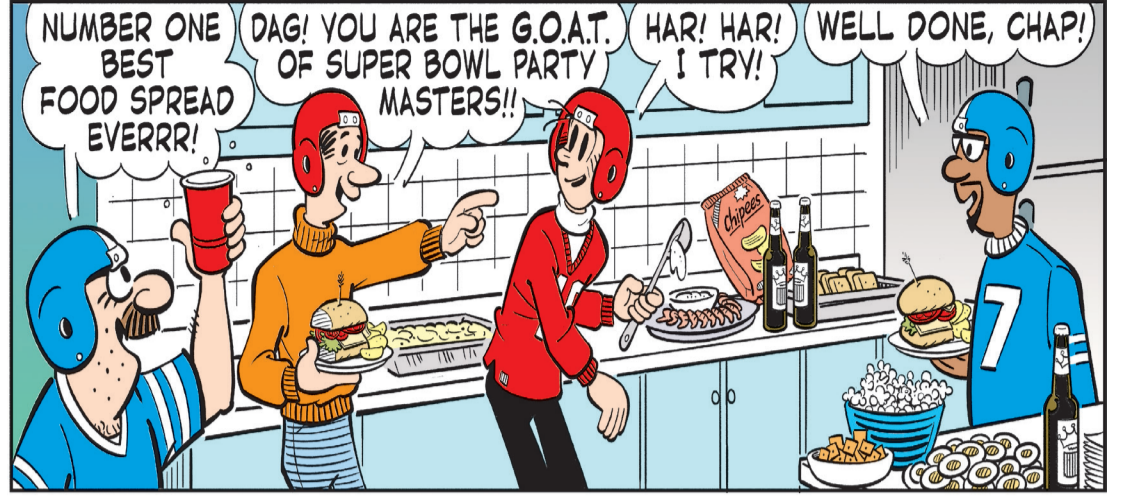
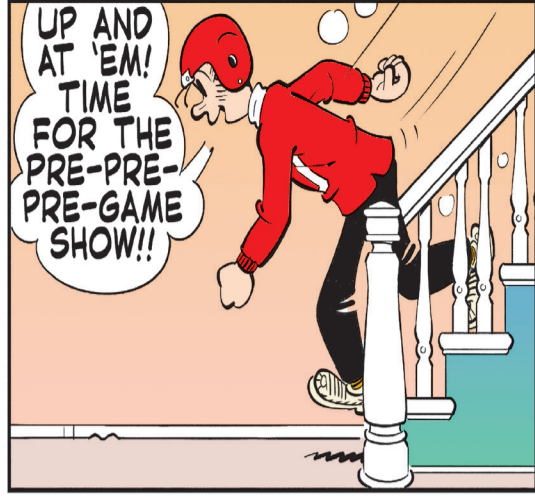
WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

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.

CAESARS SUPERDOME CELEBRATES 50 YEARS Sol.: 6 letters

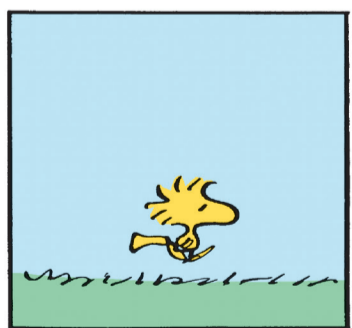
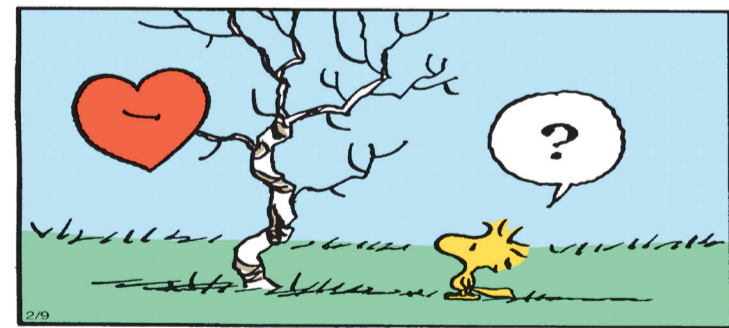
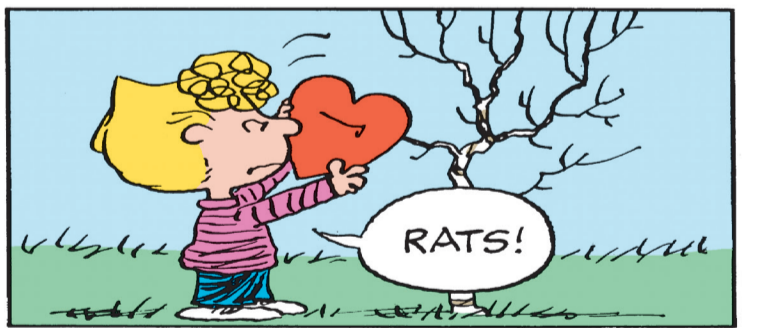
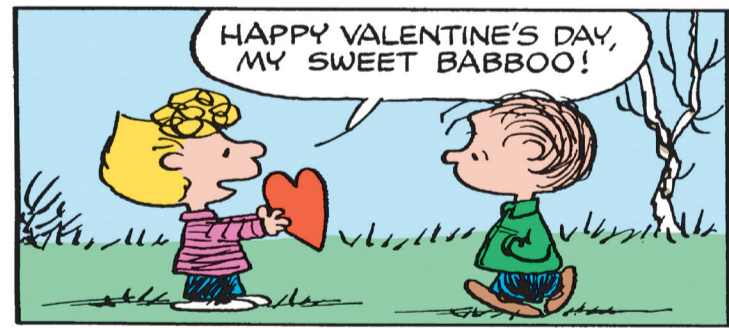
F O O T B A L L L A B E S A B
R S E M A G N I D L I U B S D
E C O N C O U R S E I A C T E
B E N D Z O N E G T S H S U M
I S L E E T S N E K O O S R O
R C S O T X U D E O H S E F D
T A P L G O O T L G E K S L R
H L O E L E B W N C N A M O A
M A R V N A O I T U C D U U O
U T T E L B T I B R A S I I B
I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

TODAY'S ANSWER: Stands



CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

