

Perspectives
Kyle Dominy
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Heading north
Westover star transfers
• Page 9A

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City of Albany fails to meet Combined Sewer Overflow separation permit requirement date

By David Dixon
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ALBANY -- The city of Albany did not meet the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's permit requirement of 85% separation of the CSO system by June 30, 2025. This project is mandated in the city's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit, which is issued and managed by Georgia EPD.

While the city has diligently been working on this project since 2020, delays caused by the COVID epidemic and supply chain interruptions have put them behind. Their failure to meet this permit requirement deadline could theoretically result in fines or citations from GAEPD and/or legal action from other interested parties.

City officials held a meeting on May 23 with the GAEPD's Water Protection branch and followed up with a summary letter that same day, informing them of the CSO project status and work still required to be completed, some of it by June 30 of this year.

"As evident from the ongoing construction, the city of Albany will not meet the June 30 deadline associated with our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Combined Sewer System," Assistant City Manager of Operations Bruce Maples said on Monday. Staff with the city has been keeping the Environmental Protection Division updated on the status and met with them to discuss the issues associated with the completion of the improvements underway."

The EPD issued the following statement: "In the event of a failure to meet the LTCP (Long Term Control Plan), EPD will explore enforcement alternatives and will communicate its plans to the city. A status update will be submitted to the EPD by city staff as agreed by both parties."

When the separation project started in 2020, the city had eight Combined Sewer Overflow discharges, seven of which are active. When rainfall exceeds 0.19 inch per hour, mixed storm water and sanitary waste water can be legally released into the Flint River watershed. When this happens, bacteria levels soar, making the river unsafe

See **SEWER**, 2A



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher
Dawson musician "Bubba" Hall says he is being harassed by city officials who are tied to his sister.

Dawson musician 'Bubba' Hall fights lone battle against city

By Carlton Fletcher
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DAWSON -- This small community just west of Albany has seen a recent surge of growth as businesses -- some nationally known chains, some mom-and-pop establishments -- have settled here to take advantage of its location along the bustling U.S. 82 corridor that runs east through Georgia from Columbus to the Atlantic Coast.

As much as local officials tout the growth in Dawson, though, they are equally burdened by a rash of illegal activity at the highest levels of local government. When a city's mayor is shot and later found guilty of sex charges, when other top management-level officials are tossed out of office for similarly serious charges, and when local citizens claim -- many quietly for fear of retribution -- that they are being singled out for harassment by local officials whose livelihood comes from taxpayer contributions, there's no question that corruption runs deep in the underbelly of this typically quiet community.

With all the high-level misdeeds -- many that have made their way from the quiet whispers in social and private settings to the watchful eye of the mainstream media -- running rampant in this community of 4,292, Robert E.S. "Bubba" Hall's comparably insignificant "harassment" by city officials who want him to keep his grass cut and his property orderly in a manner similar to others in his Orndorff Drive neighborhood might seem more tempest-in-a-teapot by comparison.

But Hall, a retired businessman who now spends his days in mostly solitude, writing songs and stories taken from his intriguing life, says he's become the target of a conspiracy that runs through his family to the seats of power in the city government.

"At precisely 11:18 a.m. this morning (June 21), the city of Dawson Code Enforcement truck rode by my house, slowed down directly in front of my home, and the individual who was driving the vehicle ... very obviously and intently was surveying my yard," Hall wrote in a recent email to The Albany Herald. "Although I did not know the individual personally, I do know this: With municipal budgets in all rural south Georgia communities strained, NO CITY EMPLOYEE is going to work for free on the weekend unless they are some type of emergency personnel.

See **HALL**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

Dougherty County program hosts 22 summer interns

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – As a criminal justice major, getting to spend the summer working with the men and women of the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office is a dream come true for Cameron White.

One of 22 summer interns working in the Dougherty County Summer Enrichment Internship program, White has had the chance to accompany officers on patrol and while they issued subpoenas and evictions, and most recently worked with them in the jail.

"I've done a little bit of everything," White said. "I've loved it so far. This has been my dream for a long time, to work with the sheriff's office."

A rising senior at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), White said he wants to be a detective in the future, with his sights set on the FBI.

"This is a great starting place," he said. "I'd like to thank Dougherty County for the opportunity."

Other interns are working with various county agencies, including the Dougherty County Police and Tax and Tag departments, as well as at the county library, with human resources, county administration and voter registration.

Some of them are also working with Albany's Recreation and Parks Department, Planning and Development Department and in the city's public information office.

For aspiring attorney Morgann Walker, who is looking to pursue a law degree after her bachelor's degree, working in the DCPD's Detective Division has given her a view of the law enforcement side of working a legal case.

"It showed me the back end of it, building cases," Walker, a senior at Georgia Southwestern State University, said. "It gave me a look at both sides."

As an intern with Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, Savannah State University student Tyler Miller said he has so far gotten a look at storm drainage and toxic waste is-

See **INTERN**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
Interns from the Dougherty County intern program were introduced on Monday to the Dougherty County Commission.

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From 1A

HALL

"And the city of Dawson Code Enforcement, I am most certain, does not fall into that category. This ties directly to my assertion that there is an individual or group of individuals somewhere connected politically or by employment with the city of Dawson who are targeting me prejudicially and unfairly and who are directly connected to my sister."

Hall will not talk on the record about family issues that lead him to believe he is being targeted by friends or acquaintances of his sister, but he does note that Barbara Jean "Babs" Hall has allegedly helped a city official with drug-related issues in his family.

"(City officials) turned this into so much more than it should have been," Hall said of what he calls harassment by city officials. "They first came out here and left a note on my door ... no call, no Code Enforcement or other official knock on the door. Then they sent a Code Enforcement officer out here, Ruth Lewis, who treated me with respect, just talked with me about upkeep on the property. I know Miss Ruth, and as we talked, she told me she'd been warned to take a police officer with her because I was 'crazy, dangerous, desperate with nothing to lose.'"

Lewis, who worked in law enforcement and Code Enforcement in southwest Georgia for 25 years, confirms Hall's statement.

"What you have going on in Dawson is some of that 'good ole boy' network," she said. "They are only concerned with the law as it applies to certain people in the community. I'd write a ticket for an infraction in (one of the community's wealthier neighborhoods), and they would get rid of it, tell me my job involved other, less-affluent parts of the community. An elderly black woman wanted an old, abandoned house near her property taken down, and they ignored her. But when someone in one of the nicer neighborhoods wanted a building taken down, Boyd Brothers (Construction Co.) came in the next day and tore it down.

"Bubba Hall's grass was high, but I knew he was going through some issues at the time, a sick parent and other things. I went out to talk with him, even though I was told he was 'crazy' and 'dangerous,' and he was very cool. He'd always done what he'd been asked to do."

Hall said he grew so tired of the constant "harassment" from city officials, including a visit to his home by the then head of Code Enforcement, a Dawson Police Department officer and then City Manager Tracy Hester, a visit that was surreptitiously recorded by Hall.

"I decided if they were going to harass me about grass and where I stacked firewood on my property, I would go after them," Hall said. "I had folks at EPD (Environmental Protection Division) look into a leak in the ditch in front of my property and decided I'd bring suit against the city for the potential danger from that leak."

Hall called officials with connections to EPD, and a subsequent study of the water leak that runs on city property was conducted. The report, conducted by David Abgot, concluded: "I called Mr. Hall (the complainant) to schedule a site visit. I invited John Batz with the city of Dawson to join for the visit. We determined the leak was on the city's line, and John informed me the city planned to replace the main line on that section of the street next week (Sept. 11-15) if time allowed. They just approved the budget to make the repair. I took a chlorine sample, which resulted at 0.16 ppm, which is below the recommended 0.20 ppm minimum in the distribution system. John Batz thinks it was due to leaching from galvanized piping and from the leak. He is going to have Jon Bergozza, the operator for the city of Dawson, take a Bacti sample and adjust and check the chlorine at the site of the compliant."

A follow-up investigation conducted by EPD's Helen Lunsford, noted: "Following up on this complaint, I spoke with the drinking water system operator, Jon Bergozza, and he informed me he is not responsible for the distribution system. He referred me to Mike Sinquefield of the city of Dawson. I then spoke with Mr. Sinquefield and he confirmed the main line on Orndorff Drive is an old 2-inch main line and that it had been repaired several times and it keeps breaking. The city of Dawson has a grant to replace old water lines and fire hydrants. The city is working with Carter & Sloope Consulting Engineers on this project. Mr. Sinquefield did not have any dates for when this work would commence or be completed.

"I returned to 445 Orndorff Drive, SW, in Dawson to take chlorine residual and pressure readings from a spigot in the backyard of the complainant's residence. The pressure reading was 65 psi. The Minimum Standards for Public Water Systems states in Section 12.2.1f. that the normal working pressure in the distribution system should be approximately 60 to 80 psi and shall not be less than 35 psi. For the first sample taken for chlorine residual, the reading was 0.14 ppm. The spigot was then flushed for less that 3 minutes and a second sample taken. The chlorine residual for this sample was 0.46 ppm which is within the recommended range, 0.2 to 4.0 ppm, for chlorine residuals."

Hall said he hired Albany attorney Phil Cannon to represent him in a suit against the city. Cannon did not return calls seeking comment.

Cherysh Green-Caldwell, who filled Hester's former seat as Dawson's city manager in February, responded to Hall's complaint against the city with an email that said, "Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to express your concerns. I want to acknowledge receipt of your message and the seriousness of the issues you've raised. I understand the concerns outlined in your email and recognize that you have included the City Attorney in your correspondence. I appreciate your stated intent to resolve this matter constructively and without conflict.

"Given the engagement of our legal counsel in this process, all future formal correspondence will be provided as guided by our legal team. Please know that your message has been received and noted, and we will continue to handle this matter through appropriate channels."

Contacted by The Albany Herald, Green-Caldwell said she didn't want to discuss too deeply what could potentially become a legal matter.

"I don't think it's appropriate for me to say too much, because there's a lot of correspondence going back and forth in this matter," the city manager said. "As I noted in my email to Mr. Hall, since this is a possible legal issue, we will let our attorney handle this matter. But I will say that we are very interested in working this out collaboratively with Mr. Hall."

Albany attorney Tommy Coleman is Dawson's city attorney.

"This has been ongoing now for several years, and, frankly, I haven't heard a lot about it in the last couple of years," Coleman said. "I know Mr. Hall has claimed that there are potential health problems associated with the leak and that EPD has filed a report on the matter. We'll look into it to try and get this resolved."

Hall is well-known in the Southeast as a singer/songwriter, a career he showed no interest in until he was in his 30s. He graduated from Terrell Academy, starring as an outside linebacker on the school's football team and earning high grades after "blistering the SAT." Weighing scholarship offers from Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech, he chose to play ball for Pat Dye at Auburn University.

Hall's stay at Auburn was short-lived. He got little playing time as a running back behind the likes of Bo Jackson and Brent Fullwood, and his world was rocked by the knowledge that his mother was a closet alcoholic. When he told Dye he was going to quit the football team, the Auburn head coach called Erk Russell at Georgia Southern and told the legendary coach he had a player who would fit in well with Russell's program.

"That's always been one of those things I regretted, not taking the opportunity to play for Erk Russell," Hall said.

Hall did go back to college, spending a couple of years at Albany Junior College (now part of Albany State University) before trying football again at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus. After two games, he quit for good. Hall said a compelling confrontation with his usually reserved father led him to "switch gears."

He worked in the trucking industry and even advanced to running the D.E. Short Trucking Co., making more money than he'd ever hoped to earn. But he "blew up my marriage" and got an "amicable divorce" before flying out to Colorado Springs to visit a friend. There, he bought a guitar -- even though he'd never played one before -- and somehow convinced himself to participate in an open mic night at a local coffee shop.

He moved to Colorado for a period, writing songs as "words started coming at me from everywhere," and by fits and starts "started playing music for a living."

When Hall's dad died in 2002, he moved back to his homeplace in Dawson to help his mother with the family's Hall Bagging Co. business, but he continued playing music. Eventually, he would -- often with friends like Albany musician Evan Barber and with the help of like-minded musical patrons -- set up singer/songwriter nights at clubs in Montgomery, Ala., Auburn and Americus. Filmmaker Josh Carples approached him at what became a monthly "Joe Thomas Guitar Pull" -- so named in honor of his friend and supporter who'd died in a car crash -- and approached him with the idea of doing a documentary that would become "Commit to the Song: The Movie."

"I told Josh that was the stupidest thing I'd ever heard, and when he asked me why, I said because I didn't think of it first," Hall said.

As he's slipped into his mostly sedentary, loner existence, Hall said he's "too broke to do very much." (He emphasizes his statement by showing balances in his bank accounts that verify his comment.) But he says he's not going to just give in to his sister and city officials who apparently want to run him out of his home.

"The harassment is not every day, but it has happened enough it keeps me 'looking over my shoulder' so to speak," he said. "And to always be wondering is a torturous existence. This has been going on for close to five years now. It's frustrating. I sent an email to four city officials last Friday to which I have yet to receive a reply or response of any kind.

"I happened to talk to both neighbors who border me today, and they both vehemently denied ever filing any type of complaint with the city against me. Also today, a neighbor who wishes not to be named told me that one year ago they killed a huge rattlesnake in the road in front of my home that had crawled out of the swampland bog in my front yard caused by the city's leaking waterline and was heading across the street away from my house."

There are those who say Hall's Quixotic efforts can be placed in the "much ado about nothing" file. But the late-blooming troubadour says that he's ready to battle family, foes and, yes, city hall, to correct injustices he says are worth fighting for.

And, even as he hunkered down for whatever that fight might be, Coleman called to notify The Herald that the city of Dawson is "getting quotes right now to have the water line fixed." Of course," Hall notes, "city officials told me that as far back as 2023."



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Interns from the Dougherty County intern program were introduced on Monday to the Dougherty County Commission.

From 1A

INTERN

sues. A music major, Miller said he has plans to become an elementary school music teacher.

"It has been very diverse, so I enjoyed the experience," he said.

And while working in the Dougherty County District Attorney's office may not seem to have much in common with her health and human performance education, Trinity Deas said it is giving her insight.

"It was a very enriching experience," the Albany State University senior said. "I got to see how prosecutors participate in making sure justice is done. I also got to look at the cases and see how to pull out evidence."

That experience may come in handy in her planned career as a physical education teacher.

"I feel like the criminal justice system taught me to deal with all types of personalities," Deas said. "I learned everybody can't be reached with the same method."

The internship program could inspire some of the young people to become involved with the county and perhaps one day return to their hometown after graduation, Dougherty County Executive Assistant Kaelyn King, who is coordinating the program this year, said.

The internship program has been in existence for some time, but the Dougherty County Commission bulked it up somewhat beginning three years ago. The students involved for the summer are a mix of college and high school scholars.

"They'll get an experience in Dougherty County and maybe think about coming back and being the change they want to see," King said.



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Dogwood Trail Apartments in Albany, GA, proudly named this week's Star Business of the Week by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, offers 65 modern units built in 2021. Dogwood Trail is not your average apartment complex. They provide unique benefits like tuition assistance for residents! In addition to two market-rate units, Dogwood Trail Apartments features 63 affordable units. They also boast a wellness center with on-site healthcare, a computer lab, state-of-the-art laundry facilities, financial literacy classes, a community garden and more! They actively collaborate with local resources to support students and residents, and are expanding with 32 more units for seniors, breaking ground in October. Interested individuals can join a waiting list for future opportunities.

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From 1A

SEWER

for human contact. Additionally, everything imaginable that can be flushed down the toilet can end up in the river. This problem is not only within the confines of Albany, but affects citizens and water users further downstream.

The CSOs are identified by basin names. The area includes, approximately from 8th Avenue on the north down to the Joshua Street Wastewater Treatment Plant to the south. It is bordered on the west by Slappey Boulevard and the east side of the Flint River by Clark Avenue and Broad Avenue. These CSO basins are identified as Jefferson Street, Highland Avenue, Whitney Avenue, Booker Street, Clark Avenue-East Broad Avenue, 8th Avenue, Joshua Street Treatment Plant, and 3rd Avenue. As evidenced by the traffic disruption and continuing detours in the designated areas, the project has been continuously in progress since the beginning of the construction phases.

"The total estimated cost of the entire project is $132-135 million over the next 10 years," Maples said in 2023. He also commented in 2023, "Currently, the eastside CSO basins (Clark Avenue and East Broad) have been separated, and the 400 block of West Broad Avenue (part of the Booker Avenue Basin) is separated."

The city acquired approximately $105 Million in funds from a wide range of sources, including Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) low-interest loans, American Rescue Plan Act funding, a Community Developmental Block Grant Mitigation fund, the city's Sewer Enterprise Fund, special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST) VIII revenue, Georgia State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic and Security) Act, Water Resources Development Act funds and annual user sewer fees. These funds are still in place and are being spent on the sewer system upgrade.

Additionally, the city has a 10-year capital plan to spend $1 million per year on sewer system improvement. This money will be allocated from SPLOST funding in subsequent years.

"We are exceptionally pleased that the city of Albany forged ahead and is relatively well-funded to get untreated sewage separated from stormwater in its jurisdiction," Gordon Rogers, the executive director and riverkeeper for Flint Riverkeeper, said. "The fact that the city, Georgia EPD, downstream citizens, and Flint Riverkeeper were able to avoid litigation and simply move forward with the work is also gratifying.

The governor, Congressman (Sanford) Bishop, the mayor (Bo Dorough), city commissioners, and many experts working behind the scenes deserve mountains of credit. And even though the city did not officially complete the work on time, they came very, very close. Considering the obstacles and unknowns along the way, their progress is commendable. We look forward to seeing the conclusion of the 85% separation in the very near future, sampling the river after completion to check on the project's effectiveness, and collaborating with the city on any next steps."

Anticipating completion of the project within the next few weeks, city officials have submitted an application to GAEPD for the new NPDES (discharge) permit, which accounts for the improvements. Once a draft of that permit is published, it will be open to public comment.

Albany has a website dedicated to these projects. It lists action required, progress dates and maps of where the projects are occurring. It can be found at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e72248bcfeff4bc5b1145c26a99df239. Progress is updated the 15th of each month until completion of this work.

Horoscopes

Look for events to participate in, and you'll discover something that offers meaning. It's up to you to find pastimes that make you feel good about yourself. Don't limit what you can do or live with the "should have, would have, could have" mentality. Pick yourself up and do something that motivates your body, mind and soul.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Participate and enjoy. Don't put off what you can accomplish today. Join in, formulate a plan and make things happen. Take the initiative, be an instigator and see what unfolds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Keep your eye on the ball when dealing with government, legal and financial matters. Do your best to get along with your colleagues and to align yourself with those you feel akin to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Be smart about investing your time, money and emotions. Know who you are dealing with and get everything in writing. Emotional energy will surface, leaving you vulnerable if you take the bait.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Be smart about investing your time, money and emotions. Not everyone will share your principles. Know who you are dealing with and get everything in writing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- You'll want to explore prospects that require upgrading your skills and expertise. Don't let fear stand between you and striving for something better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Concentrate on learning, exploring possibilities and finding ways to bring in more cash. Doing what you enjoy will bring you in contact with like-minded people and potential partners and friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Precision, attention to detail and quick action will help you gain respect and increase your potential to negotiate successfully. Keep things simple and avoid interference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Make alterations at home that will help you pursue what's essential. Discussions will help you resolve pending issues and give you access to suggestions that can improve your work.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't overlook what others are doing. Place more thought into networking and mingling with people you can learn from. Personal and professional growth look promising, but you will have to do some legwork. Get moving.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Give and take will be essential if you plan to get along with others. Be willing to compromise and share the cost, time and workload necessary to achieve positive results.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Work to ease your mind and stop others from pressuring you. Look for opportunities to expand your horizons and relationships. Make changes at home to ensure optimum efficiency.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Spend time researching, interacting with experts and considering your options. Bide your time, avoid premature action and be cognizant of what others choose to do.

DO JUST ONE THING
by Danny Seo

In our ever-evolving digital age, you might wonder: Is it greener to stream a movie or to download it? It turns out downloading is the better choice. Streaming relies on energy-intensive servers and data centers, while downloading content reduces dependence on these systems, leading to lower emissions and energy usage. However, when comparing streaming to physical DVDs, streaming comes out ahead -- there's no packaging, manufacturing or shipping involved, making it the more environmentally friendly option.

Today in History

Today is the 191st day of 2025 and the 21st day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY:

In 1821, the United States began to take possession of Florida.

In 1890, Wyoming was admitted as the 44th state.

In 1940, Nazi forces began an air attack on southern Britain that would last 114 days and become known as the Battle of Britain.

In 1962, AT&T (in conjunction with NASA) launched the first privately owned satellite, Telstar 1.

In 1991, Boris Yeltsin took office as the first popularly elected president in Russia's history.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Calvin (1509-1564), theologian/reformer; Nikola Tesla (1856-1943), physicist/engineer; Marcel Proust (1871-1922), author/critic; Carl Orff (1895-1982), composer; David Brinkley (1920-2003), TV journalist; Alice Munro (1931-2024), author; Arthur Ashe (1943-1993), tennis player; Arlo Guthrie (1947-), singer-songwriter; Urban Meyer (1964-), football coach; Sofia Vergara (1972-), actress; Chiwetel Ejiofor (1977-), actor; Jessica Simpson (1980-), actress/singer.

TODAY'S FACT: The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, which battled the German Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain, counted 11 American pilots among its 2,900 members.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1999, the U.S. soccer team defeated China 5-4 in penalty kicks to win the Women's World Cup in Pasadena, California.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." -- Arthur Ashe

TODAY'S NUMBER: 134 -- temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) reached on this day in 1913 in Death Valley, California, the hottest peak temperature on U.S. record.

TODAY'S MOON: Full moon (July 10).

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never confuse movement with action."

Ernest Hemingway, writer (1899-1961)

CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
90°	90°	93°	93°	93°	93°	91°
74°	74°	74°	75°	75°	75°	74°



BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

ANTICIPATE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN

Josh Billings, the pen name of humorist Henry Wheeler Shaw, said, "There are people who are always anticipating trouble, and in this way they manage to enjoy many sorrows that never really happen to them."

Bridge experts, though, are always anticipating trouble, and in this way they manage more plus scores than those who always assume everything will work out perfectly.

In today's deal, South opens and closes the auction with his three-spade bid. West leads the diamond 10. East wins with his ace and returns the diamond two. What should South do now?

The traditional requirements for a weak three-bid are two of the top three or three of the top five honors in the seven-card suit and 5-10 high-card points. These days the requirements have been lowered by many players, especially at favorable vulnerability. But it does not hurt to have a textbook hand occasionally.

North thought about raising to four spades, but knew game was unlikely. And he hoped that East might balance, allowing North to double the opponents and gain a sizable penalty.

It is tempting for South to win the second trick on the board and immediately to play a trump. However, with this layout he would go down. West would take the trick and give his partner a diamond ruff. East would cash the heart ace, and West would get a second trump trick.

South should anticipate the 5-2 diamond break. (In theory, if East had started with three diamonds, he would have returned his higher remaining diamond, not the two.) Before touching trumps, declarer should cash dummy's top clubs and discard his third diamond.

	North	07-10-25
	♠ 6 3	
	♥ K Q 7 4	
	♦ Q J 4	
	♣ A K 9 8	
West		East
♠ A Q		♠ 5 2
♥ J 8 5		♥ A 10 9 2
♦ 10 9 7 6 5		♦ A 2
♣ J 7 4		♣ Q 10 6 5 3
	South	
	♠ K J 10 9 8 7 4	
	♥ 6 3	
	♦ K 8 3	
	♣ 2	

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10



COLUMNIST ■ JACK BAGLEY

Did you know ...?

We're over the hump for 2025. You know the hump, of course. The point where you stop climbing up and start moving downward toward the valley. That's where we have come with 2025.

In other words, it all goes downhill from here. But never fear, there will be the weekly assortment of weird stuff to make the downhill run a bit more enjoyable. In fact, I have some freshly polished nuggets ready to share with you right now. Enjoy.

Did you know ...

... insects bite humans on the foot more than they do anywhere else?

... the belief that people poison or otherwise tamper with Halloween candy is not true? Since the 1960s, children on their annual journey to extort candy from their neighbors by dressing up in weird costumes have been warned to "inspect their take" and not to eat anything until they get home. Supposedly, there are people out there who poison the candy or put razor blades in apples or some such nefarious stuff. But it has never been verified – not even once – as having actually happened. It's still a good idea to inspect the candy, though, as ... well, you never know.

... the largest lake on Earth is really a sea? The Caspian Sea is considered a lake by geographers because it is fully enclosed by land. In all other respects – its size, the fact that it has salt water, and its depth, among others – it meets the geographical definition of a sea.

... it's best sometimes not to get directions from magazines? In 2004, the British hiking magazine Trail gave readers directions on getting down from the summit of Scotland's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. The directions, if followed, would have led hikers off the edge of a cliff. In an apology to readers, Trail editors said they inadvertently left out the first of two crucial bearings needed to get down from the peak.

... spiked dog collars were invented by the ancient Greeks? They were not intended to make a dog look tough; rather, the spikes were to protect the throats of the dogs from attacking wolves.

... the red supergiant star Antares is 60,000 times bigger than the sun? To put this into perspective, imagine the sun as being the size of a softball. That would make Antares the size of a house. And it's not the largest star out there, either. The largest star known is Stephenson 2-18, and to use the same scale as before, that star – a red ultragiant – would be the size of a six-story building. Placed in the center of our Solar System, Stephenson 2-18 would fill everything up to just outside the orbit of the planet Saturn.

... the entire film industry was convinced that a blockbuster motion picture would be a flop? In 1977, the first "Star Wars" movie was released by 20th Century-Fox. The industry was convinced that producer George Lucas had wasted so much of the studio's money on a flop that the studio itself had to use a bizarre marketing scheme to get the movie into theatres. Fox executives essentially threatened any cinema that refused to show "Star Wars" with not being given the rights to show another film, "The Other Side of Midnight," which Fox expected to be a hit. As it turned out, "Star Wars" made more than 10 times the money that "The Other Side of Midnight" did.

... the Titanic almost had a collision with another ship just days before ramming the iceberg that sank it? While the ship was departing from its home port of Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912, a nearby ship -- the SS City of New York -- slipped free of its moorings and almost drifted right into the side of the massive Titanic. Just four days later, however, the Titanic met its fate and 1,500 people died when it sank.

... the United States has a lot of Chinese restaurants? There are so many, in fact, that they add up to more than all of the McDonald's, KFC, Burger King and Wendy's restaurants put together.

... the first African-American to play a leading role in a feature film did so in 1914? The silent production of Uncle Tom's Cabin starred Sam Lucas in the title role.

... at one time, the mayor of Philadelphia usually didn't want the job? In the earliest years of the city's existence, the office didn't pay a dime, and many who served in the post most strenuously protested doing so – sometimes opting to pay a large fine rather than serve unpaid. From the city's founding in 1701 until 1747, men actively fought being named mayor because the job had no compensation. It was not until 1747 that the salary of the mayor was established at £100 per year.

Now ... you know!

Jack is a Manchester-based reporter and columnist whose work appears in multiple Georgia Trust for Local News publications. A Chicago native, he has lived in Georgia for most of the last half-century or so, and held many and varied jobs: teacher, radio and television newscaster, actor, writer, safari tour guide and newspaper editor; almost everything except game show host, which he hopes to eventually do as well. His column, "Did You Know...?," is a weekly collection of odd and strange facts that will do absolutely nothing other than enlighten and (hopefully) entertain you. It may help you if you get on Jeopardy! one day, but we make no promises.

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Every homeowner in Lee County needs to protest their tax bill this year. It is ridiculous what they are trying to do to us.

Thanks so much for the Congress Votes section of The Herald. It lets us know how our officials are voting. I was amazed to see that Sanford Bishop voted against a $435 billion bill to fund the Veterans Affairs department. Also $18 billion more for military construction. With Albany's Marine Base and Fort Benning in his district, this seems very strange. But it passed without his vote.

Again, two murders and the plea, "Guys, please put down the guns." To those who have no sense of life value, hesitation in taking it, nor consequence, the plea is made as if they have conscience to answer. Under Kemp, everyone can carry (few exceptions). Think, people, think.

It is a fact: "When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends." Given that, why are you knowingly following those with such a low moral basis? Stop ignoring the mirror.

I can only assume that the overpaid bums wearing the once-proud Atlanta Braves uniform now back into the manager's office to get their paychecks.

The police department needs to put unmarked cars near stoplights and start handing out tickets for loud mufflers, drag race take-offs and reckless driving.

Can someone tell if the Albany/Dougherty government is actually functioning? Do we have a mayor, city manager, city planner? Have they been on vacation for the past two years? Does KADB still exist? Police are nowhere to be found, blocks are lined with paper signs, kids are dancing in traffic asking for donations "for the youth." Do we have a local government?

Of those who received up to $800 to repair damaged meter boxes and those 133 projects receiving an average of $5,600 for weatherization, how many were rental properties where the property owner received the taxpayer-funded benefit?

Why are we surprised at water bills that triple, one month after the last, when our government employees cannot even figure three percentage numbers out of a total cast in one low-turnout election? Elementary math

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said their intelligence assessment indicating the military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities did not successfully destroy Iran's nuclear weapons program was "flat-out wrong." I wonder what intelligence information they have that indicates their intelligence information was wrong. That Man Without a Family

It is time for some tough love for our school system. Throwing money at this problem is obviously not working. A severe change is needed.

Do not change the county code and to start the foolish naming of county buildings, recreation fields, and everything else after people who may or may not be worthy.

July 1st is the day that begins the downfall of college football as we know it.

I can think of a lot of things that the city could do with $2 million other than add to the housing fiasco that exists here. Good ole Albany: one step up and two steps back.

READER'S GUIDE

The Albany Herald

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PERSPECTIVES

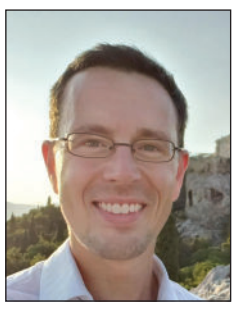
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Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Independence Day reflections: Life, liberty, the pursuit of bigger government

As the last fireworks went silent on Independence Day 2025, the countdown began for a truly monumental anniversary: Next year will mark the United States' 250th birthday. This is cause for celebration and also caution. Democracies and republics are fragile, and once lost, they are difficult to regain.



HYDEN

As our semiquincentennial approaches, I've been mulling over what our forefathers would think of the United States' trajectory. Candidly, I believe they would be impressed with many of our accomplishments — rising from 13 fledgling colonies to be the free world's leader. However, they would doubtlessly be disappointed in the erosion of our founding principles and leaders' malfeasance, despite the framers attempting to create a more perfect union.

Just about every American man, woman and child knows our national story: Americans grew weary of British rule and taxation without representation. So the 13 colonies revolted and secured their independence. Given that American patriots were a bunch of high-minded rabble-rousers who loathed taxes and big government, it is no surprise that they adopted a constitution giving citizens inalienable rights and curtailing government's power.

The framers modeled the American system, in part, after the Roman Republic with some notable improvements. Our forefathers instituted a separation of powers between the three branches of government, which created checks and balances and limited presidential power.

But how has that turned out?

For some time this model worked relatively well. Each branch served as a counter-balance to the other branches but also depended on them. Fast forward many years, and Congress has ceded much of its authority to the executive who often rules unilaterally by executive order. To put this into perspective, President Washington issued a total of eight executive orders during his eight-year tenure. Presidents Obama, Trump I, Biden and Trump II have instituted 276, 220, 162 and 165, respectively, acts that certainly would rankle our founders who feared a powerful executive.

They would also recoil at the notion of suspending habeas corpus. Enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, habeas corpus is a "fundamental instrument for safeguarding individuals' freedom against arbitrary and lawless state action," according to Cornell Law School. The White House has explored suspending it to make it easier to deport those accused of being in the country illegally.

What's more, our government's power, size and scope have grown exponentially in the modern era, as has our mounting national debt. This would cause our founders to grouse, even though they were no strangers to it. By around 1791, the U.S. had $77.1 million of debt, but not everyone was entirely concerned at the time. "A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing," Alexander Hamilton retorted. For the young nation, debt was a necessity in order to fund a war of independence and the government until it got on its proverbial feet. By 1835, President Andrew Jackson paid off the national debt.

Today, the U.S. is the richest nation on Earth and possibly the most indebted. Congress hasn't balanced a budget in more than 20 years and keeps irresponsibly adding to our seemingly insurmountable debt, which stands at around $37 trillion and counting. Our founders would find this wholly unnecessary and entirely excessive and would be troubled by our foreign policy, too.

In his farewell address, President Washington warned against foreign entanglements. "[He] exhorted Americans to set aside their violent likes and dislikes of foreign nations," the State Department notes, "lest they be controlled by their passions: 'The nation which indulges toward another an habitual hatred or an habitual fondness is in some degree a slave' Washington's remarks have served as an inspiration for American isolationism."

Washington's advice was prudent but has largely been cast aside. In fact, many American politicians look at military conflicts like some people look at their troubled exlovers: They just can't quit them. Some estimates suggest that the United States has been involved in as many as 400 military interventions since 1776. Some of these were necessary, but certainly not all. They have stretched American resources, created bitter enemies and resulted in myriad deaths. This is far from what Washington desired for the young country.

Since our government was modeled after Rome's, it seems fitting to quote a scene from my favorite movie, "Gladiator," in which Marcus Aurelius speaks of the Republic's fragility, which could also describe the American experiment: "There was once a dream that was Rome. You could only whisper it. Anything more than a whisper and it would vanish."

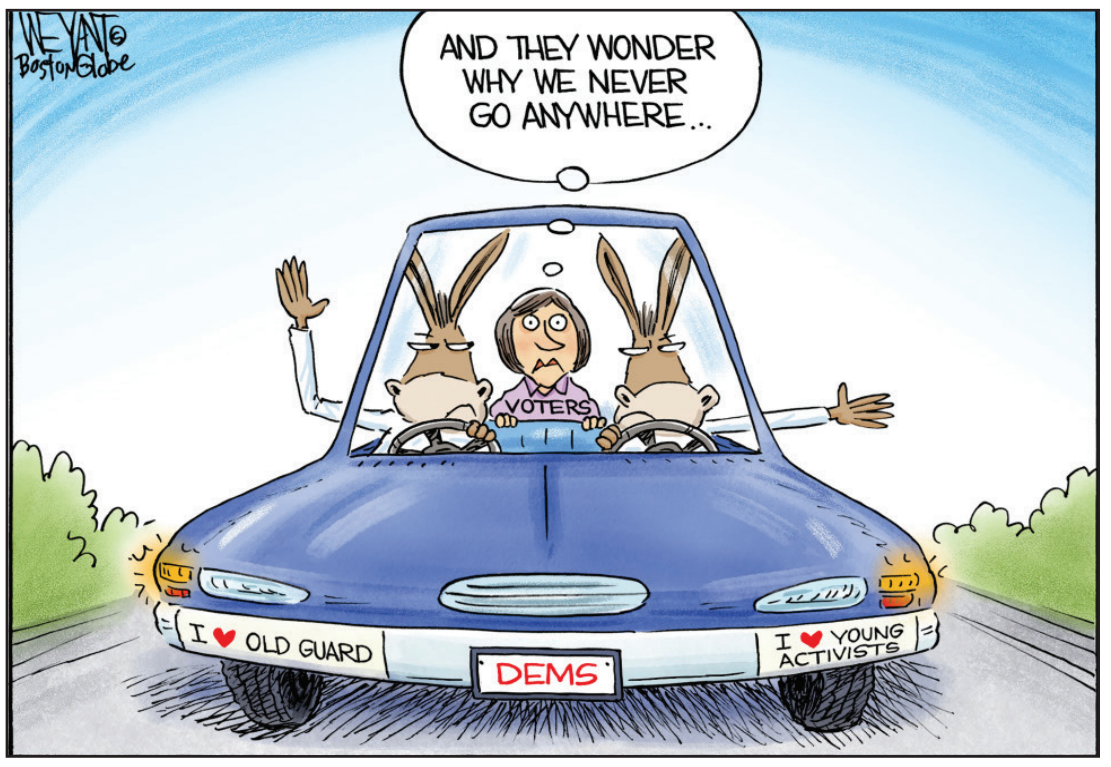
Looking back at our framers' actions, it is clear that they realized maintaining a free society and a democratic republic was a daunting challenge. Benjamin Franklin even famously quipped about the country: "A republic ... if you can keep it." If he and his colleagues were here today, I'd imagine they would voice plenty of disappointment.

Marc Hyden is the senior director of state government affairs at the R Street Institute. Follow him on X @marc_hyden.

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 verfication purposes.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is."

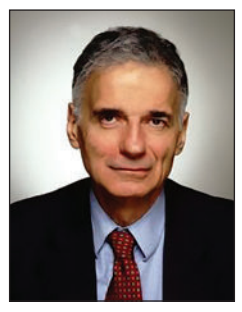
—Jeremiah 17:7



COLUMNIST ■ RALPH NADER

Trump should wear his Savage Wrecking of America bill

The narrow passage of Trump/GOP 1100-page bill that spells death, destruction and deprivation to the American people, including MAGA voters and innocents abroad, should destroy the Trumpster Republicans in the 2026 Congressional election.



NADER

However, by then it will be too late for poor American children facing Trump reducing the food stamp programs, the 15 million Americans being thrown off Medicaid, the damage or the termination of many clean solar energy and wind energy sales, the body blow to electric car prospects, the young Americans benefitting from AmeriCorps, Job Corps, student loans, and VA medical benefits. The Trump cuts will also undermine housing assistance programs, Meals on Wheels, disability assistance programs, and Head Start.

Millions of desperate humans overseas are already cut off suddenly from USAID medicine, food supplements, clean drinking water and other life-savers that cost a few dollars per life saved. Tens of thousands have already died.

Why is Trump (Musk is now vehemently against the bill) doing this to all the people – red states and blue states? Why is he opening the air and water pollution spigots, stoking the greenhouse gases of the oil, gas, coal infernos, damaging people's health everywhere?

Of course, he lied, fooled, flattered, and flummoxed enough voters. Sadly, the feeble corporate Democrats allowed Trump to gain the White House and achieve his real objective, which Make America Trump Again.

Trump's bellowing, snarling, false accusations and broken promises in thousands of tweets, utterances, phone calls, and speeches demonstrate that he is a fascist dictator, willing to issue illegal executive orders and dictates.

What are Trump's goals?

First, he wants to use the White House as a massive business opportunity to make him and his family fabulously wealthy. He wants more tax escapes for the wealthy and giant corporations, privileged personal family investments in crypto-currency that he is now de-regulating, to sell memorabilia, including Bibles (he has violated seven out of the ten Commandments and never goes to Church), to cut profitable deals with rich Arab nations and billionaires looking for favorable treatment and to freeze federal minimum wages and pull down worker rights.

Second, Trump wants vengeance, taking it out on critics, political opponents, prosecutors, and using immigrants as a mass media scapegoated diversions that whip his core MAGA loyalists into a constant frenzy. His pathological vengeance includes going after universities, law firms, mainstream media owners who are, respectively, studying, suing or reporting his daily crimes, obstruction of justice, shredding of the Constitution and federal statutes that may produce challenges to his tyranny, burgeoning police state and physical threats to what J.D. Vance, before his ambitious conversion, called "America's Hitler."

Remember, how many times Trump has followed his lawless acts with the words "This is just the beginning." This corporation, masquerading as a human being, has long said that "With Article II, I can do whatever I want as president," now backed by the Supreme Courts' June 2024 reckless and abdicatory decision (6 to 3) in Trump vs. U.S. immunizing presidents from criminal prosecution for their official acts.

Third, entrench and immunize the rule of the Super-rich, the Plutocracy – that Trump wants to and has to curry the favor of with unprecedented giveaways and sweetheart deals. Accordingly, he bloats the Pentagon budget beyond what the generals asked for. He gives Wall Street and the fossil fuel corporations everything they want – no regulation, no prosecutions, massive tax cuts, and dangerous new technology without legal or ethical restraints.

A few days ago, Dan Diamond of the Washington Post reported a huge "Fraud Bust" by the government, started under Biden, an "alleged $10.6 billion fraud scheme" involving shell corporations, foreign and domestic thieves billing, in the names of hacked beneficiaries, Medicare for millions of urinary catheters, glucose monitors, and other supplies. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats in Congress recognized corporate crime, corporate subsidies and corporate bloated contracts as the key factors in the infliction of the cruel treatment of the American people across the board.

The treachery and betrayal by Trump and his GOP is unprecedented. It is only a matter of time before hundreds of millions of the American people will experience the pain and be exposed to the silent violence caused by Trump.

As the pre-eminent bully of our Times, Trump lusts to brand people and groups he dislikes, with pejorative nicknames. It is time to return the Favor. Trump the Everyday Wrecking Ball of America has a nice ring.

Ralph Nader is a long-time consumer advocate, author and columnist who has been a watchdog for political corruption for decades.P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Ga. 31139.

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Random thoughts, random subjects

A lot of people are taking a victory lap after the recent announcement that the nonprofit Conservation Fund has purchased the property on Trail Ridge, adjacent to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Reserve, where Alabama-based Twin Pines Materials had planned to mine for titanium dioxide. Some deserve credit for derailing this project. Some who are taking credit, don't. Although I am admittedly biased, I am convinced that without your loud and clear opposition, this nefarious scheme might have happened. The victory lap belongs to you. Thank you.



YARBROUGH

I'm not sure what brought this on, but the state Board of Education has decided that, beginning this fall, the teaching of cursive writing in elementary school will be mandated, starting with the third grade. By fifth grade, students will be called on to write whole texts in cursive "legibly and efficiently." No laptops. No touchscreens. Hopefully, that means goodbye to those infernal computer spellcheckers. Kids might have to actually consult a dictionary. There is still hope for civilization.

Speaking of little children, are you not fascinated by the war of words playing out between the World's Richest Man and the World's Most Powerful Man? Elon Musk and Donald Trump sound like a couple of kindergartners trading personal insults and threats via social media. If they were forced to put away their social media devices and respond to each other by writing whole texts legibly and efficiently, this would probably have been over a long time ago.

As of July 1, colleges will begin sharing revenue with their athletes with a cap expected around $20 million annually per school. That figure is intended to cover athlete compensation across all varsity sports -- not just those that generate revenue, like football and basketball. And it doesn't include endorsement deals athletes make on their own. This development, along with the transfer portal, is a new day for college athletics. I'm not sure it is a better day, but it's here, like it or not. ("Coach, we will win one for the Gipper but it's going to cost you another $5,000. Check with our agents and get back to us.")

I get a lot of news releases from public relations firms promoting some study or book or survey. Most of them I ignore because I don't think you would be interested. But consider this one an exception. It concerns astronumerology, which "blends the insights of planetary influences (astrology) with the vibrational meanings of numbers (numerology) to offer a deeper, more holistic view of a person's character, life path and destiny." I have no idea what that means, but I thought I should share it with you in case you seek a vibrational meaning of your holistic life path. On the other hand, a glass of sweet tea might work just as well.

Finally, I had given much thought to the federal deficit and how we could possibly reduce it, but to no avail. Then comes a suggestion from a Great American, Mike Ernstes in Cobb County. His solution? "I estimate that there are roughly five Personal Injury Attorney signs per mile of highway," he says. "Google tells me there are 2 million miles of highway in the USA. Put a tariff of just $10 a day on each sign. (I don't think they'll miss it.) That comes to over $36 billion per year. Surely that would help." It sure would and it couldn't happen to a more deserving group.

Contact Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Ga. 31139.

What to watch

THURSDAY

July 10, 2025

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

Brick

Netflix ■ Original Film

This German sci-fi mystery thriller finds Tim (Matthias Schweighöfer) and Olivia (Ruby O. Fee) awakening to find themselves trapped in their apartment behind an impenetrable, futuristic wall that has materialized overnight. The entire building and its residents also seem to be enclosed, and without any chance of help, they must band together to find a way out. Can they solve the mystery of the wall in time and survive?

ZOMBIES 4: Dawn of the Vampires

Disney Channel, 7 p.m. ■ Original Film

A new adventure begins for Zed (Milo Manheim) and Addison (Meg Donnelly) when their summer road trip takes an unexpected detour, landing them in the middle of yet another monster rivalry, this time between daywalkers and vampires.

Celebrity Family Feud

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 11 of the *Family Feud* spinoff series featuring celebrities competing for various charities begins tonight with Steve Harvey returning as host. The premiere features Taraji P. Henson vs. Jennifer Hudson, and *The Dan Patrick Show* vs. *The Rich Eisen Show*.

Big Brother

CBS, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 27 of *Big Brother* will be the biggest yet, featuring 90-minute episodes beginning with tonight's premiere and continuing on Wednesdays. A new group of Houseguests move in and try to maneuver their way to a big cash prize. Hourlong shows air on Thursdays (live evictions) and Sundays. Julie Chen Moonves returns as host. This season introduces companion series *Big Brother*: Unlocked, airing every other Friday beginning July 25.

The Real Housewives of Orange County

Bravo, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

In Season 19 of the reality series, Shannon Storms Beador is single and ready to mingle. After taking one step forward with Tamra Judge at the reunion, their roller-coaster relationship continues to take more steps backward. Also returning this season are Heather Dubrow, Gina Kirschenheiter, Emily Simpson, Jennifer Pedranti and Gretchen Rossi, who was last seen in Season 8.



SASHA OSTROV

Family Guy

FOX, 9 p.m.

Lois (voice of Alex Borstein) becomes the leader of a group of mothers who want to ban books from schools in the new episode "Karenheit 451."

Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story

Nat Geo, 9 p.m.

Produced in partnership with Steven Spielberg, this is the only authorized documentary about the director's classic 1975 movie *Jaws*, charting its journey from the pages of Peter Benchley's bestselling novel to the big screen, where it became the first summer blockbuster. *Jaws* @ 50 offers an unfiltered look at the behind-the-scenes chaos during the movie's production and examines how *Jaws* also paved the way for shark conservation.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Superman

TCM, 8 p.m.

The new *Superman* movie from director James Gunn that opens in theaters Friday, July 11, looks promising and like it will finally be bringing some fun back to a big-screen presentation of the Man of Steel — like what was seen in 1978's *Superman* (aka *Superman: The Movie*), which airs tonight on TCM. As good as the new movie might be, it will likely do little to diminish the belief among many that Christopher Reeve, the then-unknown who led the '78 film, remains the quintessential live-action Superman. The actor is fantastic as the iconic hero; his interplay and charismatic chemistry with Margot Kidder as Lois Lane also is great, as is Reeve's ability to seemingly slip in and out of his Clark Kent and Superman personas instantly and effortlessly. Thanks also to Gene Hackman's cheeky-yet-ruthless performance as criminal genius Lex Luthor, John Williams' Oscar-nominated score that makes even the opening credits a thrilling experience, visual effects that earned a Special Achievement Oscar and, above all, director Richard Donner's deft ability to re-create the colorful feel of a comic book while having moments of humor amid the thrills and genuine emotional moments. TCM is following the film with two other Reeve-led titles that show how the actor could do a lot more than just be Superman: the romantic drama *Somewhere in Time* (1980), costarring Jane Seymour, and the comedic thriller *Deathtrap* (1982), also with Michael Caine. — *Jeff Pfeiffer*



WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Old School (2003, Comedy) Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell **FX, 6 p.m.**

Blumhouse's Truth or Dare (2018, Horror) Lucy Hale, Tyler Posey **VH1, 7 p.m.**

Mystery on Mistletoe Lane (2023, Mystery) Erica Cerra, Victor Webster **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007, Adventure) Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom **AMC, 8 p.m.**

The A-Team (2010, Action) Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper **FX, 8 p.m.**

Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action) Tom Cruise, Miles Teller **Paramount, 8 p.m.**

Jurassic World Dominion (2022, Action) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **USA, 9 p.m.**

Southpaw (2015, Drama) Jake Gyllenhaal, Forest Whitaker **VH1, 9:30 p.m.**

The Woman With My Face (2024, Suspense) Nicole Marie Johnson, Donny Boaz **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Gemini Man (2019, Action) Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

Gone in 60 Seconds (2000, Action) Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie **FX, 10:30 p.m.**

Ant-Man and The Wasp (2018, Action) Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly **TBS, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



What to watch

FRIDAY

July 11, 2025

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

Tyler Perry's Madea's Destination Wedding

Netflix ■ Original FIlm

Writer/director/producer Tyler Perry also once again stars as tough and street-smart Simmons family matriarch Madea in this 13th film featuring the character. In this comedy, Madea's nephew, Brian (Jermaine Harris), and his ex-wife, Debrah (Taja V. Simpson), are shocked to learn that their daughter, Tiffany (Diamond White), is engaged to a rapper she met on a yacht — and the wedding is in two weeks. Madea and her crew head to the Bahamas for this unexpected knot-tying, with familial tensions and high jinks ensuing.

Dexter: Resurrection

Paramount+ ■ New Series

The newest iteration of the *Dexter* franchise, which picks up not too long after Dexter (Michael C. Hall) was shot by his own son at the end of *Dexter*: New Blood, takes Dexter — who is, somehow, miraculously, once again alive — all the way to New York City and to an entirely new cast of friends and foes (including new costars Uma Thurman, Krysten Ritter and Neil Patrick Harris). Can father and son reconnect — and not kill each other, perhaps?

Katie Taylor vs. Amanda Serrano 3

Netflix, 8 p.m. Live

Ireland's undisputed super lightweight champion Katie Taylor (24-1, 6 KOs) and Brooklyn's unified featherweight world champion Amanda Serrano (47-3-1, 31 KOs) go at it again as the main event of a history-making, first ever all-women's professional boxing card. The fight comes eight months after the pair's second go-round, which Taylor won, making her 2-0 in the rivalry. There will be a co-main event, plus two other bouts as part of the main event.

The Great American Recipe

PBS, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Eight new home cooks from across the U.S. will prepare their most beloved recipes in the fourth season of the upbeat cooking competition, with judges Tiffany Derry, Timothy Hollingsworth and Francis Lam returning along with host Alejandra Ramos. Joining in on the fun in the premiere episode is beloved TV personality Al Roker.



PARI DUKOVIC

Resident Alien

Syfy & USA Network, 10 p.m.

In "Soul Providers," Harry (Alan Tudyk) is brought in front of the Galactic Housing Council to answer for his crimes.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Remembering David Lynch

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Famous, and famously unique, filmmaker David Lynch passed away earlier this year at age 78. Turner Classic Movies remembers the legendary artist tonight with five of the 10 feature films he directed during his career. Up first is what may have been one of Lynch's more unexpected projects for some people, but still garnered a lot of acclaim: the G-rated, relatively straightforward and not-at-all surreal biographical drama **The Straight Story** (1999), which is making its TCM premiere. Pretty mainstream and accessible compared with most of Lynch's other works (it was even released by Walt Disney Pictures), this film is led by Best Actor Oscar nominee Richard Farnsworth, Sissy Spacek and Harry Dean Stanton. Following that, the lineup offers increasingly strange and often nightmarish levels of Lynchian weirdness, with **Blue Velvet** (1986), a neo-noir mystery led by Kyle MacLachlan, Isabella Rossellini, Dennis Hopper and Laura Dern, which earned Lynch the second of his three Best Director nominations; **Wild at Heart (pictured),** a 1990 dark comedy/romantic crime drama/thriller starring Dern, Nicolas Cage and Willem Dafoe; **Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me** (1992), a psychological horror film that served as a prequel to Lynch's surreal 1990-91 TV drama Twin Peaks; and **Eraserhead** (1977), Lynch's first feature and a truly wild and nearly inexplicable foray into surreal body horror that still retains its aura as the epitome of the phrase "cult film." — *Jeff Pfeiffer*



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Cross Country Christmas (2020, Romance) Rachael Leigh Cook, Greyston Holt **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Secrets Beneath the Floorboards (2023, Suspense) Katerina Eichenberger, Colt Prattes **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Jurassic World (2015, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **FX, 6:30 p.m.**

National Champions (2021, Drama) Stephan James, J.K. Simmons **VH1, 7 p.m.**

Nope (2022, Science fiction) Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Signed, Sealed, Delivered (2013, Drama) Eric Mabius, Kristin Booth **Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m.**

The Equalizer 2 (2018, Action) Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal **TBS, 8 p.m.**

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania (2022, Children) Brian Hull, Jim Gaffigan **Freeform, 9 p.m.**

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **FX, 9 p.m.**

A Chef's Deadly Revenge (2024, Suspense) Kathryn Kohut, Tomas Chovanec **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Godzilla (1998, Science fiction) Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno **TNT, 11 p.m.**

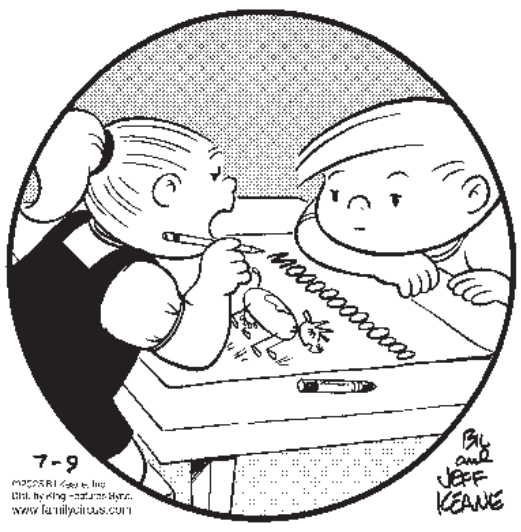
From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



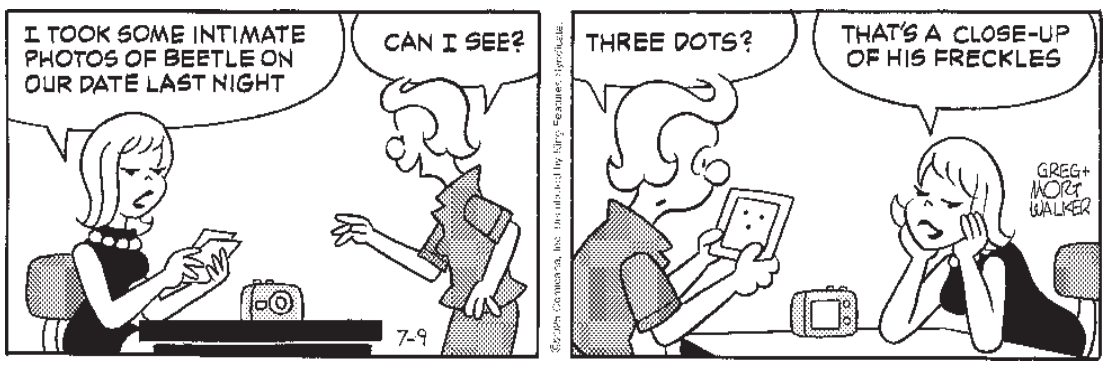
"So you've got laryngitis, big deal!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

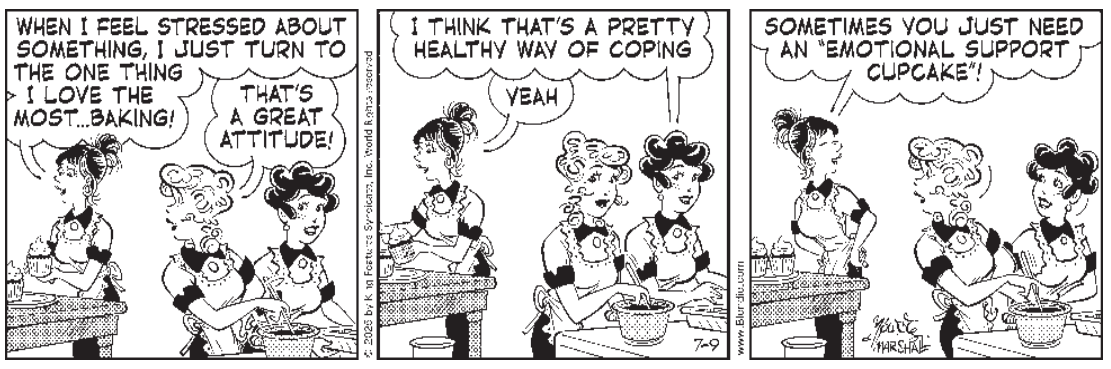


"You can put as many o's on 'moo' as you want to! Mommy said so."

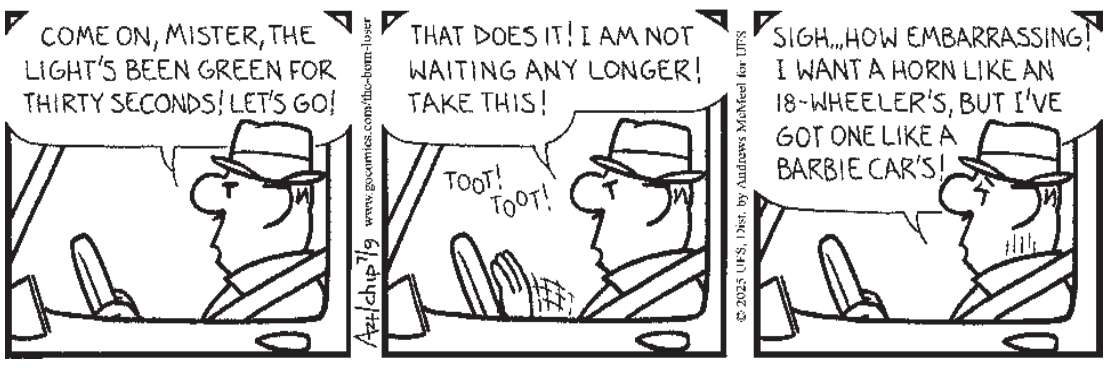
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



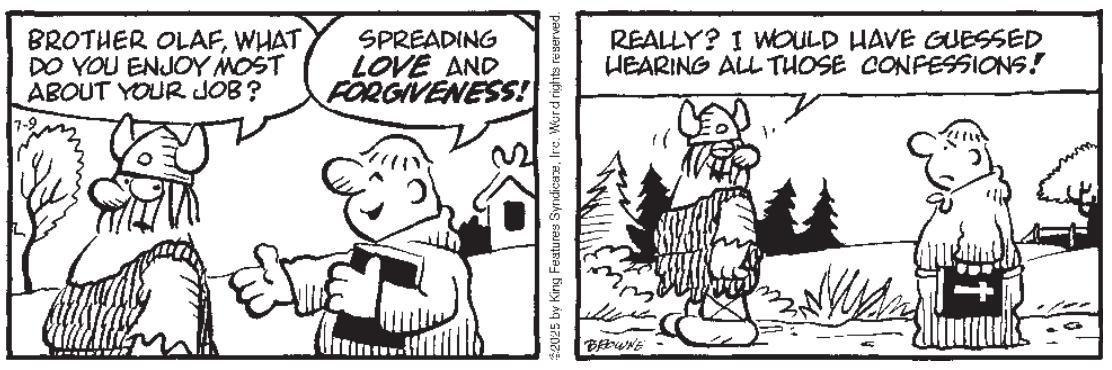
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



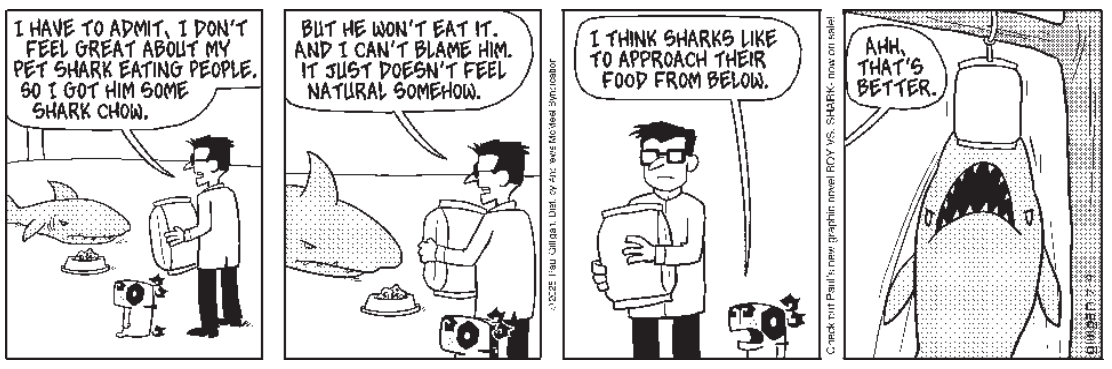
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Clown's prop, maybe
6 Criminally assist
10 Breakfast spot
14 "Golly!"
15 Angelic adornment
16 Prefix meaning "all"
17 Oscars host O'Brien
18 *Bills wide receiver who played in four consecutive Super Bowls
20 Paraguayan pals
22 Airport pickup info
23 Acid initials
24 *Wildlife sanctuary
28 Cry of insight
29 Fit, as matryoshka dolls
30 Volcano near Catania
33 Whiskey flavor
34 Chewy mints
36 *Meh evaluations
41 Only national park in New England
42 One of 14 in a sonnet
43 "u crack me up"
44 Part of a Rorschach test
45 Operatic solo
49 *Like material that slows flames
53 Artist Yoko
55 Boxing family name
56 Shelter with a sloping roof
57 Made twice as great, and what can be found in the answers to the starred clues
61 Urged (on)
62 Cheese with an edible rind
63 Gymnast Korbut
64 Wicked one
65 Convinced
66 Golf club choice
67 Varieties

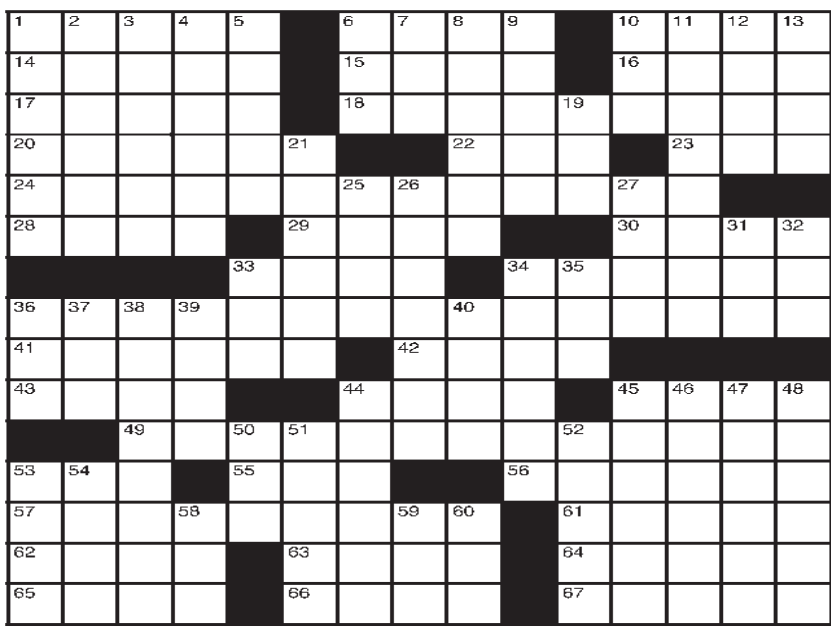
DOWN

1 Confident retort to a boast
2 Inventor Edison
3 Set off, as fireworks
4 Maritime measure
5 Voice above baritone
6 Cry of insight
7 Abolish
8 Like Cain, of Adam's sons
9 Dense cake
10 Neither's partner
11 Brunch option
12 Change for a five
13 "The Secret Life of Bees" novelist Sue Monk __
19 Linguist's asset
21 __ Falls: women's suffrage convention site
25 Tail end
26 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
27 Caesar's "I came"
31 "__ we're talking!"
32 Pack animal
33 Taro-based staple
34 __ block
35 Night for last-minute wrapping
36 Stain or tear
37 Italian scholar Umberto
38 National flower of Wales
39 South Asian rice cake
40 Hilarious comedian
44 S.O.S competitor
45 "Slowly," on sheet music
46 Madison Square Garden hockey player
47 Purpose
48 In conflict
50 Novelist Santha Rama __
51 Jab with one's arm
52 Coral colonies
53 Snow globes, e.g.
54 Wolfe of detective fiction
58 Uni reference
59 Feeling of self-worth
60 June honoree

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

07/09/25



By Gerry Wildenberg
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07/09/25

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

7/9

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WHATZIT?™

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



Whatzit - ©2025 Paul Sellers

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Double heart bypass

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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.**

I CAN NEVER FIND MY ... **Solution: 7 letters**

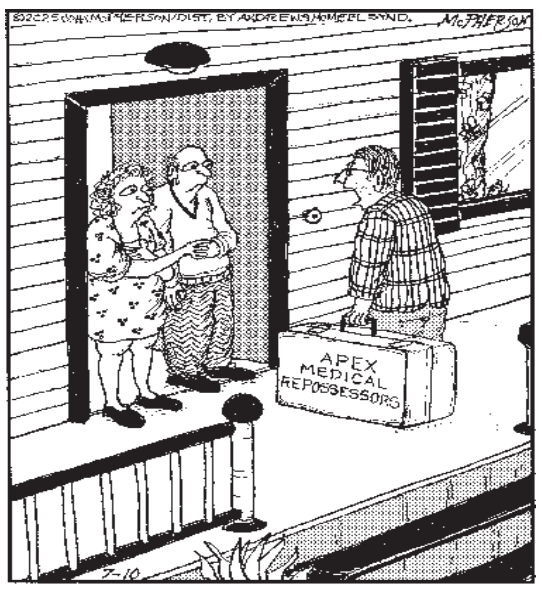
E L T T O B R E T A W G G E T
R E Z I T I N A S K C O S O O
A T N X O B H C N U L N O S O
S A G O G G L E S F E L E N T
E C M S H O E S B C S U F E H
R I I T A P L A I D S I A T P
O F S A T S L L R S N E P T A
T I P M S L L A I D M (K) S I S
A T L P E I C T N O (E) M L M T
L R A S C T I L N (Y) R S L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

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Bills, Calculator, Candy, Certificate, Clutter, Converter, Credit Card, Eraser, Find, Forms, Goggles, Golf Ball, Hats, Helmet, Keys, Lanyard, License, Lip Balm, Lost, Lunch Box, Misplace, Mittens, Money, Notes, Pencil, Pens, Phone, Remote, Sanitizer, Scarf, Shoes, Socks, Stamps, Ticket, Tissues, Tokens, Tools, Toothpaste, Water Bottle

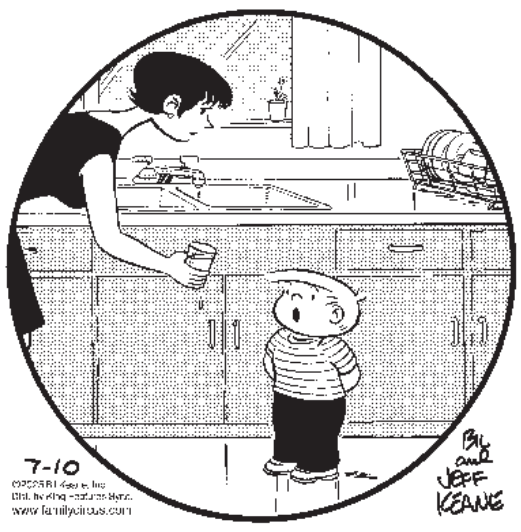
TODAY'S ANSWER: Glasses

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"Unfortunately, Mr. Cazner, you are seven months behind on your pacemaker payments."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"I AM real thirsty, but not for WATER!"

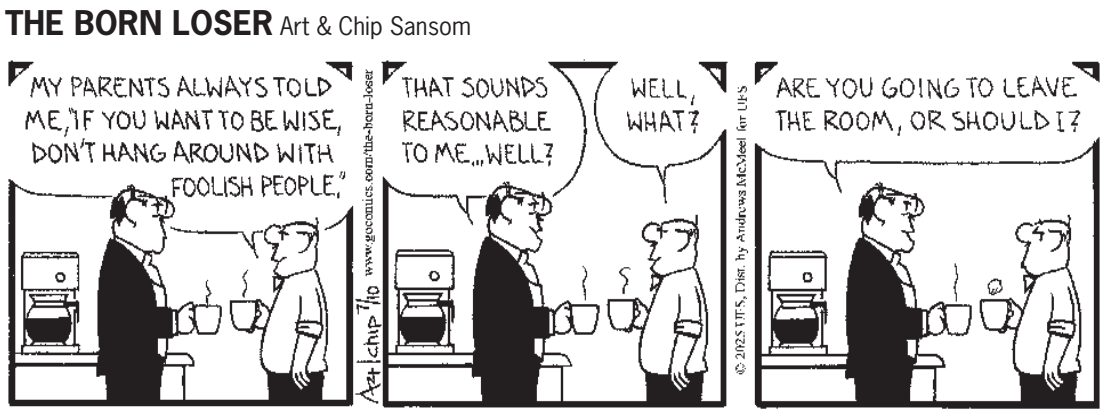
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



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: ★★★☆☆

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

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Tolkien monster
4 Totality
7 Ottoman title
11 Be under the weather
12 Vicinity
13 Chowder ingredient
14 Town in Belgium
15 Go fast
16 Glowing review
17 Ennui
19 "Seven — for Seven Brothers"
21 Grouch
23 Append
24 Blender setting
27 Tombstone inscription
29 Newt
32 Simian
33 Brewing substance
34 Japanese drama
35 Spy org.
36 Work hard
37 Stat. in baseball
38 Print measures
39 Director — Howard
40 Student at Annapolis
42 Dir. letters
44 Campbell's product
46 Lorries
49 Portrait painter
53 Atmosphere
54 Parts of plays
56 "Humbug!"
57 Snide look
58 — of heaven
59 DDE's nickname
60 Whirlpool
61 Many years
62 Scottish river

DOWN

1 Kiln
2 Fully developed
3 Arrayed
4 Nice smell
5 MGM's lion
6 Innocent one
7 Bitter
8 Made cheerful
9 "As luck would — it ..."
10 Iowa city
12 Sky blue
18 Rocks in a glass
20 Engrossed
22 Intelligence
24 Walk back and forth
25 Go — — smoke
26 Made less anxious
28 Badly
30 Links cry
31 "How about —!"
33 Low
36 Journey
40 Malediction
41 Fitting
43 Like a horror movie
45 Of a grain
46 Narrative
47 Regretted
48 Satisfy
50 Abbr. in footnotes
51 Benefit
52 Fare- — -well
55 — -Magnon man

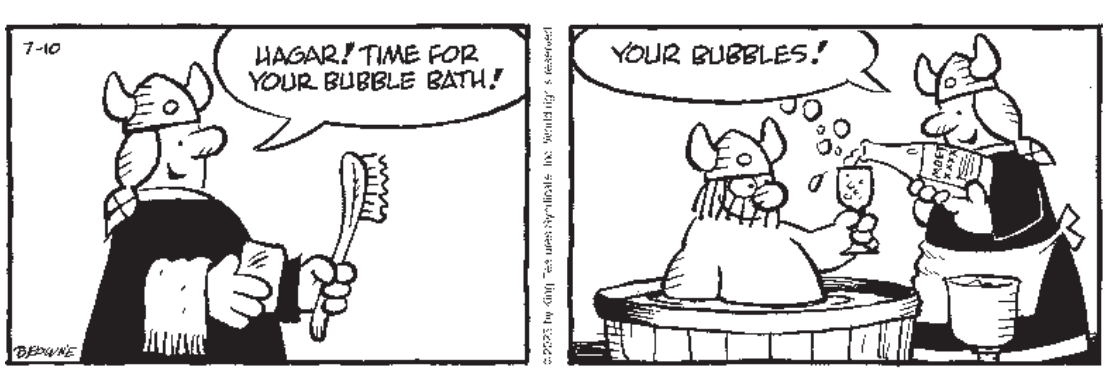
1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			■	12				■	13			
14			■	15				■	16			
17			18			■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26			■	27	28		■	29	30	31
32			■	■	33				■	34		
35			■	36				■	■	37		
38			■	39			■	40	41			
■	■	42	43		■	44	45			■	■	■
46	47				48	■	49			50	51	52
53				■	54	55			■	56		
57					58				■	59		
60				■	61			■	■	62		

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TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

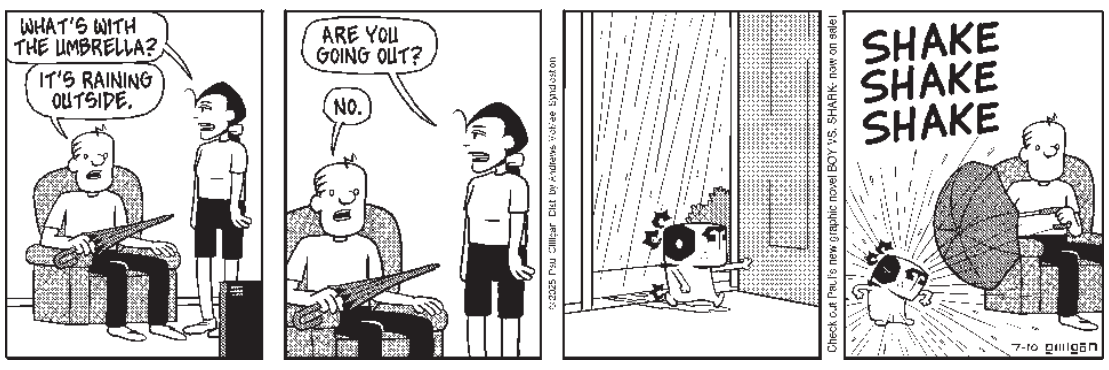
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

IF YOU LIKE PIÑA COLADAS ... Solution: 6 letters

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

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Bartender, Beach, Beverage, Blender, Caribbean, Cheers, Chill, Coconut, Cold, Cottage, Cruise, Crushed Ice, Dance, Fancy, Flavor, Frozen, Hotel, Juice, Lemon, Lime, Make, Maraschino, Mint, Ocean, Party, Pineapple, Pool, Popular, Pour, Puerto Rico, Punch, Recipe, Relax, Served, Shake, Sip, Straw, Sugar, Tangy, Taste, Travel, Tropical, Wedge, White Rum

TODAY'S ANSWER: Creamy

WHATZIT?

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

MIND DRONE MIND

Whatzit ©2025 Paul Soms

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Be in two minds

Albany Museum of Art seeks artist for juried solo exhibit

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Photo Courtesy of the Artist
Multimedia artist Jamele Wright Sr. of Atlanta speaks with Albany Museum of Art Director of African Collections and African Diasporic Art Sidney Pettice at his Artist Talk in May at the AMA. Wright was chosen to exhibit at the AMA in the museum's inaugural juried call for artists.

ALBANY — The Albany Museum of Art is issuing an open call for emerging and mid-career artists to apply for its second juried solo exhibition in the summer of 2026 at the AMA. Applications are open to artists in Georgia and Alabama. The deadline to apply is Jan. 29.

"We were thrilled to receive so many proposals this past year for our inaugural open call for the artist exhibition," AMA Director of Curatorial Affairs Katie Dillard said. "The overwhelming response made the selection process challenging for our committee, but in exactly the way we had hoped. This year, we're continuing our commitment to highlight new voices from the South by expanding our applicant area to include our neighbors in Alabama."

Atlanta-based multidisciplinary artist Jamele Wright Sr. was selected in the AMA's first artist call. Wright's exhibition "Hues of Skin and Earth" opened on May 15 in the McCormack Gallery, where it is on view through Aug. 16.

A blue-ribbon committee will select the artist, who will be notified on or before March 9. The dates for the exhibition in the AMA's McCormack Gallery are May 21-Aug 29, 2026. To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must be an emerging or mid-career artist in Georgia or Alabama who is 18 years old or older. The artist can work in any medium.

Applications must be addressed to the Curatorial Department and submitted by email to entries@albanymuseum.com.

The artist must submit the following materials for the application to be considered:

-- A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé.

-- An artist bio including three institutions where the artist has shown their work for reference.

-- A letter of interest (two to four pages) that includes a description of the artist's practice, a description of the proposed exhibition's subject matter, theme, and focus, and a narrative of a walkthrough explaining how visitors will interact with the space. The letter should be single-spaced using a 12-point standard font such as Arial or Times New Roman.

-- A checklist of artworks to be exhibited. The checklist should be limited to five to nine works. Artworks intended for submission must be able to be exhibited within a 345 square-foot-space, or approximately 65 linear feet.

-- The checklist must include the artwork title, date, medium, and dimensions.

-- Each of the submitted artworks must be available for display at the AMA during the dates of the exhibition.

-- A high-resolution jpeg image for each work proposed to be exhibited. The artist's name and the artwork title must be included in the photo file name.

-- A bibliography is optional. If included, the bibliography must include a list of references the artist draws upon for inspiration or influence.

-- PDF documents are preferred.

-- All file names should include the artist's first and last name.

-- Applications that arrive in the AMA's entries email account after 5 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2026, will not be considered. The AMA is not responsible for internet outages or other delays in the transmission of the email to the museum.

-- To confirm receipt of the application, an artist who does not get an email response to a submission can call (229) 439-8400 and ask to speak with the AMA Curatorial Department. Artists should allow one full business day to receive an email response before calling the AMA.

-- The AMA will not engage in any sales or promotion of sales for any artworks displayed.

Important dates to know regarding this open call for artists:

-- The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Jan 29, 2026.

-- The selected artist will be notified by March 9, 2026.

-- The artworks must be delivered to the Albany Museum of Art, 311 Meadowlark Drive, Albany, Ga., by 4 p.m. on May 11, 2026.

-- The opening day for the exhibition is May 21, 2026.

-- The closing day of the exhibition is Aug. 29, 2026.

-- The artwork must be picked up by Sept. 7, 2026.

The Albany Museum of Art is located at 311 Meadowlark Drive, adjacent to Albany State University's West Campus just off Gillionville Road. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. and is open to the public 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is free.



Special Photo
Members of three of Motown's greatest groups -- The Temptations, Miracles and Contours -- will bring their "A Motown Christmas" tour to Albany in December. Tickets for the show go on sale Friday.

Motown Christmas scheduled at Albany Municipal Auditorium

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – "A Motown Christmas" kicks off the 2025 holiday season with a family-oriented, sing-along holiday spectacular on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Albany Municipal Auditorium.

"A Motown Christmas" features a world-class vocal group assembled from past and present members of three of Motown's most legendary groups: The Temptations, The Miracles and The Contours. "A Motown Christmas" is a powerful show combining Motown's greatest hits with everyone's favorite holiday classics. The show features Motown's trademark dazzling choreography, and unforgettable harmonies performed in that memorable, soulful Motown style.

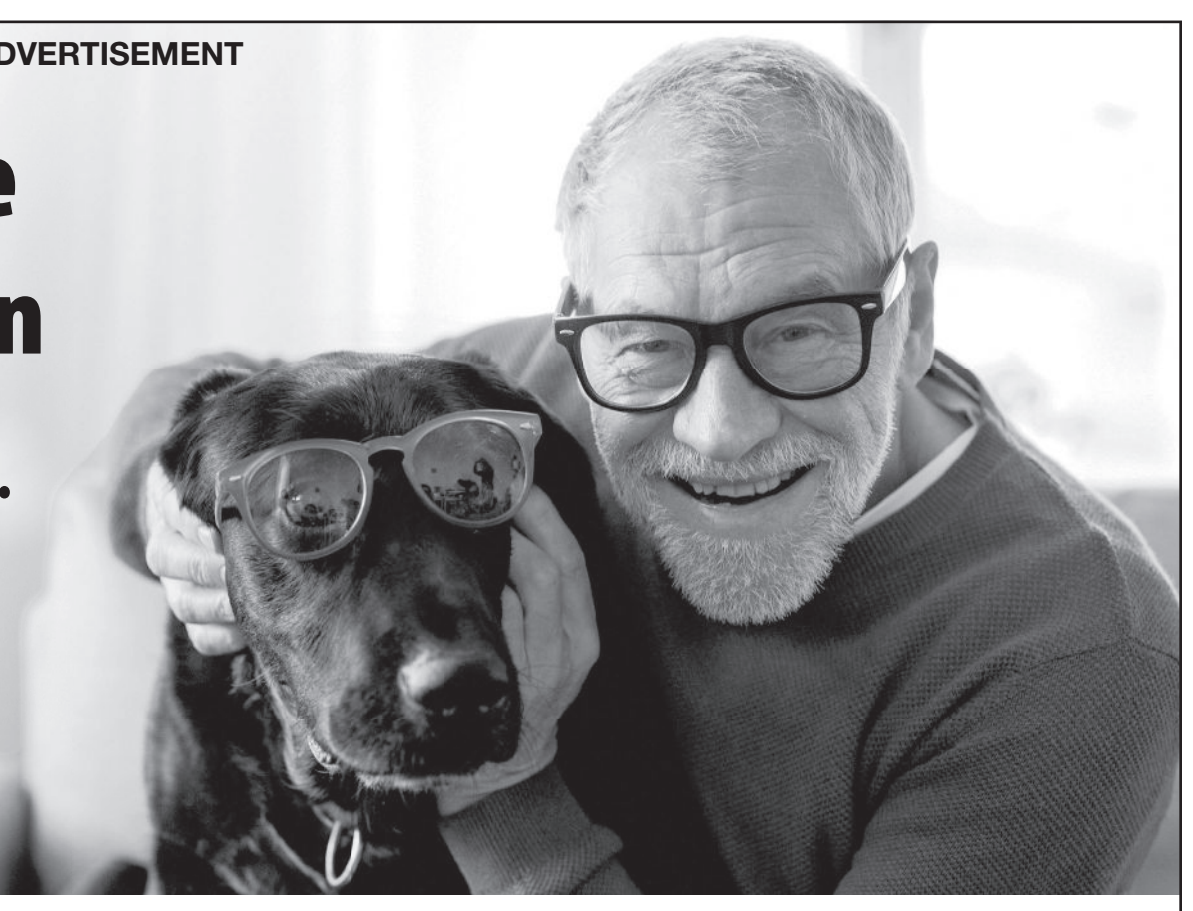
The show's stop in Albany is part of the groups' annual Holiday Tour that includes 25 shows scheduled in 10 states.

Over the course of their career, the Temptations have released four Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 singles and 14 Billboard R&B No. 1 singles. Their material has earned them three Grammy Awards. Like its "sister" female group, the Supremes, the Temptations' singer lineup has changed frequently over the years.

Tickets will be available at Ticketmaster.com or in person at the Georgia's Own Box Office located at the Albany Civic Center on Friday, starting at 10 a.m.. For additional information about the show, visit FlintRiverEntertainmentComplex.com.

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JD Davison, Amarius Mims join 30th year of Albany's 'Battle of the South'



By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY – Boston Celtics guard JD Davison and Cincinnati Bengals offensive tackle Amarius Mims headline the 30th annual "Battle of the South" basketball tournament, set for this weekend at Monroe High School.

"We've got some heavy hitters coming this weekend, and we have 20 teams competing this year," said tournament organizer Fred Pickett. "This is a great family event that's good for the community. It brings people to Albany and shows that we can come together, have fun, and make a positive impact in our city. In 30 years, we've never had a fatality during the weekend."

Davison, who was twice named "Mr. Alabama Basketball" in high school, was the NBA G-League's Most Valuable Player and recently signed a two-year contract with the Celtics. He played one season at the University of Alabama before declaring for the NBA Draft.

Mims, a native of Cochran, Ga., was a first-round NFL Draft pick after starring at the University of Georgia. The 6-foot-8 lineman now plays offensive tackle for the Bengals.

Games begin Saturday at 9 a.m. and continue Sunday at the same time. The championship game is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday. The event is free and open to the public.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

DOMINIQUE BALL TRANSFERS TO LEE COUNTY

Former Westover running back Dominique Ball, shown here in action last season, has transferred to Lee County High School for his senior year. Ball rushed for 1,936 yards and 28 touchdowns on 306 carries in 2024. He and wide receiver Destin Bell, also a Westover transfer, are now officially enrolled and eligible to practice with the Lee County Trojans. Westover Head Coach Corey Joyner declined to comment.



Special Photo: Charles LeClaire-Imagn Images
Xander Schauffele, 31, said that there's something about returning to playing a links-style course this week that puts him in a good head space.

Xander Schauffele ready to 'take hands off wheel' in Scotland

Field Level Media

Xander Schauffele was playing the best golf of his life at this time last year, two months after his major breakthrough at the PGA Championship and one week before capturing The Open Championship.

Back in the United Kingdom for this week's Genesis Scottish Open, the World No. 3 has battled through a rib injury this year and has not finished atop the leaderboard since lifting the Claret Jug at Royal Troon.

Schauffele has not played since tying for 61st at the Travelers Championship three weeks ago. His best finish in 2025 was a T8 at The Masters, and in the other majors, he finished T28 at the PGA Championship and T12 at the U.S. Open.

"I was really beating up on myself for quite some time to try to get myself to play like I did last year and things of that nature, which isn't really how you're supposed to do it," Schauffele told reporters Tuesday at The Renaissance Club in North Berwick, Scotland.

Schauffele won the Scottish Open in 2022 and tied for 15th last year at the 7,237-yard, par-70 course, where the final tune-up for The Open Championship begins Thursday.

Schauffele, 31, said that there's something about returning to playing a links-style course this week that puts him in a good head space.

"There's some version of, I wish I could have come over here and played earlier in the year to be honest, just from a mental standpoint," he said. "Something about playing over here relaxes me a little bit.

"... Something about being here, you start taking your hands off the wheel — and that's how I played my best."

Schauffele touched on a variety of subjects, including this September's Ryder Cup showdown and the possibility of U.S. captain Keegan Bradley playing with the team.

"Clearly he's earning it," Schauffele said. "If you ask him, he's playing the best golf of his career. We just want our best 12 playing. I think that's sort of what it really comes down to. So he is just flying up the qualifying, that standings leaderboard. Would I be surprised if he got into the top six and it wasn't even a conversation anymore? I don't think I'd be very surprised and I don't think he would, either."

Schauffele drew laughter a couple of times during Tuesday's Q&A session, including when he was asked how his life had changed as an Open champion.

"I drank a little bit more than I normally do," he said.

Schauffele also remarked on seeing his photograph as a past champion hanging near the bathrooms.

"It was nice to see my photo out by the toilet. That was heartwarming. Summed up how I feel about what's going on right now," he said. "I actually chuckled when I saw that one."

Lasiah Jackson chooses Stanford

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — The crystal ball was right.

On Monday afternoon, during a ceremony at Lee County High School, cornerback Lasiah Jackson made it official: He's headed west to play college football for Stanford University.

One of the nation's leading recruiting websites, 247Sports.com, had predicted that Jackson would play at Stanford.

Why Stanford? Jackson didn't hesitate.

"I chose Stanford because I was thinking about my 30-year-old self," he said. "If the NFL wants me, they'll find me at Stanford. But I'm focused on life after football. I know I'll be fine on the field wherever I go, but football doesn't last forever. I'm trying to do what's best for my future."

That kind of clarity might surprise some, but not those who know Jackson. At 6-foot-3 and 178 pounds, he's not only one of the top cornerback prospects in the country—he's also the No. 12 overall recruit in Georgia, according to 247Sports. He held more than 30 Division I offers before narrowing his list to Alabama, Florida State, Georgia Tech, and Stanford.

Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio called the decision "neat," which in this context means mature and maybe even a little unexpected.

"It's different," Fabrizio said. "But the academics at Stanford were a big draw for him. And he's lived in California before, when his mother was in the military, so he's comfortable with the move."

Jackson said he plans to study sports medicine or sports management.

"I don't want to get away from sports," he said. "I know there will always be something going on with sports."

If he keeps playing the way he has, there will be.

Jackson is the son of Techelle Matthew and Lawrence Jackson.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Lee County cornerback Lasiah Jackson dons the Stanford cap to signify his choice of college programs during a Monday ceremony at Lee County High School. He is seated next to his mother, Techelle Matthew.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Techelle Matthew, Lasiah's mother, hugs Lasiah Jackson after he announced Monday that he will play college football at Stanford University.

Dirty birds? Kirk Cousins 'misled' by Falcons drafting QB in 2024

Field Level Media

Kirk Cousins believed he had all the facts and with no reason to doubt the Atlanta Falcons' vision with him as the centerpiece of a new offense, he signed a four-year, $180 million contract in March 2024.

Weeks later, Cousins felt entirely different about the situation when the Falcons shocked the NFL — Cousins included — and used the No. 8 overall pick to select Washington quarterback Michael Penix Jr. Most pundits projected Penix would be selected in the late first round or early second with an average of 25th to 35th overall.'

Cousins said on the debut of the latest season of "Quarterback" on Netflix that "it certainly would've affected my decision," knowing the Falcons would be drafting a quarterback that high in 2024. Two picks after the Falcons selected Penix, the Minnesota Vikings used one of their two first-round picks to draft J.J. McCarthy.

Cousins, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, said he felt "a little bit misled" by the Falcons.

"I had no reason to leave Minnesota with how much we loved it there if both teams are going to be drafting a quarterback high," Cousins said on the show. "But I've also learned in 12 years in this league that you're not entitled to anything. It's all about being able to earn your spot and prove yourself."

Cousins said he made the "best decision" he could about his own health last season when, after a 6-3 start, he suffered a shoulder injury and attempted to play through the pain. He admitted on the documentary the move was more about preserving his starting job than self-preservation, fearing he would not reclaim the starting role if he tapped out for a week or two to fully heal.

Instead, his performance suffered, Atlanta's offense lagged and head coach Raheem Morris ultimately put Cousins on the pine in favor of Penix.

"I remember reading Drew Brees' book back in 2010 when he first wrote it, how he made the point that he tried to never let his backup see the field, even if it was somebody who was really no threat. He just felt like you should never do that. Doug Flutie taught him that," Cousins said. "So that was something I was always aware of, that in this league, if you give someone else the chance, if you want to get 'Wally Pipped' and there's Lou Gehrig behind you, that can happen at the time."

Cousins, 36, is now banking $27.5 million this season from Atlanta to be Penix's backup. He said he'll be "an adult" but confessed it's painful to go to work as a reserve.

"I feel sorry for myself and it's hard to do, but that's what you've got to do," he said.



Special Photo: Dale Zanine-Imagn Images

Falcons quarterback Kirk Cousins warms up before a game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. He recently said he felt "a little bit misled" by the team drafting Michael Penix Jr.



Special Photo: Dale Zanine-Imagn Images

Atlanta Dream guard Allisha Gray drives past Golden State Valkyries forward Monique Billings during Monday night's game in College Park. Gray scored a game-high 24 points to lead the Dream to a 90-81 victory.

Allisha Gray continues steady scoring in Dream win over Valkyries

Field Level Media

Allisha Gray scored a game-high 24 points to help the Atlanta Dream post a 90-81 victory over the visiting Golden State Valkyries in College Park, Ga., on Monday.

Naz Hillmon added a season-high 16 points off the bench, while Rhyne Howard notched 15 for the Dream (12-7), who outscored Golden State 26-13 in the final quarter to pull away. Brionna Jones tallied 14 points and eight rebounds, and Brittney Griner had 11 points in the win.

Golden State (9-9) was led by Monique Billings' 19 points, followed by Kayla Thornton's 15 and Tiffany Hayes' 12. Veronica Burton and Kate Martin added 11 points apiece for the Valkyries, who dropped a second straight game to begin their four-game road trip.

After the Valkyries held a two-point edge at halftime, Hayes' layup and triple pushed Golden State's lead to 55-50 at the 5:15 mark, forcing an Atlanta timeout.

The Dream took a 64-63 lead on Hillmon's triple with less than a minute left, before Martin's three and Billings' layup helped the Valkyries enter the final quarter with a four-point edge.

In the fourth, Howard's 3-pointer knotted the score at 75 with 5:46 remaining. Gray's three-point play then gave the Dream a 78-75 edge just over a minute later. Hillmon's 3-pointer extended the run to 12-0 at the 2:22 mark, as Atlanta's lead ballooned to 84-75.

Billings' mid-range jumper with two minutes left snapped a four-plus minute scoring drought for Golden State, cutting the Valkyries' deficit to seven, but Hillmon responded with a 3-pointer to seal the win.

Golden State connected on five of seven 3-point attempts in the first quarter to take a 26-16 lead after 10 minutes of play.

Atlanta cut into its deficit with a 10-4 run to open the second quarter, which was stamped with Jordin Canada's mid-range jumper at the 6:49 mark.

After Stephanie Talbot's basket gave Golden State a 35-30 edge, Atlanta answered with an 8-0 run – including Griner's six points – to take its first lead.

Golden State finished the first half on an 8-0 run to take a 45-43 halftime lead. Billings led the Valkyries with 11 first-half points, while Gray paced the Dream with 16.

Pacers confirm Tyrese Haliburton to miss 2025-26 season

Field Level Media

The Indiana Pacers confirmed what was expected: star point guard Tyrese Haliburton will miss the entire 2025-26 season after undergoing surgery to repair a torn right Achilles tendon.

Pacers president Kevin Pritchard confirmed the update on Monday.

"I have no doubt that he will be back better than ever," Pritchard said on Indiana's WISH-TV. "The surgery went well. It was a little higher, and it gets more blood to that area as he recovers. He will not play next year, though. We would not jeopardize that now. So don't get any hopes up that he will play."

Haliburton was injured in Game 7 of the NBA Finals last month, with the Oklahoma City Thunder winning the game and their first franchise title. Without Haliburton, the Pacers were outscored 56-43 in the second half as Oklahoma City finished off a 103-91 victory.

The two-time All-Star scored nine points with three three-pointers before leaving the floor. He averaged 14.0 points, 5.9 assists, and 4.6 rebounds during the NBA Finals.

Haliburton, 25, averaged 18.6 points, 9.2 assists, 3.5 rebounds, and 1.4 steals in 73 games (all starts) during the regular season and was named to the All-NBA third team. He has career averages of 17.5 points, 8.8 assists, and 3.7 rebounds in 333 games (294 starts) for the Sacramento Kings (2020-22) and Pacers.



Special Photo: Kyle Terada-Imagn Images

Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton reacts in pain after tearing his right Achilles during Game 7 of the NBA Finals. The team confirmed Monday he will miss the entire 2025-26 season following surgery.

Hawks officially bring in Kristaps Porzingis, waive David Roddy

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Hawks officially welcomed Kristaps Porzingis on Monday while waiving forward David Roddy one day after he was acquired in the NBA's first seven-team trade.

Transactions could not be formalized until the start of the new league year on Sunday. The Hawks were part of a three-team trade with the Boston Celtics and Brooklyn Nets that initially was reported on June 24.

Atlanta acquired the 7-foot-2 Porzingis and a 2026 second-round draft pick from the Celtics in exchange for Hawks forward Georges Niang and a 2031 second-round pick (belonging to Cleveland).

The Nets got Hawks guard Terance Mann and draft rights to their 2025 No. 22 pick, Drake Powell. Brooklyn sent cash considerations to Boston.

"Kristaps is a unique and versatile talent with a championship pedigree," Hawks general manager Onsi Saleh said in a statement. "His ability to stretch the floor, protect the rim, and make plays on both ends adds another dimension to our team. We are fortunate to add a player of his caliber to our group."

Saleh also thanked Mann and Niang for their contributions last season, after they were obtained in separate Feb. 6 trades with the Los Angeles Clippers and Cleveland Cavaliers, respectively.

Porzingis, 29, was an All-Star in 2017-18 with the New York Knicks, who drafted him with the No. 4 overall pick in 2015. Derailed by injuries, he missed the entire 2018-19 season with a torn ACL and has played fewer than 60 games in six of his last seven campaigns.

He missed the start of this past season following offseason ankle surgery. The torn medial retinaculum injury, considered "rare," occurred during the NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks, which the Celtics won in five games.

Porzingis averaged 19.5 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 1.5 blocks and 28.8 minutes in only 42 regular-season games (all starts) last season. He also played in 11 playoff games (seven starts) and averaged 7.7 points, 4.6 rebounds and 21.0 minutes.

For his career, Porzingis averages 19.6 points, 7.8 rebounds, 1.8 assists, 1.8 blocks and 30.8 minutes in 501 games (500 starts) for the Knicks (2015-18), Mavericks (2019-22), Washington Wizards (2022-23) and Celtics.

He earned $29.2 million this season and is due to earn $30.7 million in 2025-26.

Mann averaged 9.8 points, 3.1 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 22.7 minutes in 30 games (one start) for Atlanta — all improvements over his earlier averages in 37 games (12 starts) for the Clippers.

For his career, Mann, 28, averages 8.1 points, 3.5 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 22.1 minutes in 412 games (169 starts) for the Clippers and Hawks.

The Indiana Pacers picked Niang in the second round of the 2016 draft. Niang, who turned 32 on June 17, has averaged 7.4 points, 2.5 rebounds and 17.5 minutes in 544 games (32 starts).

Niang has played for the Pacers (2016-17), Utah Jazz (2017-21), Philadelphia 76ers (2021-23), Cleveland Cavaliers (2023-25) and Hawks. He averaged 12.1 points, 3.0 rebounds, 1.6 assists, and 23.0 minutes in 28 games (two starts) for Atlanta.

In a historic NBA trade highlighted by 15-time All-Star forward Kevin Durant leaving the Phoenix Suns for the Houston Rockets, Roddy, 24, was one of the moving pieces. He went from Houston to Atlanta along with cash, while the Hawks swapped second-round picks.

The Philadelphia 76ers selected Roddy with the 23rd overall pick of the 2022 NBA Draft out of Colorado State. He was traded the next day with Danny Green to the Memphis Grizzlies for De'Anthony Melton.

The Hawks obtained Roddy in a July 29, 2024, trade with the Phoenix Suns for E.J. Liddell. Atlanta waived Roddy on Feb. 6 after he averaged 4.5 points, 2.6 rebounds, 1.1 assists and 12.8 minutes in 27 games (three starts). He also spent short stints last season with the 76ers and Houston Rockets.

Roddy has career averages of 6.2 points, 2.9 rebounds, 1.0 assists and 16.9 minutes in 168 games (20 starts) for the Grizzlies, Phoenix Suns, Hawks, 76ers, and Rockets in three seasons.

OBITUARIES

Nellie Rhee Brown Gatlin

Nellie Rhee Brown Gatlin transitioned into eternity on June 12, 2025, in Decatur, Texas.

Born November 1st, 1935, in Randolph, Co. Ga. to the late Albert Sidney Brown and Garner Rebecca Turner Brown, she was the sister of the late Dorothy Grace Brown, Sid-ney Jack Brown, and William Lynwood Brown.

She was married to the late Albert Leo Gatlin for 27 years with both being active in the Ladies of Nasah and The Albany Shrine Club respec-tively.

Employed with the U.S. government from Jan 1955 until her final assignment at Albany's MCLB, she retired in 1990 and moved to Clayton, Ga.

Survivors include her daughter Sandra Gatlin Morris of Chico, Tx., and her son Allen Scott Gatlin (Marcia) of Leesburg, Ga. Grandchildren include Richard Lee Morris, Jr. of Waxahachie, Tx., Amanda Elizabeth Gatlin Kelley (Brian) of Panama City, Fla., Rebecca Brooke Gatlin Wilkes (Simon) of Leesburg Ga., and four great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Kimbrell Stern Funeral Home, 1503 Dawson Rd. Albany, Ga. on Saturday July 12th, 2025. Visitation will take place from 9-11 a.m. with a brief service at 11 a.m. Inter-ment will be a private family service.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that memorials be made to her favorite nonprofit, F.A.I.T.H. (faith-inc.org) 94 N Main St. Clayton, Ga. 30525.



Sarah Johnston

Sarah Johnston, 88, of Albany, formerly of Roswell, passed away Sunday, July 6, 2025.

The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Bryant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Byron Dekle officiating. Interment will follow at Oak City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends immediately following the service. Online visitors may sign the guest register at www.bryantfuneralga.com. Memorial donations may be made to Walk to End Alzheimer's, 1030 Boxwood Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819.

Sarah Johnston was born November 11, 1936, in Bainbridge, GA, the daughter of Wyatt & Marie Ward Johnston. She was a graduate of Bainbridge High School. After high school, Sarah worked as a forecast manager for BellSouth/ AT&T for forty years. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Woodstock.

Busy as a bee, Sarah was always working on something. She volunteered with various community organizations and was active in the Business Women's Club. Her charming personality made it easy to make friends as a sales asso-ciate with Macy's and the local Avon representative. Sarah was active in politics, often sharing her own insight, which led her straight to the White House where she attended the Bush inauguration. Dogs were not just "man's best friend" but also Sarah's. She was particu-larly fond of poodles.

Survivors include her siblings, Joyce J. Sadler, Buddy Johnston, and Delores J. Zeigler; and several nieces & nephews. In addition to her parents, Sarah was preceded in death by her sister, Alice J. Bowles.

Bryant Funeral Home, located at 105 N. Florida Street, is assisting the family with arrangements. (229-246-3321)

John H. Metz

John H. Metz, 59, of Albany, died July 5, 2025 at his home.

The family will receive friends at Kimbrell-Stern on Friday, July 11, 2025 from 6-7:30 PM. His funeral service will be at 11:30 on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at St. Teresa's Catholic Church with burial to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. The Rev. Ray Levreault will officiate.

John was born in Lakewood, OH and has lived in Albany since 1979. He graduated from Westover High School in 1984. He ran track and cross country at Westover, and he was cross country champion of Southwest Georgia his senior year. John enjoyed running 5K and 10K races and he won many awards, trophies, and medals for his efforts. He was employed with Kalman, a contractor for the Marine Corps Logistics Base. John was a longtime member of the Moose Lodge, and he enjoyed golfing and bowling. He was a simple, hard-working person who would offer to help any-one. John especially enjoyed visiting family in Ohio. He was preceded in death by his father Herman Charles Metz, his grandparents, Herman and Lillian Metz and George and Frances Mook.

He is survived by his mother: Bonnie Metz, Leesburg; sister: Barbara Metz Fallin (Otis), Leesburg; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

You may sign the online guestbook at www.kimbrell-stern.com.



Marilyn Pope

Marilyn Moore Pope, 77, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2025, in Albany, Georgia.

Born on April 12, 1948, in Albany to Dewey Eugene Moore and Mary Frances (Reynolds) Moore, Marilyn was a longtime resident of Herod, Georgia. She graduated from Stewart County High School in Lumpkin as part of the Class of 1966 and earned a certificate in Secretarial Sciences from South Georgia Vocational Technical School in Americus in 1968.

Marilyn began her career with the Columbus Police Department as a secretary in the Detective Division. She later served as an administra-tive assistant for the regional high-risk pregnancy program with the Georgia Department of Human Resources. She con-cluded her professional journey with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the fisheries division.

A longtime resident of Herod, Georgia, Marilyn was a devoted member of Herod Baptist Church. Her faith was central to her life and shaped her com-passionate nature. She enjoyed reading, gardening, walking in parks, and browsing thrift stores. Her love for animals was especially evident in her bond with her dog Misty.

Marilyn is lovingly remem-bered by her son Preston Wade Pope (Ashley Hudson); grandsons Dawson and Landon; brother Dewey Moore (Nell); sister Linda Stephens (Mike); brother Dr. David Moore (Diana); and many nieces and nephews who cherished her warmth and kindness.

She was preceded in death by her husband Preston Pope; father Dewey Eugene Moore; and mother Mary Frances (Reynolds) Moore.

A memorial service will be held on July 19, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Herod Baptist Church, 4753 Herod Hwy. Refreshments will follow; guests are welcome to bring a dish but are not required.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give... for God loveth a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:7

Gaylon E. Ramsey

Gaylon E. "Donut" Ramsey, 79, of Lee County, GA, died July 2, 2025 at his residence, surrounded by his family. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 11:00 am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Reverend Kyle Mackey will officiate. Interment will follow in Leesburg, GA.

Gaylon was born in Colum-bus, MS on April 29, 1946 to Franklin and Lois Ramsey. He and his wife, Lucia were both military brats and ended up in Chicopee, MA where they met. They were sweethearts at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and graduated 1964. Gaylon and Lucia were married in 1967 at Warner Robins Air Force base one year before he graduated from Duke Univer-sity. He was employed with Authur Anderson as a Certified Public Accountant for 3 years in Atlanta, GA before they moved to Albany, GA 1978 where Lucia's parents owned the local Krispy Kreme.

Gaylon owned Gaylon Ram-sey CPA's firm. After Lucia's fathers' retirement, Gaylon and Lucia owned and managed Krispy Kreme for many years until his retirement, notice the nickname, "Donut". He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Doublegate Country Club, Kiwanis Club, and Rotary Club. Gaylon loved tennis, golf and spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Lucia Ramsey of Lee County, GA, his children, Lisa (Mike) Seymour of Lee County, GA, Jeff (Kathy) Ramsey, of Dun-woody, GA, two half-brothers, John Logan of Ferney, NV, Robert Logan of Elk Grove, CA, sister-in-law, Deb Whitaker from Lexington, SC, grandchil-dren, Jacob (Rylie) Seymour of Lee County, GA, Emily (Anthony) Felix of Columbus, GA, Whit Ramsey of Athens, GA and Rex Ramsey of Dun-woody, GA.

He will be forever missed by his English Cocker, Bailey.

The family will receive friends Tuesday from 10:00 am until 11:00 am before the service at St. Paul' Episcopal Church.

Those desiring may make memorials in memory of Gaylon "Donut" to PruittHealth Hospice (Cordele), 708 16th Ave, Cordele, Ga. 31015 or to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 212 N. Jefferson St., Albany, GA, 31701.

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.

"YS PSHT CGX XS WDJL FHIDMGXP ETSI ODZWGMN CDKR GMXS CDTCDTGXP CP TLDYGMN DOO XFL MSJLOW PSH KDM." — VTGXLT TGKFDTY FHNFLW

Previous Solution: "When I sing, I feel like when you're first in love ... when you really touch someone for the first time." — Janis Joplin

TODAY'S CLUE: F equals E

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 put a top on (6)	_____
2 gives a little push (6)	_____
3 look deeply into (7)	_____
4 pulp fiction (10)	_____
5 Perry Mason creator Erle (7)	_____
6 1983 Eurythmics album (5)	_____
7 one knowing when to fold 'em (9)	_____

GAM	CAP	NUD	GA	PO
OI	NER	RE	ORI	GES
CH	EXP	RD	PED	RS
LO	IST	LE	TB	TOU

Wednesday's Answers: 1. DIALOGUE 2. PAIR 3. MILDNESS 4. SLEEVES 5. CHARGER 6. ACCENTS 7. SEAMLESS 7/10

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Garage Sale

Huge T-Shirt & Tumbler Sale! 152 Pine Summit Dr., Leesburg. Saturday, July 12th, 8am-1pm & Sunday, July 13th, 8am-1pm. T-shirts and tumblers - only $10. Lots of Georgia Bulldog items and more.

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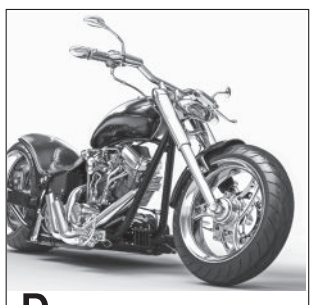
RFQ packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations at dnance@albanyha.com beginning July 1, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by July 31, 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 RFQ will be cause for rejection of submittals. Questions regarding this RFQ should be submitted in writing via email to dnance@albanyha.com or call 229-434-4505.

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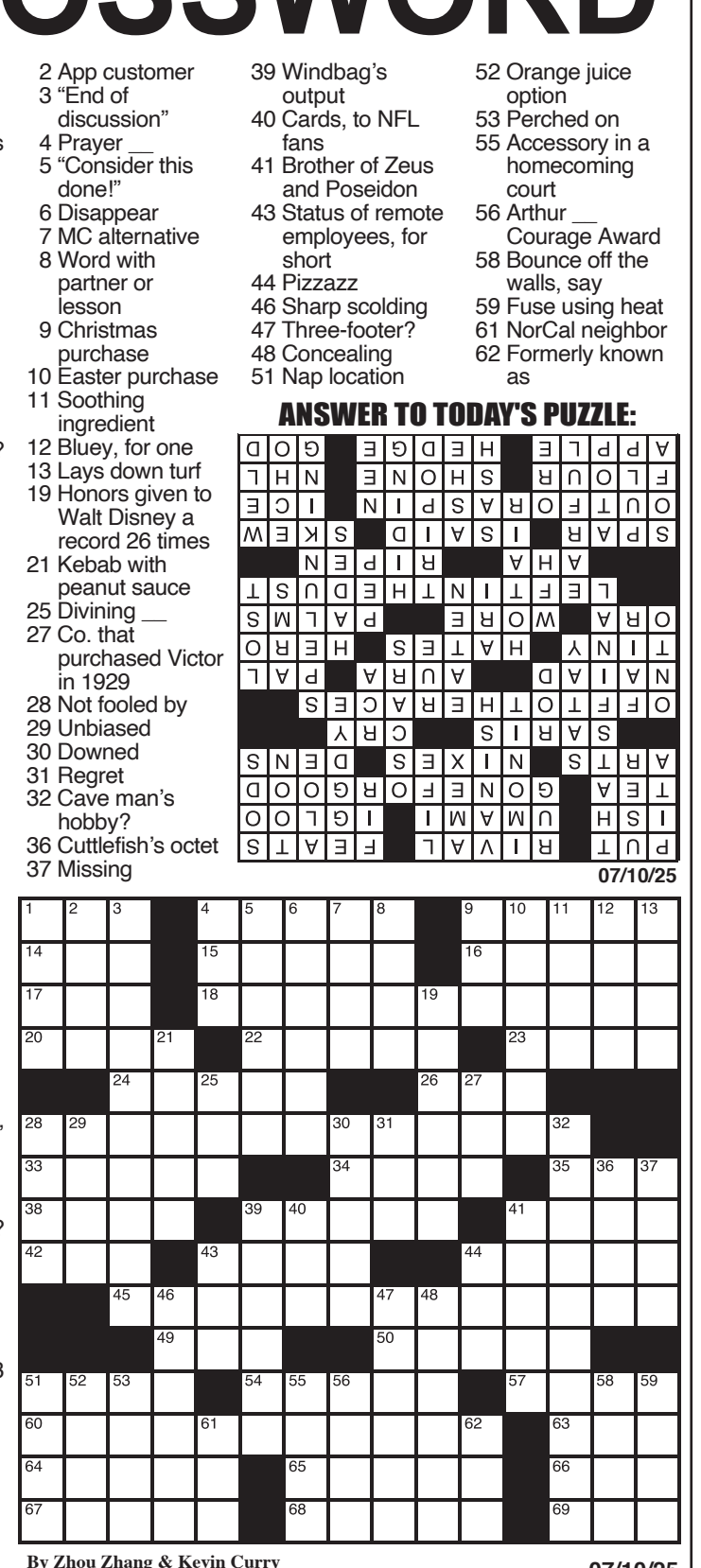
ACROSS
1 Place
4 Nearly match
9 Impressive deeds
14 "Or so"
15 Savory food quality
16 Aptly named cooler brand
17 Leaves in hot water
18 Automatic email reply from Glinda?
20 __ and crafts
22 Rejects
23 Bear necessities?
24 Wraps found in Delhi
26 Weep
28 Automatic email reply from Lightning McQueen?
33 Water nymph of Greek myth
34 Spiritual glow
35 Buddy
38 Itty-bitty
39 Detests
41 Many a Marvel character
42 "Let You Love Me" singer Rita
43 Had on
44 Sources of dates
45 Automatic email reply from Pigpen?
49 Sound of a lightbulb turning on?
50 Become edible
51 Go at it
54 "In case you didn't hear me ... "
57 Slant
60 Automatic email reply from the Tasmanian Devil?
63 Decorate at a bakery
64 Essential at a bakery
65 Dazzled
66 Org. with up to 23 Senators
67 McIntosh or Macintosh
68 __ fund
69 41-Down, e.g.

DOWN
1 Wrap found in a deli
2 App customer
3 "End of discussion"
4 Prayer __
5 "Consider this done!"
6 Disappear
7 MC alternative
8 Word with partner or lesson
9 Christmas purchase
10 Easter purchase
11 Soothing ingredient
12 Bluey, for one
13 Lays down turf
19 Honors given to Walt Disney a record 26 times
21 Kebab with peanut sauce
25 Divining __
27 Co. that purchased Victor in 1929
28 Not fooled by
29 Unbiased
30 Downed
31 Regret
32 Cave man's hobby?
36 Cuttlefish's octet
37 Missing
39 Windbag's output
40 Cards, to NFL fans
41 Brother of Zeus and Poseidon
43 Status of remote employees, for short
44 Pizzazz
46 Sharp scolding
47 Three-footer?
48 Concealing
51 Nap location
52 Orange juice option
53 Perched on
55 Accessory in a homecoming court
56 Arthur __ Courage Award
58 Bounce off the walls, say
59 Fuse using heat
61 NorCal neighbor
62 Formerly known as

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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

07/10/25



By Zhou Zhang & Kevin Curry
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07/10/25

Dougherty County property review teams active in community

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Dougherty County officials are reminding residents that representatives from Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions & Services (GMASS) have resumed field reviews as part of the countywide property revaluation process.

The visits are a routine and necessary step in ensuring fair and accurate property assessments across the county.

GMASS staff conducting reviews will carry proper identification and display visible company-issued badges. These reviews are limited to the exterior of properties and are authorized under the ongoing revaluation effort.

Residents who have concerns about individuals on or near their property are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency to verify credentials or report suspicious activity.

"We appreciate the public's cooperation as GMASS continues this important work," Dougherty County Chief Appraiser Adam Bridges said. "This process helps ensure equitable property values throughout our community."

For more information about the revaluation process, contact the Dougherty County Tax Assessor's Office at (229) 431-2130.



Special Illustration
Dougherty County officials are reminding residents that representatives from Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions & Services have resumed field reviews as part of the countywide property revaluation process.



Dean Burke

Former Georgia Sen. Dean Burke to head state health agency

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – Gov. Brian Kemp has named Dean Burke commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health.

Burke, 67, a former state senator now serving as the state agency's chief medical officer, will take up his new role on Aug. 1.

Before serving in the Georgia Senate for a decade, representing a district in southwest Georgia, Burke worked as chief medical officer at Memorial Hospital and Manor in Bainbridge. He also served as a member of the Hospital Authority of the city of Bainbridge and Decatur County and practiced obstetrics and gynecology for 27 years.

"Given his extensive background in medicine and health care policy, he is uniquely qualified to fill this role at a pivotal time for this important agency," Kemp said. "I'm confident he will demonstrate that same level of commitment as commissioner that he has shown throughout his many years of public service."

Before entering state politics, Burke was a member of the Bainbridge City Council for five years. He was elected to the state Senate in 2012.

Burke will succeed current DCH Commissioner Russel Carlson, who is leaving state government for a position in the private sector.

Impact of data centers in Georgia 'a mixed bag'

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – Whether the quick rise of data centers in Georgia will ultimately prove good or bad for the state's economy is a hotly debated topic this summer.

Georgia boasts the fastest growing data center market in the nation, behind only Virginia -- the world's largest data center market -- in volume. Data centers are creating jobs and boosting local tax bases, particularly in tax-revenue starved rural communities.

"Data's the new oil," Chris Clark, president and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, said.

But critics say data centers are more of a drain on host communities than a benefit, sucking up huge quantities of electricity and water in exchange for an uncertain impact on local tax rolls.

Amy Sharma, the executive director of the nonprofit Science for Georgia, which tracks the use of science in public policy, compares data centers to plagues of locusts.

"They come in and max out, then move on to the next place once they run out power or communities start paying attention, " she said.

Estimates of the number of data centers that have set up shop in Georgia vary. A list compiled by Science for Georgia shows 97 data centers operating in the Peach State, with 27 more in the planning stages.

Dallas-based DatacenterHawk, which conducts research for the industry, reports 72 data centers operating in Georgia with 14 more under construction.

Through 2023, data centers contributed $25.7 billion to the Peach State's Gross Domestic Product and $1.8 billion in state and local tax revenue while supporting 30,070 direct jobs and 176,790 total jobs, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the "Big Four" accounting firms.

Clark said new data centers announced this year alone take up about 30 million square feet of space, representing an investment of $40 billion. By comparison, shopping malls typically occupy 400,000 to 800,000 square feet.

With such a huge footprint, data centers have been getting pushback from state and local elected officials worried about their potential adverse effects.

The General Assembly passed legislation last year calling for a temporary suspension of a state sales tax exemption aimed at attracting data centers. But Gov. Brian Kemp vetoed the bill after the Georgia Chamber and other business groups argued that doing away with the tax incentive would discourage corporate investment.

This year, Georgia House Speaker Jon Burns formed a special committee to develop a plan for coping with the growing demand for energy and water data centers and other "large-load" electric customers put on supplies.

Also this year, state Sen. Chuck Hufstetler introduced legislation to prohibit utilities in Georgia from passing on the costs of providing electricity to data centers to their residential and small business customers. The bill cleared the Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities Committee but failed to reach the Senate floor after lobbyists representing utilities including Georgia Power opposed it.

Hufstetler said he plans to bring the legislation back for consideration when lawmakers convene for the 2026 session in January.

"If we could get these costs off of residential and small business customers, we could lower their rates in Georgia," Hufstetler wrote in an email to Capitol Beat. "I hope we can pass it and codify into law that everyone pays their fair share of the costs."

Some local governments have weighed in by restricting data centers or banning them outright. The Atlanta City Council voted last month to prohibit data centers from setting up in some neighborhoods and require developers to seek a special-use permit for construction.

In May, the Coweta County Commission approved a moratorium on data centers after a developer proposed Project Sail, a massive 13-building data center on more than 800 acres along U.S. 27 near Newnan.

Todd Edwards, director of governmental affairs for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, said the reception counties have given data centers is "a mixed bag." Residents who live near data centers often complain about the noise.

"Counties usually look at the benefits of the [property] taxes," Edwards said. "But neighbors may not be warm and fuzzy about it."

Sharma said data centers don't tend to create enough permanent jobs in their host communities to justify the tax incentives they receive. Those cities and counties don't even get a clear picture of the tax revenue data centers will bring in because developers aren't forthcoming with details on the projects they're planning, she said.

"The tax benefits are hard to pin down because there's not transparency," she said.

Dan Diorio, vice president of state policy for the Virginia-based Data Center Coalition, an industry trade association, said the number of jobs data centers create often are undercounted because they don't include jobs generated by data-dependent companies that locate near data centers.

"Data centers create strong business ecosystems around them," he said.

Diorio said even the construction jobs data centers create – typically considered temporary – can last for years because workers tend to move from one data center to another once a project is completed or from one building within a large data center complex to another.

"We're seeing these construction jobs turn into seven, eight, nine, 10-year jobs," he said.

Clark said data centers also don't impose the high costs of local infrastructure like schools and roads that accompany new manufacturing plants, while the permanent jobs they do create tend to be high-paying.

But Sharma said momentum against data centers is building in Georgia as residents become more aware of their potential negative impacts.

"Now that people are starting to understand what they are, we're getting a lot of people stepping up," she said. "The outcry is going up, not down."

Dr. Kyle Posey to join Southwell Medical Clinic

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON – Southwell Medical Clinic has announced that new family physician Dr. Kyle Posey will be joining the clinic on Aug. 25.

Posey's services will include primary care for adults, seniors, and children over age 12; management of chronic diseases; routine check-ups, and preventive care.

An Irwin County native, Posey earned his medical degree from Mercer University in Macon and completed residency training in family medicine at Atrium Health-Navicent in Macon.

New patients are being accepted. Call (229) 391-4100 to make an appointment. Southwell Medical Clinic, formerly Affinity Clinic, is located in Tifton at 2225 Highway 41 North.



Dr. Kyle Posey

GBI appoints Sara Lue director of Public, Government Affairs

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

DECATUR – The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has announced the appointment of Sara Lue to Director of Public & Governmental Affairs. Lue will serve as a liaison between the agency and the media/public, overseeing the release of information about GBI services. She also will assist in representing the bureau in legislative matters for the agency.

"Sara Lue has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and a deep commitment to the mission of the GBI," GBI Director Chris Hosey said. "Her dedication to public service and strong communication skills make her well-positioned to succeed in this role and continue serving the Bureau with distinction."

Lue was previously assigned as special agent in charge of the GBI Georgia Cyber Crime Center. Before that, she was a special agent and an assistant special agent in charge at the GBI Region 7 Field Office in Thomson. Prior to becoming a Special Agent with the GBI, Lue was employed by the Richmond County Marshals Office in Augusta as a deputy marshal. Lue is a POST-certified instructor and has taught on various topics such as conflict resolution, cybercrime, cyber safety, emotional intelligence and leadership.

Lue attended the East Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Blythe, where she received her Georgia P.O.S.T. certification. She earned a B.A. degree in Sociology from Agnes Scott College in Decatur and an M.B.A. with a concentration in Management from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. Lue is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Session 292, in Quantico, Va. She is a native of Savannah.



Sara Lue



