Perspectives
Dick Yarborough
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# The Albany HERALD

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




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# County Commission hears proposal for new, no-cost EMS services

**By Alan Mauldin**
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**ALBANY** -- Dougherty County's newly appointed Emergency Medical Services director wasted no time in bringing some fresh ideas to the table.

James Gibney, who had held the interim position since the February retirement of former Director Sam Allen, brought three proposals to the Dougherty County Commission on Monday after being named as the permanent head of the department on Friday.

The ideas he brought to the Dougherty County Commission on Monday included a proposal to offer telemedicine assistance to patients who do not require a trip to the hospital.

Bringing Rightsite Health Physicians onboard would reduce the amount of time ambulance crews spend on calls that can be handed off to the company. It also could reduce the cost to residents who use the service instead of making unnecessary trips to the emergency room.

"We know in the past there's been a shortage of paramedics," Gibney said. "We're slowly increasing our numbers. This project is to hit on the demand side."

See **PROPOSAL**, 2A



**Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin**
Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services Director James Gibney, left, speaks with Commissioner Ed Newsome at the conclusion of Monday's Dougherty County Commission meeting.

# Final resting site of Jimmy, Rosalynn Carter now open in Plains



**Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan**
The gravesites of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and first lady Rosalynn Carter are now open to the public at the Carter Gardens in Plains.

**By Lucille Lannigan**
*lucille.lannigan@albanyherald.com*

**PLAINS** – Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and first lady Rosalynn Carter chose their home property in Plains as their final resting site, and now the garden where they're buried is open to the public.

The Jimmy Carter National Historical Park announced the opening of Carter Gardens Monday. The large green space sits next to the Carters' home, which is still closed to the public. The peaceful park features two memorial gardens, designed by Rosalynn Carter; the couple's gravesites; brick pathways; benches, and a large pond.

Park Ranger Jennifer Hopkins said the Carter Gardens were designed to be enjoyed in two different ways.

"On the memorial side, it's contemplative and reflective; and in the recreational area, the Carters wanted visitors to enjoy time with family and friends in the same spaces that they enjoyed time with their loved ones," Hopkins said.

She said the Carters wanted to invite visitors in to experience the simple lifestyle they led in Plains. Hopkins said the Carters' home will be open to the public in the future.

The Carter Gardens is open to visitors free of charge from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., seven days a week. It will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. It's located at 1 Woodland Drive in Plains. Passenger vehicle parking is available along Woodland Drive.

Before the gardens were open to the public, its initial visitors – alongside friends

See **CARTER**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label




**Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan**
The first garden along the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail was planted in 2013.

# Albany Tech expands fleet in Commercial Truck Driving program

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**ALBANY** -- Albany Technical College announced the addition of two automatic transmission trucks to its Commercial Truck Driving training fleet: a 2020 Freightliner Cascadia and a brand-new 2025 Freightliner Cascadia. With this addition, students now have the option to train using either a standard or automatic transmission, giving them more flexibility as they prepare for a career in the high-demand trucking industry.

"This upgrade reflects our obligation to provide students with the tools and technology they will encounter in today's work force," Lisa Harrell, vice president of Academic Affairs at Albany Technical College, said. "Many commercial carriers are transitioning their fleets to automatic transmissions, so this prepares students for what

See **EXPANDS**, 2A

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From 1A

## PROPOSAL

On calls where the EMS's assessment is that a patient does not need to go to the hospital, with the patient's approval Rightsite's physicians could provide care online or by telephone. In cases where an ambulance crew is able to avoid a hospital transport, Gibson estimated that the ambulance crew can save about two hours' time that it would take to drive to the hospital and wait until the hospital assumes care of the patient.

"This proposal aims to get these people the health care they actually need," Gibney said.

Rightsite would assume responsibility for patients it treats, Chip Walls, the company's regional director for EMS partnerships, told commissioners. There would be no cost to the county for the service.

Patients whose insurance covers the cost for the telemedicine services would be billed, if the county approves the proposal, and for those who are uninsured the Rightsite Community Foundation provides assistance for the care received, said Walls, a former paramedic who trained in Dougherty County and previously served as assistant EMS director in Crisp County.

"We work with Medicaid and Medicare," he said. "We have resources to work with (the) uninsured."

The company began operations in Atlanta in 2023 and now has a presence in Florida and Texas as well, he said. In some instances, the company has been able to direct as much as 89% of patients away from expensive emergency room visits.

A second proposal would partner the EMS with Aspire Mental Health and Developmental Disability Services to provide assistance to patients who have a drug overdose.

After several years of spiking overdose numbers, the agency has averaged about 150 over the past two years. In some of those cases, Gibney said, patients refuse transport to the hospital after they have been resuscitated or stabilized at the scene.

The agreement would allow paramedics to refer those patients to Aspire's Community Opioid Response Engagement Team. The program is funded through the state using money from previous court settlements with makers of prescription pain medications and would come with no cost to the county.

The CORE Team volunteers would be dispatched to speak with overdose victims who agree to speak with them. Access to intervention and treatment would be available.

"We can offer these individuals information, but there is no official program," Gibney said. "(Aspire has) a team that's going to make contact with the patient. We will share the information, and they're going to contact them (patient)."

Commissioner Victor Edwards suggested extending the program to include inmates leaving the county's jail who may need assistance and support.

The third proposal would allow the EMS to partner with EMTS PLUS to allow students to gain practical experience by participating in providing patient care. As with the other two proposals, there would be no cost to the county.

"To me, this is a recruiting tool," Gibney said. "If we can get them in here and they have a positive experience."

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGED BEER & WINE LICENSE**

RK Market Albany LLC, trading as RK Market at 1308 Clark Ave. Albany, Georgia 31705, give notice that I have applied for an Alcohol License to be considered for approval.
Albany Herald
Run Dates: July 12, 15, & 17

# ABAC's Martinez Hernandez selected for the national FFA convention

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**TIFTON** — Oscar Martinez Hernandez, a senior majoring in Agricultural Education at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, has been selected to serve at the 2025 National FFA Convention & Expo. The event will be held Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Hernandez is one of 11 college students chosen from around the country to be a Convention Collegiate Assistant in the Career and Leadership Development portion of the event. His duties will include event management and organization as well as assisting with student competitions.

"It's a tremendous honor for me because FFA really changed my life," he said. "I got involved with it in high school, and it put me on a different track. The FFA and the ABAC Upward Bound and CAMP programs taught me about leadership and provided me with the foundation I needed to succeed in college."

Sallie McHugh, a professor in ABAC's School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, presented students with the opportunity to apply for the collegiate assistant position at the convention. McHugh said Hernandez approached the opportunity with the same enthusiasm as he does all his projects.

"I am not sure when Oscar sleeps," McHugh said. "He is a tremendous role model and represents ABAC with gratitude and appreciation. He has taken full advantage of the engaging opportunities and the relevant experiences afforded him. I look forward to his career after graduation. He will pay it forward by making a positive impact on many others."

Hernandez was born in Mexico and moved to south Georgia when he was 6. He grew up in Atkinson County, where he remains active as a volunteer first responder. At ABAC, he has been involved with the Ambassadors, served as an SANR senator in the Student Government Association, spent two years as a Resident Assistant, and interned in the spring with U.S. Rep. Austin Scott in Washington, D.C. He served as the president of the Circle K Club and was the Outreach Officer with MANRS (Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources). He also became a U.S. citizen during his freshman year at ABAC.



Oscar Martinez Hernandez

At the convention, Hernandez will join students representing larger universities such as Kansas State, North Carolina State, Arizona, Auburn, and Louisiana State University.

"Oscar's selection represents the caliber of students that we are proud to educate at ABAC," Andrew Thoron, the SANR dean at ABAC, said. "This national recognition speaks to Oscar's exceptional leadership, service-driven mindset, and relentless pursuit of personal and professional growth. As a first-generation college student, Oscar's story is one of perseverance and purpose, and he continues to represent our school, our values, and the future of agricultural education with distinction."

The convention will feature 475 delegates representing FFA associations from every state. Students will recommend new initiatives, participate in competitive events, attend workshops, and take part in award ceremonies.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me to work closely with FFA leadership teams and gain valuable hands-on experience in a professional setting," Hernandez said. "I'm incredibly grateful for the chance to be involved in something so impactful."

From 1A

## CARTER

and family of the Carters – were six-legged, colorful winged creatures.

Butterflies have been frequent flyers in the gardens since April 2013, when the first Memorial Garden was placed. They flutter and land among milkweed, hydrangeas, black-eyed susans and Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter native azaleas.

Annette Wise, the co-founder and President of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, was bent over, pulling weeds around the second Memorial Garden at the Carter Gardens Tuesday. She wiped sweat from her brow as she perfected the site, butterflies and bees zooming alongside her.

About 12 years prior, she worked alongside Rosalynn Carter to plant the first butterfly garden on the Carters' property.

"(Rosalynn Carter) said, 'I'd like to have a pollinator garden and have the focus on monarch butterflies. Will you help me?'" Wise said.

The two filled the garden with native pollinators that would attract monarchs and other butterflies. They designed the metal logo that sticks in the ground. Wise said the first garden was perfectly situated so that Rosalynn Carter could see it from her office, and guests visiting their home could view it as they drove up the driveway. Jimmy Carter would take walks to the garden, looking for caterpillars and other bug visitors.

"It was real exciting for (the first lady)," Wise said. "Then, she just wanted people to know about it."

A few months later, Wise helped Rosalynn Carter plant Memorial Garden No. 2 right by the roadside with a viewing path so that members of the public could still see the gardens, despite being on private land. The butterfly gardens piqued interest in Plains, and Rosalynn Carter would direct those interested in starting their own to Wise.

"I said to her, 'maybe we need to expand this,'" Wise said.

The two worked with the National Park Service to plant butterfly gardens at various sites throughout historic Plains and the Jimmy Carter National Historic Park.

"I said, 'What if we just have a trail with lots of gardens?' and she said, 'I like the sound of that,'" Wise said. "I went back to her later and said, 'What if we call it the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail?' She smiled and said, "I like that.' So that's how it got its name."

Sixteen gardens have been planted since 2013 along the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. Wise and other volunteers, including local students from the Future Farmers of America, take care of the gardens five days a week. Rosalynn Carter wanted to bring awareness to conserving butterflies, their habitats as well as her love of nature.

The gardens are either in-ground or in container gardens. Each registered garden must include nectar plants and host plants for butterflies common to the local area.

Wise said she thinks the Carters would be excited to have the public in their gardens for the first time. She said the Carters made the decision to be buried in Plains many years ago.

"They could have been buried in a lot of different places, including Atlanta at the Carter Center, which would have been a big draw for them," she said. "But they loved their land. They loved their home, the family roots and everything. It's just really peaceful here. It's very fitting for the Carters – back to nature, back on their land."

Wise said she's honored to assist the National Park Service in maintaining the gardens but also honoring Rosalynn Carter's love for monarchs. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's headstones rest next to each other with the first Memorial Garden as the backdrop behind them. Wise encourages people to learn more about how they can aid with conservation efforts for monarch butterflies.

To learn more and register a garden, visit https://rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org/our-mission/. To find more information about the Carter Gardens, visit https://www.nps.gov/places/carter-gardens.htm.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
OAKS AT OAKLAND PLANTATION




**OAKS AT OAKLAND PLANTATION**

166 Oakland Pkwy,
Leesburg, GA 31763
(229) 232-8520

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Oaks at Oakland Plantation as this week's Star Business of the Week. Oaks at Oakland Plantation provides compassionate and high-quality senior living services designed to enhance the lives of its residents. With a commitment to offering personalized care, they offer independent living, assisted living, and memory care, ensuring each resident's unique needs are met with dignity and respect. The community is built on a foundation of comfort and support, offering beautifully designed living spaces and a full range of amenities. Residents enjoy an array of services, including chef-prepared meals, engaging activities, wellness programs, and transportation services. The Oaks team is dedicated to providing a safe and vibrant environment where residents can thrive. Their strong focus on maintaining a family-like atmosphere makes them a trusted partner for families seeking the best for their loved ones. Oaks at Oakland Plantation's dedication to excellence in senior care is evident in the quality of life they offer to their residents. The Albany Area Chamber celebrates Oaks at Oakland Plantation for their outstanding contributions to the well-being of our community.

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Special Photo: ATC
Albany Technical College announced the addition of two automatic transmission trucks to its Commercial Truck Driving training fleet: a 2020 Freightliner Cascadia and a brand-new 2025 Freightliner Cascadia.

From 1A

## EXPANDS

they'll actually see on the job."

While students who test on an automatic transmission truck will receive a restriction on their CDL that limits them from operating manual-shift vehicles, this does not typically hinder job opportunities. A growing number of companies are exclusively operating automatic fleets.

ATC's Commercial Truck Driving program is a HOPE Career Grant-eligible Technical Certificate of Credit that can be completed in just one term. With new classes beginning every six weeks and both day and evening options available, students can quickly get the training they need to start earning income. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2024 median salary for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers is $57,440 per year or $27.62 per hour.

The nine-credit program provides comprehensive training in commercial vehicle operation and culminates with the Georgia CDL Skills Exam. Admission is open each semester, and students must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid Georgia driver's license, and meet other health and driving history criteria.

To learn more about the Commercial Truck Driving program and how to enroll, visit www.albanytech.edu.

# Horoscopes

Pay it forward by offering hands-on help and contributing your time and effort to organizations and causes that matter to you. Fulfilling your purpose will bring you joy. Changing how you do things will make your life easier. Strive to achieve personal gain, contentment and peace of mind.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself. Offering too much personal information will put you in a vulnerable position. Concentrate on taking care of your responsibilities and your finances.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Participate in groups making a difference. The people you meet and the things you learn will encourage you to become a leader. Work hard and take pride in your accomplishments.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Stop before you do or say something you will regret. Look inward and fine-tune your attitude and goals. You cannot put a price tag on loyal connections fighting for the exact cause or results.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Visual learning will change your perspective on how educational pursuits impact you. A charismatic instructor will hold your attention and encourage you to be more entrepreneurial.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Hands-on learning is the best kind. To gain ground, you must open your mind and be willing to try new things to see if they help or spark ideas that work for you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Speak up and exude charm, and you'll have a positive impact on others. Craft a distinctive style that sets you apart from the competition. Being at the forefront will help you gain notoriety.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Listen and dissect what you hear; it will help dismiss confusion and mistakes. Believe in yourself and your attributes. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's jurisdiction.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Point yourself in a good direction and get going. You can make headway if you maintain focus, drive and insight into your goals. Make an effort to spend some time with a loved one.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Put yourself first. Arrange your schedule to ensure you have time to relax and pamper yourself. Change may be daunting, but settling for less than what you want will lead to regret.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Pay attention, think and decline an offer if you feel uncertain. Keeping a low profile will help you avoid trouble and provide the peace you need to pursue your interests.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- Take pent-up energy and apply it to challenging physical activities. If you take on debt and responsibilities, it will be tough to achieve your objective. Making a change at home can boost your morale.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- Follow your heart, but don't share personal information or feelings with others. Give yourself time to digest and rethink your next move. Choose peace and love over discord.

## DO JUST ONE THING

by Danny Seo

Here's an easy way to reuse plastic Bubble Wrap to help save energy at home: Use it in your freezer. Since Bubble Wrap has pockets of air that help insulate, wrapping items that need to stay frozen helps them stay ice-cold, especially if you open the freezer door regularly. Consider wrapping containers of ice cream and frozen meats in Bubble Wrap and even laying sheets of it on the freezer shelves. Every time you open the freezer door, the Bubble Wrap helps keep the food frozen longer, so your freezer doesn't have to work as hard to keep temperatures low. You can also use it in the refrigerator to line shelves that hold beverages to help them keep their chill.

# Today in History

Today is the 198th day of 2025 and the 28th day of summer.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:**

**In 1918,** abdicated Czar Nicholas II, his family and staff were executed by Bolsheviks at Yekaterinburg, Russia.

**In 1945,** President Harry S. Truman, Soviet Premier Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at the Potsdam Conference in Germany.

**In 1955,** Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California.

**In 1975,** a U.S. Apollo spacecraft docked with a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft, and astronauts from the two countries held the first international meeting in space.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Erle Stanley Gardner (1889-1970), author/lawyer; James Cagney (1899-1986), actor; Art Linkletter (1912-2010), TV personality; Phyllis Diller (1917-2012), comedian/actress; John Cooper (1923-2000), automobile designer; Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976), composer; Diahann Carroll (1935-2019), actress; Donald Sutherland (1935-2024), actor; David Hasselhoff (1952- ), actor; Dawn Upshaw (1960- ), opera singer; Luke Bryan (1976- ), singer-songwriter; Brett Goldstein (1980- ), actor/writer.

**TODAY'S FACT:** Disneyland's opening day, intended as an exclusive event with limited invitations, was a disaster. Counterfeit passes and thousands of uninvited guests led to backed-up traffic, overcrowding, malfunctioning rides and depleted concessions.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 2005, Tiger Woods won the British Open, becoming only the second golfer (after Jack Nicklaus) to win each major championship more than once.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "Maybe it's true that life begins at 50. But everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out." -- Phyllis Diller

**TODAY'S NUMBER: 19** -- U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bombers in service. The first flight of the aircraft was completed at Edwards Air Force Base in California on this day in 1989.

**TODAY'S MOON:** Last quarter moon (July 17).

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."*

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

## CORRECTION

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

## Weather Forecast

| Today | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92° | 93° | 96° | 97° | 96° | 93° | 94° |
| 75° | 75° | 77° | 78° | 77° | 76° | 76° |



**BRIDGE** ■ PHILLIP ALDER

## DO NOT JUMP TO BEGINNINGS

Anna Quindlen, an author and journalist, said, "Life is not so much about beginnings and endings as it is about going on and on and on. It is about muddling through the middle."

Bridge deals, though, are about all of the tricks, the beginning, middle and end. One must be careful about jumping to conclusions at the beginning.

In this deal, how should South play in three no-trump after West leads the spade eight?

When North balances with two clubs, he may bid a couple of points lighter than he would have needed in second position. So when South advances, he should add a couple of points for his actions -- hence two no-trump, not three no-trump. But North, because he has a full-weight overcall, raises.

Declarer starts with seven top tricks: one spade, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs. Obviously, the clubs will provide several extra winners. Also, because the spade queen can be established immediately, it looks natural for declarer to play low from the board at trick one.

However, that could be fatal. East can win with his spade king and shift to diamonds. Then, when he gets in with his club trick, the defenders run the diamonds. (Yes, if South first cashes his major-suit winners, East will have to unblock diamonds, keeping a low card, but West's carding should have made it clear to do that.)

Instead, declarer should take the first trick with dummy's spade ace and play a low club, covering East's card as cheaply as possible to allow for a 4-0 split. Here, he wins with his five and must take at least 10 tricks.

| | North | 07-17-25 |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A 6 5 | |
| | ♥ A Q J | |
| | ♦ 9 | |
| | ♣ K 10 9 7 6 2 | |
| West | | East |
| ♠ 8 3 | | ♠ K J 10 9 2 |
| ♥ 10 8 7 6 5 4 2 | | ♥ -- |
| ♦ J 10 8 7 | | ♦ K Q 5 2 |
| ♣ -- | | ♣ Q J 4 3 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ Q 7 4 | |
| | ♥ K 9 3 | |
| | ♦ A 6 4 3 | |
| | ♣ A 8 5 | |

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 NT | All pass |

Opening lead: ♠ 8



**ADVICE COLUMNIST** ■ ERIC THOMAS

## Nice neighbor's dog barks all day and night

**Dear Eric:** Six months ago, new neighbors moved onto our street. They fenced in the front and side of their corner lot and keep their large dog outside all hours of the day and evening. The dog barks constantly, and all of us adjacent neighbors are extremely annoyed.

No one wants to say anything to them as otherwise they seem like nice people. None of us understands how they can be so clueless, but the barking is becoming intolerable. What might we do?

*– Want My Peaceable Street Back*

**Dear Peaceable:** I know it can seem like bringing up an issue like this with otherwise good neighbors can risk disturbing the peace, but, as you're experiencing, the peace is already disturbed. So now the good neighborly relationship is marked by resentment.

In the interest of resetting the balance, I'd encourage you to talk to the new neighbors, one-on-one. You can be clear about what things are like on your end, and what you need while still being kind.

It's possible that they've grown so accustomed to the sound of the dog barking that they tune it out. By sharing your experience with them, you're giving them a chance to be better neighbors to you and better dog owners to their pet, to boot.

There are plenty of solutions. Maybe the dog needs more stimulation to keep it occupied in the yard; maybe they can arrange for more indoor hours for the dog. If they are, as you say, nice people and have friends in the neighborhood, they'll want to know that something they're doing is creating such a problem.

**Dear Eric:** On a recent crowded cross-country flight with no empty seats, I was between my girlfriend to my right and, at the window, a very large man (300 pounds, I'd guess) whose arms and legs took up at least a quarter of my tight space. He said nothing by way of acknowledging his size or apologizing if he was spreading into my assigned area. I didn't say anything either – and what could I have said?

What's the etiquette here? Should I have asked the flight attendant for help? Requested a partial refund? I truly felt like there are some people who are simply occupying too much space in the world, but of course it's rude to say so. Is this something one just has to tolerate if one expects that sooner or later someone for some reason may find me equally annoying? I was inwardly fuming the whole five-hour trip.

*– Flying and Fuming*

**Dear Flying:** You should have called over the flight attendant and said, "I seem to think I'm the only person in the world. Could you help disabuse me of this notion?" It is perfectly acceptable to ask someone – regardless of their size – to mind the divisions in airline seats, especially if you're in the middle. But when you start policing other people's bodies, which is what's going on in your letter, you make having "the wrong body" a crime. Those quotation marks are locked in place because the definition of "the wrong body" is a slippery slope.

The other passenger didn't owe you an apology for being. If he was spreading into your area, a simple conversation could have diffused your fuming and reaffirmed your shared humanity. You don't exist in a vacuum, even when sealed in a metal tube that's hurtling through the air.

Moreover, no one is "occupying too much space in the world." If you don't want to be bothered by the burden of existing with other humans, next time buy a second seat, or the whole row.

**Dear Eric:** In a recent column you wrote, "Sometimes, when our opinions about people change, any little thing they do can become a point of annoyance." OK, I get it. And yes, it has happened to me. So, how do we deal with that emotional response? Is it maturity? Is it to expand our nature to tolerate?

*– Feeling Guilty*

**Dear Feeling Guilty:** Acceptance – of ourselves and others – is a good first step. Accept that you feel annoyed by a person. You have feelings, and you're allowed to feel them. And accept that they are who they are and they're under no obligation to change to fit your mood. I find that empathy often follows. When we stop seeing other people as obstacles to our own happiness and start to see them as fellow travelers, we open the door to a deeper understanding of why they're acting the way they act or how they see the world, and we can experience empathy instead of annoyance. Does this mean that you're going to like it? No indeedy-do. But this thought process can help put others' behavior in context.

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

## SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

I didn't work all my life to support your family. Take care of your own. Get a job and quit freeloading

The new 7.4% postage rate increase surely must be for a drop box replacement on Meredyth. Oh, it's not? Geez. Mortimer, screwed again. At least we don't have to lick an email and find a parking spot to send it.

Release the Epstein files. Why won't they? Pedophiles protecting pedophiles. You said you had the files and list on your desk. Now you say the files never existed. You were either lying then or you are lying now. More MAGA lies to be exposed.

I wondered why the orange boy brought the full might of the government that he has hijacked down on Harvard University. Turns out they turned his son down for admission. Why am I not surprised?

The 2025 Atlanta Braves are a disgrace. Start clearing house ... keep Sale and Schwellenbach and let the rest go.

Here's an idea, Carlton: A lot of us agree with you about our current president and his administration. And we are angered when his supporters accuse us of being un-American because we disagree with his policies. But if you'd take a softer stance, perhaps not use derogatory terms, some of these folks wouldn't get their dander up and they'd listen to what you have to say without being defensive.

Kaitlin Clark is every reason to watch the WNBA. Angel Reese is every reason not to watch the WNBA.

A Vermont farmer, who doesn't live close to the southern border, said he voted for Trump to "fix the border" but didn't think he'd come for the people who milked his cows. I'd like to ask him, what did you ...? Forget it. Never ask a Trump supporter a logical question. That Man Without a Family

As of 10 July, Trump's tariffs have generated $99.6 billion in taxes this year. That's money small businesses and you have paid to consume everyday products.

The Confederate flag is an international symbol of resistance to tyranny. Selected and flown in 1983 by Poland's Solidarity movement against Russian Communism and flown over the Berlin Wall in 1989 as it was being torn down.

Is Jessie's Indian Kitchen restaurant on Gillionville closed for good?

Come on, Golfcourse Drive folks, you have arrived in a great neighborhood. First it was worn-out car tires, then an old sofa, now two toilets sitting by the road for solid waste to pick up, which they won't. Hey, it was a great place.

Just because you and your family have been completely brainwashed by an uneducated pastor looking to make a buck, that doesn't mean our tax dollars are free to use on scam affordable housing projects.

Got behind the Dougherty coroner and his decorated pickup truck at a red light today, a truck paid for by the working people of Dougherty County with their tax dollars. Everything about that decorated truck screams "I think I am important." A mid-size Ranger without the bells and whistles would have saved the taxpayers $30,000 or more. Why waste that much money for his ego?

READER'S GUIDE

**The Albany Herald**

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# PERSPECTIVES

**The Albany Herald**

**Carlton Fletcher,** Editor

albanyherald.com
Georgia Trust for Local News

**COLUMNIST** ■ DICK YARBROUGH

## Junior E. Lee not bugged by polling firms' snub

I run for re-election every week. Even though editors appreciate the fact that I am a dead ringer for a young Brad Pitt and am occasionally correct on the difference between affect and effect, they want eyeballs right where you happen to be looking at this moment. Otherwise, they might replace me with a series of columns on 50 Ways to Fold a Shirt. Or maybe just leave this space blank and see if you notice. Either way, it would require me to go find a real job. The thought of that gives me the cold sweats.

What the editors are expecting from me weekly is to provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date analysis of world events in a clear and concise format with lots of commas and gerunds and subordinating conjunctions thrown in for good measure.



YARBROUGH

That is where Junior E. Lee, general manager of the Yarbrough Worldwide Media and Pest Control Company, located in Greater Garfield, Georgia, comes in. Junior doesn't know a lot about subordinating conjunctions and the like, but he is highly-respected for his insights on world events as well as being a pest control professional.

The man can talk to you about the impact of devaluing of the Laotian Kip currency (21,600 kip to one U.S. dollar as of this writing) on President Trump's trade policies as well as how to apply carbaryl-based insecticides to eradicate chinch bugs. That is a rare combination.

Therefore, it came as a bit of a shock when I learned that Junior, the creator of the highly-respected Round or Square Polls, whose motto is "You provide the dough and we'll cook the numbers," was not invited to join a new polling consortium called the National Association of Independent Pollsters. Its members include Rasmussen Reports, The Trafalgar Group, Big Data Poll and James Magazine, considered the Bible of Georgia politics or the Trikaya if you are Buddhist.

The announcement of the group's formation states that the association will be adding new members in the future and that membership will be by invitation only. The criterion for membership is "a U.S.-based entity with a cumulative record of published public polling with a high degree of accuracy/low error rate." That is right in Junior E. Lee's wheelhouse.

Greater Garfield is located in eastern Emanuel County, which puts it squarely in Georgia and within these, the United States of America, and that makes the Yarbrough Worldwide Media and Pest Control Co. a U.S.-based entity as surely as Porky is a pig.

As far as a cumulative record of published public polling with a high degree of accuracy/low error rate, Junior checks all the boxes. He was, in fact, the only pollster to survey residents of the Okefenokee regarding their views on the effort to mine their homeland for the minerals necessary to make toothpaste whitener. He correctly predicted that Albert the Alligator would eat everybody at Twin Pines Minerals if they didn't get their keisters out of his swamp and high-tail it back to Alabama on the double And we know how that turned out.

That alone should earn Junior E membership in The National Association of Independent Pollsters. Goodness knows he is about as independent as they come. But knowing him as well as I do, I can tell you he would not accept a membership in the group even if it came with a discount card to Dollar Tree. Pest control professionals are proud people.

Junior looks down on anyone – particularly pollsters – who thinks stylops is some kind of fancy haircut when in fact it is a twisted-wing insect with flagellate antennae covered in specialized chemoreceptors.

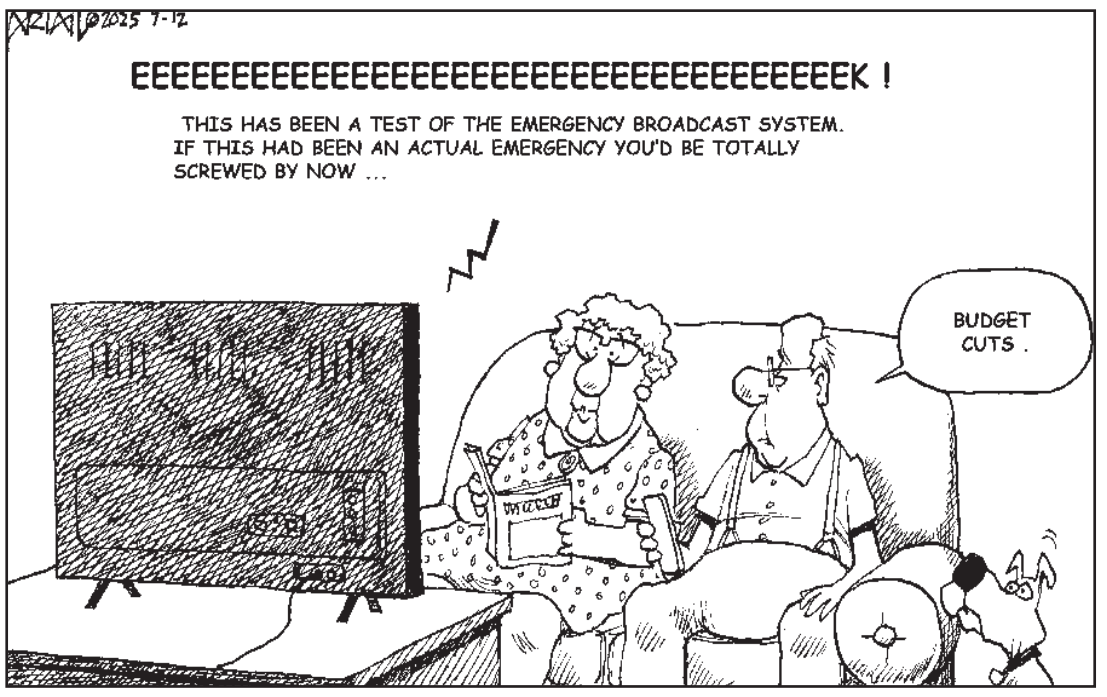
I was dreading the thought of having to tell Junior he hadn't been invited to join the National Association of Independent Pollsters when I got a text saying he would be unavailable for the afternoon. He said he is at Aunt Flossie Felmer's house, poking around in her drawers looking for fire ants. I wonder. Even though Junior isn't a part of the polling in-crowd, he is an indispensable part of my effort to keep you abreast of world events with up-to-date analyses seen nowhere else except on these pages. If I can do that successfully, the editor will no doubt be satisfied and I won't have to go find a real job and you won't have to read about 50 Ways to Fold a Shirt. Thank you, Junior.

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

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

*"Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul."*

**—Psalms 25:1**


EEEE

# What to watch

## THURSDAY

July 17, 2025

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

### The Outcast

**BritBox ■ New Series**

This powerful portrait of small-town hypocrisy and young love is set in 1950s Britain. Lewis Aldridge (Finn Elliot) is only 10 years old when he witnesses the tragic death of his beautiful, doting mother. Left alone with his emotionally distant father, Gilbert (Greg Wise), Lewis is forced to bury his grief. When Gilbert marries Alice (Jessica Brown Findlay), a needy younger woman, Lewis becomes prone to disturbingly self-destructive behavior. Pushed to the fringes of society, Lewis seems to be completely abandoned, except for the one girl whose love might yet save him. Sadie Jones adapted her award-winning novel into this two-part series, all of which debuts today.




FOX

### Untamed

**Netflix ■ New Series**

Eric Bana leads this mystery thriller as Kyle Turner, an Investigative Services Branch agent of the National Park Service, who is on the hunt for a killer in Yosemite National Park — one who knows the area's expansive wilderness as well as he does. However, the dark secrets lurking both in Kyle's and the park's past may be just as dangerous as the murderer. Aiding Turner is Naya Vasquez (Lily Santiago), a rookie park ranger more accustomed to city life than the wilds of Yosemite. Sam Neill and Rosemarie DeWitt costar in the six-episode limited series.

### Bob's Burgers

**FOX, 8 p.m.**

Tina (voice of Dan Mintz) must confront her fear and her past when she advances to the county finals of a national free-throw competition in the new episode "Don't Worry, Be Hoopy."

### Transplant

**NBC, 8 p.m.**

In the new episode "Never Too Late to Start Again," the York Memorial staff reflect on their past and decide on their paths moving forward.

### Grimsburg

**FOX, 8:30 p.m. ■ Season Finale**

An elite squad of Flutes from different dimensions pass through a space-time rift and into Grimsburg in the Season 2 finale "Across the Flutiverse." FOX has ordered a third season.

### Family Guy

**FOX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale**

Brian's (voice of Seth MacFarlane) plan to improve his writing by bringing Mark Twain to the present day backfires in the Season 23 finale "Twain's World." *Family Guy* has been renewed through the 2028-29 TV season.

### Alone

**History, 9 p.m.**

In the new episode "The Tempest," the survivalists finally begin to cash in on food as game proves to be plentiful. This prosperity is short-lived, however, as dark clouds loom in the distance.

### The Great North

**FOX, 9:30 p.m.**

Wolf (voice of Will Forte) jumps into the amateur wrestling ring in the new episode "Heelraiser Adventure."

### The Furry Detectives: Unmasking a Monster

**SundanceTV, 10 p.m.; also streams on AMC+ ■ New Series**

This true-crime docuseries follows the amateur sleuths and dedicated vigilantes who exposed a conspiracy of animal abuse among the furry fandom community during the 2018 "Furry Zoosadist Leaks."

### Revival

**Syfy, 10 p.m.**

In the new episode "Bloodlines," a breakthrough turns deadly when the Cypress family becomes a target.

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE




EVERETT COLLECTION

**Coming to America** (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall **BET, 6 p.m.**

**Secrets Exposed** (2022, Suspense) Carrie Schroeder, Marc Herrmann **LMN, 6 p.m.**

**The Karate Kid** (2010, Family) Jaden Smith, Jackie Chan **VH1, 7 p.m.**

**Transformers: The Last Knight** (2017, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins **FX, 7 p.m.**

**Deep Blue Sea** (1999, Science fiction) Thomas Jane, Saffron Burrows **TNT, 8 p.m.**

**Gran Torino** (2008, Drama) Clint Eastwood, Christopher Carley **AMC, 8 p.m.**

**Grumpy Old Men** (1993, Comedy) Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau **Paramount, 8 p.m.**

**Vanished Out of Sight** (2025, Suspense) Annalise Basso, Steven Ogg **LMN, 8 p.m.**

**Jingle Bell Run** (2024, Comedy) Ashley Williams, Andrew W. Walker **Hallmark, 10 p.m.**

**Angel Has Fallen** (2019, Action) Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman **USA, 10:30 p.m.**

**Days of Thunder** (1990, Action) Tom Cruise, Robert Duvall **AMC, 10:30 p.m.**

**Legion** (2010, Horror) Paul Bettany, Lucas Black **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Lady in the Lake

**MOVIES!, 7:20 a.m.**

Robert Montgomery plays Raymond Chandler's famous private investigator Philip Marlowe (although the character's first name is spelled with two l's here, for some reason) in this 1947 film noir adaptation of Chandler's 1943 novel, *The Lady in the Lake*. Montgomery also directed the film, and he brought an interesting creative touch to it: Marlowe is mostly (aside from a couple of reflections) unseen by the audience; the tale is told via his first-person point of view, with the camera seeing what he does. Coupled with the fact that the film has almost no instrumental soundtrack, this production was especially unique for, and certainly ahead of, its time. The technique is mostly pulled off well, although it does take some getting used to. More confusing is the convoluted mystery plot, but that kind of comes with the territory with Chandler. Costarring with Montgomery are Audrey Totter, Lloyd Nolan and Tom Tully.



UNITED ARCHIVES

*From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com*




# What to watch

## FRIDAY

July 18, 2025

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

### Would I Lie to You?

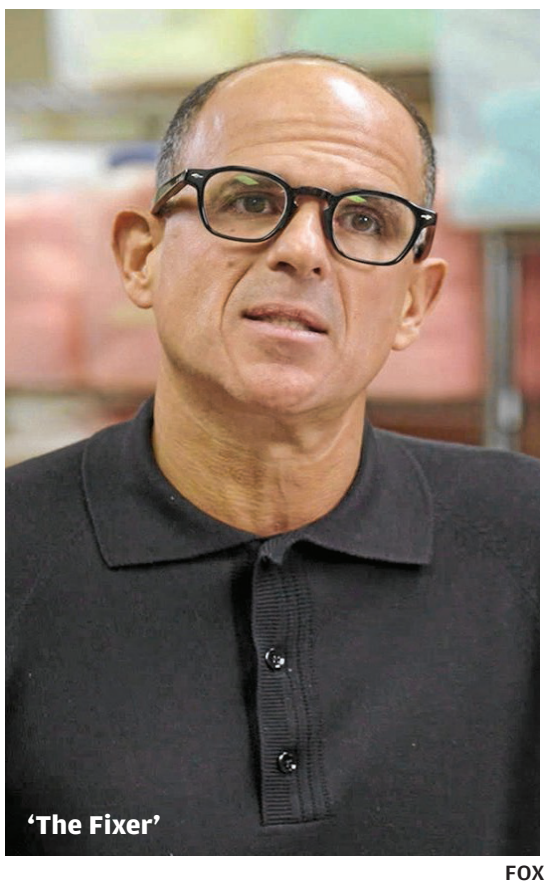
**BritBox ■ Season Premiere**

This comedy panel show returns for Season 18. It features celebrity guests having to bluff about their deepest secrets; all the teams then must do is convince each other into believing that what is fake is true, and what is not.

### The Fixer

**FOX, 8 p.m. ■ New Series**

Successful business investor and entrepreneur Marcus Lemonis puts his money to work and uses his signature 3 P's (People, Process and Product) to empower businesses to thrive. In each episode, Lemonis meets with business owners from across the country whose companies need to make impactful changes. Lemonis assesses their prospects and picks one business to give his candid instruction and business know-how in an effort to seek an investment. *The Fixer* airs with two-hour episodes over four weeks.




FOX

### Planet Weird

**Nat Geo Wild, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale**

The first season of this natural history series concludes with "Gangsters." It shows how, in the wild, having a big attitude is a survival strategy. From the camouflaging coconut octopus to finches with a strange taste for blood and even bats with breath that can erode a cavern wall, these animal "gangsters" are the definition of grit.

### My Lottery Dream Home

**HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere**

In "Lottery Strikes Twice," a Boston native knew she was lucky when she won $1 million, but now she's scored a whopping $25 million on a scratcher. She's ready to buy each of her adult children a dream home, and she's calling on David Bromstad to help find their first family hub in Atlanta.

### Sweet Life: Los Angeles

**OWN, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale**

In "The Group Chat," after a welcome from Issa Rae, the cast sits down with Kamie Crawford to bond and look toward the future. But just when the group seems ready to move on, lingering resentments surface — and someone from their past keeps them on their toes.

### Zillow Gone Wild

**HGTV, 9:30 p.m. ■ Season Premiere**

In "Stay for A-Wild," Jack McBrayer hits the road to find the wildest homes in the country and kicks things off at a home shaped like an actual shoe. Then, he checks out an off-the-grid eco-house and stops by a famous hitmaker's hideaway.

### Resident Alien

**Syfy & USA Network, 10 p.m.**

In the new episode "Daddy Issues," Harry (Alan Tudyk) has to prove himself to someone from his past.

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE




WARNER BROS.

**Little** (2019, Comedy) Regina Hall, Issa Rae **BET, 6 p.m.**

**Love Triangle Nightmare** (2022, Suspense) Glenda Braganza, Jeff Teravainen **LMN, 6 p.m.**

**American Sniper** (2014, War) Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller **AMC, 7 p.m.**

**Little** (2019, Comedy) Regina Hall, Issa Rae **VH1, 7 p.m.**

**Ocean's Eleven** (2001, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Matt Damon **TNT, 7:30 p.m.**

**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom** (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **Freeform, 8 p.m.**

**Meg 2: The Trench** (2023, Science fiction) Jason Statham, Wu Jing **TBS, 8 p.m.**

**Bridesmaids** (2011, Comedy) Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph **VH1, 9:30 p.m.**

**Friday** (1995, Comedy) Chris Tucker, Ice Cube **Bravo, 10 p.m.**

**My Professor's Guide to Murder** (2023, Suspense) Rae DeRosa, Landon Ashworth **LMN, 10 p.m.**

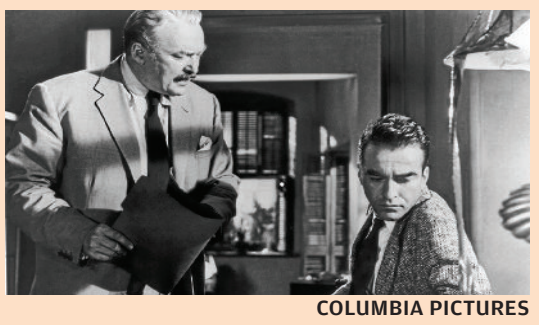
**Star Wars: Return of the Jedi** (1983, Science fiction) Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford **FX, 10 p.m.**

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Suddenly, Last Summer

**TCM, 12:30 a.m. (late night)**

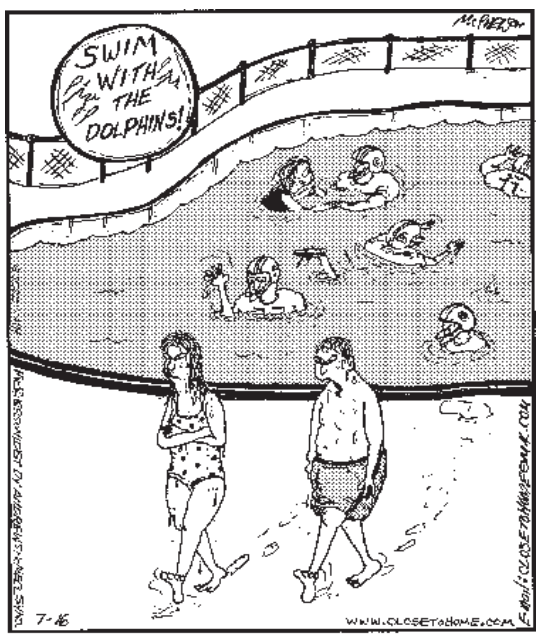
Gore Vidal adapted Tennessee Williams' one-act play of the same name (Williams was also credited on the screenplay but denied having any part in writing it) into this compelling and disturbing 1959 Gothic mystery film starring Katharine Hepburn and Elizabeth Taylor, both of whom received Best Actress Oscar nominations. Hepburn portrays wealthy dowager Violet Venable, who attempts to bribe Dr. John Cukrowicz (Montgomery Clift), a young psycho-surgeon from a New Orleans mental hospital that is desperately in need of funds, into lobotomizing her niece, Catherine Holly (Taylor). Violet wants the operation performed in order to prevent Catherine from defiling the memory of her son, the poet Sebastian (Julián Ugarte). Catherine has been babbling obscenely about Sebastian's mysterious death that she witnessed while on vacation with him in Spain the previous summer. The event has clearly traumatized Catherine emotionally but has not made her as insane as her aunt desperately would like her to be, since Violet herself proves thoroughly unable to process the awful truth of what really happened to Sebastian once Cukrowicz is finally able to get Catherine to fully remember it.



COLUMBIA PICTURES

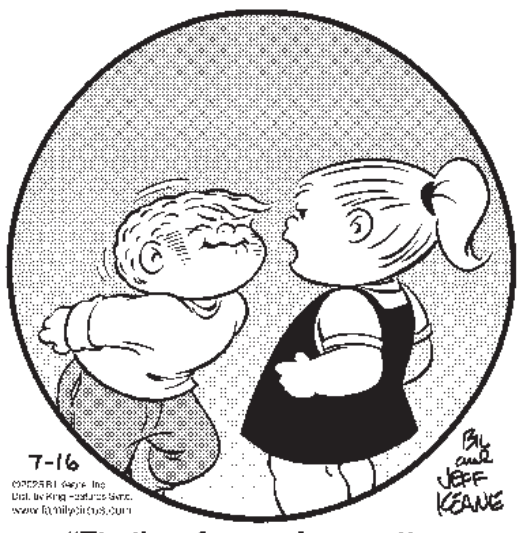
*From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com*

## CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



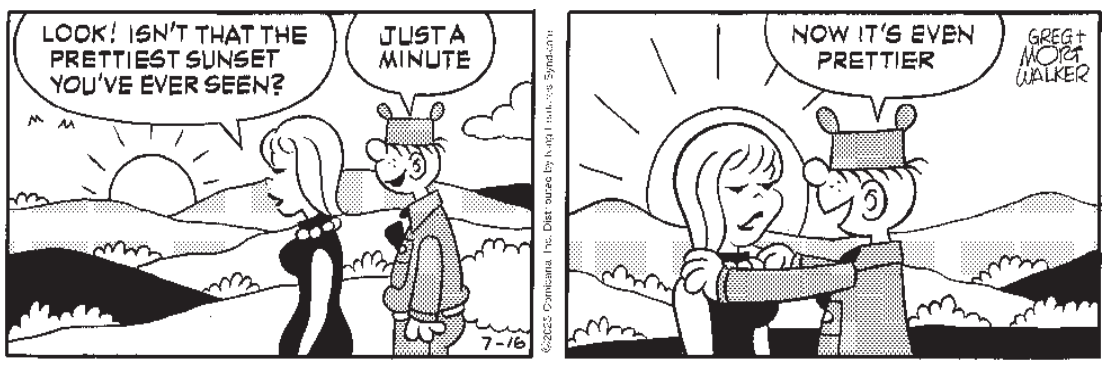

"What a rip-off!"

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane




"That's a face only a mother could love, Jeffy, and I'm NOT your mother."

## BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



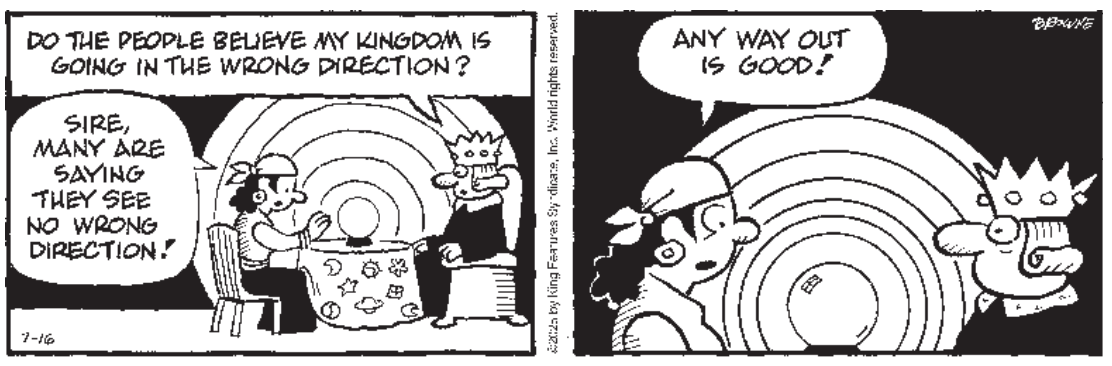

## BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall




## THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



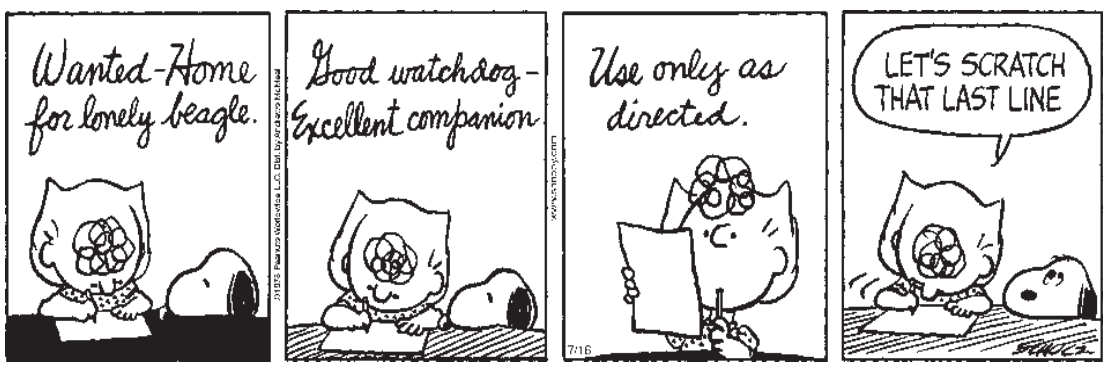

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne




## ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott




## PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



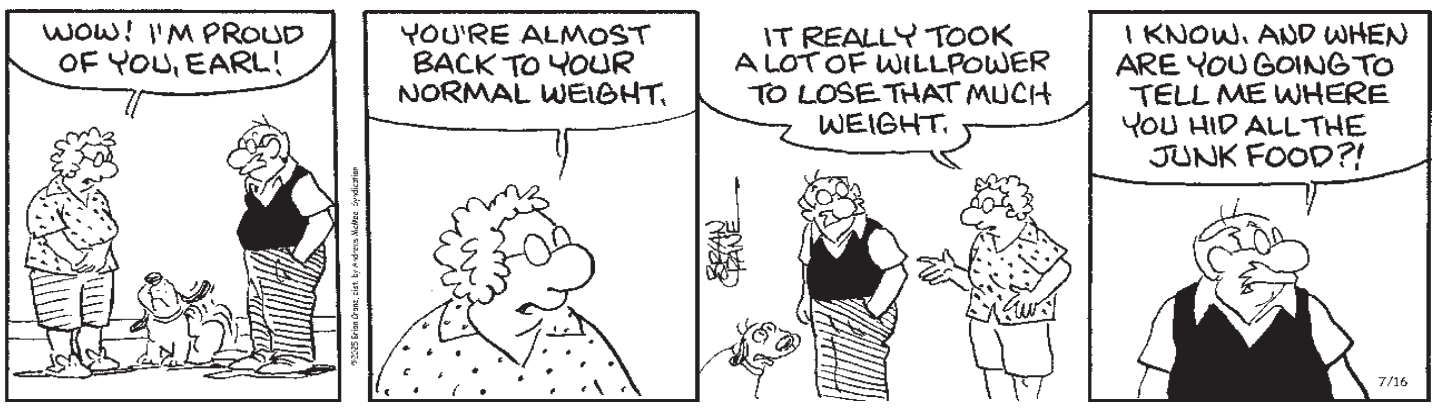

## GARFIELD Jim Davis




## POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan




## PICKLES Brian Crane




# Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

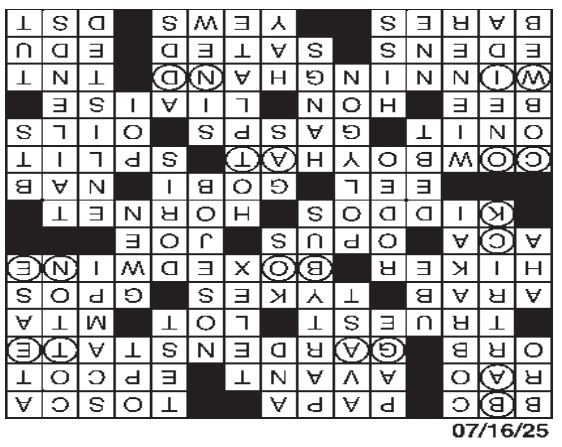
**ACROSS**

1 "The Graham Norton Show" airer
4 Owner of a bed deemed too hard
8 Puccini opera set in Rome
13 "Homemade" pasta sauce maker
14 __-garde
16 Theme park with a geodesic dome
17 Globe
18 New Jersey nickname
20 Most faithful
22 Parking area
23 NYC bus org.
24 Many a Qatari
25 Young'uns
27 Mail ctrs.
28 Trail sighting
30 Vino that doesn't require a corkscrew
32 Health law since 2010, initially
33 Major work
35 Diner pour
36 Young'uns
38 Yellowjacket kin
41 Fish that can shock its prey
42 Desert that's home to the world's rarest bear
43 Grab
45 Headwear at a 29-Down
49 Bounce
51 "I've got this!"
52 Reacts to a tell-all, maybe
54 Some fine art
55 Buzzing insect
56 Dearie
57 Act as an intermediary
59 Full house, at times
62 Explosive stuff
64 Utopias
65 Stuffed to the gills
66 Princeton URL suffix
67 Exposes, as fangs
68 Trees used for longbows
69 Mar.-to-Nov. hrs.

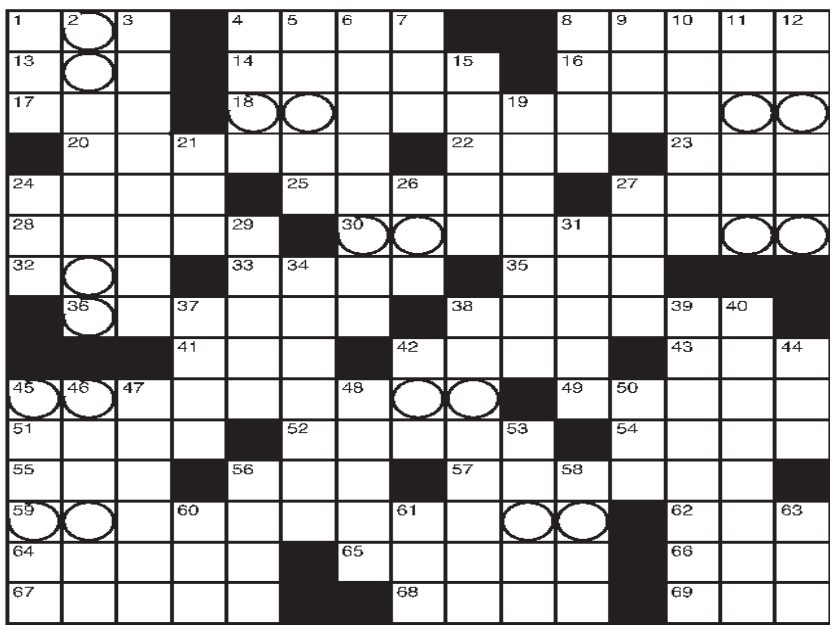
**DOWN**

1 Certain sib
2 Lifting a beer bottle with just a straw, e.g.
3 "Karate Kid" spinoff series
4 Diary sheet
5 Mariner's shout
6 Rental for a night of revelry
7 "Then what happened?"
8 Lab procedure
9 Decline, with "out"
10 Garlicky shrimp dish
11 Tee fabric
12 Not on edge
15 Fax forerunner
19 Rhinoplasty, informally
21 Purple yam
24 "Oh, that's what you mean"
26 Cris Cyborg stat
27 Longtime "Washington Week" journalist Ifill
29 Sport with roping and riding
31 Historian __ Kearns Goodwin
34 Square, e.g.
37 Tech __: coder's concern
38 Camping appliance
39 Joined the military
40 Final parts, and what this puzzle's circled letters create
42 Shell product
44 "Butter" K-pop group
45 Spooky decoration
46 Upstate New York lake
47 __ dog: dachshund
48 Puts up, as a painting
50 Polynesian taro dish
53 Strength
56 Cobra's warning
58 Does sums
60 Coos Bay-to-Portland dir.
61 Stable fare
63 "Tsk!"

**TODAY'S SOLUTION:**



07/16/25



By Sam Cordes
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07/16/25

# SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

7/16

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

**TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:**

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

# WHATZIT?™

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

**NEXT 20**

WhatzIt ©2025 Paul Sellers

**TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:**

Next to nothing

# WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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.**

**DO YOU LIKE SNAKES?** **Solution: 6 letters**

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

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Bite, Boa Constrictor, Carnivore, Coil, Copperhead, Coral, Corn, Desert, Eggs, Fangs, Farm, Fields, Forest, Garden, Heat, Hills, Lizards, Mice, Nest, Night, Parks, Predator, Python, Rats, Rattlesnake, Reptile, Rocks, Rodents, Serpent, Shedding, Slither, Smooth, Species, Swamp, Tiger, Titanoboa, Vertebrate, Vibrant, Viper, Water, Wild

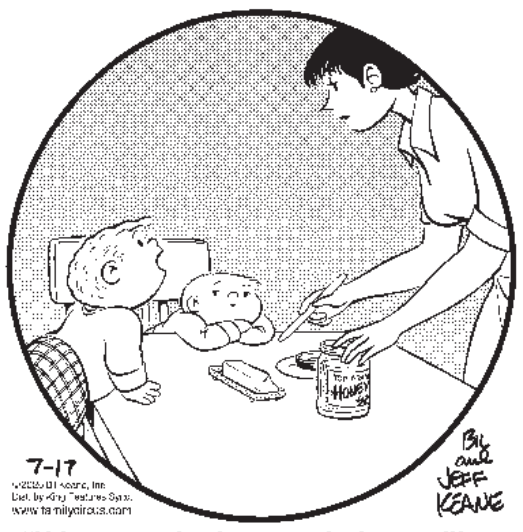
**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Scales

## CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



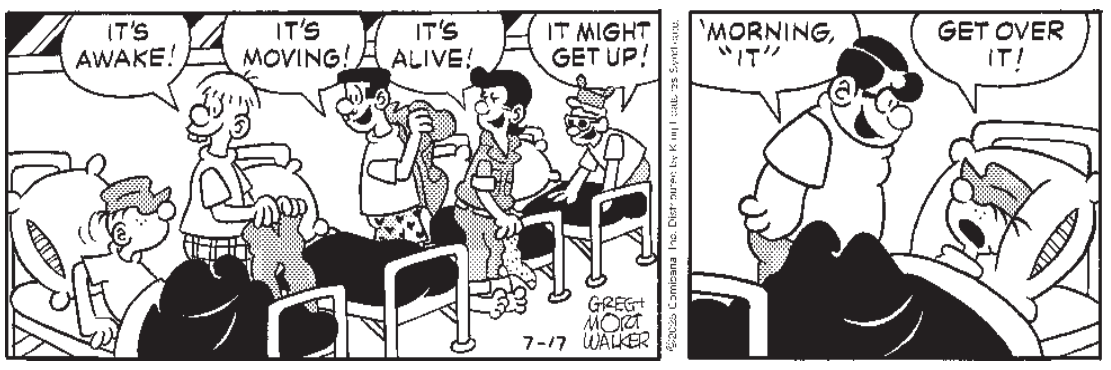

"I'm betting that gas prices are really going to soar this summer."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane




"If bees make honey, do butterflies make butter?"

## BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



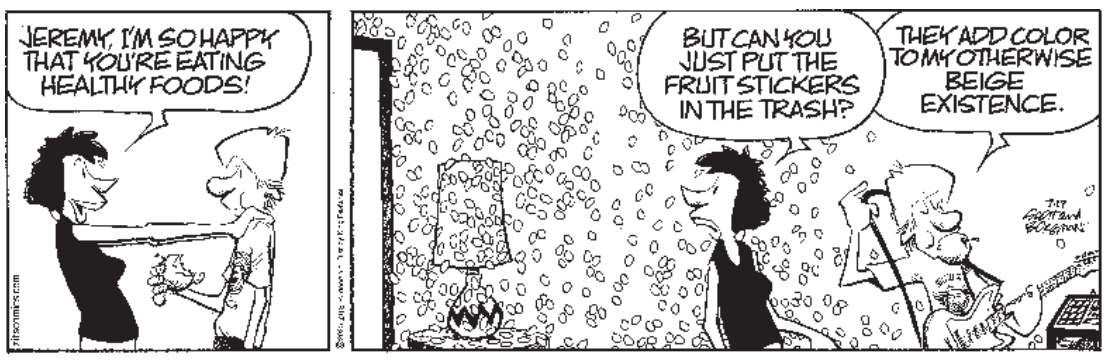

## BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall




## THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



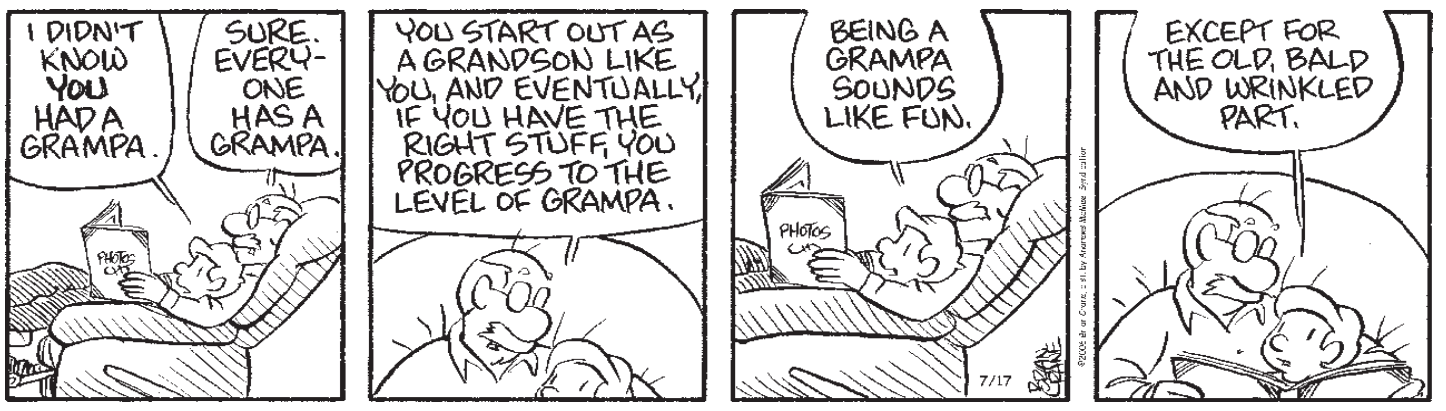

## ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott




## GARFIELD Jim Davis




## PICKLES Brian Crane




## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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

7/17

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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:**

Put you on a pedestal

**TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:**

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

## CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Corn on the —
4 Super big
8 Actors Neill and Elliott
12 State bordering Fla.
13 Golf club
14 Release
15 Crimson
16 Clan
17 Skater — Lipinski
18 Like the Capitol
20 Old anesthetic
21 Wrath
22 Storm
24 Spree
26 Naive young woman
30 Behave
31 Obligation
33 Curved letter
34 Derisive shout from an audience
35 Sense
37 Venomous reptile
38 Retiree's income
41 Way in
43 Model's stance
44 Big clumsy fellow
45 Luster
48 Where Innsbruck is
51 Sea bird
52 Wine region in California
55 Actor — Wallach
56 Dry
57 Cake decorator
58 Period
59 Moves
60 Look after
61 Dorothy's state (Abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 Hallmark offering
2 Margarine
3 Racket sport
4 Wrongful act
5 "Able was I — I saw Elba"
6 Political abbr.
7 Emmet
8 Sofa
9 Eastern nurse
10 Mud
11 "When you wish upon a — ..."
19 Work unit
20 Fellow
22 Steak variety
23 Poker stake
24 Ali —
25 Desktop picture
27 Stickler for good order (2 wds.)
28 Defunct acronym
29 See
32 Newts
36 Dance garment
39 Overturns
40 Free electron
42 Certain vote
45 Deer
46 Big sandwich
47 A Great Lake
49 Gymnast — Korbut
50 Claim on property
52 Insect egg
53 Expert
54 Ballpoint

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 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 |
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| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | ■ | 60 | | | | ■ | 61 | | |

7-17

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**TODAY'S SOLUTION:**

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| L | O | R | Y | T | ■ | ■ | ■ | N | E | E | H | S |
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| Y | R | T | N | E | ■ | Y | T | I | U | N | N | A |
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| E | U | N | E | G | N | I | ■ | E | G | N | I | B |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | G | A | R | ■ | E | R | I | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | H | T | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | E | M | O | D |
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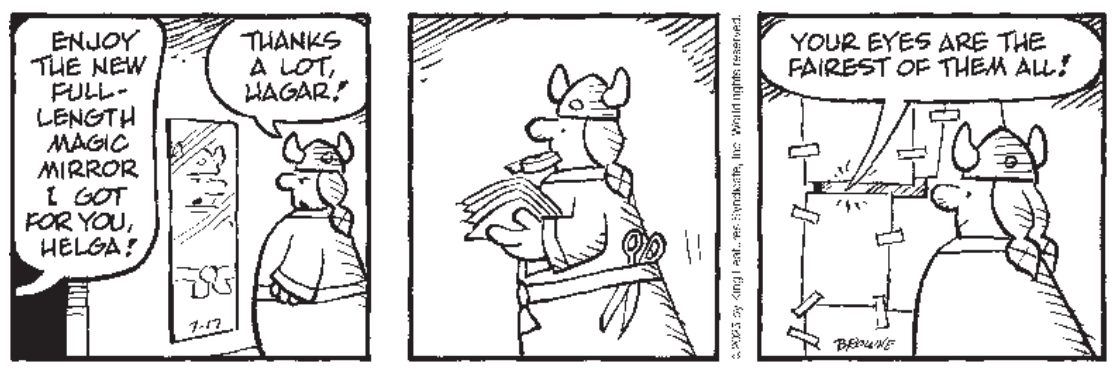
| S | M | A | S | ■ | A | G | E | M | ■ | B | O | C |

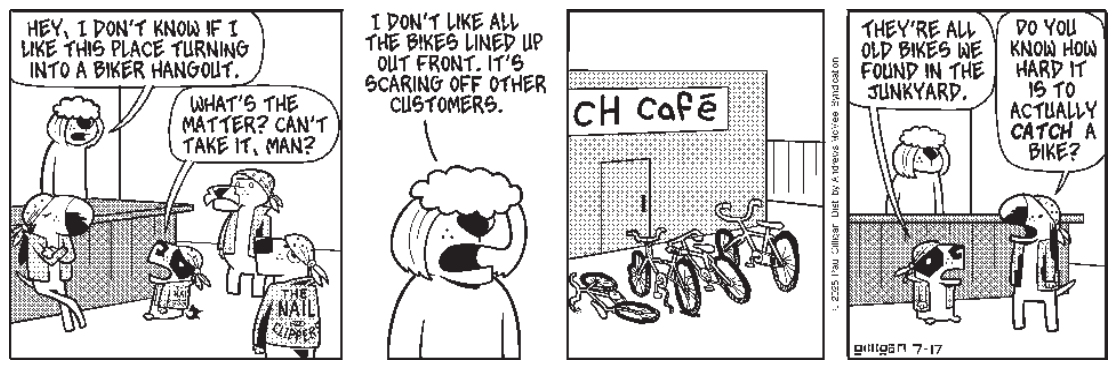
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne




## 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.**

**AL ROKER** — **Solution: 10 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | B | E | R | T | S | I | L | A | N | R | U | O | J |
| H | U | P | T | O | W | N | I | C | H | O | L | A | S | A |
| J | A | T | N | E | D | I | S | E | R | P | Z | R | T | N |
| A | U | R | H | M | N | O | B | B | I | R | E | T | O | C |
| I | Q | N | O | O | O | G | N | A | M | T | A | C | N | H |
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| T | A | C | A | H | O | O | D | A | N | S | D | A | R | E |
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| W | H | E | E | L | O | F | F | O | R | T | U | N | E | P |

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Actor, Albert, Alice, Anchor, Author, Chef Shock, Conga, Deborah, Freedom, Host, Hurricane, Journalist, Junior, Kenyatta, Leila, Lincoln, Mango, NBC, News Radio, Nicholas, Oswego, Parade, Phrases, Presenter, President, Queens, Ribbon, Take, Today, Treme, Uptown, Weathercaster, Wheel of Fortune, Wilma, WrestleMania

**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Zombieland

# ABAC launches new Psychology track for Rural Community Development major

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**TIFTON –** Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has announced the launch of a new Psychology track within its Rural Community Development bachelor's degree, beginning this fall.

Aligned with ABAC's mission to serve rural Georgia, the new track offers students a strong foundation in psychology, research methods and behavioral science. It also will prepare graduates for impactful careers in mental health and human services or for advanced study in psychology, counseling and related fields.

"Given the mental health needs of our rural communities, ABAC is very excited to be launching this new Psychology track within our Rural Community Development degree," Matthew Anderson, dean of ABAC's School of Social Sciences, Education and Arts, said. "This track will prepare students to enter the work force in a variety of mental health and community service roles, while also positioning them for further success in related graduate and professional programs."

ABAC President Tracy Brundage said the new track will equip students with the knowledge and tools to understand behavioral health challenges while also preparing them to lead and serve in the broader context of rural development.

"The new Psychology track within ABAC's Rural Community Development major is a strategic and timely addition that addresses one of the most pressing needs in rural communities: access to strategies and resources that support mental health issues," ABAC President Tracy Brundage said. "By combining the foundations of community development with psychological insight, our graduates will be uniquely positioned to foster healthier, more resilient communities.

"This aligns directly with ABAC's mission to produce graduates who are not only work force-ready but also deeply connected to their home communities."

Student interest has been a key driver in the development of the new track, according to Anderson. Surveys have shown consistent demand for bachelor's-level Psychology coursework, with many ABAC students previously transferring to other institutions to pursue this pathway.

"Our students want to make a difference, and they understand that mental health is at the heart of community well-being," Adrian Israel Martinez-Franco, head of ABAC's Department of Community and Behavioral Sciences, said. "This new track responds directly to their desire to help address rising challenges — like suicide rates and access to care — in rural counties. It's an important and timely expansion of our academic offerings."

The Rural Community Development bachelor's degree takes an interdisciplinary approach to solving the challenges rural communities face, emphasizing cultural awareness and social responsibility. In addition to the Psychology track, students can choose from a Community Health track or a Social and Community Development track. All three pathways include opportunities for hands-on internships with local health and development organizations, giving students valuable real-world experience, professional connections, and a strong support network after graduation.



Special Photo: ABAC

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has announced the launch of a new Psychology track within its Rural Community Development bachelor's degree, beginning this fall.

For more information about the Rural Community Development degree and the new Psychology track, visit www.abac.edu.




Special Photo: AMA

The eighth annual Heart of Albany Festival will bring art demonstrations, a student art exhibition, entertainment, food trucks, children's activities, and its Vendor Village to the Albany Museum of Art grounds at 311 Meadowlark Drive on Nov. 15.

# Heart of Albany fest returns to Albany Museum of Art Nov. 15

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**ALBANY —** The eighth annual Heart of Albany Festival will bring art demonstrations, a student art exhibition, entertainment, food trucks, children's activities, and its Vendor Village to the Albany Museum of Art grounds at 311 Meadowlark Drive on Nov. 15.

"We're looking forward to another terrific celebration of the arts and our community," Albany Museum of Art Development Coordinator Mackenzie Strom said. "We're in the planning stages right now, and I'm thrilled about how it's developing. We have exciting news and updates that we will share in the coming weeks."

Professional chalk artists will compete for Best of Show as they create artworks measuring 49 square feet or larger on pavement during the festival. School groups, organizations, and individuals also can compete in the amateur artist category.

Pro chalk artists can find information about this year's event and the online application form at www.albanymuseum.com/events/heartfest/participate/. Information will be posted soon for teams and individuals for the amateur division.

"We'll have another special 3D chalk art piece where families and groups of friends can take their photos," Strom said. "And we will have demonstrations by artists in other disciplines throughout the day."

The fall exhibitions will be open. A special exhibition will be featured in the West Gallery — the second annual Juried Southwest Georgia Student Art Exhibition. Students will compete in several categories, and one piece will be selected as the Best in Show. Top winners will receive cash awards.

"We had a tremendous turnout in the inaugural show last year, and visitors were amazed by the talent we have in our local and area schools," AMA Director of Education and Public Programming Annie Vanoteghem said. "We will have the submission requirements posted on the AMA website shortly after the 2025-26 school year starts."

In addition to the visual arts, entertainment will be presented throughout the day on the James M. Barnett Jr. Foundation Stage. There will be plenty of kid-friendly entertainment, from bounce houses to games, in the AMAzing Activities area sponsored by Vine Vision.

"We are so pleased to have presenting sponsor The James M. Barnett Jr. Foundation, and Vine Vision back with us this year," Strom said. "Both have been long-time supporters of the Heart of Albany Festival, and we thank them for their strong support of the arts in our community."

The Vendor Village will feature local businesses, artists and craftspeople marketing products just in time for the start of the Christmas shopping season. Festivalgoers also can grab lunch or a snack at the food truck court. A libations area will be available for those 21 and older.

"We will update the vendor and food truck applications on the AMA website by the first week of August," Strom said. "We are also updating our sponsorship page for businesses that are interested in being a part of this wonderful fall tradition that brings the community together."

Admission to the Heart of Albany festival is free, Strom said. The festival hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

"We hope everyone will plan to come out and enjoy another beautiful fall Saturday filled with art, fun and food," she said. "Look for updates on the AMA website (www.albanymuseum.com/event/heartfest/), and on our AMA Facebook and Instagram accounts."

# High temperatures raise health concerns in southwest Georgia

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**ALBANY --** With temperatures across southwest Georgia climbing into the upper 90s — and heat indices making it feel even hotter — the Southwest Health District is urging residents to take precautions against heat-related illness.

Extreme heat can be dangerous, especially for young children, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions. Whether you're working outside, commuting, or just going about your day, it's important to remember these three steps: Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, and Stay Informed.

**STAY COOL**

- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces.
- Fans alone aren't enough — take cool showers or baths to lower body temperature.
- Never leave children, adults, or pets in a parked car — even briefly.
- Avoid using your stove or oven, and stick to light meals.
- Limit outdoor activity to early morning or evening and take frequent breaks if you must be outside.
- Use sunscreen (SPF 15+), sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat when outdoors.

**STAY HYDRATED**

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day — don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Avoid sugary or alcoholic drinks.
- Replenish lost salts with a sports drink, especially after sweating heavily.

**STAY INFORMED**

- Check local weather reports and heat advisories.
- Use the buddy system — check on others twice a day during extreme heat.
- Pay special attention to those at higher risk, including:
-Infants and young children
-Adults 65-plus
-People with chronic illness or on certain medications
- Those who are overweight or physically active outdoors

**PROTECT YOUR PETS**

- Ensure pets have shade with airflow and plenty of cool water; add ice when possible.
- Avoid doghouses — they trap heat and can be dangerous.

For more tips and resources, visit www.swhealthdistrict.org or follow the Southwest Health District on social media.

# State arts council awards new round of local grants

**By Dave Williams**
*Capitol Beat News Service*

**ATLANTA --** The Georgia Council for the Arts has awarded more than $1.3 million in grants to recipients in 49 counties across the state.

The 177 grants will support both single arts events and ongoing arts education programs.

"The arts are at the heart of Georgia's communities, and our vibrant arts organizations are enhancing downtowns, creating jobs and connecting people," Pat Wilson, commissioner of the state Department of Economic Development, which oversees the arts council, said. "These grants will help strengthen communities across the state, encouraging tourism, business opportunity and local pride. These awards also will provide educational opportunities for students, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills that are essential for the future work force in any industry."

Grant recipients include the second annual Statesboro Festival of the Arts in Bulloch County, the creation of a mural in a prominent location along U.S. 1 in Jefferson County, an arts education after-school program in Catoosa County, and a musical program at Woodland High School in Bartow County.

The arts council used peer-review panels to evaluate grant applications. Additional grants for Fiscal 2026 will be awarded this fall.

The council is funded by the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# Dougherty police to host National Night Out

**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**ALBANY —** The Dougherty County Police Department has invited the community to join them for National Night Out 2025 on Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

This year's event will feature:

-- Free book bags and school supplies;
-- Free food and hygiene products;
-- Free giveaways and games;
-- Live music and more.

Children must be present to receive a book bag.

"We're proud to host this event that brings our community together," DCP Chief Kenneth Johnson said. "Through strong partnerships with local organizations and agencies, we're able to provide a fun, safe environment while helping families prepare for the upcoming school year."

Dougherty County Police will be joined by various public safety and community partners to support the event and engage with residents.

Families are encouraged to come out and enjoy this upbeat evening of fun, connection, and back-to-school support.

For more information, contact the Dougherty County Police Department at (229) 430-6600.

# Is Acuña the most talented player in Braves history? These legends think so

**By Mark Bowman**
*By Mark Bowman*

**ATLANTA** – Hall of Famers Hank Aaron and Chipper Jones are the most accomplished position players to wear a Braves uniform. So, why should Ronald Acuña Jr. be considered the most talented player in franchise history?

"I think the proof is in the numbers," Jones said. "We've had guys that could hit 40 homers in a season. We've had guys capable of stealing 70-plus bags in a season. We've had guys capable of winning Gold Gloves in the outfield. We have had guys capable of hitting .300. We've had guys with cannons for arms. But I just don't think we've ever had one guy have all of that, other than Ronald."

Acuña's incredible talent is widely appreciated by the fans, who have elected him to be an All-Star every year he has been on the ballot going back to 2019. His fifth career election has netted him the opportunity to serve as one of the National League's starting outfielders when the Midsummer Classic is played Tuesday night at Truist Park.

Adding to the splendor of this election was the fact his recovery from last year's left ACL tear prevented him from making his season debut until May 23. He stands with Joe DiMaggio (1949) as the only players to be elected, despite missing his team's first 50-plus games in that same season.

"Without the fans, this doesn't happen," Acuña said.

Matt Olson and Chris Sale were both selected to the NL roster and Braves manager Brian Snitker is on the NL coaching staff. The experience will be special for Olson, a lifetime Atlanta resident, and Sale, who is unavailable to pitch because of a broken left rib. But there's a strong chance the spotlight will never stray too far from Acuña.

"As soon as he walks in the box, you never know what he's going to do," former Braves center fielder Andruw Jones said. "He's always in the middle of everything."

There have been plenty of legit five-tool players, but few have seemingly been as skilled with each of these tools

See **BRAVES**, 10A



File photo

Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr., already an All-Star and 40-70 club member, is drawing praise from legends like Chipper and Andruw Jones as possibly the most talented player in franchise history.




Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

After years of making an impact on the court for Dougherty High, Kaleke Singletary-Jinks and Juwuan Jinks Jr. are taking their talents to Rose Elite Academy in Valdosta. The two seniors made it official Tuesday during a signing ceremony at the school, joined by proud family members, from left, Nekethia Singletary, Kaleke, Juwuan Sr., Juwuan Jr., and Shonte Johnson.

# Dougherty's Jinks brothers headed to Valdosta

**By Joe Whitfield**
*Sports Editor*

**ALBANY —** The Jinks brothers aren't finished playing basketball together just yet.

Kaleke Singletary-Jinks and Juwuan Jinks Jr., two of Dougherty High School's most consistent contributors over the past four seasons, signed letters of intent Tuesday to join Rose Elite Academy in Valdosta — a post-grad basketball program designed to bridge the gap between high school and college athletics.

The academy offers student-athletes a second chance to earn college scholarships while developing both academically and athletically. The program has a partnership with Valdosta State University, giving players an opportunity to take college-level courses while competing on a national schedule.

"This kind of program helps level the playing field for some players that don't get the looks from colleges that they probably should have," said Rose Elite coach Timothy Rose. "The idea here is that they work on their education with a powerhouse Division II school like Valdosta State and also work on their basketball skills with the intent to get a college scholarship."

The Rose Elite squad will play against collegiate-level competition, with home games held at Brooks County High School in Quitman.

"This is a national program," Rose said. "We've put this together specifically for guys here in South Georgia, where football is the dominant sport and maybe some of the basketball players don't get the attention they deserve. The program is set for one year, and we hope they can transfer to a college program. There are cases where it has taken two years, but the goal is one."

Both Jinks brothers graduated from Dougherty High School in May after helping lead the Trojans to three deep playoff runs — including two Elite Eight appearances and one Final Four showing.

Juwuan Jinks led the team in scoring this season, averaging 15.5 points per game. Kaleke Singletary-Jinks added 11 points per game and played a key role on both ends of the floor.

Now, the brothers will take the next step — still side by side — with hopes of landing on a college roster next fall.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany State was the final team called to the stage Tuesday at SIAC Media Days in Macon — a nod to their status as the preseason favorite to win the conference title. Representing the Golden Rams were, from left, Al McKendrick, Assistant AD for Business Management, Nescotia Harrison, Albany State's director of football, head coach Quinn Gray Sr., quarterback Isaiah Knowles, offensive lineman Noah Stovall, and defensive lineman Isaiah Morrison. Also in attendance was Terica Peay (not pictured), Albany State's AD for Communications.

# ASU Golden Rams picked to win SIAC

**By Joe Whitfield**
*Sports Editor*

**MACON –** Albany State was handed a compliment Tuesday. Head coach Quinn Gray treated it like a challenge.

The Golden Rams were picked to win the SIAC this fall during the league's annual media day, held at the Harriet Tubman Museum in Macon. A year ago, they were also expected to contend — and didn't. This year's goal, Gray said, isn't to celebrate projections. It's to make sure they finish what they start.

"What that does is put a target on your back," Gray said after the event. "That means we are going to get the best from every opponent because they will want to beat us. So we have to be our very best, every week."

Albany State finished 6-4 last season, going 6-2 in conference play. Two close losses — one to eventual champion Miles College, another to Savannah State — kept the Rams from playing for a title. Those losses also shaped the team's offseason and a new slogan: "Fight to Finish."

"There were two games we absolutely did not finish," Gray said. "And it cost us an opportunity to at least compete for a championship. Those plays were special-teams plays. With that, you get what you emphasize. Our spring practice was geared toward tackling, basic fundamentals — blocking and tackling, and also special teams."

Gray said summer workouts have drawn 65 to 70 players back to campus, and the defense — long known as "Dirty Blue" — is eager to reclaim its reputation.

"Our 'Dirty Blue' defense didn't live up to that name last year," Gray said. "So we've got to pick that up as well."

Redshirt junior defensive lineman Isaiah Morrison, a Florida native, said fans will notice the difference.

"I'm very excited that a lot of my brothers on defense are coming back," Morrison said. "I think you will see that 'Dirty Blue Defense' again this year."

If the defense returns to form, the offense won't be far behind. Quarterback Isaiah Knowles led the SIAC in passing last season and was named Offensive Player of the Year. He's back, along with 10 starters on offense and eight on defense.

"We've got to get there," Knowles said of the SIAC title. "We were picked to be there last year, but we fell short. I know we can get there this season."

Knowles threw for 2,555 yards and 32 touchdowns in 2024. He said he's worked this offseason on becoming more than just a passer.

"I love throwing the ball," he said. "But I can run when I need to. What I'm working on is to be more like a coach on the field. I want to get better at seeing what the coach sees. I want to be able to recognize things and make the best calls."

Veteran offensive lineman Noah Stovall joined Knowles on stage and praised the team's work ethic.

"We have a lot of young guys who are buying into what we are offering," Stovall said. "It is very important that we be the very best offensive line."

Gray, in his second season, also made a point to highlight achievements beyond football. Five players on last year's roster posted 4.0 GPAs, and 36 earned a 3.0 or better.

"We've been tasked to win football games," Gray said. "But we are also tasked to build better men."

The Golden Rams open fall camp on August 5. They'll begin the season on August 30 at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C.

**SIAC Preseason Predicted Order of Finish:**

1. Albany State University
2. Clark Atlanta
3. Tuskegee
4. Miles College
5. Fort Valley State
6. Savannah State
7. Benedict College
8. Edward Waters
9. Allen University
10. Kentucky State
11. Morehouse College
12. Lane College
13. Central State

# Former MLB pitcher Dan Serafini found guilty of murdering father-in-law

**Field Level Media**

Former MLB pitcher Dan Serafini was found guilty of first-degree murder in the 2021 shooting that claimed the life of his father-in-law and left his mother-in-law injured.

The victims in the June 5, 2021, attack were Robert Gary Spohr, 70, who was found dead in a home in North Lake Tahoe, Calif., from a single gunshot. Also shot was his wife, Wendy Wood, then 68. She recovered from the injures but died by suicide one year later. The family cited the trauma of the attack as the reason for her death.

Prosecutors said the fatal incident involved a $1.3 million ranch renovation project and presented text message evidence of the escalation of the disagreement and premeditation prior to the shooting. One text message sent prior to the attack read, "I'm going to kill them one day."

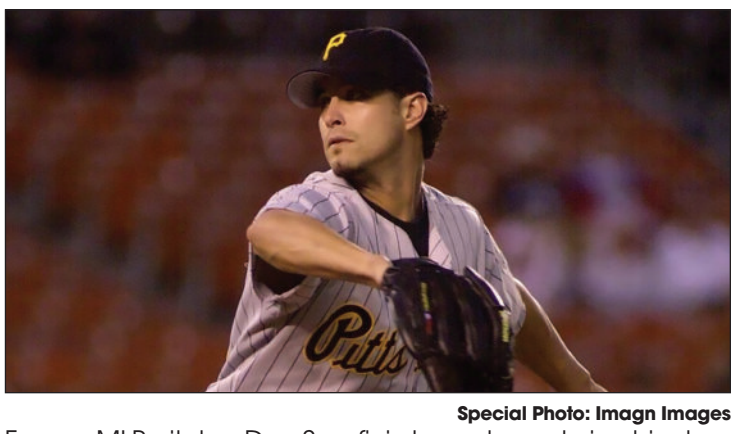
Serafini and 33-year-old Samantha Scott were charged as co-defendants last year. In February, Scott pleaded guilty to an accessory charge and during the trial was introduced as a close friend of one of the Spohrs' daughters, Erin. Erin was married to Serafini and testified that they had an open marriage and was aware Scott was romantically involved with her husband.

Erin Spohr testified that she did not believe Serafini murdered her father or shot her mother.

Video surveillance from the home and surrounding area showed a man wearing a hood, face covering and a backpack walking to the Spohrs' home before the homicide. Evidence presented at the trial alleged Serafini was in the home nearly three hours before the attack.

Information gathered during a two-year investigation led them to Serafini

See **GUILTY**, 10A



Special Photo: Imagn Images

Former MLB pitcher Dan Serafini, shown here during his playing days with the Pittsburgh Pirates, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the 2021 shooting death of his father-in-law.

# Georgia: QB Stockton, Smart lead Bulldogs through unfamiliar youth movement



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia Bulldogs quarterback Gunner Stockton shares a laugh during Tuesday's SEC Media Days in Atlanta. Stockton, CJ Allen and Daylen Everette joined Head Coach Kirby Smart for the Bulldogs.

**Field Level Media**

Georgia coach Kirby Smart transitions from one of his most experienced rosters to a full-blown youth movement as he begins Year 10 with the Bulldogs.

"Our team is going to be comprised of 54 percent first- and second-year players. Very big change for us," Smart said at SEC Media Days in Atlanta on Tuesday.

From Smart's vantage point, he has new names and faces, but the same standard and belief he brought to the Bulldogs from Alabama a decade ago. He said the program mantra in recruiting and the "strained" landscape of college football has been prioritizing relationships "over transactions."

That could mean finding an all-in freshman who fits the program over replacing a first-round pick with a high-dollar transfer.

It also gives Smart an unfamiliar baseline, going from "one of the most veteran teams I've been a part of" to the 2025 version, where follow the leader might be a bit more literal than previous seasons.

"What do you get with that? You get youthful exuberance. We've had practices that have been spirited," Smart said. "We had a great spring practice where we talked about the words fire, passion and energy. I think the biggest thing that separates college football teams today is complacency among players versus fire, passion and energy among players. So we've tried to highlight those traits as much as possible with our players.

"Our players need to bring juice and energy each and every day. If they don't, they'll be confronted by the players that do. And if the players continue to do that, we'll have a successful season and a successful football team."

Smart is starting the season with a new QB1, albeit a familiar one, in Gunner Stockton. The quarterback jumped into the fray in the SEC Championship when Carson Beck was injured and then started the Sugar Bowl, a 23-10 loss to Notre Dame.

Already this offseason, Smart has defended Stockton's potential with talk show host Paul Finebaum while taking multiple opportunities to remind his QB where he needs to be by the final Saturday in August.

Smart said he learned all he needed to know about Stockton being ready by watching him prepare. The line coaches commonly share about preparing like the starter is Stockton's modus operandi since he arrived in Athens.

"Gunner is a kid who leads from the front. Gunner is a winner," Smart said. "He comes from an athletic family background, his dad played at Georgia Southern, and he's the kind of kid you want at the front of the line, and he leads from the front. So I appreciate what Gunner does. He's going to be a big part of our program this year in leadership, and doing that with the offensive players. He's already begun to do that in his leadership groups that he runs right now."

His sophomore quarterback is the embodiment of what Smart said the Bulldogs are trying to build around and a message to players and opponents of the complacency Georgia hopes to avoid.

"You can say what you want, but there are people more in college football today, especially in the SEC, that are comfortable with where they are," Smart said, listing examples from his coaching past from Julio Jones and Mark Ingram at Alabama to Georgia pupils such as linebackers Roquan Smith and Nolan Smith.

"(Thinking) 'This is a pretty good life. I'm earning 200K a year. I'm very comfortable.'utline

"You don't reach your goals by being comfortable. You don't attain great success — none of those people I mentioned before were ever comfortable. They were aiming at something. They had a goal. They were aiming at something. They had a goal. They wanted to go achieve it."



Special Photo: Jordan Godfree-Imagn Images

Auburn Head Coach Hugh Freeze gestures during Tuesday's presentation at the SEC Media Days in Atlanta. Freeze believes his improved roster and playing Georgia and Alabama at home this year could give the Tigers an edge.

# Hugh Freeze expects Auburn to 'get over edge' against UGA, Alabama

**Field Level Media**

If Hugh Freeze is reading his reshaped roster correctly, his third season at Auburn will become the Year of the Tigers.

Freeze said Tuesday at SEC Media Days that the reshaped roster and experience on his side — not to mention playing rivals Alabama and Georgia at home — is enough to turn the tables in Auburn's favor in games like those against the behemoths of the Southeastern Conference.

Alabama was two scores better than the Tigers in 2024 (28-14) in the annual Iron Bowl, while Georgia beat the Tigers by 18.

Why does Freeze think this year will be different?

"Number one, playing at Jordan-Hare is a definite advantage in those games for sure," Freeze said. "And our roster is one that can compete with those teams. We've been in the games even the first two years, but we haven't found a way to win.

"And that's one of the secrets, I think, to our success this year is having guys that we think we've brought in that have the combination of all of it, not just skill set, but this guy's a winner and has been proven to win and now will help us get over the edge in all these close games like those two will be."

One of the guys Freeze views as a difference-maker is Oklahoma transfer Jackson Arnold. He's in line to be the QB1 for Auburn in the opener against Baylor and should be fully up to speed by the time the Tigers face his old team on Sept. 20.

Arnold was not viewed as the top prize in the transfer portal by every team and won few over with statistics. But Freeze said circumstances painted that picture, and it wasn't reality.

He was sacked more times than any quarterback in this SEC and sixth-most across all of college football last season.

"I loved Jackson out of high school. I think everybody did. He was a Gatorade Player of the Year, top quarterback in the country coming out. Boy, he fit everything that I believe in doing offensively, (offensive coordinator Derrick) Nix does too. We've been together a long time, and he just fits that," Freeze said.

"So I knew how I felt about him then, but of course you're doing this speed dating here and things weren't great statistically or whatever performance-wise. Then you have to do a deep dive into why was that, and can I get past whatever that was. When you evaluate it, you said it, he had several different play callers, injured offensive line and receivers, and yet when you pull all of his throws, I still saw that there it is, that's what I saw. There it is again. He still has that about him."

Freeze lauded the toughness Arnold brings at the position. He said the Tigers are offering him a needed restart to prove who he is as a player.

Arnold, also at SEC Media Days on Tuesday, said he has no ill will toward the Sooners for their decision to move in another direction. He was replaced as OU starter after only four games last season.

He wound up back in the starting lineup by the end of the season and beat then-No. 7 Alabama. That win opened Freeze's eyes because of Arnold's guts and big plays with his legs.

One of his next big chances to open some other people's eyes will be his SEC debut with Auburn — in Norman.

"Things happen. Things happen for a reason," Arnold said. "Sometimes things work out the way it's supposed to be. You know, we're on God's timing, you know, not our timing. And, for me, I felt the best decision for me was to move on and move on somewhere else to get a fresh start, like you said, and go out and do what I know I can do with this Auburn squad this year."

# Heisman whispers loom as Arch Manning takes handoff at Texas

**Field Level Media**

Arch Manning has started a grand total of two games in two seasons at quarterback for the Texas Longhorns.

Yet, according to DraftKings, the Louisiana native and third-generation member of the Manning family is the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy.

"I'm not really sure how they got these opinions because I've only played in, what? Two games?" an incredulous Manning said at the Southeastern Conference media days on Tuesday. "I guess it's nice of them to say, but it doesn't mean anything. Talk is cheap, I've got to go prove it."

Manning's third career start is likely to take place on Aug. 30 when Texas travels to Columbus, Ohio to take on defending national champion Ohio State.

He witnessed the steamroller that Ohio State became in the 2024 postseason from the sidelines as then-Longhorns starting QB Quinn Ewers could not put enough points on the board in a 28-14 setback in the semifinals.

"We're opening with the champs," Manning said. "It's going to be a fun one. I learned a lot from Quinn; he was damn good on the road. I'm going to text him, get some of his advice, and we'll fire up. Ohio State is a really good team, so it's going to be a good challenge."

Many around college football assumed Manning would jump ship before the 2024 season with Ewers reclaiming the starting role.



Special Photo: Jordan Godfree-Imagn Images

Texas quarterback Arch Manning fields questions from reporters Tuesday at SEC Media Days in Dallas, where he addressed rising Heisman hype despite making just two career starts heading into the 2025 season.

"I'm not going to lie, it was pretty tough," Manning said. "The competitor in me always wants to play and be on the field to help my team out. Looking back, it definitely helped me grow as a person and a player. I'm blessed for that."

Although the competition was certainly inferior to the test he will receive from the Buckeyes, Manning showed his stuff in home starts against Louisiana-Monroe and Mississippi State last September. In the 35-13 win over Mississippi State, he completed 26 of 31 passes for 325 yards and a pair of long-range touchdown strikes.

The Longhorns are expected to contend for the national title again in 2025. Manning is confident in his own abilities, but knows he has a tremendous cast around him to help.

"We've got a good group around me. I think our defense is really good, we've got a good o-line and we've got good skill players. So, I'm going to rely on them and try to make it happen."

From 9A

## BRAVES

as Acuña. The Braves right fielder did the previously unthinkable in 2023, when he created the 40-70 club by hitting 41 homers and stealing 73 bases. Just four previous players had constructed a 40-40 season and none of them paired 40-plus homers with more than 70 steals.

"There's a lot of stuff that he can do, that separates him from everybody else," Andruw Jones said. "That's why we're saying that he's maybe the best talent we've seen in our organization in a long time or he might be the best one ever. When his career is over, we will know that."

Two major knee injuries and the COVID-shortened season have limited Acuña to just two full seasons going back to his 2018 debut season. This makes it difficult to compare what he's done to what Aaron and the Jones boys did through the same age or stage of their career.

But despite all of the missed time and the fact there's still 70-plus games to play this year, Acuña stands with Barry Bonds and Mike Trout as the only players to hit 170-plus homers and tally 200-plus stolen bases through their age-27 season.

**Numbers through 27-year-old season**

**Aaron:** 253 HRs, 57 SBs, .935 OPS, 5,201 PAs

**Acuña: 177 HRs, 200 SBs, .911 OPS, 3,447 PAs**

**A. Jones:** 250 HRs, 154 SBs, .835 OPS, 5,276 PAs

**C. Jones:** 153 HRs, 83 SBs, .923 OPS, 3,386 PAs

"Does Ronald ultimately have the kind of power and hitting ability that Hank did or that Chipper did?" Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Glavine said. "I don't know. It's hard because you tend to be judging long term. But when you add in the running element, especially before the two knee surgeries and the defense, those two things are unique to Ronald."

Glavine still raves about Chipper Jones' defense at third base and the legendary lefty won his second Cy Young Award in 1998, the year Andruw Jones won the first of his 10 consecutive Gold Glove Awards as the Braves' center fielder.

Aaron is best recognized as the man who still holds MLB's all-time record for many major offensive categories, including RBIs, extra-base hits and total bases. But the 1957 NL MVP was also a three-time Gold Glove Award winner.

There's no doubt that Aaron is on a different level when it comes to accomplishment. As for Chipper Jones, he will forever be regarded as one of the greatest switch-hitters the game has ever seen. But the greatest defensive player in franchise history also believes Acuña's collection of tools puts him on another level in terms of pure talent.

"I had talent," Andruw Jones said. "I put up great numbers. I was very consistent. But as I see it, talent-wise, [Acuña] has got power, he can hit for average, he can hit the ball the other way, he can run, he can throw. He's probably very close to the top that we've ever seen in this organization."

Whether Acuña matches the accomplishments and numbers of previous Braves legends remains to be seen. But he certainly has already drawn their utmost respect.

"I'm not putting him in the category of Hank Aaron yet," Chipper Jones said. "Nobody disputes the fact that Hank Aaron is the greatest player to ever wear this uniform. I'm just saying the guy has more tools in his tool belt than anybody who has ever played in this organization."

# Kirby Smart: Nick Saban returns in '26 only if wife OKs

**Field Level Media**

Rumors of a certain former Alabama coach coming out of retirement next season sparked many reactions, but surprise was not one of them when Georgia coach Kirby Smart first heard Nick Saban could return to the sidelines in 2026.

"I called and offered him (Will) Muschamp's (analyst) job, but he was overqualified," Smart said at SEC Media Days on Tuesday of his old boss at Alabama, who retired with six national championships in 17 seasons with the Crimson Tide in January 2024.

Saban worked as an analyst for ESPN and appeared on "College GameDay" last season while the Bulldogs were fighting their way into another SEC title game.

Smart, defensive coordinator under Saban in Tuscaloosa at the end of his time on the Alabama staff (2007-15) before taking over at Georgia, said he "almost laughed" when he first heard former Tide quarterback Greg McElroy fire up the rumor mill on Monday with the suggestion Saban would coach after this season. Not because it's unrealistic for the 73-year-old to take another job, but relationship dynamics might take the call out of his hands.

"Make no mistake about it — the boss at home (Saban's wife, Terry) is going to make that call for him, not him," Smart said with a chuckle.

Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin, who worked for Saban as offensive coordinator (2014-16), said he suspected that the coaching legend would do a prompt U-turn after announcing retirement plans.

"I kind of thought it would happen after one year," Kiffin said.

From 9A

## GUILTY

and Scott.

Serafini is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 18 in Placer County, Calif.

The Minnesota Twins selected Serafini, a native of the San Francisco area, with the No. 26 overall pick in the 1992 MLB Draft. He made his debut in 1996 and went on to appear in 104 games (33 starts) with the Twins, Chicago Cubs, San Diego Padres, Pittsburgh Pirates, Cincinnati Reds and Colorado Rockies before his retirement in 2007.

He had a 15-16 record with a 6.04 ERA and one save.

# TASTEFOOD



Special Photo: Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

# Steaming Shrimp

**Lynda Balslev**
*TasteFoodblog.com*

When the living is easy in the summertime, the cooking should be easy, too. Open a bottle of beer and a tin of Old Bay Seasoning, and you are good to go with this simple and flavorful shrimp recipe. Using beer as a steaming liquid lends a mildly sweet and hoppy flavor to the shrimp. Choose a light ale or lager, or a citrusy IPA for best results. The rest of the flavor relies on a generous dusting of dried spices, aka Old Bay Seasoning.

Old Bay Seasoning is a famous spice blend that was created in Baltimore, Maryland, to season seafood -- especially crab. You can certainly tinker with your own spice blend for this recipe, but the precise ingredients and amounts in Old Bay are a well-guarded trade secret. Suffice to say that its lengthy list of ingredients includes (among others) celery salt, paprika, mustard powder, cayenne and black pepper, plus hints of warm spices, such as cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Since we're talking easy living (and cooking) for this recipe, you can simply purchase a tin of Old Bay in any well-stocked supermarket.

The homemade dipping sauce that accompanies the shrimp will bring you the satisfaction of creating something entirely from scratch. It's a traditional red cocktail sauce, infused with lemon and horseradish, with the addition of sweet paprika and celery salt to tie it to the Old Bay.

## BEER-STEAMED OLD BAY SHRIMP

Active time: 15 to 20 minutes
Total time: 15 to 20 minutes
Yield: Serves 3 to 4 as an appetizer

**Cocktail Sauce:**

1/2 cup ketchup
1 heaping tablespoon drained prepared horseradish
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika
1/4 teaspoon celery salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Dash of Tabasco

**Steamed Shrimp:**

1 pound large (18/20) shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails intact
1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons Old Bay Seasoning
1 (12-ounce) bottle of beer, such as a light ale or lager, or a citrusy IPA
1/4 cup water
Juice of 1/2 lemon
Lemon wedges for serving
Chopped Italian parsley leaves for garnish

Whisk the cocktail sauce ingredients in a bowl.

Place the shrimp on a plate. Sprinkle the Old Bay all over the shrimp to evenly coat.

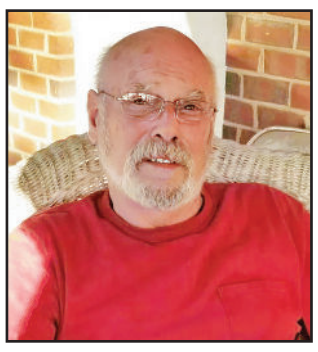
Combine the beer, water and lemon juice in a pot fitted with a metal steamer basket. (The liquid should not be higher than the bottom of the steamer basket). Bring the liquid to a boil over medium-high heat.

Add the shrimp to the steamer basket. Cover the pot and steam over medium heat until the shrimp are bright pink in color and opaque through the centers, 4 to 6 minutes, depending on size.

Transfer the shrimp to a serving plate. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley. Serve with the cocktail sauce.

*Lynda Balslev is an award-winning writer, cookbook author, and recipe developer based in northern California. Visit TasteFood at TasteFoodblog.com.*

# OBITUARY



**Richard "Papa" Lynn Goodburn**

Richard Lynn Goodburn, 68, of Sylvester, died Monday, July 14, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family.

The family will receive friends at Kimbrell-Stern Friday from 4 PM until 6 PM. His Celebration of Life service will follow at 6 PM with military honors. Mr. Frank Pundayela will officiate.

He was born in Reed City, MI, and raised in East Jordan, MI. Richard was born to the late Edward and Pauline Goodburn. He was baptized at the First Baptist Church of E. Jordan, MI. Richard served in the Marine Corps where he worked in small arms repair. Because of his influence in the lives of boys in the neighborhood, following their basic training, each one came by his house dressed in their uniform to salute him. Richard was an avid outdoors man. He loved riding his motorcycle, hunting, fishing, and doing any outdoor adventure with friends and family. Known as "Papa", loved by all. He never met a stranger that he didn't make part of his family. Richard was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Anne Everett Goodburn; three daughters: Lynn Marie Goodburn-Maness (Nicholas), Stephanie Bevington (Chris), Andrea Hill (Shaun); four grandchildren: Aleah Cothern (Jacob), Elizabeth Buchanan, Caitlin Hill, Marybeth Tucker; one great-granddaughter, Aoife Cothern; two brothers, two sisters, and numerous extended family members.

You may sign the online guestbook by visiting www.kimbrellstern.com.

## 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 pay increases (6) | |
| 2 giant steps (7) | |
| 3 went up and down (8) | |
| 4 gave the wrong prompt (7) | |
| 5 small peak (9) | |
| 6 what a pluviometer measures (8) | |
| 7 early sign (9) | |

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIN | RAI | ST | LCR | WED |
| SCU | RA | SA | HAR | RID |
| ALL | ES | EST | SES | HIL |
| SEE | GER | ED | MI | INF |

Wednesday's Answers: 1. RICHEST 2. ISLAND 3. RUSHED 4. CONSUMER 5. REPLICATION 6. OBLONG 7. SCOBY 7/17


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## MERCHANDISE

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## Albany Legals

### Construction/ Service Bids

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Albany Housing Authority will accept Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the following:

Energy Audit

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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## 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.

"YWOZ YO PRIHUO RT LOETVO LORROI RWBZ YO BIO, OUOIDRWHZM BITSZX SP LOETVOP LORROI RTT."

— JBSCT ETOCWT

Previous Solution: "Passion is what fuels the jet engine propelling you toward a meaningful existence." — Dr. Phil

TODAY'S CLUE: A stands for O

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# CROSSWORD

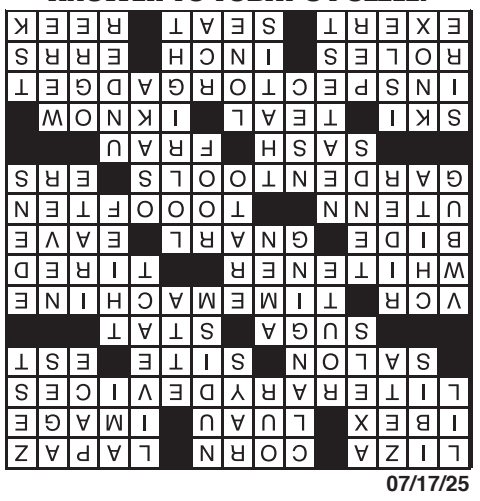
**ACROSS**

1 "Cabaret" star Minnelli
5 Word with sweet or candy
9 Bolivian city ESE of Lima
14 Long-horned goat
15 Part of a Hawaiian honeymoon, perhaps
16 Thumbnail, e.g.
17 E-readers?
20 Beauty spot
21 Something to build on
22 Cost fig.
23 Member of K-pop's BTS
25 Holds or saves, e.g.
27 Retro taper
30 Printing press?
35 Component of many detergents
37 Wiped out
38 Tolerate, quaintly
39 Contort
42 Spot for some Christmas decorations
43 Home of the Vols
45 More than is necessary
47 Zambonis?
50 Filler syllables
51 Wide band
52 German woman
54 Item that's waxed
57 Dabbling duck
59 Possible response to 41-Down
62 Magnifying glass?
66 Cast list
67 Move by small increments
68 Messes up
69 Bring to bear
70 Take to a booth
71 Overdo the aftershave, say

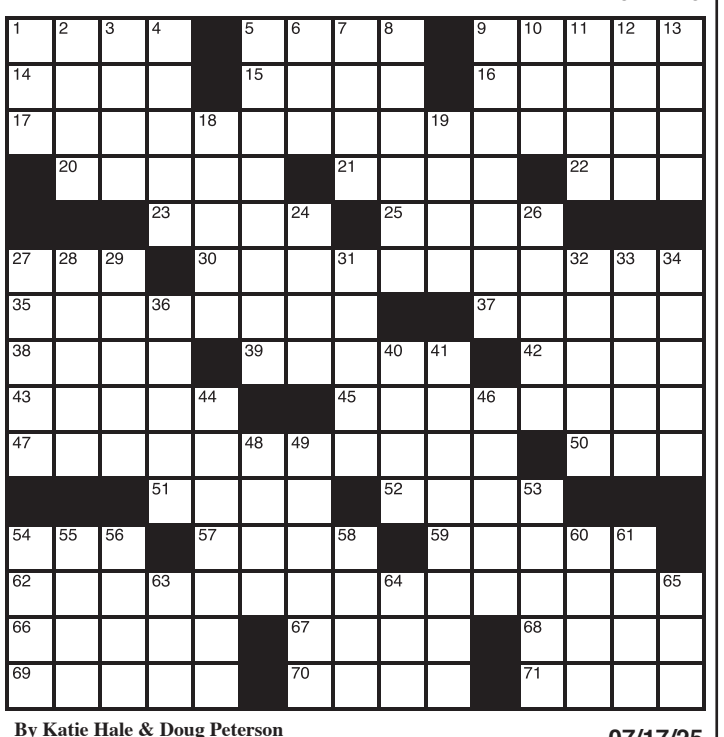
**DOWN**

1 "Lip Gloss" rapper __ Mama
2 African wading bird
3 Epsilon follower
4 Rink moves
5 Ringing sounds from old trolley bells
6 "__ Planet": David Attenborough series
7 Bright beams
8 Revealing lifestyle choice?
9 Magic show, for one
10 "__ imagining things?"
11 Walk worriedly
12 Factors in baby clothing sizes
13 Ingredient in marmalade
18 Map guidance
19 "Tell Mama" singer James
24 Grace closer
26 Pincher
27 Beetle with brakes
28 Tony winner Rivera
29 Legislative addition
31 Sister of Calliope
32 Likely to storm off
33 Unequivocal turndown
34 Perfect places
36 Watches over
40 Spot for some Christmas decorations
41 "Ha, so true"
44 Worthy of a handwriting award
46 "Shogun" setting
48 Fraction of a min.
49 "To clarify ... "
53 Supervised by
54 Kingly address
55 Fort guarded by the U.S. Mint Police
56 Shetland element
58 Sole
60 Large fantasy antagonist
61 Beyoncé's "If I __ a Boy"
63 On the authority of
64 Classic TV brand
65 "I expected better from you"

**ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:**



07/17/25



By Katie Hale & Doug Peterson
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07/17/25

# Third Good Life City Blues Fest scheduled

FLINT RIVER
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**Staff Reports**
*news@albanyherald.com*

**ALBANY** – The Blues Is Alright Tour is coming to the Albany Civic Center with the third annual Good Life City Blues Festival on Oct. 31 at 8 p.m.

Blues music is musical storytelling filled with stark emotion and a revolving reality check. It's authentically raw; transforming tragedy, adversity and heartache into a visceral and cathartic experience. This special night of emotive lyrics and guitar-driven accompaniment features performances by Tucka, Pokey Bear, J-Wonn, 803 Fresh, West Love and Ms. Jody.

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 at 10 a.m. An exclusive presale will be held Wednesday, starting at 10 a.m. For additional information about the show, visit FlintRiverEntertainmentComplex.com.

**ABOUT TUCKA:** Equally influenced by R. Kelly and Barry White, Louisiana's Tucka James is an R&B singer who can deliver "pillow talk" songs that recall the grooves of the '70s, '80s, and 2010s. He kicked off his career in 2007, singing lead vocals with Keith Frank & the Soileau Zydeco Band. He introduced his solo career in 2008, along with his nickname "the King of Swing." He soon became a regional Louisiana favorite, and opened gigs for Mystikal and Lenny Williams. His "Love Rehab" album landed in 2009 with songs like "Sex on My Mind" and "Myspace Love." "Forever King" followed in 2011, then in 2015 he released "Love Rehab 2." Visit https://www.tuckajames.com/.

**ABOUT POKEY BEAR:** Wardell "Pokey Bear" Brown is known for his soulful sound in the Blues/Southern Soul genre; however, he did not start out that way. Pokey Bear began his career as a rap music artist, but after doing it for a while decided to try other styles. His venture would lead him to be the soulful singer that he is today. He was first recognized in music for his first two projects produced by Beat Flippa, particularly his songs "They Call me Pokey" and "Side Piece." He has worked with artists such as Tyree Neal, Adrian Bagher, Ms. Pat, Veronica Raelle, and Cupid. @Big Pokey Bear-JSP on Facebook and @bigpokeybearjsp on Instagram.

**ABOUT J-WONN:** Jawonn Smith is a soul singer who hails from Jackson, Miss., and has built a name for himself following the release of his hit single "I Got This Record." His love of Blues came from growing up around his mother and grandmother, who would often sing around the house. At the age of 13, J-Wonn began writing music of his own and went on to write for many Blues and Soul singers. One of his proudest writing credits came from penning a track for the legendary soul artist Lenny Williams. J-Wonn's latest single, "Move On," is available on all digital and video platforms. J-Wonn followed up "I Got This Record" with several other hits. He has won several awards from various outlets including Best Entertainer, Artist of the Year, and Best New Single. He finished working on his second full-length album, "The Legacy," which had led to collaborations with a wide range of different artists and an expansion of his brand. His latest single is "Move On." www.J-WONN.com

**ABOUT 803 FRESH:** Born Douglas "Dougie" Furtick, 803 Fresh is a Southern soul and blues singer from South Carolina known for blending gospel roots with R&B to create his signature "Carolina Soul" sound. His breakout hit, "Boots on the Ground" became a viral anthem on the black trail-ride scene and topped the Billboard R&B Digital Sales chart. Instagram @803freshsc.

**ABOUT WEST LOVE:** Hailing from the Mississippi Delta, West's voice carries the weight of generations of blues legends and the passion of her own experiences. With a mesmerizing stage presence and a voice that's equal parts gravel and honey, West Love has earned a reputation as a modern-day blues torchbearer. West's distinctive guitar skills, inspired by the greats like Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, complement her evocative vocals, creating a sound that's both timeless and contemporary. She has graced stages worldwide, leaving audiences enchanted with his authentic blues sound.

**ABOUT MS. JODY:** Ms. Jody is a powerhouse Southern Soul and Blues vocalist known for her bold stage presence and crowd-pleasing anthems. Hailing from Mississippi, she launched her music career later in life but quickly made a name for herself with hits like "Your Dog's About to Kill My Cat" and "I Never Take a Day Off." With her no-nonsense lyrics and infectious grooves, Ms. Jody's music blends raw emotion with real-life storytelling, creating a sound that resonates deeply with her fans. Facebook @MsJodyMusic.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

JT Esquire Men's Store will hold a grand opening on Aug. 1 at its 230 W. Broad Avenue location.

# A passion for fashion:
## JT Esquire brings men's clothing to downtown Albany

**By Alan Mauldin**
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**ALBANY** – Ronald Smith is trying to make Albany men look better and feel better ... one shirt, pair of socks or shoes, or tailored suit at a time.

The retired Procter & Gamble executive and minister opened JT Esquire Men's Store, which he describes as more of a boutique, a few months ago and is gearing up for an Aug. 1 grand opening. The enterprise is named for his son, Joshua.

"It's a boutique because I have limited designs," he said. "I have unique fashions you don't find in a retail store. I have limited quantities. We don't operate on quantity, we operate on quality."

The business at 230 W. Broad Ave. was once the home of a Friedman's Clothing store, Smith said, and most recently was a restaurant. The well-preserved historic building contains men's clothing on the first floor, and he has plans to expand with a women's store operated by his wife, Deirdere, on the second floor.

The owner is minister at Beracah Fellowship Church and has a show as on-air personality "The Psalmist at 6" weekdays on the Olive Broadcast Network, Praise 105.5.

"We came here to bring some hope back to downtown, to help revitalize downtown because we knew it was needed," Smith said. "We wanted to be one of the first."

Another new business, Bee Smoothie, is set to open on Pine Avenue this week.

"I've visited Thomasville and Columbus, and they're flourishing," Smith said. "We have a great opportunity here. It's coming (to Albany) slowly. We've got to come out and make a difference."

Another element that sets JT Esquire apart is having a tailor and seamstress available to fit custom suits.

Customers have options on the material, the design and the buttons, and can even have the wearer's name engraved on the inside.

"One of the things that makes us unique is we do custom-tailored suits," Smith said. "Whatever you want that suit to be, we'll make that suit for you. We specialize in wool-blend suits."

The business also offers in-house alterations. Currently Smith is offering a $600 special on tailor-made suits. Smith also can order merchandise from suppliers for customers.

Another uncommon amenity at the store is the opportunity for private appointments to shop.

While JT Esquire offers what Smith described as "high-end" merchandise like Belvedere and Mezlan shoes, he said he will work within a customer's budget.

"I can meet people where they are," he said. "I have suits to meet people financially. My clientele ranges from medium- to high-income.

"My main purpose for opening this business is I wanted to help people feel good about what they're wearing, that is unique, that it fits, with a reasonable price and that's going to last for a long time."



As someone who grew up with "economic challenges," Smith said he has a God-inspired "passion" to give back to the community.

"If somebody comes in and I can help them, they'll walk out with what they need," he said. "I don't want people to come in and buy clothes, I want them to have an experience."

JT Esquire and Bee Smoothie are among the newest additions to downtown, but other things are in the works, Albany Downtown Manager Lequrica Gaskins said.

"We're excited to see this, especially on Broad Avenue," she said. "We were able to help the men's population so they have some place to shop.

"In terms of projects, we can highlight small businesses who are doing their part in job creation in the downtown area.

# Congress Votes

**By Targeted News Service**
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**WASHINGTON** -- Here's a look at how Georgia's members of Congress voted over the previous week.

**HOUSE VOTES:**

AMENDED BUDGET BILL: The House has concurred in the Senate amendment to the spending bill (H.R. 1), sponsored by Rep. Jodey C. Arrington, R-Texas. The bill's provisions include making permanent numerous tax code changes included in 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act; a higher federal tax deduction for payment of state and local taxes; ending various energy tax subsidies; tax deductions for tips, overtime pay, and interest expenses on personal car loans; increasing the debt limit by $5 trillion; and requiring state Medicaid programs to develop work or education requirements for able-bodied single adults to receive benefits. Arrington said: "This bill creates the right incentives for historic economic growth, makes unprecedented investments in our military and border security, and implements the largest spending reduction in American history by twofold." An opponent, Rep. Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., said the amended version of the bill "still kicks 17 million Americans off their health care and makes record cuts to Medicaid, record cuts to the Affordable Care Act, and record cuts to Medicare." The vote, on July 3, was 218 yeas to 214 nays.



Raphael Warnock



Jon Ossoff



Austin Scott



Sanford Bishop

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA (9th), Greene R-GA (14th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), Scott, David D-GA (13th), McBath D-GA (6th), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

**SENATE VOTES:**

ENERGY UNDERSECRETARY: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Preston Griffith to be the Energy Department's Undersecretary. Griffith was a White House aide and senior official at Energy in the first Trump administration. Since then, he has been a director at FTI Consulting, a global business management consultancy. The vote, on July 9, was 54 yeas to 43 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

AVIATION ADMINISTRATOR: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Bryan Bedford to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a five-year term. Bedford had been the CEO of Republic Airways, a regional airliner primarily operating East Coast flights for larger companies, including United and Delta, since 1999. An opponent, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., cited Bedford's desire to end the FAA's rule requiring 1,500 hours of training time for commercial pilots and his openness to having one pilot, not two, for long-distance flights. She criticized Bedford as seeking "to roll back safety reforms and unravel the regulatory framework that has made the United States the gold standard" in safe air travel. The vote, on July 9, was 53 yeas to 43 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

MANAGING GOVERNMENT WORKERS: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Scott Kupor to direct the Office of Personnel Management for a four-year term. Kupor had been at the Andreessen Horowitz Silicon Valley venture capital firm since 2009; previously, he was a manager at Hewlett Packard and an investment banker. The vote, on July 9, was 49 yeas to 46 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

SMALL BUSINESS DEPUTY: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of William Briggs to be Deputy Administrator at the Small Business Administration. Briggs was an SBA official in the first Trump administration, after time operating two of his own small businesses; most recently, he has been at a Texas independent bankers group. A supporter, Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, called Briggs "the perfect candidate to help Administrator Loeffler make the SBA more accountable, more efficient, more transparent, and more focused on its core mission." An opponent, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., questioned Briggs's commitment to transparency and accountability to Congress. The vote, on July 9, was 49 yeas to 45 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

CURRENCY COMPTROLLER: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Jonathan Gould to be Comptroller of the Currency. Gould was a deputy comptroller and head lawyer at the Office of the Comptroller from late 2018 to June 2021; otherwise, he has been a corporate lawyer focused on financial services and staff lawyer for the Senate Banking Committee. The vote, on July 10, was 50 yeas to 45 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA