



Perspectives
Wayne Fowler
• Page 4A



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Honored
Georgia Power
crews recognized
• Page 12A



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ALBANYHERALD.COM

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Lady Belle wins 2025 Flavor of Georgia food product contest

By Jordan Powers
UGA/CAES

ATHENS -- A baked good secured the top spot at the 2025 Flavor of Georgia food product competition, beating out a record 173 products submitted in 12 categories.

Sunday Dinner Gritscuits, produced by Lady Belle, is a French gougeres, or cheese puff, stuffed with macaroni and cheese flavored grits with collard greens and smoked turkey.

Lady Belle is a French-Southern fusion micro-bakery specializing in handcrafted Parisian style macarons, Belle (Signature) Macarons and savory Gritscuits.

"To me, winning means that even if the first try didn't result in a complete win, it doesn't mean that you shouldn't continue to perfect what you know is inevitable," owner Charlette Bell said. "I'm excited about the prospects for the future of Gritscuits and our vision to see it as a sought-after product in the state of Georgia and beyond."

Flavor of Georgia, a University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Signature Event, has helped launch

See WIN 2A



Special Photo: UGA CAES

Lady Belle bakery representatives hold award plaques for Best in Baked Goods and Grand Prize Winner at the 2025 Flavor of Georgia contest, standing with UGA President Jere W. Morehead, left, and CAES Dean Nick Place.

ASU Dental Hygiene program achieves significant milestones

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – The Albany State University Dental Hygiene program has had an outstanding semester, marking significant achievements in education, community service and curriculum advancements.

One of the program's most notable accomplishments is the opportunity for the Class of 2025 to take its clinical board

examination at ASU's Dental Hygiene Clinic. Traditionally, students had to travel to other institutions for this exam, but now, thanks to a special opportunity, they can complete this important milestone in a familiar and comfortable setting. This change is expected to help students feel more at ease, ultimately enhancing their performance.

The program also has adapted to new advancements in dental

hygiene practices in Georgia. The Georgia Board of Dentistry recently passed laws allowing dental hygienists to provide local anesthesia and laser therapy for patients. In response, the ASU Dental Hygiene program has updated its curriculum to include local anesthesia certification, with the Class of 2026 set to be the first graduating class to benefit from this addition. Faculty members plan to become certified in laser thera-

py this summer, paving the way for this skill to be incorporated into future coursework.

Continuing its commitment to community outreach, the program visited three elementary schools this semester: Lake Park Elementary School, Kinchafoonee Primary School, and International Studies Elementary School. During these visits, ASU students educated chil-

See DENTAL, 2A

Dawson elementary teacher finds innovative way to fund school projects

By Lucille Lannigan
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DAWSON – Valisa Mitchell was born and raised here, and she's been teaching at local Cooper-Carver Elementary School for about 36 years.

About nine years ago, Mitchell wanted to start a book club in her second-grade reading class, but she lacked the funding to get started. So she began scouring the Internet for other options. That's where she found DonorsChoose, a nonprofit that allows public school teachers from across the country to request needed materials for their students. She thought she'd give it a shot and uploaded her project proposal to the site.

Two days later, three sets of books were completely funded.

"When I told my children, I'll never forget their faces," Mitchell said. "When the box came in, they almost tackled

See FUND, 2A



Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan

Cooper-Carver Elementary teacher finds innovative way to fund school projects.

MAILING ADDRESS LABEL

Food Truck Frenzy brings dining, entertainment to downtown Albany

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – With her order of lemon pepper and seafood fried rice in hand, Toccoa Mackens was enjoying the first of this year's Food Truck Frenzy events in downtown Albany.

The Albany native said it reminded her of Atlanta where she now lives.

"This is my first time out here," she said. "I moved to Atlanta, so I'm just home visiting. I like it. I didn't know there were so many food trucks around."

The early balmy air held the aroma of barbecue, tacos, hot dogs and more. Two vendors were selling Easter baskets for the Sunday holiday, and there also were desserts and other treats at the location at North Washington Street and Pine Avenue.

DJ Dollar Bill provided music and entertainment for the lunchtime crowd.

"I like it," Mackens said. "The food is good. The weather is perfect. I think they need to do more of this."

The Friday Frenzy was the first of the spring season.

Dougherty County Superior Court Judge Joe Dent was also took in the scene.

"I love them," he said. "Ain't nothing wrong with a good food truck."

With the selections on hand, the judge had not made up his mind on what he would choose for lunch.

"I'm going to look around," he said. I don't know yet."

About 18 vendors were signed up for the first 2025 event, Downtown Manager Lequerica Gaskins said.

"We're looking forward to a great time," she said.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Food Truck Frenzy kicked off for the year Friday with a large number of vendors and good crowd gathered in downtown Albany. The monthly events bring food trucks from near and far.

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Thank You

During National Volunteer Appreciate Week,
we thank all our volunteers for their time and dedication.



From 1A
FUND

me. They were so elated to have some books.”

Nine years later, 268 donors from DonorsChoose have funded 115 projects for Cooper-Carver Elementary, totaling up to \$44,234.60 worth of materials. The donors come from all across the country. Mitchell’s been able to bring new dryers, classroom supplies, a game room and even robots to the school. She became an ambassador for Terrell County and has referred 35 teachers from across southwest Georgia to the nonprofit.

Mitchell’s classroom is jokingly called the “Walmart” by her co-workers. Boxes and crates of puzzles, binoculars, Legos, magnetic science kits and more fill the desk space in the room. DonorsChoose funded everything.

“My co-workers know when

they want something for their classroom, they come straight to me,” Mitchell said. “That’s what DonorsChoose has been to me. It’s been a blessing to my co-workers and their students because anything they need, I’ve got it.”

Through DonorsChoose, Mitchell was able to start a robotics program at Cooper-Carver Elementary. Mitchell’s own children were a part of the robotics team at Terrell High School. She watched that robotics program lead her daughter to the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she majors in electrical computer engineering.

“I was like ‘If the high school can have a robotics team, we can start here to teach our children how to be prepared for there,’” Mitchell said.

After getting approval to start the program from Principal Latosha Peters, Mitchell published a project proposal to fund a set of Wonder Workshop Dash robots on

DonorsChoose. The robots run at about \$180 apiece. The project was fully funded.

“Our children are programming robots, and robots are walking down the hallway,” Peters said. “That’s what it’s all about. School’s exciting for them like it should be.”

Mitchell said if it hadn’t been for DonorsChoose, this type of learning wouldn’t have been possible at Cooper-Carver. The only public elementary school in the county, it has about 500 students. Ninety-three percent of those students are African American, and 100% of them are economically disadvantaged, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Funding is limited. Peters said federal funding is “up in the air” with the current presidential administration. State funding is limited because of the small school size.

“You’re left with local funding,” she said. “It has to be people who own homes and pay taxes. You ride around

here, you’ll see that’s not largely the case. You’ve got less funding coming in.”

Before DonorsChoose, Mitchell said teachers at Cooper-Carver Elementary dipped into their own pockets to get supplies their students needed.

These days, her students can be seen walking alongside robots in the hallways. They peer down, focused on a tablet that allows them to control the robots’ speed, sound and direction. They smile through gapped teeth when the robot follows their programmed commands.

Nine-year-old Zariyah Jones, a third-grade student, said she has so much fun with the robots. Her favorite part is coding and learning about technology. She’s a tiny expert in the robot’s programming, guiding those unfamiliar in the programming process with confidence.

Mitchell now runs a Computer Science and STEM program at the school. Along with

the robots, DonorsChoose funds science kits to reinforce her lessons.

“It’s blessed our students,” Mitchell said. “When you ask them what they want to be now it’s, ‘Oh, an aerospace engineer, an electrical engineer.’ That right there will get them out of Dawson and change their lives.”

Peters said Mitchell’s impact has been phenomenal, not only supplying the school with materials but also helping the children academically.

“When she started doing that, our science scores went up maybe 30 to 50% higher than they were a year before,” Peters said.

Mitchell’s consistent partnership with DonorsChoose saw her interviewing for a place on the nonprofit’s Board of Directors in January.

“We should have had you on this board 10 years ago,” one director told her.

Now, on the DonorsChoose site, Mitchell’s picture is next

to the likes of Stephen Colbert, the host of CBS’s “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” and Yvette Nicole Brown, a television actress. She’s one of just three teachers on the board. The other two teachers hail from Los Angeles and Chicago. Mitchell represents little Dawson, with a population of 4,200, on a national scale.

Peters beams with pride when she talks about Mitchell.

“Even though we’re in a rural area, it’s no excuse that we can’t have these things,” Peters said. “I tell people you may lack in resources, but there’s always a way to go out there and get those things.”

Mitchell said she just feels blessed to do this for her hometown.

“I could never forget home,” she said. “Here, I can make a difference. I have a heart for our babies, and I want to see them be the best they can be.”



Special Photo: Albany Public Works employee Scott Tennison picks up trash behind the Dougherty County Board of Education building on Friday as part of the week-end Stash the Trash event. Employees picking up litter in downtown Albany kicked off the 36th annual cleanup effort in Dougherty County.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE BEER AND WINE LICENSE

Jimmy 09 Inc., trading as Sky Food Mart, 2400 Clark Ave. Albany Georgia 31705, give notice that I have applied for a Transfer of Alcohol License.

Albany Herald

Run Dates: April 19, 22 & 24

SCAN CODE TO VIEW SPORTS ONLINE

From 1A
DENTAL

dren on proper brushing and flossing techniques, what to expect at their first dental visit, and how to choose healthy snacks for strong teeth.

The ASU Dental Hygiene Clinic remains a vital resource for both the university and the broader community. Services offered include dental exams and cleanings, oral cancer screenings, radiographs, fluoride treatments, patient education and sealants. The clinic welcomes ASU students, faculty, staff, and community members. Fees are set at \$20 for children under 18 and senior adults 55 and older, with a fee of \$30 for all other adults. Sealants are available for \$10 per tooth. Community members can schedule appointments by calling (229) 500-2247.

Looking ahead, dental hygiene students will partner with Dougherty County Head Start and Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures in



Special Photo: ASU

The Albany State University Dental Hygiene program has had an outstanding semester, marking significant achievements in education, community service and curriculum advancements.

April to provide free dental screenings and fluoride varnish treatments to more than 100 young children. This marks the program’s third year of participating in this community initiative as part of the Community Dental Health course.

Students in the program also have been inspired by alumni success stories. Afor Carter, a 2014 ASU Dental Hygiene graduate, recently published a book about transitioning from dental

hygiene school to clinical practice. She generously donated copies to second-year students and instructors, along with words of encouragement as they approach graduation. Carter, who also earned her bachelor of science degree in Organizational Leadership from ASU, is now involved in clinical research and part-time dental practice.

Reflecting on her experiences this semester, ASU Dental Hygiene student

From 1A
WIN

small start-up food companies and garnered recognition in new markets for established brands since 2007. More than 2,225 products have been entered into the contest, and participating businesses have experienced increased sales, business contacts, publicity and overall interest in their products.

Organized by the CAES department of food science and

technology, the contest is supported by presenting sponsor Massey Ferguson as well as the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Grown, the CAES Alumni Association, Farm Credit Associations of Georgia, Corteva Agriscience and the Georgia Agribusiness Council.

This year’s Flavor of Georgia winners represent all corners of the state and the best of Georgia’s diverse culinary heritage. The winners were among 37 finalists selected during the first round of judging last month.

“The 2025 Flavor of Georgia contest is a true testament to the meaning behind the competition: to act as a platform for Georgia food entrepreneurs and their visionary products,” CAES Food Science and Technology Department Head Manpreet Singh said. “The department and its faculty provide a platform for entrepreneurs to showcase their innovations in food through understanding food ingredients, product profiles and other key aspects of developing new products.”

Judges for the contest’s final round included food product experts, community members, local businesses and political leaders. Entries were evaluated by cat-

egory based on Georgia connection, commercial appeal, taste, innovation and market potential. Winners are listed by product name, company and city within the 12 competition categories:

Baked Goods: Sunday Dinner Gritscuits by Lady Belle, Stone Mountain

Barbecue Sauces and Seasonings: Georgia Sweet Peach by Oconee Gold BBQ Sauce, Statham

Beverages: Tilted Tea – Farmer’s Daughter by Jubilee Energy Company Jackson

Cakes: Georgia Turtle Delight by Jessicakes Bakery, Covington

Condiments and Sauces: Bootlikker Thunderbird Wing Sauce by Bootlikker Hot Sauce, Jefferson

Confections: Honeycream Gelato by Honeycream, Rome

Dairy Products: Georgia Gouda by Sweet Grass Dairy, Thomasville

Honey, Syrups, Jams and Jellies: H.L. Franklin’s Hot Creamed Honey by H. L. Franklin’s Honey, Metter

Meats and Seafood: Pastured Cane Syrup Pork Sausage by White Oak Pastures, Bluffton

Miscellaneous: Chorisoy by Viva la V, Tucker

Pickled Vegetables, Relish and Salsas: Georgia Chow

Chow by Jake’s Fresh Market & Cannery, White

Snack Foods: Sugar Fried Pecans by Ocmulgee Orchards, Hawkinsville

A People’s Choice Award, chosen by event attendees, went to Ocmulgee Orchards for its Sugar Fried Pecans.

Will Harris, the owner of White Oak Pastures, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science in 1976 from CAES.

In his remarks at Savor the State: A Flavor of Georgia Tasting Experience, CAES Dean and Director Nick T. Place emphasized the value the college places on entrepreneurship and the spirit of innovation that drives the state’s food industry.

“Our goal is to nurture the growth of small businesses, support local economies and encourage the use of Georgia-grown ingredients,” Place said. “This event is not just a celebration of food, but also of the people behind the products, who work tirelessly to turn their passion into successful ventures.”

Each entry in the Flavor of Georgia contest is featured in the digital product directory, including a professional photograph and brief overview, which is seen by leading food industry buyers and media

outlets. The 37 finalists received a personalized news release, use of the Flavor of Georgia finalist logo on their label and promotional materials, and the opportunity to present their product to a panel of food industry experts at the final judging event. Finalists also received a one-year Georgia Grown membership, courtesy of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

The grand prize winner was awarded an exhibit space at the Georgia Food Industry Association annual convention, a \$1,500 value.

“Both food product start-ups and legacy companies face myriad challenges in establishing their brands and products,” UGA FoodPIC Director Jim Gratzek said. “We are thrilled to help these companies on their path to success by forming strategic alliances with external marketing, technology and engineering groups to help food companies take a new product from conception through consumer research, formulation, prototyping, shelf-life analysis and market launch.”

To learn more about the contest, visit flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu.

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Horoscopes

Pause, think and set your sights on this year's desired outcomes. There is no need to rush or take on unnecessary projects or responsibilities. A clear picture of what you want and need in your life will make it easier to stay on target and reach your goal. Stick close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Keep moving. Idle time is your enemy today. Too much time to think, complain or get into trouble will prevent you from taking care of business. A physical change will boost your confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Broaden your horizons, participate in thought-provoking events and get in touch with people who can offer experience and hands-on help. However, find out what's expected of you before you embark on a project.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Zero in on what's important to you instead of lurking around the outer perimeters of situations. Speak openly from the heart and directly to those most likely to tell the truth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Finish what you start, do things by the book and take responsibility for yourself, your words and your actions. Arguing will waste time and deter you from reaching your objective or destination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You are overdue for a change. Look at yourself, what you do and the goals you want to achieve. A positive attitude will outweigh negativity and anger.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Take a break. Get out and mingle, network or par-

ticipate in something that motivates or stimulates you to give your all. Now is the time to express yourself with confidence, not to hesitate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Accept change and keep moving forward. How you deal with what's happening around you will determine how others perceive you and your influence on your goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Social events will result in heartfelt discussions that give you something to think about. Be careful about what you agree to do. A project will require time and effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Take care of financial matters, apply for a position that interests you and manage your health care with finesse. Don't leave anything to chance or up to someone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Look at the long-term effects and pace yourself accordingly. Refuse to let someone drag you into their drama when you are best off working on benefits you most.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Make changes that improve your lifestyle and health. Discipline and saying no to temptation is essential. Micromanagement, along with common sense, will help stabilize your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Take advantage of an opportunity to discuss your interests and how to use your skills to market yourself effectively. Think outside the box, and you'll discover how to diversify and update your skills.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do."

Henry Ford,
industrialist (1863-1947)

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

The city of Albany needs to go to the second site at North Jefferson and Seventh Avenue for the new Fire Station No. 2. Leave Tift Park alone!

Beware of government demanding loyalty. You will lose your rights.

First it was sidewalks no one walked on, then a new already abandoned transportation center. Now it's a new fire station. The existing one just needs renovation, but our despicable city commissioners can't help themselves with our money. Instead of wasting tax dollars, can't we figure out why it already takes AFD 45 minutes to respond, or maybe why APD just never shows up at all?

Help slow inflation: Stop buying new stuff. Shop thrift shops and used cars.

If Ozempic really worked, you would think the woman street dancing in the commercial would be skinny. Same thing about Congress and the two-party political system: You would think some, even if minimal, good would come out of it.

Fletcher, I enjoy your writing, but enough of running down the president. You will understand soon the greatness of this master businessman.

We live in a country where the intelligent have to remain silent so the stupid won't be offended

Carlton, do you really hate the president so much that you would find an admittedly unique way to run him down? Sure, things are in a mess right now with his idiotic on-again, off-again tariffs, but give him a chance to figure things out.

Just curious, are left-leaning political cartoons the only ones that the Herald has to give?

Well, now we can add another racist commissioner to the Albany City Commission. Diana Brown said she's an admirer of Demetrius Young. That should give you an idea where she'll be coming from. Way to go you 84% of voters in Ward VI who decided to sit out another election.

Truth be told, squawker, a lot of somebodies wanted/voted for Trump to be president. And it has ushered in the nightmare that is upon us. What they didn't expect is that Trump and Musk's firings and deportations would affect them and their family members. Now they supposedly have buyer's remorse. In the crude but appropriate lingo of social media, they have FAFO'ed.

There are a lot more folks getting rich running the games than there are gamblers getting rich from playing them.

Trump has fired 6,000 veterans from their federal jobs. Now they want to cut 80,000 personnel from the Department of Veterans Affairs. That's Trump's idea of making America great again. That Man Without a Family

Only in America could criminals, murderers and violent Venezuela gang members be treated like first class American hero's. They say America has problems with mental health issues. Democrats are proof of that.

Wow, Fletcher, a column with two of my favorite things: the writing of James Lee Burke and pointing out the ineptitude of a lying president who has turned the running of the country over to maybe the one person whose overinflated ego matches his own. Well-done, sir.

Weather Forecast



Today
84°
63°



Wednesday
86°
64°



Thursday
88°
66°



Friday
87°
66°



Saturday
89°
67°



Sunday
90°
66°



Monday
87°
67°

BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

TRY ONE CHANCE, WITH ANOTHER READY



Jim Rohn, an entrepreneur and motivational speaker who died in 2009, said, "If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much."

If you don't design your own declarer-play plan, chances are you'll fall into the defenders' plan. And guess what they have in store for you? Down one.

In this deal, how should South play in four spades after West leads the diamond jack?

South was sorely tempted to rebid three no-trump, wondering if his side could take nine tricks in either no-trump or spades. But here that would not have worked well. East would have led the

club queen, and the defenders would have taken four clubs and one heart for down one.

South starts with four potential losers: one heart, one diamond and two clubs. He has nine winners: six spades, one heart and two diamonds. Where might the 10th trick come from?

He can get an extra trick if West has the heart ace or East has the club ace.

Declarer must take the first trick in his hand with the ace, retaining dummy's king as a later entry. He draws one round of trumps, then plays a heart to dummy's queen. If East could take the trick with the ace, South would need East also to hold the club ace;

otherwise, declarer would be condemned to down one.

Here, though, the queen holds. South then draws trumps and leads his second heart, establishing his 10th trick.

Plan the play at trick one.

		North		04-22-25	
		♠ 6 3			
		♥ K Q 5 2			
		♦ K 7 4			
		♣ 7 6 4 3			
West				East	
♠ 7 2				♠ 8 5 4	
♥ A 9 8 4				♥ J 10 7	
♦ J 10 9 8				♦ Q 6 3	
♣ A 8 2				♣ Q J 10 9	
		South			
		♠ A K Q J 10 9			
		♥ 6 3			
		♦ A 5 2			
		♣ K 5			
Dealer: South					
Vulnerable: Neither					
South		West		North	
1 ♠		Pass		1 NT	
4 ♠		Pass		Pass	
Opening lead: ♦ J					

ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Nephew plans wedding on same day as relative's milestone birthday



Dear Eric: Our family will be celebrating our mother's 100th birthday this fall. We were planning on having an open house to include my mom's only living sister, family and community neighbors to honor a 100-year legacy that doesn't happen for everyone.

My niece's son proposed to his girlfriend in February and decided to set a wedding date the same weekend as our mom's birthday. We are all very upset that they picked that particular weekend. We feel when the calendar came out to pick a date, my niece (his mom) should have taken that weekend off the table and told them it was reserved.

My niece suggests that we have the 100th birthday party on Sunday, the day after the wedding. We think that is overkill for one weekend and would overshadow each event that should have their own special time.

I, as well as some others, live out of state. I'm 10 hours away. So plan B would be to have mom's celebration the weekend before, which means traveling 40 hours if I want to be there both weekends for my mother's actual birthday.

I called my niece to see if there could be another weekend for them and she said she didn't want to interfere. We feel that mom and our plans (that she knew about) have been disrespected. How can we navigate this whole situation? I feel it's going to be a tense and unhappy event for everyone.

— *Disrespected*

Dear Disrespected: Your mileage may vary (quite literally), but making a 10-hour trip

for the party and then, say, a few weeks later, making the same 10-hour trip for the wedding, had it been rescheduled, sounds much more inconvenient than the plan to have one event on Saturday and the other on Sunday while everyone is in town.

As you start to travel down the branches of a family tree, calendaring gets complicated. Frankly, it can be hard to settle on a compatible date with the people in one's own house. To plan his wedding, your niece's son is negotiating with the needs of his immediate family, the extended family and his fiancée's family. Not to mention venue availability and, that smallest of things: what the actual couple wants. Let's give them a break.

The wedding isn't going to steal the thunder of your mother's remarkable milestone. These events have slightly overlapped guest lists and different purposes, both wonderful. I don't see disrespect here; I see pragmatism. By embracing the weekend as a double celebration of your family's past and future, you'll create more meaningful memories than if you approach it with resentment.

Dear Eric: My husband and I are in our 70s. He works full-time, watches a lot of sports, is on his computer a lot and runs around doing errands. I work part-time, clean house, cook, do laundry and yard work. I know my husband loves me, but he doesn't seem to have any regard for my feelings.

I love my kitchen, but my husband thought it needed a lot of major changes. I said I liked it just the way it was. He started

these projects months ago. The kitchen is now a mess, and he's always too tired to work on it. There are other projects, large and small, that never get done. I'm either going to lose it or run away from home.

— *Perplexed About Projects*

Dear Perplexed: You're both doing so much, even the thought of a hard conversation about this kitchen mess is surely exhausting. Just the thought of a half-remodeled kitchen is enough to send me straight to bed. You have my sympathy.

Running away may not be necessary, but see if you can figure out a break for yourself. Are there friends or family you can visit? Taking some time away from the construction site – and telling your husband why – will help you breathe easier.

Though your husband might have had the best intentions, intention doesn't equal impact. And it'll help both of you if you are kind but clear with him about how this is impacting you. Is it possible for him to get someone in to help him set the kitchen right? Ask him to do so and to give you a realistic timetable for when that's going to happen. He may see the kitchen as just another item on the to-do list, but this affects your life every day. Share that with him and ask him if he understands. This doesn't have to be a heated talk, but it should be a goal-oriented one.

If the goal of repairing the kitchen isn't something that he can make a clear plan for, then you can introduce option B: a discussion about how the family budget can be restructured to allow for takeout every day.

READER'S GUIDE

The Albany Herald

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DO JUST ONE THING

by Danny Seo

Particleboard is a common material made of compressed wood chips, resin and adhesives, and it's used in furniture and to build walls, floors and cabinets inside our houses. The problem? Most particleboard can off-gas chemicals like formaldehyde, which can create an unhealthy home environment. Since ripping out everything made of particleboard isn't a green or economical option, one way to prevent unhealthy gases is to add a coat of water-based, nontoxic wood sealer to walls, cabinets and other particleboard products to make it impenetrable.

Today in History

Today is the 112th day of 2025 and the 34th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY:

In 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began at high noon as thousands of settlers were allowed into the state to claim land.

In 1954, live television broadcasting of the U.S. Senate's Army-McCarthy hearings began.

In 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans participated in nationwide demonstrations marking the first Earth Day.

In 2000, federal agents seized 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez from his relatives' house in Miami to return him to his father in Cuba.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:

Henry Fielding (1707-1754), author/playwright; Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), philosopher; Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924), Soviet leader; J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967), physicist; Bettie Page (1923-2008), model/actress; Aaron Spelling (1923-2006), screenwriter/producer; Glen Campbell (1936-2017), singer-songwriter; Jack Nicholson (1937-), actor; John

Waters (1946-), filmmaker; Peter Frampton (1950-), singer-songwriter; Jeffrey Dean Morgan (1966-), actor; Amber Heard (1986-), actress; Marshawn Lynch (1986-), football player/actor; Machine Gun Kelly (1990-), rapper.

TODAY'S FACT: The Senate's Army-McCarthy hearings were the first nationally televised congressional inquiry.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 2004, former professional football player Pat Tillman was killed by friendly fire while serving as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Seek not the favor of the multitude; it is seldom got by honest and lawful means. But seek the testimony of few; and number not voices, but weigh them." -- Immanuel Kant

TODAY'S NUMBER: 9.5 -- percentage of Oklahoma's population that is American Indian or an Alaskan native, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter moon (April 20) and new moon (April 27).

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PERSPECTIVES

The Albany Herald

Carlton Fletcher, Editor
albanyherald.com
Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Why are Georgia’s teenagers so unhappy?

I just ran across something called the Teen Happiness Index published by Mission Prep (missionprephealthcare.com), an organization that deals with adolescents and families with mental health struggles. The study surveyed 3,012 parents across the country and asked this question: “On a scale of 1 to 10, how happy is your teen?” In Georgia, the answer was that our teenagers are among the least happy in America. Really?

The top four states for teen happiness were Kansas, Delaware, New Hampshire and South Dakota. The bottom five were Rhode Island, Alabama, Maine, New Mexico and Mississippi.

In higher-ranking states, the experts cite “a sense of belonging or a buffer against stress -- think tight-knit towns or outdoor escapes.” As for the bottom-feeders, the challenges include poverty, sparse mental health resources or a lack of opportunity.

That is what confuses me about why teenagers are unhappy in Georgia. We have a lot of tight-knit communities and plenty of outdoor escapes, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Golden Isles to a lot of lakes in between.

I’m not a social scientist -- in fact, I’m not a scientist of any kind. I flunked Biology in college and decided that was all the exposure to science I needed -- but I find it interesting that the assessment of whether a teen is happy or not comes from the observations of their parents. It makes you wonder if they might be part of the problem.

Parents identified what is causing teen angst. A third comes from peer relationships: friendships, rivalries, and the desire to fit in. Another third is social media and screen time. About 20% named academic stress. The rest mentioned family conflict and household financial worries.

Screen time, in particular, stands out according to the Mission Prep study. Teens average three hours and 32 minutes daily on social media or personal devices, not counting homework. As the authors note, that’s a significant slice of their lives spent online -- time that could cut into sleep, real-world connections or simply unwinding.

As I looked at this study, I thought of my own days as a teenager. There was no Teen Happiness Index back then because, frankly, I don’t think how happy we were was of much concern to anybody but us. We were

teenagers, after all. We complained about everything. The school year was too long, and we had too much homework. We were always broke. No transportation. Going steady and then not going steady. Our parents didn’t understand us. The world didn’t appreciate us. How in the world did we survive?

The times were different, that’s why. There were no metal detectors at school and no school police because neither was needed. Nobody brought a gun to school. If we had a disagreement, we would meet after school and duke it out. Boys only. Girl fights didn’t come along until decades later.

Looking back, I now realize times were better than I thought. My parents didn’t try to be my pals. They tried to be my parents and they did an exceptional job of it. There were peer pressures and a desire to fit in, but I don’t think I spent 30% of my time worrying about it. Getting a good education wasn’t as difficult then as it seems to be today. I learned a lot because teachers were not hampered by a bunch of red tape and second-guessing bureaucrats at all levels of government, and there weren’t enough Republicans running around at the time to remind us we were attending failing schools.

Perhaps the biggest difference in my life as a teenager is I didn’t spend three hours and 32 minutes a day on a computer. There were no computers, and Al Gore hadn’t invented the Internet yet. Any games I played came out of a cardboard box or on a vacant lot. A troll was a mythical Norse creature that lived under bridges and not an anonymous scumbag who posts serious misinformation online. We didn’t carry our phone around with us. It sat in the hall, and if we weren’t there when someone called, they would call us back. Big deal.

So to all the unhappy teenagers in Georgia, suck it up. You live in the greatest state in the greatest nation on Earth. Be grateful. Plus, I promise the day will come when you can lecture the next generation on how good their life is and why are they complaining? This should make you and your index very happy.



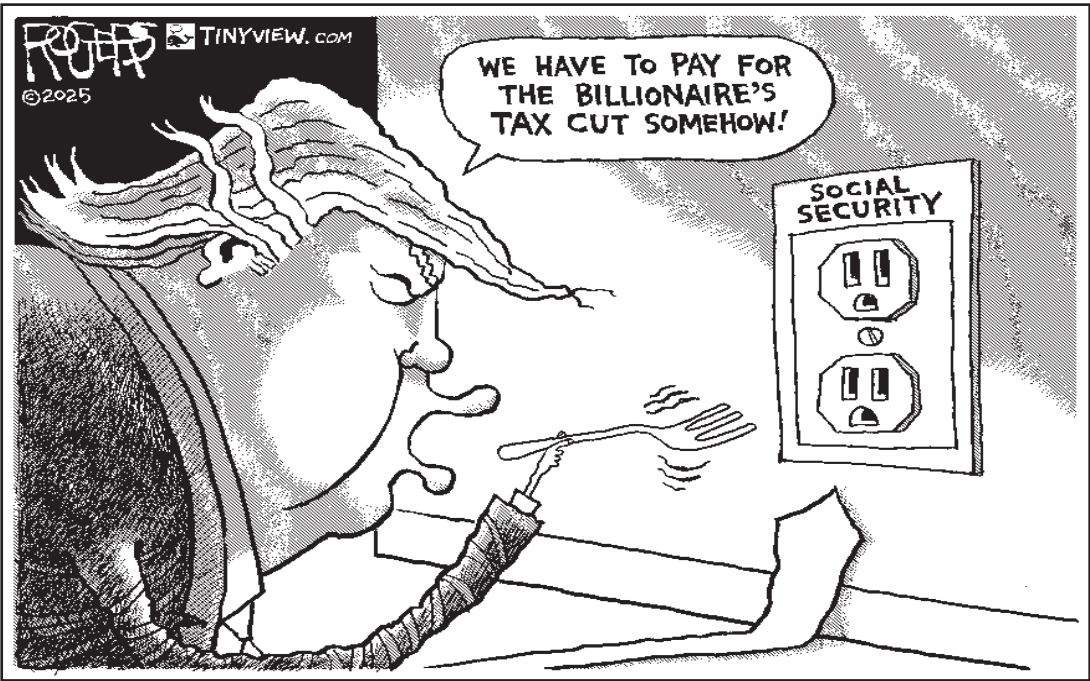
YARBROUGH

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

—Romans 1:17

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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MAIL: Albany Herald News
306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701



COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

We are God’s partners in the garden

A garden tells us everything we need to know about what it means to be human. As someone who travels from community to community, I’ve had the privilege of seeing countless gardens -- from makeshift urban rooftop plots to sprawling suburban yards to vast rural homesteads. But it was a conversation with an experienced gardener that opened my eyes to the profound nature of our partnership with the Divine.

“People think gardening is about controlling nature,” she told me, gently training a vine along its trellis. “But it’s really about partnership. We can’t create the seed, can’t command it to sprout, can’t force it to flower. What we can do is create the conditions for growth.” She paused, brushing soil from her well-worn gloves. “We work with what God has already set in motion.”

This wisdom illuminates one of our tradition’s most fundamental teachings: that humans are created in God’s image. But what does this really mean? Look closely at a garden, and you begin to understand. Like the Master Gardener, we don’t create from nothing -- we can’t. Instead, we’re given the extraordinary ability to nurture, shape and guide what already exists. We can’t invent photosynthesis, but we can decide where to plant. We can’t manufacture rain, but we can build irrigation systems. We can’t design a seed, but we can choose when to sow it.

This is the profound meaning behind God’s mandate in Genesis to “subdue the earth.” According to Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of blessed memory, this directive isn’t about domination but about sacred partnership. When God created humans in His image, He wasn’t describing our physical form but our potential role: to be conscious partners in the ongoing work of creation.

Consider how a gardener approaches their plot. They must first observe and understand: Where does the sun fall? How does water flow? What does the soil need? Then they make choices: Which plants will thrive here? How should they be arranged? When should they be pruned? This is precisely how God invites us to engage with

His world, not as passive inhabitants, but as active participants in its unfolding.

Yet this partnership also teaches us humility. Every gardener knows that, despite their best efforts, some seeds won’t sprout, some plants will fail, some seasons will disappoint. We can create optimal conditions, but ultimately, growth remains a divine mystery. This tension -- between our power to affect change and our inability to control outcomes -- defines our role as beings created in God’s image.

The garden also teaches us about time and patience. No gardener plants a seed expecting immediate results. They understand that growth happens in stages, that fruit comes in its season, that some of their most important work won’t be visible for years. When we partner with God in tending His world, we must embrace this same perspective, seeing our role not just in the immediate moment, but as part of an unfolding divine plan.

This understanding transforms how we view our place in creation. We are neither powerless observers nor independent actors but something far more profound: designated caretakers of God’s garden. Every choice we make -- how we treat our bodies, how we use our resources, how we interact with others -- becomes an expression of this sacred partnership.

The next time you pass a well-tended garden, observe how it embodies this divine-human collaboration. Notice how human intention works with natural growth, how boundaries guide but don’t constrain, how each plant contributes to a greater whole. This is the model for our role in creation: partners with God, empowered to act but humbled by mystery, capable of shaping but not controlling, responsible for nurturing what we’ve been given.

In this garden of existence, we serve as God’s designated gardeners, entrusted with tending not just our own plot but contributing to the flourishing of all creation. This is what it truly means to be created in God’s image, to accept the profound responsibility and privilege of partnership with the Divine, while remembering whose garden this ultimately is.



HAMBOURGER

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.

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Pondering the question of Jesus’ identity

Fifteen million people listen to the Joe Rogan Experience podcast. His guest list includes the likes of psychologist Jordan Peterson, philosopher Sam Harris, and politicians from all over the map. The sheer size of his audience means Rogan can amplify voices like few others in the “new media.” One of those voices is theologian Wesley Huff.

Unlike Huff, Rogan does not profess to be a Christian. But the three-hour dialog between the men was respectful, exploratory

and engaging. After they discussed Christianity and reasons to believe, Huff posed a personal question to his host: “What do you think of Jesus, in terms of your own journeying and trying to find answers to ultimate questions?”

Rogan dodged Huff’s question by musing over his own: “A lot of people believe that there was this very exceptional human being that existed. ... Does it mean he was just some completely unique human being that had this ... way of educating people and

spreading this ideology?”

Rogan is not alone in pondering Jesus’ identity. The woman at the well and the high priest both wondered if He is the Christ. (“I am,” He said.) His disciples wondered who could calm the sea (only God, of course). Pilate asked if Jesus was a king. (Jesus said yes.)

Jesus’ identity is not well-framed by Rogan’s question because an exceptional human and great educator couldn’t also be a liar. Was Jesus telling the truth when He used the messianic title,

“Son of Man?” Or when He said, “I and the Father are one?” Jesus risked legal jeopardy saying, “Before Abraham was born, I am.” His detractors knew He was appropriating the name of God revealed to Moses at the burning bush, “I am that I am.”

Who knows who Jesus is? The angels do. They announced the birth of the “Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The demons do,

proclaiming Jesus the “Holy One of God.” Peter does. “You are the Christ,” he confessed. Doubting Thomas does. He worshipped the resurrected Jesus as “my Lord and my God.” That is the point -- either Jesus was Lord and God, or He was a charlatan. Thinking of Jesus as simply a good teacher is not an option He left open to us. Rogan recognized the

implications of Huff’s question. “If you do live like a Christian and you do follow the principles of Christ,” he said, “you will have a richer, more love-filled life. But you have to submit to this concept that this guy was the child of God who came down to Earth, let himself be crucified, came back from the dead.”

Rogan is right, which is why I pose a question to you. What would you say if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15)



FOWLER

What to watch TUESDAY

April 22, 2025

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

Andor

Disney+ ■ **Season Premiere**

This *Star Wars* series set five years before the events of the 2016 movie *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* concludes its tale in its second and final season, which sees the characters and their relationships intensify as the horizon of war draws near and Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) becomes a key player in the Rebel Alliance. Everyone will be tested and, as the stakes rise, the betrayals, sacrifices and conflicting agendas will become profound. The cast also includes Stellan Skarsgård, Genevieve O'Reilly, Alan Tudyk, Ben Mendelsohn and Forest Whitaker. The season will unfold over 12 episodes broken down



LUCASFILM LTD.

into four chapters of three episodes each; a new chapter drops each Tuesday.

Race for the Crown

Netflix ■ **New Series**

This docuseries from the producers of *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* and *SPRINT* uses exclusive access to offer an inside look at jockeys, trainers and owners as they chase titles and triumph across the Triple Crown circuit of thoroughbred horse racing.

Will Trent

ABC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “The Most Beautiful, Fierce, Smart, Powerful Creature in the Whole World,” Amanda (Sonya Sohn) and

Evelyn’s (LisaGay Hamilton) idyllic getaway takes a dark turn when a shocking murder is discovered at their luxury resort. Meanwhile, back home, Angie (Erika Christensen) faces the emotional strain of a family member’s unstable health conditions.

St. Denis Medical

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “Bruce-ic and the Mus-ic,” at the annual fundraiser, Alex (Allison Tolman) and her husband, Tim (Kyle Bornheimer), try to have a wild, kid-free night; Ron (David Alan Grier) and Joyce (Wendi McLendon-Covey) butt heads over hosting duties; and Bruce (Josh Lawson) sets out to win this year’s “dancing with the caregivers” competition.

Night Court

NBC, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode “Passing the Bar,” Abby (Melissa Rauch) gets more than she bargained for when she offers to help Wyatt’s (Nyambi Nyambi) friend stay sober for a night.

The Rookie

ABC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “A Deadly Secret,” documentary filmmakers interview the LAPD on a complicated missing person case connected to John (Nathan Fillion).

Renovation Aloha

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

In “Termites, Squatters, and Freeways,” a quick and easy renovation in Waipahu, Hawaii, turns into a never-ending nightmare for Kamohai and Tristyn Kalama after a year-long wait to get the keys causes squatter issues, chaos and delays. With a freeway running through the backyard, Tristyn faces the added challenge of designing soundproofing solutions to make the property marketable.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

A Tail of Love (2022, Romance) Brittany Bristow, Chris McNally **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

The Last Thing She Said (2024, Suspense) Kylee Bush, Jill Teed **LMN, 6 p.m.**

The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015, Children) Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke **NICK, 6 p.m.**

Space Jam (1996, Children) Michael Jordan, Wayne Knight **VH1, 7 p.m.**

The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal **FX, 7 p.m.**

Garage Sale Mysteries: Picture a Murder (2018, Mystery) Lori Loughlin, Sarah Strange **Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m.**

Nickel Boys (2024, Drama) Ethan Herisse, Brandon Wilson **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Polar Opposites (2025, Romance) Rhiannon Fish, Markian Tarasiuk **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Killer I Picked Up (2024, Suspense) Patrice Goodman, David D. Wilson **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Semi-Pro (2008, Comedy) Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson **E!, 9 p.m.**

Adventureland (2009, Comedy-drama) Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart **VH1, 9:30 p.m.**

Ghost Rider (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes **SYFY, 10 p.m.**

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88-PAGES
PUZZLES

What to watch WEDNESDAY

April 23, 2025

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

Battle Camp

Netflix ■ **New Series**

The biggest stars from across Netflix’s slate of reality and docuseries return to face the ultimate physical and mental competition, where a giant spinning wheel randomly decides who stays and who goes. To keep one’s name off the wheel, returning fan favorites need to be unbeatable in high-octane challenges, unbreakable in grueling punishments and unhateable in camp, as everyone has a vote. The player who achieves all three will take home the \$250,000 prize.

Travel Queens

BET Her, 8 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This four-part docuseries follows best friends Lex P and Drea Nicole from the *Pour Minds* podcast as they explore Charleston, South Carolina; Key West, Florida; Mexico City; and Cartagena, Colombia. The series blends Lex’s adventurous spirit with Drea’s love for relaxation as they celebrate Black culture, uncover diverse experiences and create balanced itineraries, with each episode filled with humor, heart and practical travel tips.

The Conners

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **Series Finale**

Two new episodes air back to back. Ahead



CHRISTOPHER WILLARD

of the deposition, Dan (John Goodman) gets support from his family. Mark (Ames McNamara) is presented with an opportunity that leads to a major life decision. Meanwhile, Becky (Lecy Goranson) and Tyler (Sean Astin) consider the next step in their relationship — joint finances. Then, Jackie (Laurie Metcalf) prepares for a series of physical tests in an effort to rejoin the police force; Darlene (Sara Gilbert) confronts some insecurities in her marriage with Ben (Jay R. Ferguson); and final farewells are made in true Conner family fashion.

Chicago Med

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “The Stories We Tell Ourselves,” Maggie (Marlyne Barrett) and Goodwin’s (S. Epatha Merkerson) friendship is tested as tensions rise during the nurses union’s negotiations with the hospital; Ripley (Luke Mitchell) and Archer (Steven Weber) treat a skateboarder struck by an emergency vehicle; and Frost (Darren Barnet) helps a young boy abandoned by his mother.

Sherlock & Daughter

The CW, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “The Common Thread,” while Sherlock (David Thewlis) chases a stolen carriage, he sends Amelia (Blu Hunt) on a hunt across London; Amelia has her own

ideas and follows her intuition closer to answers — but even closer to danger.

The Floor

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

Find out who gains full control of the Floor and wins the grand prize in the Season 3 finale. Rob Lowe hosts.

The Amazing Race

CBS, 9:30 p.m.

Teams continue traveling through Bulgaria, where the Express Pass is up for grabs. One team makes a critical mistake that could jeopardize their race in the new episode “We’re Letting Race Brain Win.”

Life or Death: The Negotiators

Nat Geo, 10 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This series goes into the minds of some of the world’s most skilled negotiators to understand what it takes to navigate a situation where one wrong move can prove deadly. It analyzes four actual life-and-death scenarios, beginning in tonight’s premiere episode, “Pirate Hijack,” which looks at how a pro bono team of hostage negotiators tried to help free 26 fishermen held hostage by Somali pirates for over four years.



WARNER BROS.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Rebel Without a Cause (1955)

TCM, 6:15 a.m.

The angst, loneliness, anger and alienation of postwar, middle-class suburban teens is explored in an iconic way in this legendary 1955 drama, one of the first to focus on the “generation gap” between parents and children. Well-crafted in its own right, *Rebel*

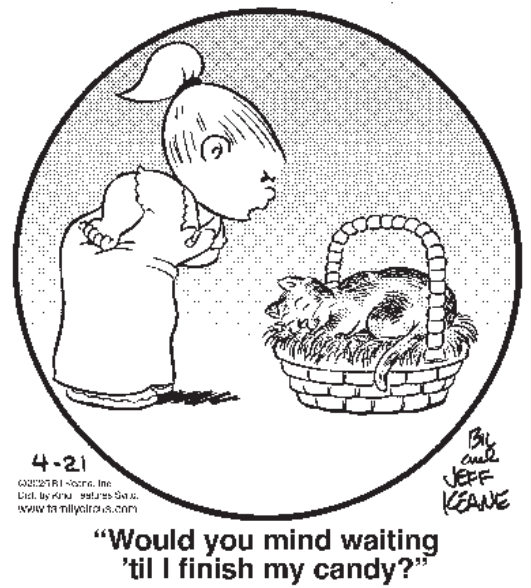
surely benefits from what has become the almost-mythic and very charismatic aura of its star, James Dean, an icon of cool who tragically was killed in a car crash about a month before the film was released. As new kid in town Jim, Dean plays what ranks as moviedom’s ultimate teenage rebel, and his Oscar-nominated costars — Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo — are just as compelling to watch under the powerful direction of Nicholas Ray, who received an Oscar nomination for Best Writing, Motion Picture Story in the second-to-last year for that category.

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



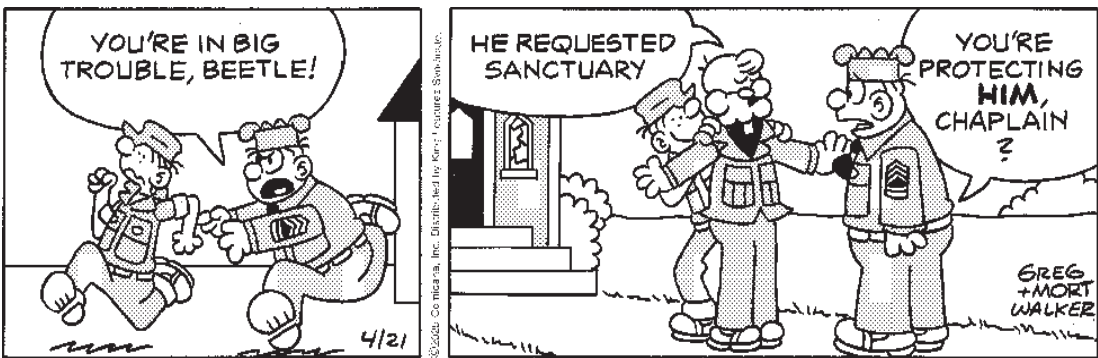
With dinner guests arriving and finding that she was out of pasta, Connie makes use of her kids' macaroni necklaces.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

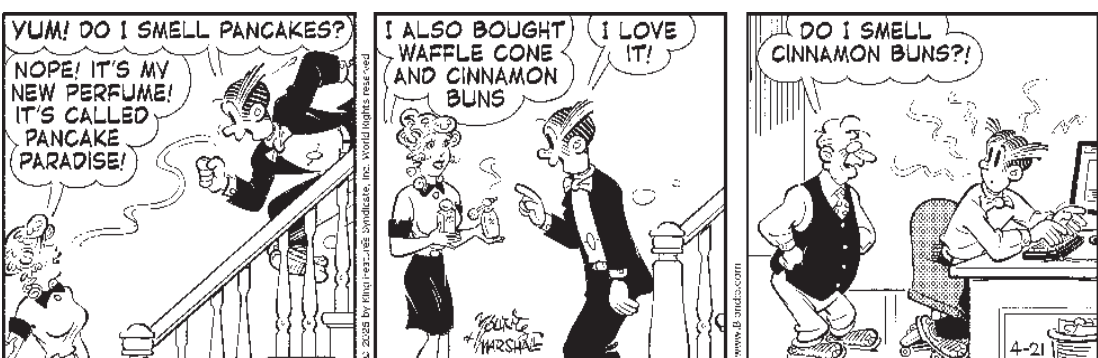


"Would you mind waiting 'til I finish my candy?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



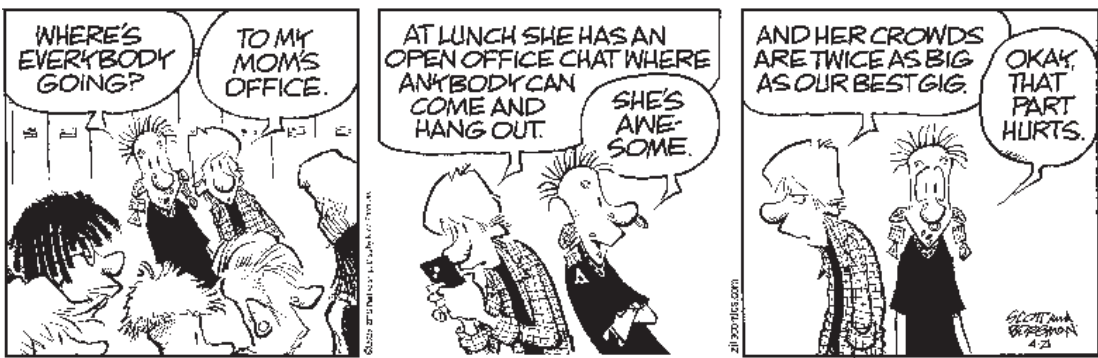
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



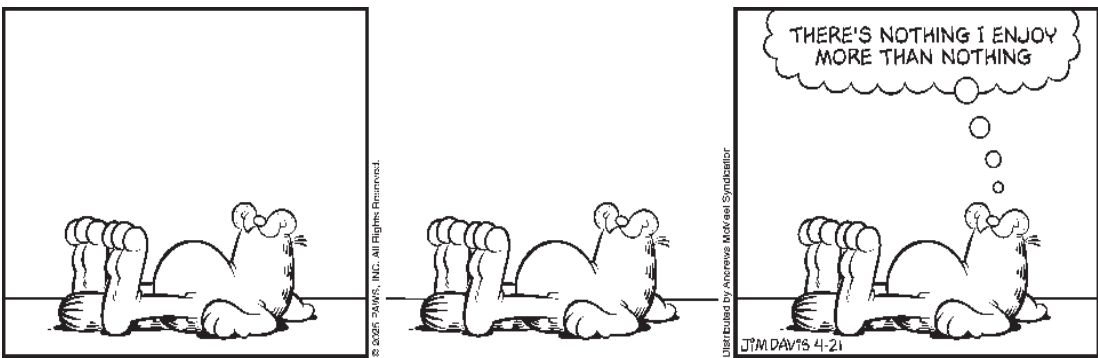
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



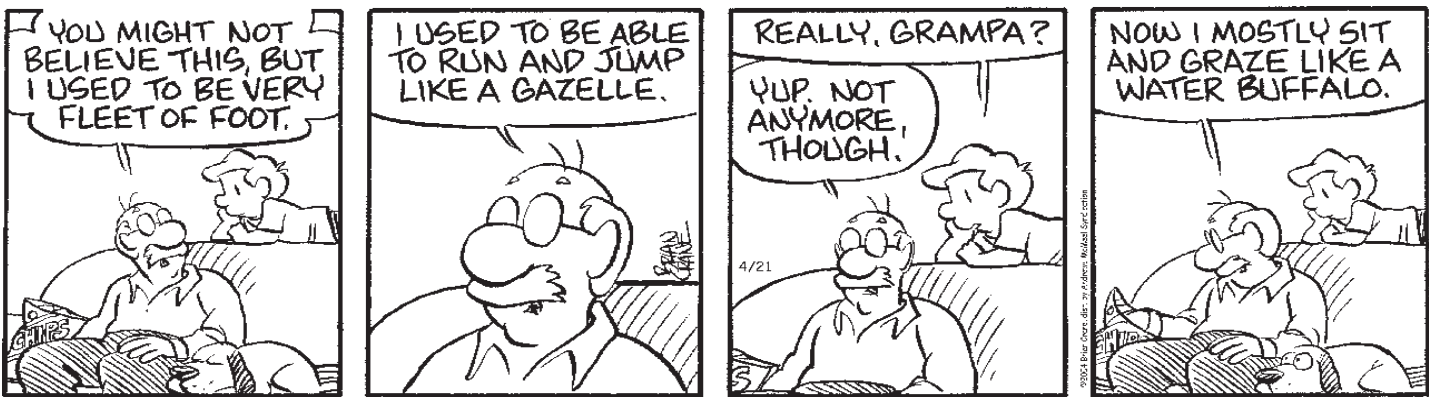
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

LANDSCAPE

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Flies high
6 Prepare for cooking, perhaps
10 Scrabble piece
14 Ration out
15 Mexican greeting
16 Another name for the Roman god Cupid
17 Haphazard, haphazardly
19 Mascara smudger, maybe
20 "I Can't Let Go" singer Sands
21 Mined resource
22 Olympians' predecessors
24 Far side of a zero-entry pool
26 B in chemistry class?
27 Casual, casually
31 Homo sapiens
34 Earth orbiter
35 Actress Thurman in a Fall Out Boy hit
36 Bosun's greeting
37 "Dope!"
38 Like an etiquette coach, perhaps
39 Turn from yellow to brown, as a banana
40 Springtime Hindu festival
42 Irks
44 Nonsensical, nonsensically
47 Turn from green to yellow, as a banana
48 Round figures
52 Meat counter tool
54 DOJ branch
55 Nonsharp part of a sword
56 Shade
57 Mushy, mushily
60 Possesses
61 When ties are broken, briefly
62 Lemonade ingredient
63 Start of a quiet sentence
64 "Have I got ___ for you!"
65 Spotify Wrapped figures

DOWN

1 Used a toothed blade on lumber, say
2 ___ branch: peace symbol
3 "Kate & ___": 1980s sitcom
4 Participate in a D&D campaign
5 Phippen
6 Some musical intervals
7 One of 18, in golf
8 Reply
9 "You did great!"
10 Permanent art
11 "Not thrilled, but that's fine"
12 Give temporarily
13 ___ on the side of caution
18 Things to avoid
23 Nutrient in spinach
25 Ages and ages
26 "We're not providing alcohol," initially
28 Slack alternative
29 Emanate
30 Orange root vegetables

31 Logo on a pint of Guinness
32 "Shoot"
33 Road trip stops
37 Custardy dessert
38 Intimidate with mind games
40 Go on about
41 Ohio college whose mascot is an albino squirrel
42 Bring together
43 Each

45 Most upscale ensembles
46 Eight-member ensembles
49 Wife of Augustus
50 Choose to lead
51 Eye sores
52 "Do not proceed!"
53 Highs and ___
54 Swear
58 Denominator of a whole number
59 FM radio hosts

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

S	L	V	I	S		S	M	E	N		L	S	S	D
E	O	I	N	R		L	O	N	I		S	N	M	O
A	E	A	O	D	A	E	A	O	T		E	N	O	L
L	T	I	H		E	L	V		E	O	I	T	S	
S	E	T	O	R	I	O		N	E	D	I	R		
S	L	E	S	D	O	N		I	T	O	H	L	O	H
W	I	H	D		B	V	F				A	O	H	V
A	W	N		N	O	O	W		S	N	W	N	H	
A	E	S	O	O	G	A	E	S	O	O	T			
S	N	V	L	I	L		E	H	O		E	I	A	E
H	V	E	L		A	T	T	I	N	A	T	T	I	M
H	O	W	V		V	T	O	H		L	O	T	V	
E	T	I	L		W	V	H	L		S	H	V	O	S

04/21/25

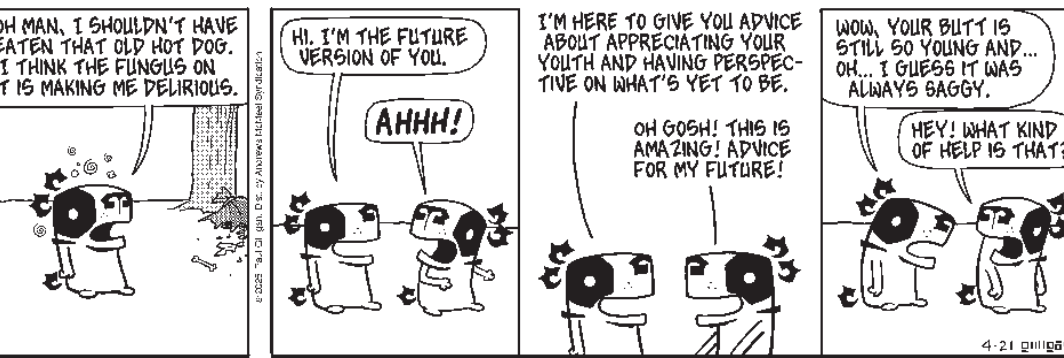
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

CITIES IN INDIA

Solution: 9 letters

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

Agartala, Ahmedabad, Ajmer, Akola, Bally, Bangalore, Bellary, Bhatpara, Bhopal, Bidar, Bokaro, Chennai, Delhi, Dhanbad, Dhule, Erode, Gaya, Gurgaon, Haldia, Howrah, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jamnagar, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Kota, Latur, Loni, Meerut, Moradabad, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Nellore, Noida, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Rajkot, Ranchi, Surat, Thane

TODAY'S ANSWER: Mangalore

Five exhibits are set to close at Albany Museum of Art



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Art

Homeschool students learn about the Sub-Saharan African artworks in the “Know, Learn, Wonder” exhibition in the Hodges Gallery at the Albany Museum of Art. It is one of five exhibitions that are on view through April 26 at the AMA

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — April is coming to a close, and so are five art exhibitions at the Albany Museum of Art.

The last day to view “Michael Jones: Polyphonic;” Idea Machines;,” “Home;” Know, Learn,

Wonder,” and “20th Century Small Works on Paper” is Saturday. The AMA, located at 311 Meadowlark Drive, is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and admission is free for everyone.

There are also two art workshops scheduled. The first event

is the bimonthly Corks & Canvases Painting Party set for 5:30 pm on Thursday. On Saturday at 10 a.m., artist and Albany State University art educator Michael Mallard will lead a figure-drawing class. Both will be held in the AMA Classroom.

The final two 2024-25 school year meetings for the museum’s After School Art Club wrap up the month. The club for high school students meets April 28, and elementary school students gather on April 29.

“It’s hard to believe how fast the year is passing,” AMA Executive Director Andrew J. Wulf said. “We hope everyone will come out for a last look at these exhibitions. It’s also a wonderful time for folks to be inspired to create their own art, with opportunities for everyone from young students to teens to adults.”

“Polyphonic” in the Haley Gallery features work by Atlanta muralist and multimedia

artist Michael Jones, who explores the sounds of the South and the distinct music culture that has surrounded the Southern region throughout history. He highlights the soulful samples of hip-hop heavily influenced by Southern soul music, especially those in the work of Sylvester “Sly” Stewart. These sounds are embodied through a distinct 808 beat, and the work of funk and soul artists like Albany native Ray Charles. Jones provides visual representations of these artists’ symphonic legacies.

“Idea Machines” in the East Gallery is an exhibition of conceptual art from the AMA’s permanent collection. It explores modern artworks from the permanent collection that were made to be different, to question the traditional and academic definitions of art, and occasionally to inject humor.

In the Hodges Gallery, “Know, Learn, Wonder” presents a selection of works from the Albany Museum of Art’s permanent Sub-Saharan African Collection. The exhibition was made possible with support from Kiana Addo and the

Georgia Council for the Arts.

Upstairs in the McCormack Gallery, visitors get a sense of “Home” viewing works from the AMA’s permanent collection that instill that feeling. Finally, in the West Gallery, visitors can see diverse works of three distinguished artists from the early 20th century: Kenneth Hayes Miller, Lamar Baker, and Solomon Nikritin in “20th Century Small Works on Paper.”

For those who want to try their hand at creating art, there are four upcoming workshops. At the two-hour Corks & Canvases Painting Party at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, participants 21 and older can enjoy a glass of wine, snacks, soft background music, and conversation while they receive step-by-step instructions on re-creating a masterpiece painting. Participants will be inspired by Edward Hopper’s 1927 painting “Lighthouse Hill.” The food, beverages, canvas, and painting materials are included in the registration, which is \$35 (\$30 for AMA donors). A registration link can be found at www.albanymuseum.com/

[ama_programs/corks-and-canvas/](http://www.albanymuseum.com/ama_programs/corks-and-canvas/).

All materials will also be provided on Saturday when Mallard instructs a figure-drawing class from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop is for all skill levels, and participants will discover the beauty of capturing the human form with guidance from a professional in a supportive environment. Registration is \$35 (\$30 for AMA donors). The registration link can be found at www.albanymuseum.com/event/figure-drawing-class-042625/.

April ends with the two meetings of the After School Art Club, which started its current series last August. The club for middle and high school students meets 4-5:30 p.m. April 28. The meeting for elementary school students is 3:30-5 p.m. on April 29. Both club meetings are in the AMA Classroom. The clubs will pause for the summer and start a new season in late August. Registration is \$15 (\$12 for AM A donors). The registration link can be found at www.albany-museum.com/ama_programs/art-club/.

City of Cairo receives one of five work force housing grants

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Three cities and two local economic development authorities will receive more than \$11 million in grants to help finance infrastructure improvements needed to service new housing.

The latest grant recipients through the state’s Rural Workforce Housing Initiative include the cities of Cairo, Hagan and Swainsboro, the Douglas/Coffee County Industrial Authority, and the Augusta Economic Development Authority.

Gov. Brian Kemp launched the program early in 2023. The grants are overseen by the state Department of Community Affairs’ One-Georgia Authority.

“Georgia is experiencing rapid growth in communities across the state,” Kemp said. “With that growth comes a need to provide infrastructure for those filling the record-breaking number of jobs.”

Four of the five grants are for \$2.5 million each. The city of Cairo will use the money to build road, water, and sewer infrastructure to support 180 new single-family homes on a 45-acre site.

Another \$2.5 million grant will go to the city

of Swainsboro for road, water, and sewer projects needed for a planned 47-unit subdivision.

The Douglas/Coffee County Industrial Authority will build street, drainage, water, and sewer improvements to support 67 new homes on a 36-acre tract. The Augusta Economic Development Authority will build road, water and sewer projects to support the construction of 55 single-family homes on 11.5 acres.

The fifth grant of just more than \$1 million will go to the city of Hagan to help pay for street, drainage, water, and sewer infrastructure needed to build 29 single-family homes on 6 acres.

In each case, the cities and local utilities will contribute financially toward the various projects.

The General Assembly initially funded the program with \$35.7 million, and subsequently added another \$84 million in three installments.

“Housing Georgia’s talented work force is crucial for the state’s continued economic growth and prosperity,” Christopher Nunn, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, said. “The OneGeorgia Authority remains committed to helping communities with a vision implement their intentional work force housing solutions.”

The ultimate guide to healthy garden soil

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — A thriving garden starts from the ground up — literally. Healthy soil is the foundation of a productive and beautiful garden, providing essential nutrients, proper drainage and the right balance of air and moisture for plant roots to flourish. Whether you’re preparing a brand-new garden bed or revitalizing existing soil, understanding its composition and how to improve it will set your plants up for success.

Gardeners should follow these essential steps to get your garden soil in top shape:

Start with a soil test - Before planting, it’s crucial to test your soil to determine its nutrient levels and pH. Soil tests reveal what nutrients are already present and what needs to be added for optimal plant growth. Lawns and ornamental areas should be tested every two to three years, while vegetable gardens benefit from testing every one to two years. Results typically arrive within four to six days after the lab receives the sample.

Most vegetables thrive in slightly acidic soil with a pH between 6.0 and 6.5. If your soil is too acidic, apply dolomitic lime to neutralize it while adding beneficial magnesium and calcium. However, avoid adding lime to already neutral or alkaline soil (pH 6.5 or higher), as it can make essential nutrients less accessible, leading to stunted growth, yellowing leaves and poor fruit production. Since lime reacts slowly, mix it into the soil two to three months before planting.

What does healthy soil look like? Regardless of soil type, the key factors for a thriving garden are high fertility, good drainage, ease of tilling and deep topsoil. Avoid areas infested with persistent weeds like Johnsongrass and nutgrass, rocky sites or locations with a hardpan layer.

Healthy soil should contain plenty of organic matter and support beneficial organisms like earthworms and microbes, which aerate the soil and break down organic material into plant-available nutrients. Since most roots grow in the top 8 inches of soil, maintaining healthy topsoil with organic amendments and avoiding compaction is essential.

Prepare your soil early -If you didn’t plow or spade your garden soil in the fall, do so in early spring as soon as the ground is dry enough to work. To check, mold a

handful of soil into a ball — if it crumbles when pressed with your thumb, it’s ready.

To start preparing your garden bed where your vegetables will eventually be planted:

1. Turn the soil to a depth of 7 to 8 inches, incorporating compost or garden soil if needed.

2. Rake the soil soon after turning it to prevent excessive drying and maintain good texture. For small-seeded crops, a finely pulverized surface ensures easier planting, better germination and a more even stand.

3. Ensure good drainage by avoiding compacted or waterlogged soil.

Check soil texture - First, wet a handful of soil and squeeze it in your fist. Clay-heavy soil forms a tight, slippery ball. Sandy soil crumbles easily and feels gritty. Loamy soil holds together loosely but crumbles under slight pressure — this is the ideal balance.

Check soil drainage - First, dig a hole about 12 inches deep and fill it with water. If the water drains within a few hours, your soil has good drainage. If water remains after 24 hours, your soil may be compacted or too clay-heavy, requiring organic matter or raised beds to improve drainage. Adding sand to clay soil will not improve drainage.

Boost your soil with organic matter -While you can’t change your soil type, you can improve its structure, moisture retention and nutrient availability by incorporating organic matter. Because organic material decomposes quickly in Georgia’s warm climate, regular additions are essential.

-- Compost kitchen scraps, straw and leaves to replenish nutrients.

-- Incorporate organic material like livestock manure or shredded leaves during fall soil prep.

-- Sow cover crops like crimson clover, rye or vetch if you’re not planting vegetables immediately. Before the next planting season, turn cover crops under and add nitrogen for best results.

Choose the right fertilizer - Fertilizers supply essential nutrients for plant growth. They are labeled by their nutrient content, such as 10-10-10 (10% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 10% potassium). For most vegetable gardens, these three common fertilizer grades work well:

-- 10-10-10: Balanced for a wide range of crops.

-- 6-12-12: Ideal for root



Special Photo: UGA/CAES

One of the keys to a successful garden is making sure soil is prepared ahead of planting.

vegetables and phosphorus-loving plants.

-- 5-10-15: Suitable for many garden vegetables.

Vegetables fall into three categories based on fertilizer needs: heavy, medium and light feeders. Grouping crops by nutrient requirements simplifies fertilization. Always base fertilizer application on soil test results.

Plan your planting for success - A successful garden requires more than just planting — it takes strategy. Follow a planting schedule. Start cool-season crops like lettuce, cabbage and peas early, and wait until after the last frost to plant warm-season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and squash.

Mark your rows. Use string and stakes to keep rows straight, ensuring optimal spacing and organization. Use proper planting techniques. Large-seeded crops like beans and corn should be planted in furrows, while smaller seeds like carrots and lettuce require finely prepared soil.

Protect your plants - Once your vegetables are in the ground, take steps to protect them for a successful season: Mulch with straw to retain moisture and prevent soil crusting. Always verify that wheat straw or other materials you put in your garden were not previously treated with long-acting herbicides.

Transplant healthy seedlings for a strong start. Use row covers to shield young plants from extreme temperatures. Deter pests by installing chicken wire fencing or, for areas with a heavy deer presence, consider installing a taller, more permanent fence.

Get ready for a bountiful harvest - By investing time in soil preparation, you’re setting your summer vegetable garden up for success. Healthy soil leads to stronger plants, fewer pests and bigger harvests.

For more resources and advice, explore UGA Extension publications on soil health, composting and vegetable gardening.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 17, 2025

City of Albany, GA
P.O. Box 447
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 483-7650

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Albany.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about May 7, 2025, the City of Albany to submit a request to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, for the release of the Community Project Funding (CPF) funds under Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended, to undertake a project known as Driskell Park Redevelopment. The proposed project, Driskell Park Redevelopment, is an existing park located on approximately 9.85 acres. The site has historically been used as a park containing a baseball field, basketball courts, swimming pool, picnic pavilion, bathhouse, concession stand, teen center, and associated parking. The project includes the demolition of the teen center and construction of a new community center facility. A detention pond will be constructed in the area where the original teen center was located. The basketball court and picnic pavilion will also be demolished, and a new facility will be constructed in a new location for each on the property. The pool, bathhouse, concession stand, and parking (currently asphalt) will remain in the current locations and will receive some cosmetic upgrades. The original baseball field is being demolished and replaced with a multi-purpose field. Project plans also include installation of new playground equipment and a community garden. Underground stormwater detention will be constructed under the location of the new basketball court. The estimated funding is \$3,000,000.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Albany, GA has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development, 230 South Jackson Street, Albany, GA 31701 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00A.M to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development, 230 South Jackson Street, Albany, GA 31701. All comments received by May 7, 2025, will be considered by the City of Albany, GA prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Albany, GA certifies to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Economic Development that Terrell D. Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM, in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Albany to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Albany, GA certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Albany, GA; (b) the City of Albany, GA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Economic Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, at 77 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303. Potential objectors should contact HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Terrell Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Albany, GA



Joe Whitfield

Mitchell County’s depth and talent powered the team to a dominant region championship Friday. In the 110-meter hurdles, these three Eagles claimed three of the top four spots. From left: Quitavius McCraw (4th), Darius Robinson (1st), and Jonathan Isom (2nd). Robinson and Isom also finished first and second, respectively, in the 300-meter hurdles.

MITCHELL WINS REGION

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Mitchell County’s boys and girls track teams captured the Region 1-A Division II Championships in convincing fashion Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium, piling up points across nearly every event to secure both team titles.

The defending Class A Division II state champions, the Mitchell County boys, racked up points in all but one event — the 400-meter dash — to claim the region title. They scored multiple top-eight finishes throughout the meet to distance themselves from the competition.

Leonte Thomas Jr. led the Eagles by winning the 200-meter dash and finishing fourth in the 100. In the 800-meter run, Mitchell County swept the top three spots with Terrell Mathis Jr. finishing first, followed by Patrick Wilder and Willie Davis. Mathis also placed second in the 1600-meter run, with Davis coming in fourth.

In the 110-meter hurdles, Darius Robinson edged out teammate Jonathan Isom for the win, with Quitavius McCraw placing fourth. Robinson and Isom also finished first and second, respectively, in the 300-meter hurdles.

Mitchell County won three of the four



Joe Whitfield

Baconton Charter’s Anthony Escalante moved out front quickly in the 3200-meter run Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium and eventually ran away from the rest of the group.

relay events and dominated the throwing events. Jaylen Richardson took first in the discus, while KJ Cooper and Antiquon Bell placed third and fourth. Terrell County’s G Jehovah Roberts interrupted the Mitchell County sweep by finishing second.

In the shot put, Miller County’s Stanley Shepherd earned first place, while Mitchell County claimed the next three spots: Co-

per was second, Elisha Mullins third, and Jordan Thomas fourth.

Baconton Charter’s Anthony Escalante was one of the standout individual performers of the day, winning both the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs. He ran away from the field in the 3200, finishing more than

See **TRACK AND FIELD**, 10A

Worth County set for playoffs with No. 15 seed

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — The wait is over for the Worth County Rams, who learned Monday morning they will host the first round of the GHSA Class A Division I state baseball

playoffs at Pope Park in Sylvester.

Worth County (20-9) earned the No. 15 seed in the final power rankings and will face No. 18 seed Dublin High School (20-9) in a best-of-three series beginning with a doubleheader on Friday. Start times are still being finalized.



Joe Whitfield

Worth County head coach Will Smith talks with Colby Griffis between innings during Friday’s doubleheader to end the year.

The GHSA uses a power ranking system in Class A that considers wins, losses, and strength of schedule to determine playoff seeding.

“I just hope we’re in a good spot,” Rams Head Coach Will Smith said last week ahead of the playoff announcement. “You never know exactly how the power rankings will shake out, so we’ll be watching closely Monday morning.”

Worth County wrapped up its regular season on a high note Friday by splitting a doubleheader with Thomasville in front of a large Senior Night crowd at Pope Park. The Rams won the opener 7-0 before dropping the second game 7-2.

In game one, senior right-hander Caden Emerson pitched six and one-third strong innings to earn the win. He gave up just four hits and three walks while striking out seven. Grant Juster came on to record the final two outs.

The Rams jumped out early, scoring three runs with two outs in the bottom of the first. Logan Fox and Hayden Short sparked the

See **WORTH COUNTY**, 10A

Braves defeat Twins for first sweep of year

By Mark Bowman
MLB.com

ATLANTA — Having to answer questions about Ronald Acuña Jr.’s social media post reminded Braves manager Brian Snitker there is no such thing as a perfect weekend in the baseball world.

But even with the distraction, Snitker and his players were feeling good after completing a three-game sweep with a 6-2 win over the Twins on Sunday afternoon at Truist Park. The three wins claimed during this weekend were just two fewer than Atlanta had totaled in the 18 games played before this series.

“They start believing in themselves again and they relax,” Snitker said. “A relaxed player plays at his best. I think this can do nothing but help us going forward.”

The atmosphere certainly felt more relaxed after Matt Olson, Drake Baldwin and Marcell Ozuna all homered in the series finale. Grant Holmes did his part to secure the sweep by striking out seven and limiting the Twins to one run over 5 2/3 innings.

It wasn’t necessarily a perfect weekend. The Braves needed a five-run eighth inning to claim a 6-4 comeback win on Friday night, and Jarred Kelenic stirred the fan base when he pimped a long fly ball off the wall and got thrown out at second base in Saturday’s 4-3 victory. Kelenic’s baserunning gaffe led Acuña to post, “If it were me, they would take me out of the game,” on X about 90 minutes before Sunday’s first pitch.

See **BRAVES**, 10A

ASU seniors finish strong in sweep over Kentucky St.

Field Level Media

ALBANY — The Albany State Golden Rams erupted for 32 runs in their final home game of the season Saturday, giving their seniors a spectacular send-off with a shutout victory over Kentucky State at Albany State West.

In a weekend that belonged to the seniors, Albany State completed a three-game sweep of the Thoroughbreds, having already won Friday’s doubleheader 9-0 and 5-1.

“It was good to see the offensive explosion this weekend,” said Golden Rams Head Coach Scot Hemmings. “It was one of the first weekends where all three phases of the game showed up with perfection. We scored 46 runs, gave up only one run, and committed just one error.”

He added, “It was even more special to send our seniors out on a high note with back-to-back weekend sweeps.”

Albany State also swept Miles College at home last weekend.

Saturday’s blowout was led by senior slugger and former Terrell Academy standout Luke Addison, who delivered a monster performance in his final home game. Addison doubled, homered, and drove in five runs during a 10-run first inning. He added a three-run blast in the third inning to extend the Golden Rams’ lead to 20-0.

Addison wasn’t the only senior to make the most of the moment.

Senior center fielder Matt Delay collected four hits, second baseman Hill Corley scored three runs, drove in three more, and recorded three hits, and Austin Roberts knocked in four runs. Senior Nate Saavedra added two hits, three runs,

See **SENIORS**, 10A

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Joe Whitfield

Albany State’s Landon Kiefer earned the win on the mound during game two of the weekend series against Kentucky State. He pitched five innings and allowed one run. He walked one and struck out six. His season record now stands at 9-1.

From 9A SENIORS

and an RBI to the offensive outburst.

While the bats exploded, the pitching remained dominant.

In Friday’s opener, Gercal Reyes struck out 10 and tossed seven scoreless innings while allowing only four hits. Calvin Baker followed with two shutout innings to close the game.

Landon Kiefer started game two and allowed just one run over five innings while striking out six. William Beasley, Addison and Tyler Bull-ock finished the game in relief.

Saturday’s finale was a combined shutout by Brady Davis, Austin Lee, and Gavin McBride,

who allowed just six hits and struck out 10 to complete the dominant weekend.

The Golden Rams (now 33-15) travel to Mo- bile, Ala., to close the regular season with a pivotal series against SIAC leader Spring Hill College. The Badgers are 27-2 in conference play, with their only losses coming to Savan- nah State and Miles College.

“I hope we can continue the team mindset of play and keep this momentum going,” Hem- mings said. “I’m really proud of our team and where we’re at at this time of the year.”

The Spring Hill series begins Thursday at 5 p.m., followed by a Friday doubleheader start- ing at noon.

The SIAC Championship Tournament be- gins May 1 at Luther Williams Field in Macon.

Georgia football adds three players from portal

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Media reports confirm that Georgia head coach Kirby Smart has landed three key additions from the NCAA transfer portal, strengthening the Bulldogs’ roster ahead of the 2025 sea- son. Army edge rusher Elo Modozie, Mi- ami defensive lineman Joshua Horton, and Illinois running back Josh McCray are all set to join the program, bring- ing experience and depth to both sides of the ball.

Modozie, a 6-foot-3, 245-pound out- side linebacker, arrives in Athens after a breakout sophomore season at Army. A native of St. Augustine, Florida, Mo- dozie totaled 34 tackles, eight tackles for loss, and 6.5 sacks over 14 games in 2024. He originally signed with Army as a wide receiver in the 2022 class be- fore switching to defense. Now, with two years of eligibility remaining, he returns to the Southeast to bolster Georgia’s edge rotation.

His addition comes at a crucial time, as the Bulldogs lost three key edge de- fenders—Jalon Walker, Mykel Williams, and Chaz Chambliss—to the NFL after the 2024 season. Rising junior Damon Wilson also transferred to Missouri in January. Modozie will join a young group of pass rushers that includes Quintavious Johnson, Gabe Harris, Isaiah Gibson, Chase Linton, and Kris Jones.

Joining Modozie on the defensive side is Joshua Horton, a 6-foot-4, 290-pound lineman who transfers from Miami. A native of Fairburn, Georgia, Horton played at Langston Hughes High School

and was ranked among the top 50 de- fensive linemen nationally in the 2023 recruiting class. He redshirted in 2023 and saw limited action in 2024 due to injury, appearing in seven games over two seasons and recording four tackles and half a sack.

Despite the setbacks, Horton brings upside and versatility to the Georgia defensive front. He’s big enough to con- tribute at defensive tackle but athletic enough to slide outside to play a five- or 4i-technique. His arrival fills a need for Georgia following the departure of vet- eran linemen Warren Brinson and Na- zir Stackhouse. Horton joins a rotation that features returners Christen Miller, Jordan Hall, and Xzavier McLeod, along with second-year players Nasir Johnson, Nnamdi Ogboko, and Jordan Thomas. Georgia also signed the nation’s No. 1 defensive tackle, Elijah Griffin, in the 2025 class.

On offense, the Bulldogs added a phys- ical presence to their backfield with Josh McCray, a 6-foot-1, 235-pound running back who spent the past four seasons at Illinois. The former Enterprise (Ala.) High School standout rushed for 609 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2024 on 117 carries. He also caught 13 passes for 116 yards and a touchdown.

McCray ended the season on a high note with a standout performance in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl, rushing for 114 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries against South Carolina to earn MVP honors. He brings veteran expe- rience and a powerful running style to a Georgia backfield that continues to evolve heading into the 2025 season.

ASU’s Ogunwale named SIAC tennis Player of the Year

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATLANTA — Albany State senior Natalya Ogunwale was named the 2025 South- ern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Wom- en’s Tennis Player of the Year, the league announced Friday.

A native of London, United Kingdom, Ogunwale earned the top individual honor af- ter a stellar senior season. She was also named to the All-SIAC Singles Team and joined doubles partner Jen- ny Zapien on the All-SIAC Doubles Team.

Zapien, a senior from Oax- aca, Mexico, also earned All-SIAC recognition for her individual play, giving Albany State two of the con- ference’s top performers.

Together, Ogunwale and Zapien formed one of the

league’s most dominant doubles pairings and helped anchor Albany State’s line- up throughout the season.

In addition to Ogunwale and Zapien’s honors, Albany State had another doubles team — Jonay Brittain and Julie Tungamirai — earn All-SIAC recognition. Brittain, a sophomore from Mari- etta, Ga., and Tungamirai, a freshman from Harare, Zimbabwe, gave the Gold- en Rams strong depth in doubles play.

The SIAC also announced its other major awards Fri- day. Benedict College’s Car- men Kpadonou was named Freshman of the Year, while Valerie Essome (Benedict) earned the Elite 16 Award. Tuskegee’s Gregory Green was named Coach of the Year.

From 9A WORTH COUNTY

inning with back-to-back singles. In the fourth, Short reached on an error, moved to third on a double by Brody Weaver, and scored on a Colby Griffis single. Carson Cervantes followed with a double to the left-field fence to bring home Griffis. Worth County added another insurance run in the sixth.

In the second game, the Rams again struck first when Drake Jones doubled and scored on a single from Emerson. But Thomasville answered with two runs in the second and four more in the fourth to chase starter DJ Easom and reliever Grant Juster. Jones later drove in Worth County’s only other run with a single that scored Avery Kilcrease.

“We had plenty of opportunities with back-to-back hits and got runners on first and second or second and third,” Smith said. “We just didn’t come through with the big hit in game two.”

Now, the Rams will play one more time at Pope Park to defend their home field in the postseason with a chance to advance past the opening round in front of their home fans.

PLAYOFF BOUND AREA BASEBALL TEAMS

Wednesday, April 23

Glascoc County (12-12) at Baconton Charter (27-1) 2 p.m., game two to follow
Habersham Central (20-11) at Lee County (20-10), 4 p.m., game two to follow

Friday, April 25

Dublin (20-9) at Worth County (20-9), TBD
Dougherty (14-6) at Pickens (25-5), TBD

Deerfield-Windsor walks off Tiftarea

ALBANY — Lan Wiggins raced home from second base on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning to lift Deer- field-Windsor to a dramatic 5-4 come- back win over the Tiftarea Panthers on Monday at Addison Field.

Just three days earlier, it was Tiftarea that walked off with a win on a seventh- inning single to beat the Knights, 3-2.

Friday’s rematch was tied 4-4 entering the bottom of the seventh. A pitch hit Wiggins to lead off the inning, and after an out, Lane Sceals singled to center to put runners on first and second. With Quinton Peterson at the plate and the

count 2-2, a pitch got away, and Wiggins sprinted home to score the winning run.

The Panthers built an early 4-0 lead in the third inning, but the Knights chipped away, starting in the fourth. After back-to-back singles from Sceals and Peterson, Brantley Michlig deliv- ered a two-out double to center to score both runners and put Deerfield-Windsor on the board. Later in the inning, Gabe Daniel singled to left to bring home Michlig after an error extended the inning.

Deerfield-Windsor tied the game in the fifth when David Hutchins grounded out to score Boyd Pollock.

Sophomore left-hander Collins Clark went the distance on the mound to earn the win. He allowed four runs on four hits and three walks while striking out 12 Panthers.

The Knights (13-4-1), currently ranked No. 5 in the GIIA rankings, now hold a half-game lead over region rival Val- wood. The two teams, both ranked in the top 10, will face off twice this week. Valwood, ranked No. 7, will visit Albany on Tuesday for a 6:30 p.m. game, and the Knights will travel to Valdosta for the rematch on Friday.

From 9A BRAVES

As this post created a com- motion over the next few hours, the Braves rolled to their 11th consecutive win over the Twins, a streak that dates back to the 2019 sea- son. Atlanta is 6-2 at home this year.

“We just want to ride that momentum,” Olson said.

Olson entered the series hitting just .203, but he went 4-for-9 with a double and a homer in these three games. His performance distanced himself from the frustration some tough luck had caused him the past few weeks. The .344 slugging percentage he carried into the series was an MLB-leading -0.249 points lower than his expected SLG (.593).

Like it was only a matter of time for the Braves, there was reason to think Olson

was about to get hot. It wasn’t necessarily a coincidence that these breakouts happened simultaneously.

“I think it’s more about see- ing the results and being able to trust our preparation,” Ol- son said. “Everybody shows up and continues to feel like they’re on the right path ev- ery day. When you play 162 [games], you want to get bet- ter every day.”

The Braves got better with this weekend’s addition of Alex Verdugo, who keyed Saturday’s victory with a four-hit game that included a game-winning single. The Braves hope Verdugo can be a valuable leadoff hitter until Acuña returns in May. His presence has already helped Michael Harris II, who looks comfortable away from the leadoff role he filled most of the past couple weeks. The center fielder went 4-for-12 with a double and homer to raise his average to .203, af- ter entering the series with a



Field Level Media

Atlanta’s Matt Olson, Drake Baldwin, and Marcell Ozuna all homered Sunday in Atlanta as the Braves won 6-2, com- pleting their first series sweep of the season.

.179 batting average.

“Michael is one of the most talented people on the field every time he steps out there,” Olson said. “He’s been do- ing the same thing as all of

us who feel like they haven’t been performing the way they can. You just continue to work, stay on that path and the results come.”

From 9A

TRACK AND FIELD

a minute ahead of Pelham’s Octavian Edwards.

“I was just trying to improve my personal best,” Escalante said after his 3200 win. “I was off by two seconds, but it was hot and we had to wait a long time before we could run. I didn’t have any other runners pushing me, so that’s part of why I didn’t get there.”

Escalante, who placed sixth at state last year as a sophomore, has his sights set on moving up the leaderboard this spring.

“I’ve just got to focus on my race,” he said. “I can’t let my mind get filled up with a lot of other thoughts. I can’t let my- self get scared because it can ruin the race. I’ve just got to make sure I stay focused.”

Other boys’ event winners:

Andreveion Lee (Early County) – 100-meter dash
Jaden Welch (Calhoun County) – 400-meter dash
Jaylin Perry (Terrell County) – High jump
Kaleb White (Terrell County) – Long jump
Thomas Green (Randolph-Clay) – Triple jump
Bryce Parker (Baconton Charter) – Pole vault
Stanley Shepherd (Miller County) – Shot put

Girls track events

On the girls’ side, Mitchell County’s depth propelled the Lady Eagles to the region title, despite strong sprint per- formances from Miller County.

The Lady Pirates of Miller County took first in the 100-, 200-, and 400-meter dashes with wins from Rosalyn Burke, Zariyona Williams, and Rha’Mya Hughes, respectively. They also won the 400- and 800-meter relays.

But it was Mitchell County’s balance across distance, field, and relay events that secured the championship. Jasmine Scott won the 1600-meter run, and the Lady Eagles also claimed the 3200-meter relay. In the high jump, Deamber Jenkins and Tytionna Draggs went 1-2. Akiria Sessions won both the discus and the shot put, with teammate Karen John- son placing second in the shot put.

Other girls’ event winners:

Heaven Keaton (Baker County) – 800-meter run
Kelly Currin (Seminole County) – 3200-meter run
Mylaisha Almond (Pelham) – 100-meter hurdles
Akia Seymore (Randolph-Clay) – 300-meter hurdles
Ziyah Johnson (Randolph-Clay) – Long jump and triple jump
Mary Grace Welch (Baconton Charter) – Pole vault

State Supreme Court considers gun carry restrictions for adults under 21

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA -- Nearly 200 years of legal precedent should not apply to a 20-year-old man who wants to carry a gun, his lawyer argued before the Georgia Supreme Court.

Thomas Stephens, who turns 21 next year, was denied a license to carry a handgun in public when he applied for one in Lumpkin County. He sued, and his case made it to the high court, which heard arguments by his lawyer and by the state attorney general's office. The state contends in a legal brief that the restrictions on adults under age 21 are "baked into the Georgia Constitution."

Stephens' lawsuit goes to the heart of one of the most contentious issues in America today: how to interpret gun rights under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Con-

stitution. It says, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." An introductory phrase has been a complicating factor, saying that a "well-regulated militia" is needed to secure a free state.

Georgia's constitution elaborates by saying that the legislature "shall have power to prescribe the manner in which arms may be borne."

A lawyer from Attorney General Chris Carr's office argued that the state's age-based limitations date back to the Civil War era, when he said those under 21 were not subject to militia service.

"The court should stick with the analysis that it's applied for 180 years," Zachary A. Mullinax, an assistant attorney general, said. "I don't think that there is any historical evidence that an 18-year-old had the right to carry a

handgun in public." But Stephens' lawyer made the case that Georgia's restrictions are rooted in a time before courts began applying a higher standard on government intrusion into personal liberties.

The state Supreme Court has based its decisions on a "reasonable" exercise of government power to limit access to guns, John R. Monroe, the Dawsonville attorney representing Stephens, said.

That was before the World War II era, when the U.S. Supreme Court first developed a higher standard of "strict scrutiny" and began requiring that burdens on fundamental rights be justified by a "compelling" state interest, Monroe said. "Strict scrutiny should be applied to this case because it's a fundamental right for people to keep and bear arms."

It's unclear how the state's high court will rule. The justices peppered both lawyers with questions, although Justice Andrew A. Pinson told Monroe early in the hearing that he had an "uphill battle" to make his case. That is due to the history of Georgia's restrictions on gun rights, Pinson said, "which we've said arguably is now baked into our constitutional language given that it was enacted and then we ratified new constitutions with that same language."



File Photo

The state Supreme Court is hearing a case on gun-carry rights of adults under age 21.

OBITUARIES



Paul Nathan Livingston
Paul Nathan Livingston, 89, of Greensboro, Georgia, passed away Thursday, April 10, 2025.

He was born January 20, 1936 in Albany, Missouri. He married Kathryn Jean Lyle on 02/09/1963. She sadly passed away March 16, 2007.

Paul most enjoyed laughing and spending time with his family. He was especially fond of spending time with his granddaughter and their trips to the Waffle House. Paul was an avid fan of golf, sunset cruises on the lake, his morning drive looking for deer, sharing stories from his life, bragging on Jean, and a Bombay martini very dry on the rocks with three olives.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; mother, Chloe Ellen Stockwell; father, Paul Stockwell; brothers, James (Doc) Livingston, John Livingston, and Jerry Livingston; sisters, Vicki Martinez and Kay Guy.

Survivors include his only daughter Christi Livingston Patrick, (Todd Patrick son-in-law) and granddaughter Ansley Kathryn Lu Niu Patrick. He is also survived by his brother Eddie Stockwell and sisters Judy Masters and Debi Whitlock.

Paul was a member of the Grand Lodge of Missouri (Charity Zeredatha No. 189 AF & AM) and served honorably in the United State Air Force Guard prior to being married. Paul's career in the garment industry began at Nash-Rhodes clothing store in St. Joseph. He later left Missouri to work with companies such as Rich's, Crompton, and Rome Manufacturing Company which led him to end his career in Albany, GA. Paul later "retired" and ended up working at Lowe's in Albany.

for over twenty-five years until the age of 83. Paul had been a member of both Doublegate Country Club and Stonebridge Golf Club over the years. He left Albany in 2020 to be near his daughter.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in remembrance of Paul Livingston to College Career & Beyond also known as the Midnight Golf Program. It is non-profit organization that "uses life-training, proactive college coaching, long-term

mentoring and the discipline of golf to prepare young people for independence and success at the postsecondary level and beyond". We believe this donation would fittingly capture Paul's generous spirit and his love of the game of golf. Donations can be made at www.collegecareerbeyond.org/give.

Paul's service was on Monday, April 21, at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. Online guest book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.

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.

" U W P D P C J L Y J K P C P P Y C I R L Y J K P
K X B E L H ' I F P U H I R P O P T T K P ' C P U H . "
— Y T I C X G R J T U Z U T I H P U E L P M C Y T T P
I J T X H

Previous Solution: "We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations." — St. John Paul II

TODAY'S CLUE: *W spenba A*

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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

- lowest limit (5)
- related (9)
- situated on an island (7)
- deliriously happy (5)
- morsel in a cocktail (6)
- Hellenic Republic, commonly (6)
- central hub for kernels (7)

SOLUTIONS

EE	CT	FL	SUL	CO
NNE	MP	ED	GI	RI
IN	CE	DDY	OOR	NC
COR	OB	GR	SH	AR

Monday's Answers: 1. PASSPORTS 2. DENMARK 3. MEADOW 4. OUTSTANDING 5. EMPTY 6. CRABS 7. ECONOMY

4/22

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Albany Classifieds

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WANTED, working or not, boats, lawn equipment, motorcycles, cars, etc. 229-291-8643

Albany Legals

Construction/ Service Bids

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Albany Housing Authority will accept Request for Proposals (RFP)

Construction/ Service Bids

for the following:

House Restoration (125 Magnolia Avenue)

RFP packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations at dnance@albanyha.com beginning April 10, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by April 25, 2025 to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations, at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702, with the titled subject of the proposal above. Documents must be in a clear, legible, 12-point, 8.5 by 11-inch format.

Respondents are advised to adhere to the submittal requirements. Failure to comply with the instructions of this RFP will be cause for rejection of submittals. Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing via email to dnance@albanyha.com or call 229- 434-4505.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Albany Housing Authority will accept Request for Proposals (RFP) for the following:

Banking & Investment Services

RFP packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations at dnance@albanyha.com beginning April 11, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by May 12, 2025 to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations, at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702, with the titled subject of the proposal above. Documents must be in a clear, legible, 12-point, 8.5 by 11-inch format.

Respondents are advised to adhere to the submittal requirements. Failure to comply with the instructions of this RFP will be cause for rejection of submittals. Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing via email to dnance@albanyha.com or call 229- 434-4505.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Albany Housing Authority will accept Request for Proposals (RFP) for the following:

Lawn Maintenance

RFP packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations at dnance@albanyha.com beginning April 15, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by May 15, 2025 to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations, at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702, with the titled subject of either of the proposals above. Documents must be in a clear, legible, 12-point, 8.5 by 11-inch format.

Respondents are advised to adhere to the submittal requirements. Failure to comply with the instructions of this RFP will be cause for rejection of submittals. Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing via email to dnance@albanyha.com or call 229- 434-4505

Subscribers Like You
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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Swimmer's unit
- "Safe!" or "Strike!"
- Pesto herb
- Part of some sports drink names
- California/Nevada resort lake
- Bacteria that may cause gastroenteritis
- Type
- "Everyone knows that!"
- Spanish wine region
- Main dish
- Mountain hiker's protection
- Snow pusher
- "Elder" or "Younger" figure of ancient Rome
- Put in the attic, perhaps
- Ben Affleck Best Picture winner set in Iran
- Cow's milk cheese from an Alpine region of Italy
- Plant, as seeds
- "I haven't decided"
- PC pioneer
- Military programs intended to influence attitudes
- Remove wrinkles from
- Taco topping
- Scannable bars on mdse.
- Word on a red sign
- TV episodes that are mostly flashback scenes
- Caterpillar's cover
- Put into law
- Smirking, scowling, or smiling, and what the sets of circled letters in this puzzle are doing?
- La Brea ___ Pits
- "Rolling in the Deep" singer
- Public outcry
- Notable stretch of time
- As bad as can be
- Sulking state

- Single crunch, say

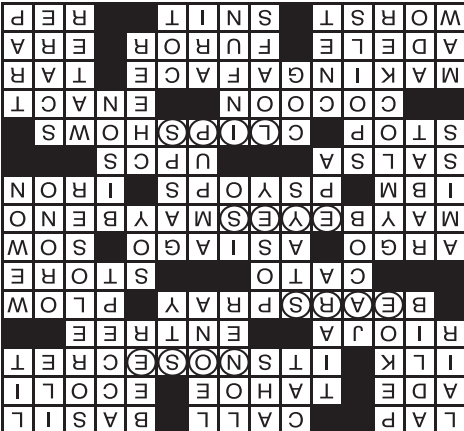
DOWN

- Hibernation location
- Go off script
- Tea variety
- Lion or tiger
- Sounds of surprise
- Clean Air Act org.
- Yellowstone beast
- Ruins
- "Rah!" or "Olé!"
- Keg contents
- Receive, as a gift
- Player who is not graceful in defeat
- Suffix with infant
- Like birthday candles before a wish
- Prom queen crown
- Messy digs
- 2018 and 2019 Cy Young winner deGrom
- Doesn't go
- "The White Lotus" actress Parker
- Maine university town
- Cry of victory

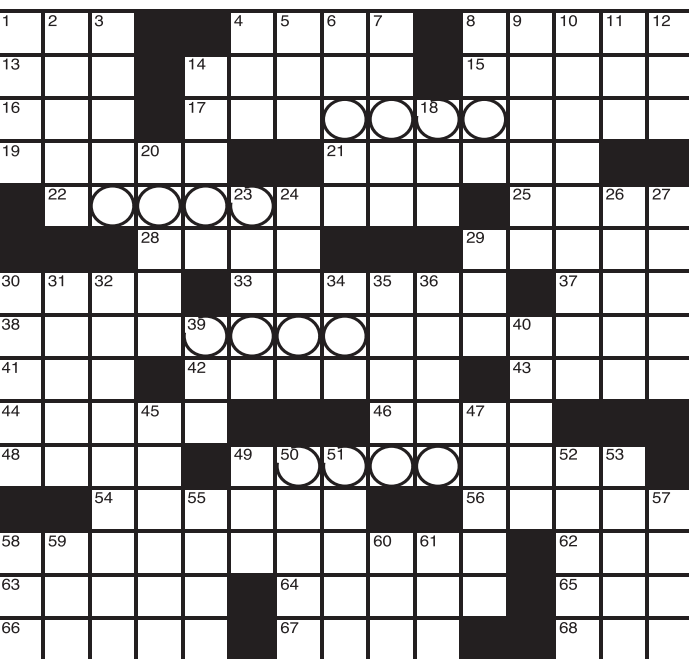
- ___ sauce
- Just a little off
- Morocco's capital
- Athlete's closet
- "Looking for," in classified ads
- Energize
- Sounds of surprise
- Clean Air Act org.
- Yellowstone beast
- Ruins
- "Rah!" or "Olé!"

- Gear tooth
- Idles
- Jesting
- Substance that can be holy or hard
- Freak out
- Tech news site
- Lobster catcher
- Gaping mouth
- Big fuss
- NPR host Shapiro
- Camp bed

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



04/22/25



By Catherine Cetta
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04/22/25

Georgia Power crews recognized for recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene damage

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Georgia Power, the state’s leading electric utility serving 2.8 million customers, is joining other utilities across the country in marking April as Lineworker Appreciation Month. This April, the company is highlighting the work of local power crews during Hurricane Helene in 2024 and celebrating the recent recognition by Edison Electric Institute with its Emergency Recovery Award, commending the company’s exceptional efforts to swiftly restore service to the public in the aftermath of Helene in the fall of 2024.

The winners were chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process.

State Sen. John Kennedy and other lawmakers also recognized the work of the state’s electric companies last month when they designated March 11 as Georgia Lineworker Day at the Georgia State Capitol.

“The worst from Hurri-



Special Photo: Georgia Power

Local Georgia Power line crews were honored recently for their work during Hurricane Helene.

cane Helene certainly brought out the best in every Georgia Power employee – starting with our lineworkers on the front lines of our response to the historic storm, aided and supported by every other employee who par-

ticipated in restoration and rebuilding in the aftermath and months following,” Kim Greene, the chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power said in a news release. “This award from EEI is a testament to their shared dedi-

cation and commitment to our neighbors and communities, and the excellence they bring in service for our customers when it counts the most.

“I’m honored to be a part of this incredible team and couldn’t be more grateful

for their dedication and commitment to being here for Georgia every day.”

Hurricane Helene made landfall at approximately 11 p.m. on Sept. 26, 2024. By dawn Friday morning, Helene had barreled through Georgia, downing hundreds of thousands of trees, damaging thousands more power poles, and grounding nearly 1,000 miles of power lines – leaving more than 1 million Georgians without electricity in what became the most destructive hurricane in Georgia Power’s 140-year history.

Georgia Power’s crews, along with assisting teams and resources from as far away as New Jersey, California, and Canada, combined to create a team of more than 20,000 strong – working tirelessly to rebuild crucial parts of Georgia’s power grid. Restoration required the use of resources including helicopters, boats, and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to restore power to customers around the state.

The damage to Georgia

Power’s electric system from Hurricane Helene was severe and included:

- 11,800+ power poles broken;
- 1,500+ miles of downed power lines;
- 5,800+ transformers damaged;
- 345+ transmission structures rebuilt or repaired.

“Throughout 2024, America’s electric companies and their dedicated work force answered the call to help restore power and hope to communities impacted by extreme weather events and natural disasters,” EEI interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn said. “EEI commends Georgia Power for its efforts to respond safely and efficiently to the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Georgia Power and its storm response team are extremely deserving of this well-deserved recovery award.”

Bo Hatcher earns Ameriprise Circle of Success recognition

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Bo Hatcher, a financial advisor with Colony Financial Advisors, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services LLC, has qualified for the company’s Circle of Success annual recognition program. This distinction is awarded to a select group of top-performing advisors who consistently demonstrate outstanding dedication to their clients.

This marks Hatcher’s second consecutive year receiving this recognition, a

testament to his commitment to helping clients achieve their financial goals.

With 24 years of experience in the financial services industry, Hatcher has built a reputation for delivering personalized financial planning, investment strategies, and insurance solutions tailored to individuals and small business owners.

Before joining Colony Financial Advisors, Hatcher served as a financial advisor at Renasant Bank and as a financial consultant for Synovus Financial Corpo-



Bo Hatcher

ration. He graduated with a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Georgia and is an Albany native. Hatcher remains actively involved in the Albany community through participation in numerous civic organizations.

As a financial advisor, Hatcher provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and provided in one-on-one relationships with his clients.

For more information, contact Hatcher

at 229-389-2602 or visit the www.colony.bank/financial-advisors website.

Colony Bankcorp Inc. is the bank holding company for Colony Bank. Founded in Fitzgerald in 1975, Colony operates locations throughout Georgia as well as in Birmingham, Alabama; Tallahassee, Florida; and the Florida Panhandle. In addition to traditional banking services, Colony provides specialized solutions including mortgage lending, government guaranteed lending, consumer insurance, wealth management, credit cards and merchant services.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 17, 2025

City of Albany, GA
P.O. Box 447
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 483-7650

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Albany.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about May 7, 2025, the City of Albany to submit a request to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, for the release of the Community Project Funding (CPF) funds under Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended, to undertake a project known as Ritz Theater and Culture Center. The proposed project, to restore and renovate the historic Ritz Theater and Cultural Center into an operational, cultural venue that supports community engagement, arts education, and economic revitalization. The estimated funding is \$2,200,000.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Albany, GA has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development, 230 South Jackson Street, Albany, GA 31701 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development, 230 South Jackson Street, Albany, GA 31701. All comments received by May 7, 2025, will be considered by the City of Albany, GA prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Albany, GA certifies to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Economic Development that Terrell D. Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM, in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Albany to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Albany, GA certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Albany, GA; (b) the City of Albany, GA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Economic Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development, at 77 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303. Potential objectors should contact HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Terrell Jacobs, MPA, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Albany, GA

State university system sets student enrollment record

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

STATESBORO – Student enrollment at Georgia’s public colleges and universities reached 345,823 this semester, an all-time record for the spring, the University System of Georgia’s vice chancellor of research and policy analysis reported.

The spring enrollment numbers at the system’s 26 institutions increased for the second year in a row after declining in 2022 and 2023 as the system emerged from the pandemic, Angela Bell told members of the system’s Board of Regents meeting on the campus of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

“We outpaced the nation again in growth,” system Chancellor Sonny Perdue said.

The largest enrollment growth this spring occurred among undergraduates, whose ranks increased by 14.1% over last spring. The number of students enrolled

in master’s degree programs grew by 12.6%.

Enrollment at the system’s four research universities – including the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech – rose by 6.5% compared to last spring, while enrollment at the system’s comprehensive universities – including Georgia Southern and Kennesaw State University – was up by 6.1%.

One category of students that has declined in the university system is minorities, which fell during the last five years from 47% of the student population to 42%.

The regents adopted policy changes late last year that prohibit requiring prospective students to submit “diversity statements” outlining how the applicant plans to advance the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The stated goal was to make sure applicants are evaluated on their individual merits rather than ideological tests.

CRH building materials provider to bring 300 new jobs to metro Atlanta

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – CRH, the leading provider of building materials solutions, plans to create more than 300 new jobs in metro Atlanta and invest \$1.7 million in a new Finance & Accounting Shared Services Center in Fulton County. The new SSC will support CRH’s Americas Materials Solutions business that also is headquartered in Atlanta.

“CRH’s latest investment in Georgia is more proof that our state’s collaborative approach to economic development works for both prospective job creators and those already

operating in our state,” Gov. Brian Kemp said. “As we continue to foster a business-friendly environment, these investments create high-quality jobs for hard-working Georgians. We look forward to CRH’s continued success in the No. 1 state for business.”

CRH’s Americas Materials Solutions business provides aggregates, asphalt, paving, ready-mixed concrete, and construction services and is the leading integrated building materials solutions provider in North America.

“It is an exciting time for CRH’s Americas Materials Solutions business as we support our ongoing growth by establishing a world-class

Finance & Accounting Shared Services Center in metro Atlanta,” Rob Dinkins, the chief financial officer of CRH Americas Materials Solutions, said. “The new SSC will enable further integration of our finance and accounting operations, creating additional efficiencies that will help CRH deliver better for our customers across North America.”

The new Shared Services Center will be located at 1120 Sanctuary Parkway in Roswell.

Hiring for roles is currently underway, including in finance and accounting, with plans for the facility to be fully staffed by 2029.