

Softball season
Terrell Academy chases title
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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

Three Dougherty inmates receive GEDs during ceremony

By Alan Mauldin

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ALBANY – There was no pomp and circumstance, but for three Dougherty County Jail inmates who received educational honors on Monday, the lack of a formal procession did not spoil their celebrations.

Like a traditional high school or college graduation, the ceremony awarding the General Ed-

ucational Development (GED) certificates included cheering relatives and speakers.

Recipients Jaden Denson, Mykeil Rivers and Anthony Williams also addressed the audience during the ceremony in a conference room at the jail facility, and all said that their accomplishment made them eager to do more in the future.

“I got two twins out there (in

the audience) I need to do for,” Rivers said in explanation of why he wanted to take the step of getting the certification he missed as a result of being a high school dropout. “I just want to thank everybody. I was given the opportunity to start over.

“This means a lot. I dropped out of school, got into gangs.

See GED, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
From left, jail inmates Mykeil Rivers, Jaden Denson and Anthony Williams listen to remarks from Dougherty County Sheriff Terron Hayes during a Monday GED presentation ceremony.

Two Albany natives bring free fitness and community to downtown



Special Photo: Tiffany Terrell

Perry Ford guides a group through impromptu workouts in downtown Albany. Ford started a local running club in an effort to help Albanians get healthy.

By Lucille Lannigan

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ALBANY – The streets of downtown Albany are usually dark and quiet at 5 a.m. But for the last week, they’ve been brought to life.

While most of the city sleeps, a group of runners and walkers has filled the dark, early-morning streets three days a week. On the first day, July 22, there were 16 people, led

by King Randall, an Albany native who has amassed a large social media following. On the second day there were 60. By the third day, July 26, the crowd had grown to nearly 200 people.

“On the first day out, we ran on the road and there was no traffic,” Randall said. “There were only people running in the road. So, in a video I said, ‘There is no traffic because we are the traffic,’ and it just stuck. So here we are. We are the traffic.”

Randall said he started the run club as a free fitness outlet for the Albany community after learning about the high rate of deaths from preventable, chronic illnesses in the city. Albany’s population disproportionately struggles with conditions like diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Randall posted a video of the first run on his social



Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan

A group of runners listens to King Randall, who encourages them to keep coming back.

See FITNESS, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

Dougherty Commission considers prescription drug cards, crime board

By Alan Mauldin

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ALBANY – Back from the recent National Association of Counties meeting, Dougherty County commissioners brought back a proposal for a pharmacy discount program that claims to offer significant discounts on prescription medications.

The Live Healthy Discount Program offers the potential for savings of up to 40% off brand-name drugs and up to 80% on generic medications for residents in counties that participate in the program. The program also offers savings at in-store



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Dougherty County Commissioners Ed Newsome, left, and Clinton Johnson have a conversation at the conclusion of Monday’s commission meeting.

clinics at CVS pharmacies, although there are none in

See DRUG CARDS 2A

A foundation of excellence: The measure of a man Part II

By Brad McEwen

AB&T Senior Vice President

Editor’s Note: Second in a two-part series.

ALBANY -- By the time he first filed the daily checks at Citizens Bank during a summer job in Americus, Luke Flatt already carried something many never quite find: a sense of duty rooted in personal integrity.

That summer was mundane. Flatt checked signatures and matched amounts, tray after tray. But in those quiet, repetitive hours, he wasn’t

just learning the mechanics of banking. He was learning something more lasting: How to be dependable, how to earn trust.

At the end of the summer, Flatt walked into the office of



LUKE FLATT

President Sam Hunter, a towering, cigar-smoking presence who rarely acknowledged staff, and handed over the daily \$10,000 item report. As Flatt turned to leave, Hunter called out, “Boy.” It was the first time the bank president addressed him directly all summer.

“What are you going to do

See FLATT, 2A

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Help Us Fill the Big Blue Bus with Supplies!

We need your help! Albany Area Primary Health Care needs to fill our big blue medical bus with school supplies - and even school uniforms - for local teachers and students. All donations welcome. Let’s fill that bus!

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AAPHC Administration
2408 Westgate Dr.
Albany



From 1A FITNESS

media. People began to notice, and the runs started to grow. Tuesday morning saw a group of about 150, made up of young, old, black, white, fit and those working to get fit.

“The preventable illnesses have a lot to do with the lack of exercise and nutrition,” Randall said. “We can control what we’re doing with our bodies, but sometimes it takes a little push to help people move forward. To have the camaraderie of all these citizens who keep coming every day. It’s been a beautiful thing to see, people pushing each other, motivating each other.”

The group runs 1.4 miles, beginning at Riverfront Park and making two full laps around

the downtown portion of Albany. Runners lead the pack, and walkers hold up the back. People stick around, shouting words of encouragement as each individual makes it to the end. One of those motivators is Perry Ford, an Albany native with a passion for bringing the community together.

Before Randall’s running group, Ford started the Albany Run Club, in partnership with downtown business A Better Way Grocers. Since May, a group has met at the Riverfront Park on Saturday mornings, where they do high-intensity circuit workouts and finish off the session with a run to A Better Way Grocers, where a free green smoothie awaits them.

The Albany Run Club is under the umbrella of two other organizations Ford helps run – LIFT Inc. and the Albany Culture Club. Under these organizations, he focuses on youth outreach and activities that bring the community together. The run club was just another piece of that puzzle.

“Fitness ... that’s a way to release endorphins ... boost adrenaline ... testosterone ... remove caloric intake,” Ford said. “You will immediately feel better because you completed something. That thing of completion is a beautiful thing.”

Ford runs the fitness classes for free. He said the most exciting moment was seeing a group show up to work out on the 4th of July weekend – a holiday where most would shy away from physical activity. He teaches attendees workouts they can do at home, welcoming people of all skill levels. He said classes averaged about 15 people, but over about two months, he saw 100 different faces.

Ford’s Albany Run Club is on pause for the month of August and will start back

up the weekend after Labor Day. He said he’s excited to see Randall’s group grow.

“We are in partnership whether he accepts it or not,” Ford joked. “It’s a beautiful thing what he has going on, and I’m in full support. We’re bringing the community together.”

“Just being able to talk to new people, and now people are walking together, and they didn’t know each other before. They see each other in the grocery store now. They’re friends. That’s what it’s all about.”

During the Tuesday run club, Joi White, a 31-year-old Albany resident, walked in the back of the group, carrying one child on her back and holding the hand of another. This was her first time joining the run club. She said after she saw posts from July 26, with children, she knew she’d be welcome to bring her kids, whom she walks with regularly.

White said she brought her children to the group because she wants them to understand there is positivity in the community.

“This is very new to the community,” White, an Albany native said. “I don’t see people out like this ... definitely not for no walk at 5:30 in the morning. I like what he’s trying to do. I love the outcome.”

Penny Mallory, a 64-year-old Albany resident, said she joined the group because she wants to be more active but needed that extra push for discipline that the group provides. She said it’s a good way to get her day started before work.

“I think it’s something positive because it dispels a lot of misconceptions about Albany,” Mallory said. “People always, when they hear Albany, they just think of negative things. This is just showing people that there are good things

happening in the community – that people can come together.”

She said she plans to make attending these runs a regular part of her routine.

Randall said he wasn’t expecting the runs to blow up.

“You never see so many people out at once unless it’s an event,” he said. “Out here, it’s all love and positivity. Nobody’s talking about negativity, politics or even religion. Everybody’s just out here enjoying each other.”

Randall’s social media posts about the run club encouraged people from other Georgia cities to start their own. He’s been tagged in and reposting videos from Camilla, Savannah, Cordele, Cairo and more.

Thursday’s group is expected to be the largest yet. Randall invited church leaders from all religions and denominations to come out and bless the city ahead of the 2025-26 school year, which begins Friday.

Ford said he’s excited to see this positivity and connection come out of Albany.

“Albany is regaining its hierarchy in southwest Georgia,” he said. “We are the ‘country’s’ capital. I love it. It’s regaining its strength.”

Randall and Ford say they plan to make their fitness groups a regular thing. Randall said he might shift the run schedule once the school year starts. He posts about each scheduled run on his socials. For now, it’s every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

“It’s gonna get old real quick,” he warned the Tuesday crowd. “You’re gonna lose your motivation. You’re gonna get tired. We want to give people discipline to continue, especially when you don’t feel like it. That’s the main thing. We want to make sure we’re getting disciplined, keeping our bodies in check.”

From 1A FLATT

when you get out of school?”

“I don’t know, Sam.”

“You want to work here?”

“Yes, sir.”

That was the interview. Flatt never even asked what it paid. His first paycheck was \$550 a month. Hunter thought that was generous. And in his eyes, if Flatt wasn’t worth that amount in immediate value, he wasn’t worth it at all.

That first job in 1975 started a banking career that would span five decades, shape thousands of lives, and leave a permanent imprint on southwest Georgia.

Flatt brought ambition with him from the start, so much so that he often laughs at the early certainty he felt.

“I really thought when I graduated, I should’ve been president of the bank then,” he said with a smile. “I had that mindset: ‘Why don’t they just let me go ahead and do it?’ But I was wrong. Experience is the greatest teacher.”

Still, that drive never left Flatt. Over time, it fused with something stronger: perspective. When Citizens Bank brought in Ed Tharpe, a seasoned banker from C&S in Atlanta, Flatt finally got the kind of mentoring that channeled his intensity into growth. Tharpe saw potential in Flatt, and more importantly, Tharpe gave him room to move.

“If I didn’t move pretty rapidly, I was going to get antsy and do something else,” Flatt said, plainly. “Because I’m driven.”

While that drive ultimately led to a sterling banking career, that future almost never materialized. While still a student at Auburn University, Flatt came incredibly close to choosing a career path that would have taken him away from banking altogether.

Billy Blair, a family friend and the owner the Americus Times-Recorder, called Flatt out of the blue one day. Blair’s daughters had no interest in taking over the paper, and he wanted Flatt to consider taking the reins of the operation one day. Flatt was flattered. So much so he planned to enroll in journalism classes the following semester. But as that semester grew closer, something didn’t feel right. Just before the start of the spring quarter, he visited Blair and told him the truth: “This just isn’t for me.”

That decision put him back on the path he was always meant for, and not long after, he was filing checks in bookkeeping and eventually walking into Sam Hunter’s office and a permanent job. It was a decision that would shape Southern banking for the next half-century.

From Citizens, Flatt moved to Bank of Commerce, which by then had become First Atlanta. Then came a pivotal phone call, from Morgan Murphy at First State Bank in Albany. Murphy offered Flatt a job to lead and unify the bank’s credit policy, an opportunity any fledgling banker would jump at. But Flatt and wife Susan had just built a house in Americus. They were settling in to raise a family. They thought they’d live there forever.

“We said, ‘Let’s throw out a number and see if they’ll pay it,’” Flatt recalled. “I didn’t hear from Morgan for six weeks. I thought it was dead.”

But then, out of nowhere, Morgan called again: “We got a deal.”

Flatt was stunned. He went home, sat with Susan, and they cried. It was a hard move. Their two girls were young. Their roots in the community were deep. And First Atlanta immediately countered, offering to match anything First

See **FLATT**, 11A

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE LIQUOR BEER & WINE LICENSE

YRK Brothers LLC, trading as Liquor Express at 422 W. Oglethorpe Blvd. Albany Georgia 31701, give notice that I have applied for an Alcohol License to be considered for approval. Albany Herald Run Dates: July 29, 31 & August 2

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

" F G W H L Z J R H D J J N D P P T M P W K
S M P W N , M Y D Y T Z W R D E J W F M J W Y F M Y R
G V N M Y D F M Z D M Y ; H W H D J J N D P P L V Z
R M R . " — S W Z Z D , N D S W M Y R I V J D W
S M P W N

Previous Solution: "The objective is to be the best player you can be. Remember ... play hard and have fun." — Baseball's Tony Gwynn

TODAY'S CLUE: *O sphenæ 7*

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From 1A DRUG CARDS

Dougherty County, and up to \$1 in counties for each prescription claim submitted by residents.

Based on his review, County Attorney Alex Shalishali said he sees no potential problem for the county with the program.

“I think all it requires is for the county to submit an application,” he said. “I think all the pharmacies that provide services will be part of the program.”

The savings would come through a no-cost prescription card offered through NACO.

In 2024, 51,163 individuals used the program for a total of 89,523 prescriptions, saving \$8 million, or 43% off prescription costs, according to the organization.

“We can do it as a pilot program,” Commissioner Anthony Jones said. “In two years if you don’t like it, you can drop off.”

The proposal could be considered for a vote later this month.

Another topic at Monday’s meeting was a proposal for the creation of a crime prevention board tasked with identifying programs that could be effective in preventing criminal acts and improving services offered by Dougherty County law enforcement agencies.

“We really don’t have money to do that right now,” Commissioner Russell Gray said. “I don’t think it’s a good idea to increase our scope (by creating a new board), increasing our government and also you’re duplicating services.”

The proposal would not increase spending, Commissioner Clinton Johnson said. The county administrator would decide how to proceed with the proposal, working within existing budgets.

“You’re shifting money from somewhere else in the budget,” Johnson said. “We’re not spending more money.”

From 1A GED

Once I was given the opportunity, I took advantage of it. I really want every degree there is, to start my own company. There’s a lot I want to do.”

In addition to receiving their GEDs, the three were among 14 inmates who received certificates in forklift operation through a grant program being administered by Albany Technical College.

The three inmates are in jail awaiting trial on charges that include theft and aggravated assault, Dougherty County Sheriff Terron Hayes said.

“I know this wasn’t walking across the stage,” Denson said. “At least I did it. Jail ain’t what’s going on. This ain’t the place to be.”

Like Denson and Rivers, Williams said he is motivated to do more once his legal issues are behind him.

“I want to go back to school and do something,” he said.

Albany Tech GED instructor Ben Johnson referred to Williams as his “top scholar” who passed all four sections of the test during his first testing. Denson spent time in “the hole,” but was able to overcome that obstacle.

“He came out of the hole with handcuffs and shackles,” Johnson said. “They took them off ... and he passed the test.”

“My only message today is hope. Hope is what got them here. Hope is the reason I graduated from high school. Hope is the reason I was a math instructor at Albany State University. Hope is the only reason I got a degree. Hope is going to get them

out of here. Those 14 that got a forklift certification, when these guys get out of there, they’ve got a job to come to.”

The program is part of a new Jails to Jobs program initiated at the facility about three months ago, the sheriff told a Herald reporter. In addition to the GED instruction, inmates also will be able to receive certification in other skills.

“It’s important because we’re going to be able to give them an opportunity that they didn’t have,” Hayes said. “We want to lessen their chances of coming back to this jail. The only way we can do that is by providing an educational aspect.”

To the certificate recipients, the sheriff, who took office at the beginning of the year, said that he understands that people make mistakes.

“Our mistakes don’t have to define us,” he said. “It’s all about how you face the challenges you are faced with. You didn’t let mistakes make you; you made a mistake. Now it’s time to regroup, recharge and go after what life has to offer. ... (And) when y’all get out, don’t bring your butts back.”

No Dougherty County taxes are going toward funding the program, Hayes said during an interview following the ceremony. The program is operated through a grant to Albany Tech and from donations from individuals.

As she was leaving the parking lot, Williams’ mother, Darcella Span, said that she was proud of her son.

“He’s the baby,” she said. “He’s my last one. I think this is wonderful. He can help me take care of the children. He can go get a job anywhere now. He got two degrees today.”




FIVE STAR CREDIT UNION

1204 US Hwy 19 South Suite A
Leesburg GA 31763
www.fivestarcu.com


The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Five Star Credit Union in Leesburg as this week’s Star Business of the Week. Founded in 1964, Five Star Credit Union is a full-service financial institution serving members across Alabama and Georgia. With a commitment to brightening the financial futures of the communities they serve, Five Star offers a wide range of personal and business banking solutions. Their services include checking and savings accounts, auto loans, home loans, manufactured home loans, business loans, and more. Members benefit from competitive rates, no annual fees on credit cards, and access to over 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide. The Leesburg branch, located at 1204 US Hwy 19 S Suite A, provides convenient access to these services for residents in the area. Five Star Credit Union is dedicated to supporting the financial well-being of its members and contributing to the economic growth of the communities it serves. Their member-centric approach and community involvement make them a valuable asset to the region. The Albany Area Chamber is proud to celebrate Five Star Credit Union for their outstanding service and commitment to the community. Visit them today at www.fivestarcu.com to learn more.




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Horoscopes

Spend more time fixing what you don't like and less time arguing with people who will never change. Assess your situation and choose the path that leads to personal contentment. Your happiness is your responsibility. Consider your attributes and value who you are and what you can do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Your input will inspire you revisit what motivates you. Get back to basics, adopt a smart lifestyle and engage in pastimes and activities that bring you joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Take a long, hard look at yourself. A change of attitude will come if you feel good about how you look and what you can contribute. Develop a plan and implement positive change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Words matter, so choose yours carefully. Be quick to walk away from temptation or anyone trying to lead you astray. Offer hope to others, but protect yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Refrain from traveling to destinations that may pose problems due to weather or other disasters. Take precautions regarding partnerships. Trying to love or loyalty will lead to consequences.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Direct your energy according to your needs. Use your intelligence and offer suggestions, but refrain from providing hands-on help. Your time and effort should focus on self-sufficiency and personal care.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Expect to face restrictions that affect your

relationships or your ability to apply your skills properly. Utilize your intelligence and farm out tasks that are beyond your capabilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Mixed emotions will surface. Envision the outcome before you begin. Your attempts to improve will lead to professional opportunities and compliments.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Spend more time or money on activities or things that help ease stress. Make your surroundings comfortable and distance yourself from people or situations that damage your confidence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Refuse to let uncertainty weigh you down or let someone's anger, distress or drama ruin your day. Remove yourself from unsavory situations and rely on your resources to help fill any void.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Tidy up loose ends and take refuge in doing something that you enjoy. Refuse to let emotional misunderstandings develop when truth and transparency can eliminate such problems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain if you embrace change with a smile and the willingness to put in the effort. You will discover a rite of passage if you are helpful and resourceful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You'll have to draw the line, set boundaries and be clear regarding what you are willing to do. You'll face accusations if you don't do everything by the book.

DO JUST ONE THING

by Danny Seo

If you want to help lessen strain on the electrical grid and save money, try this: Run your dishwasher at night. You can load up your dishwasher throughout the day and after dinner, then turn it on right before you head to bed. The grid is less strained during overnight hours, and it's cheaper, too. Energy costs decrease during the hours when we're traditionally away from home, before 4 p.m. and after 9 p.m. Running appliances like the laundry machine and dishwasher at night is both economical and ecological.

Today in History

Today is the 212th day of 2025 and the 42nd day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY:

In 1914, trading on the New York Stock Exchange stopped in response to the outbreak of World War I. It did not resume stock trading until December of that year.

In 1964, the American space probe Ranger 7 transmitted the first close-up photographs of the moon.

In 1991, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the START 1 treaty, an agreement to reduce both countries' nuclear arms stockpiles.

In 2006, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro underwent surgery and transferred presidential power to his brother Raul.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Milton Friedman (1912-2006), economist; Primo Levi (1919-1987), chemist/author; Geoffrey Lewis (1935-2015), actor; Evonne Goolagong Cawley (1951-), tennis player; Michael Biehn (1956-), actor; Mark Cuban (1958-), businessman/TV personality; Kevin Greene (1962-

2020), football player; Wesley Snipes (1962-), actor; J.K. Rowling (1965-), author; Zac Brown (1978-), musician; B.J. Novak (1979-), actor; DeMarcus Ware (1982-), football player; A.J. Green (1988-), football player.

TODAY'S FACT: The first U.S. patent was issued to inventor Samuel Hopkins on this day in 1790, for a process of making potash, an ingredient used in fertilizer.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 2012, American swimmer Michael Phelps broke Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina's long-standing career Olympic medal record, winning his 19th medal with a victory in the 4x200 relay.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I live in my house as I live inside my skin: I know more beautiful, more ample, more sturdy and more picturesque skins: but it would seem to me unnatural to exchange them for mine." -- Primo Levi, "If This Is a Man"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 11 million -- estimated population of Cuba in 2025.

TODAY'S MOON: First quarter moon (Aug. 1).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task itself has become easier, but that our ability to perform it has improved."

Ralph Waldo Emerson,
poet (1803-1882)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Rickover used the following seven rules for success: Practice continuous improvement; hire smart people; establish quality supervision; respect the dangers you face; training must be constant and rigorous; audit, control and inspect, and learn from past mistakes. More folks need to follow these rules.

List the mayor's office as a "cooling station" and make all utility complainants forced to stand in long lines go the Albany Utility manager's office with thermostats set at 78, like mine. New motto for Albany problem solution management: "Feel it to fix it."

Does the right-wing not know that their leader was part of the liberal elite before he became president?

I wonder what Robert Burns would say about Trump's visit to Scotland? Not sure, but I did note the headlines from one of their leading newspapers "The National." The banner front page headline: "Convicted U.S. Felon to Arrive in Scotland." We don't allow the admission of felons to our country. Wonder when he tries to re-enter if ICE will do their job.

A man told me at the recycle center that they don't take plastic bags. I told him that's sorry as h*ll.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedoms concerning assembly and the right to petition the government. People can protest, but not in a way that endangers public safety or disrupts essential services.

Amen, Mark Chesnutt. This so-called "new country" is awful; sad to say our boy Luke Bryan is a big part of it. I can't wait until your show, to hear and see some real country.

I laughed out loud at your story about the would-be racecar driver on downtown streets, Carlton. I'm just amazed that these clowns race around town with impunity, not concerned in the least that they'll be bothered by our crack law enforcement teams.

Is it just me, or does anyone else notice that there are kidney dialysis clinics on every other block in Albany? Looking at all the fat folks walking around town, though, I guess I understand the need for them. Albany must hold some kind of world record for kidney disease.

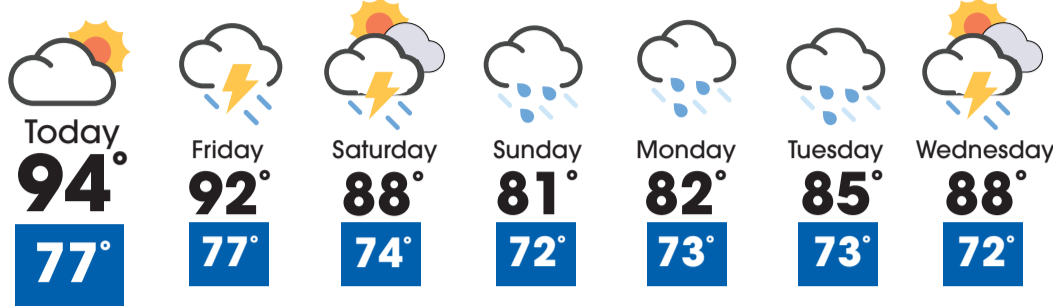
I've loved watching baseball all my life. This crap the Atlanta Braves have displayed this year is not baseball. Clean house!

Just when things start looking the bleakest they've been in years, along comes the story about the wonderful work Mary Carter is doing in her hometown. Thank you for your work, Mary. We need a whole lot more like you, especially in our pathetic government commissions and boards.

All of my religious Republican friends have gone underground since they found out the True President was running around with Epstein.

In an ironic, convoluted sort of way, Trump and his supporters are giving me comfort in my old age. I always thought I'd fear death more than anything if I lived this long, but I don't. It would actually be a relief, as I'd no longer have to witness what has happened to this once great nation. That troubles me far more than any health issue I have. That Man Without a Family.

Weather Forecast



BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

WHAT TO BID WITH TWO FOURS



What did James Thurber believe is the one human achievement that made the long trip up from all fours seem well advised? You have two four-card suits. The player on your left opens one of another suit, your partner makes a takeout double, and righty passes. Assuming you do not have enough high-card power to jump or to cue-bid, which suit would you bid first?

The question is easy to answer if one suit is a major and the other a minor -- you bid the major. But what if they are both majors or both minors, like South's hand in today's diagram? Which would you bid now?

The answer depends upon your point-count. If you have

a weak hand, bid the lower-ranking. But if your hand is strong enough to bid twice, start with the higher-ranking. Then, if the auction continues and partner does not raise your suit, show the other suit on the next round.

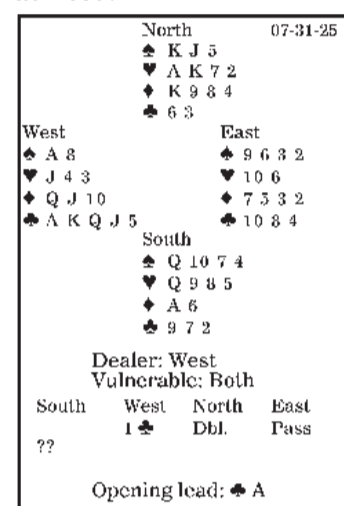
In this deal, you should advance with one spade. West will make a takeout double, North will pass, and East will run to two clubs or two diamonds.

Now you rebid two hearts as planned. North might raise to three hearts or, liking his great major-suit holdings, jump to four hearts. If he bids only three hearts, you would like to raise to three-and-a-half hearts!

The play in four hearts is

easy, given the great fit and friendly breaks. You will lose two clubs and one spade.

James Thurber thought that art made our move from all fours to upright walking well advised.



COLUMNIST ■ JACK BAGLEY

Did you know ...?



... the son of an assassinated president saw the murders of two others? Robert Todd Lincoln, the oldest son of Abraham Lincoln, was at his father's bedside when he died of an assassin's bullet. The younger Lincoln was also accompanying President James Garfield at a Washington train station as Secretary of War when Garfield was shot, and in 1901 he was at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., at the invitation of President William McKinley and was near McKinley when he was shot. Lincoln then vowed to never again appear in public with an incumbent president, and refused several invitations from successive presidents to appear with them.

... some countries do hold on to traditions? For instance, in Sweden, Christmas Eve sees the broadcast of a 1958 Walt Disney television special, "From All of Us to All of You." Translated into Swedish, the show is called "Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul," meaning Donald Duck and his Friends Wish You a Merry Christmas. The show has been aired without commercial interruption every Dec. 24 at 3 p.m. since 1959.

... a museum exists that is dedicated to presidential "also-rans?" Located in Norton, Kan., the "They Also Ran Gallery" is a small museum paying tribute to those who didn't win their presidential elections.

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

The museum was created in 1965 by William Walter Rouse, a banker who thought it appropriate to commemorate those who ran for president and didn't win the office. The museum is located on an upper floor of Norton's First State Bank, and its first enshrined runner-up was Horace Greeley, who lost the 1872 election to Ulysses S. Grant.

... one of the most iconic film scenes in history was totally improvised? In the 1981 film "Raiders of the Lost Ark," there is a scene in which the hero, Indiana Jones, faces a swordsman in the streets of Cairo, Egypt. The swordsman does a dazzling display with his scimitar, at the end of which Jones simply pulls out his pistol and shoots the swordsman. The scene was not supposed to go like that, however. Jones, portrayed by actor Harrison Ford, was supposed to engage in "the ultimate duel of a sword against a whip," as one writer said. However, Ford was ill from the effects of dysentery, and did not have the energy to even begin the duel -- which, of course, would have actually been conducted by stuntmen. So improvising something he had already discussed with director Steven Spielberg, Ford simply pulled the pistol and fired, and the swordsman -- played by British stuntman Terry Richards -- dropped to the ground.

... the most-visited country in the world is France? According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, more people visit France. If you were wondering, Spain is second; the United States is third.

... automobile tires were initially white? Tires made from natural rubber are white, but in 1912 carbon chemicals began to be mixed with the latex in an effort to make them more durable. The carbon chemicals turned the rubber black.

... one Canadian province requires contracts to be bilingual? In Quebec, the French-speaking part of Canada, any contract drafted in English must have a bilingual clause stating that the contract is only in English ... or it must be drafted in both French and English. Without that clause, the entire agreement is invalid.

... soft tortillas are a favorite food for astronauts in space? The reason is that they don't crumble, so no crumbs can get caught in the equipment.

... the old New York City Hall held a fascinating secret? When the building was being renovated in 1903, it was discovered that there was a secret stairwell in it. The stairwell was designed to be used by city officials to escape the building when angry constituents were waiting for them outside.

Now ... you know!

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PERSPECTIVES

The Albany Herald

Carlton Fletcher, Editor

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Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Expect wild session amid bad blood, budget gaps, election antics

The 2026 state legislative session is still half a year away, but it is already lining up to be highly contentious. This is due, in part, to some simmering resentment, looming high-stakes elections and trickle-down policies from Washington, D.C. So if state political theatrics are your thing, then grab some popcorn and settle into your seat.

As is often the case, some of the bad blood stemming from the prior session is sure to add drama to the upcoming session, and this animosity deals with the Legislature's technical details. For those of you who haven't taken a state civics class in a while, the Georgia General Assembly meets for 40 legislative days each year. On the last day, the House and Senate often work until midnight, sometimes later.

Last session was different. At 9:15 p.m., the Senate adjourned for the year, which shocked most onlookers, and this left the House of Representatives in a bit of a lurch. While there was plenty of legislation still under consideration, there was no point in the House taking any action that required Senate approval because the Senate had already shut down for the year.

This effectively killed plenty of bills — some good and some not so much — but the decision to adjourn early may have serious consequences. Some recent off-the-record conversations with lawmakers and Capitol insiders have made it clear that the House hasn't forgotten or forgiven the Senate. Come 2026, there may be some payback even. Will House members work to kill Senate priorities and adjourn early next year in retribution? Maybe.

Beyond this, there are a slew of lawmakers, primarily in the Senate, who have announced their intention to seek higher office after the conclusion of the 2026 session. This means that a number of them will be in campaign mode during session, and as such, may not be as collegial or cooperative with their fellow legislators. This could bog Senate proceedings down and lead to public spats.

Moreover, representatives and senators who are pursuing higher office are likely to introduce bills that are little more than red meat. Officials do this to raise their profile, win over their voting base and establish their bona fides. Some good measures could come from these antics, but most of them will probably boil down to pointless virtue signaling around social issues and establishing their love or hatred for President Trump.

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

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

— John 15:7

Earlier this year, a bill passed to establish an "America First" license plate, a resolution was introduced commending Trump "for his re-election and successful conservative policies as well as extend their best wishes for his continued leadership," and another bill sought to preserve the Second Amendment, even though the U.S. Constitution makes it pretty clear that it "shall not be infringed." If officials introduced measures like this in a non-election year, then 2026 will be a wild ride.

If these issues weren't bad enough, then passing the state budget could set the stage for some high-profile disputes. Generally this isn't a hot topic when state revenues are exceeding expectations. As it is, "Adjusting for the year-over-year motor fuel tax changes, year-to-date net tax revenue collections for the fiscal year that ended June 30 were up \$197.4 million, or 0.6%," according to a statement from the governor's office, and Georgia has maintained its coveted AAA bond rating.

At first glance, our finances look great, but federal policies might throw a wrench into the budget.

"In a memo sent last week by the state budget office, Director Richard Dunn advised agency heads that the Amended Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 budgets will likely not include any new spending increases," an Atlanta TV station reported. "The memo makes it clear that if federal funding is reduced, the state does not plan to fill in the gaps, except for enrollment-based programs such as K-12 education and health care services."

The reason for this memo seems tied directly to the federal budget.

"Trump's federal budget includes approximately \$1.5 trillion in cuts aimed at offsetting the cost of a \$4 trillion tax cut package," the TV station added. "Democrats have criticized the plan, arguing the tax cuts disproportionately benefit the wealthy and that the spending reductions could significantly impact essential state-level programs, including education and health care."

While I have no doubt that Georgia will ultimately be fine — especially since the state is governed in a fiscally responsible manner — few issues create nastier legislative fights than the budget. Nevertheless, between bad blood, impending elections and federal budget cuts, the Georgia General Assembly's coming session could be one for the ages.



HYDEN



GUEST COLUMNIST ■ DETRELL HAWKINS

'Good grief': Healing out loud in the black community

Grief is our natural emotional response to loss — it's what we feel when someone or something we care deeply about is taken away. And while grief often brings pain or sadness, there is such a thing as "good grief." It's the kind that you allow yourself to fully feel, that you don't suppress or run from.

"Good grief" involves intentionally acknowledging your pain, your memories and your emotions without judgment or resistance. It doesn't mean the grief itself feels good; instead, it means the process is honest, healing and profoundly human.

As a black woman, I've seen how grief can be both personal and collective. In many black communities, there's a long history of needing to "be strong" and push forward, sometimes at the cost of processing loss. But that strength doesn't mean we don't feel deeply. "Good grief" is learning to make space for those feelings and allowing ourselves to heal without shame. It's a radical act of self-care and love.

"Good grief" is something I learned later in life. The "breaking bonds" approach is one I often saw in my family growing up, which centers around the idea that healing requires emotional detachment from the person who has died. This approach can be helpful, especially when the relationship was traumatic or complex, because it emphasizes closure and acceptance.

In many black families and communities, this idea of "moving on" was often linked to survival and resilience. We were taught to be strong, to keep going no matter the loss. But what I've come to learn is that strength doesn't mean forgetting.

I'm fortunate to now serve in a leadership role at Kate's Club, a nonprofit that supports grieving children and young adults across Georgia. Here, we embrace the "continuing bonds" approach — where the relationship isn't severed, it simply changes. Whether it's a photo on the dresser, Sunday dinner rituals, or something symbolic like the keychain I carry with my brother's 3D image, continuing bonds honor legacy and belonging. These are not tokens of sadness, but symbols of love.

Continuing bonds can take other shapes, too. In my family, as well as across generations of black culture, after-death communication has been embraced as a deeply personal, yet often misunderstood, part of grieving where someone feels a spiritual connection to a loved one who has passed away. These moments can manifest as dreams, sensing a presence, hearing a voice, or noticing symbolic signs, such as butterflies or birds.

I'll never forget when my grandmother

Detrell Hawkins brings her passion for supporting individuals and families through grief to Kate's Club as the Southwest Georgia Regional Program Coordinator. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from Albany State University, studied Clinical Mental Health at Liberty University, and is a certified Life Coach trained in Functional Family Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy.



HAWKINS

passed, my mother told me about a vivid experience where my grandmother came to her in a dream and spoke words that carried deep meaning for our family. No one questioned the truth or importance of that moment; it was received with reverence.

Culturally, it was common to say things like, "She came to me last night," or "He's still watching over us." These aren't just expressions of comfort, they're acknowledgments of an unbroken bond.

Nonetheless, I have witnessed a cultural emphasis on "being strong" and "moving on" after death. Expressions of grief were sometimes discouraged, but more recently, I've seen a shift. More people, especially younger generations, are grieving out loud and honoring memories without shame. As a community, we're learning that it's okay to hold on to love even after loss.

In my current role, I see that shift firsthand. I watch children and caregivers take part in monthly activities that help them feel connected to loved ones who have died. Many share stories of memories they had forgotten, or how peace and joy unexpectedly surfaced during the process. One of the most common things I hear is, "I didn't know I needed this until I did it."

In the black community, the narrative has often been about "keeping it together" after a loss. Public grief wasn't always welcomed, especially for children. But spaces like a supportive grief community allow us to unlearn that. We create room to grieve without judgment and to heal through connection — a vital part of our survival.

These activities don't just fill time; they fill hearts. In the black community I grew up in, love was shown through storytelling, food, family gatherings and tradition. However, grief is not a one-size-fits-all experience. Every journey is personal, shaped by love, culture, relationship and circumstance. But one universal truth is that people need space, compassion and community as they navigate their loss.

As a black woman, I know the layers that can exist in grief, such as from personal loss, community trauma and generational pain. Yet, I also know the power of joy, faith, ritual and remembrance in our healing. We grieve through cooking, music, storytelling and celebration ... and all of it counts!

Through my work and personal experiences, it's an honor to walk alongside families and help them find meaning, healing, and connection in the midst of their grief — on their terms, in their way, and with dignity and love.

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ GAIL DRAKE

U.S. citizens protected from warrantless searches and seizures

"And my people shall dwell in peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18.

The witness rose, opened the letter, and began to read it to the tribunal.

"I, Alexandre Manette, unfortunate physician, native of Beauvais [France], ... write this melancholy paper in my doleful cell at the Bastille [prison in Paris], ... [in] 1767. I write it at stolen intervals, under every difficulty. ... These words are formed by the rusty iron point with which I write with difficulty in scrapings of soot and charcoal, ... mixed with blood, in the last month of the 10th year of my captivity."

So opens the tribunal scene, Chapter 10, of Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities." The witness continued to read the testimony of Dr. Manette from 10 years previous. The skilled surgeon was walking home late one night in Paris when a carriage pulled up and two men — with weapons — demanded he go with them to care for some

sick "commoners." The first patient was a beautiful young woman with fever and signs of suffocation — by handkerchiefs bearing the initials of the St. Evremonde family.

The second patient was her younger brother, suffering from a knife wound. When the Evremonde brothers stepped out of the room, the boy quietly told the doctor their story. Their family members were tenants of the aristocratic family, forced into long hard labor, beatings, and high taxes. His father had been killed by hard labor, and the boy had been stabbed in a duel. After killing her husband, the brothers had taken his sister "for their pleasure."

Both patients soon died, and the aristocrats offered to pay the doctor for his silence. Instead, Dr. Manette wrote a lengthy report about the cruelty and crimes of the Evremonde brothers and delivered it to the

local authorities.

Later that night, Dr. Manette had another visit at his home, another carriage, where he was captured, bound and taken to the Marquis Evremonde. The Marquis pulled out Manette's report, burned it before his eyes, and the doctor is imprisoned in the infamous Bastille with no warrant, no trial, no evidence.

Dr. Manette had been imprisoned with a "lettre de cachet," a sealed letter from the French king, allowing individuals to be jailed indefinitely without trial. The lettre de cachet was frequently used by French aristocrats to settle scores with their political enemies. During the early years in the American colonies, British officials would search people's homes at random and seize property, without any specific cause or suspicion. Under the power of a "writ of assistance," or a "general warrant," they could



DRAKE

search for anything at any time.

In the landmark English case Entick v. Carrington, the court ruled in 1765 that the British government must have legal justification to intrude onto private property. However, the practice of arbitrary searches persisted in the colonies. When America's founders framed the United States Constitution in 1789, the Fourth Amendment was introduced by Bill of Rights drafter James Madison and approved.

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things."

Gail Drake practices probate, adoption, mediation and children's law in Albany. She is a frequent contributor to The Albany Herald.

What to watch THURSDAY

July 31, 2025

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

Glass Heart

Netflix ■ **New Series**

This Japanese romantic drama tells the story of Akane Saijo (Yu Miyazaki), a college student and aspiring drummer who finds herself suddenly kicked out of her band. However, things take a turn for the better when brilliant musician Naoki Fujitani (Takeru Satoh) stumbles upon Akane's talent and invites her to join his new ensemble.

Leanne

Netflix ■ **New Series**

Comedian Leanne Morgan leads this sitcom inspired by her relatable, down-home comedy. She plays the titular matriarch whose life is turned upside down when her husband of 33 years (Ryan Stiles) leaves her for another woman. Leanne leans on her family for support to navigate this unexpected new chapter in her life. Kristen Johnston, Graham Rogers, Hannah Pilkes, Celia Weston and Blake Clark costar in this series, which also features prolific sitcom writer/creator Chuck Lorre (*The Big Bang Theory*) among its executive producers.



'Bob's Burgers'

FOX

Bob's Burgers

FOX, 8 p.m.

Two new episodes of the animated comedy air tonight. In "The Dead Bo-ats Society," the kids explore a marine scrapyard in search of adventure. Then, in "Dad-urday Kite Fever," Bob (voice of H. Jon Benjamin) is determined to fly his old childhood kite with his kids.

NFL Preseason: Hall of Fame Game: Detroit vs. L.A. Chargers

NBC, 8:05 p.m. Live

The Detroit Lions and L.A. Chargers play in the Hall of Fame Game to open the NFL preseason at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

Project Runway

Freeform, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Are you ready to "make it work"? The long-running Bravo reality competition series is back for its 21st season, though on a new

network and with some minor shakeups: Fashion icon and former model Heidi Klum is back as host and judge, joined by longtime judge Nina Garcia and new judge Law Roach, an acclaimed celebrity stylist most famous for working with Zendaya. However, one of the show's most famous alums, Christian Siriano, will be replacing longtime mentor Tim Gunn, who was — to much dismay — not asked to return for the new season.

Alone

History, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Echoes of Emptiness," starvation and exhaustion push the survivalists to their limits as wild game taunts them at every turn. While one participant looks for a reason to carry on, another teeters on the edge of their breaking point.

Revival

Syfy, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "A Rose and a Thorn," the past collides with the present as Dana (Melanie Scrofano) and Em (Romy Weltman) piece together Revival Day's origins.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Gladiator'

EVERETT COLLECTION

The Jane Mysteries: A Deadly Prescription (2024, Mystery) Jodie Sweetin, Stephen Huszar **Hallmark Mystery, 6 p.m.**

Big Daddy (1999, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Joey Lauren Adams **VH1, 7 p.m.**

The Equalizer 3 — The Final Chapter (2023, Action) Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning **FX, 7 p.m.**

Descendants: The Rise of Red (2024, Family) Kylie Cantrall, Malia Baker **Disney, 7:30 p.m.**

Seduced by His Lies (2025, Suspense) Lauren Lee Smith, Christopher Russell **LMN, 8 p.m.**

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

Overboard (1987, Comedy) Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

Little Nicky (2000, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Patricia Arquette **VH1, 9 p.m.**

A Bronx Tale (1993, Crime drama) Robert De Niro, Chazz Palminteri **BBC America, 9:30 p.m.**

Godzilla vs. Kong (2021, Science fiction) Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown **TNT, 10 p.m.**

National Lampoon's Vacation (1983, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo **AMC, 10 p.m.**

Gladiator (2000, Historical drama) Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix **Paramount, 11 p.m.**

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

CATCH A CLASSIC

AFI Life

Achievement Award: Francis Ford Coppola

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola received the prestigious Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute at this ceremony that took place in April. According to Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI board of trustees, "Francis Ford Coppola is a peerless artist — one who has created seminal works in the canon of American film and has also

inspired generations of filmmakers who now embody his artistry and his independent spirit." The program celebrates Coppola's career, featuring tributes to actors who have appeared in his legendary films, and friends and fellow filmmakers, including Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Adam Driver, Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman, Ron Howard, Diane Lane, Spike Lee and more. Following the airing of the ceremony, TCM will present one of Coppola's most iconic works: the Vietnam War drama **Apocalypse Now (pictured)**, led by Martin Sheen, Robert Duvall and Marlon Brando. Following that is a replay of the AFI special, after which **Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse** will make its TCM premiere. This Emmy-win-



CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE

ning 1991 documentary chronicles how the extraordinary script, shooting, budget and casting problems that plagued *Apocalypse Now* during its production nearly destroyed Coppola's life and career. The evening ends with **The Rain People** (1969), a road drama written and directed by Coppola, and starring James Caan, Shirley Knight and Duvall.



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What to watch FRIDAY

August 1, 2025

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

Chief of War

Apple TV+ ■ **New Series**

Jason Momoa, who also cowrote and produced this series, leads the predominantly Polynesian cast in an epic retelling of the unification of Hawaii told from a Hawaiian point of view. Set amid the stunning backdrop of the beautiful region, the nine-episode season based on true events follows warrior Ka'iana (Momoa) as he tries to unify the islands at the turn of the 18th century.

My Oxford Year

Netflix ■ **Original Film**

Romance is on the syllabus in this comedy that follows Anna (Sofia Carson), an ambitious young American woman who sets out for the U.K. and Oxford University to fulfill a childhood dream. Her life seems to be completely on track — until she meets Jamie (Corey Mylchreest), a charming and clever local, a meeting that profoundly alters both of their lives. Dougray Scott and Catherine McCormack also star.

Perfect Match

Netflix ■ **Season Premiere**

Season 3 of this Nick Lachey-hosted series once again brings together some of the most famously single stars of Netflix's unscripted series to a tropical paradise in an attempt to find love. For the first time, these Netflix stars will be joined by fan favorites from similar shows on other networks/services, like the *Bachelor* and *Love Island* franchises. Episodes 1-6 are available Aug. 1; Episodes 7-9 drop Aug. 8; and the season finale is available on Aug. 15.

Deadliest Catch

Discovery Channel, 8 p.m. ■

Season Premiere

In Season 21 of the reality series, when fishermen discover monster red king crab in the far west, a gold rush-style race ignites among the Dutch Harbor fleet. To claim their share of the billion-dollar bounty, captains and crews must brave unforgiving 50-foot seas to reach remote Adak Island, venturing farther west than anyone has dared in over 30 years. Navigating through unfamiliar territory, the crews face extreme conditions and major ship malfunctions that leave them at the mercy of the tumultuous western Bering Sea.

The Fixer

FOX, 8 p.m.

Investor and entrepreneur Marcus Lemonis helps a company that offers tie-dyeing experiences in "Tippy Tie Dye" and a boutique ice cream shop in "Kreme & Krumb."



'Chief of War'

NICOLA DOVE

Marc Maron: Panicked

HBO, 8 p.m.

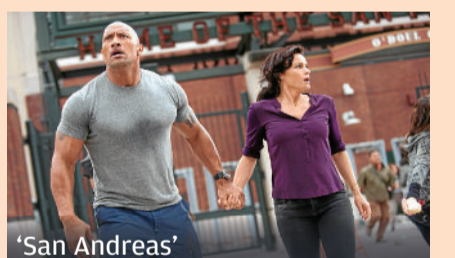
In his second HBO special, comedian and podcaster Marc Maron offers up his nuanced perspective on our increasingly uncertain world.

Resident Alien

Syfy, 10 p.m.

With lives hanging in the balance, Harry (Alan Tudyk) is put to the test in the new episode "Tunnel Vision."

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'San Andreas'

EVERETT COLLECTION

National Lampoon's Vacation (1983, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo **AMC, 6 p.m.**

What Men Want (2019, Romance-comedy) Taraji P. Henson, Tracy Morgan **BET, 6 p.m.**

13 Going on 30 (2004, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo **Bravo, 6:30 p.m.**

Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth **FX, 7 p.m.**

I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997, Horror) Jennifer Love Hewitt, Sarah Michelle Gellar **VH1, 7 p.m.**

Fast Five (2011, Action) Vin Diesel, Paul Walker **TNT, 7:30 p.m.**

Killer in the Woods (2024, Suspense) Liana Giurissevich, Randy Wayne **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Pretty Woman (1990, Romance-comedy) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts **E!, 8 p.m.**

San Andreas (2015, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino **TBS, 8 p.m.**

Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) John Candy, Amy Madigan **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Girls Trip (2017, Comedy) Regina Hall, Queen Latifah **Bravo, 8:30 p.m.**

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

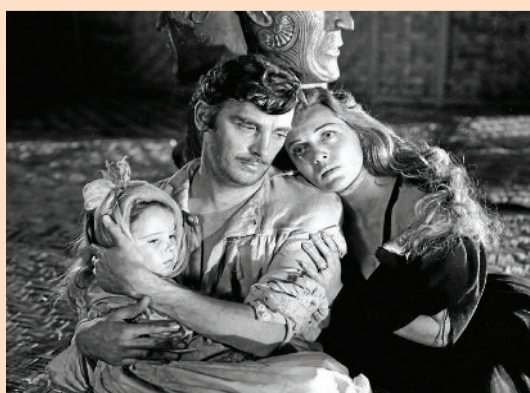
CATCH A CLASSIC

2025 Summer Under the Stars

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

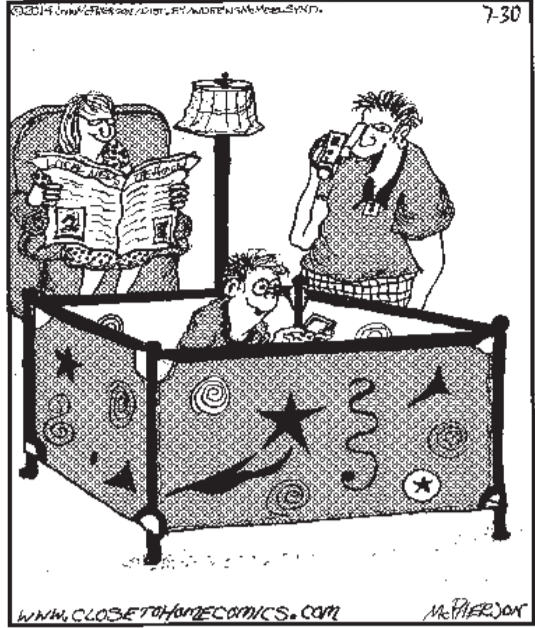
Turner Classic Movies' annual August programming favorite returns, with the network again devoting each day this month to films from a particular actor or actress, beginning today with 12 films led by **Lana Turner**, including celebrated dramas like

1947's **Green Dolphin Street (pictured)**, **Imitation of Life** (1959) and **The Bad and the Beautiful** (1952), and classic films noir like **Johnny Eager** (1942) and **The Postman Always Rings Twice** (1946), featuring Turner in an iconic femme fatale role alongside John Garfield. This year, eight people are featured in Summer Under the Stars for the first time: Christopher Plummer (Aug. 2), Ruby Dee (Aug. 7), Pedro Armendáriz (Aug. 12), Charles Bronson (Aug. 16), James Gleason (Aug. 18), Gina Lollobrigida (Aug. 23), Tom Courtenay (Aug. 26) and Donald O'Connor (Aug. 28).



WARNER BROS.

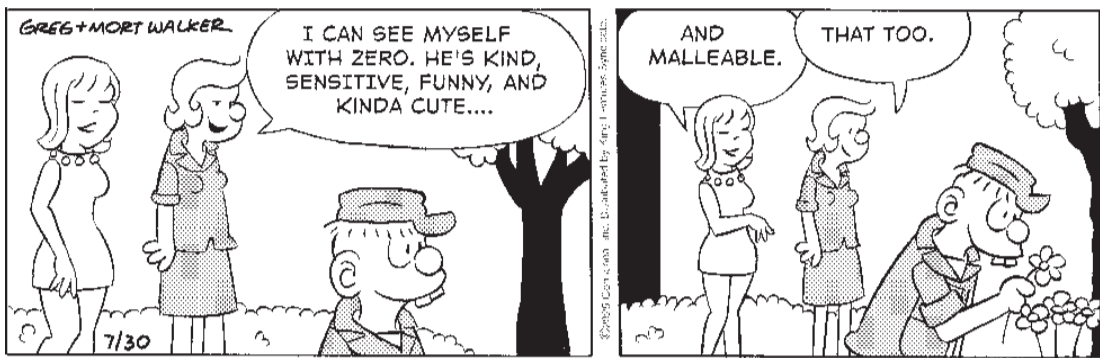
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



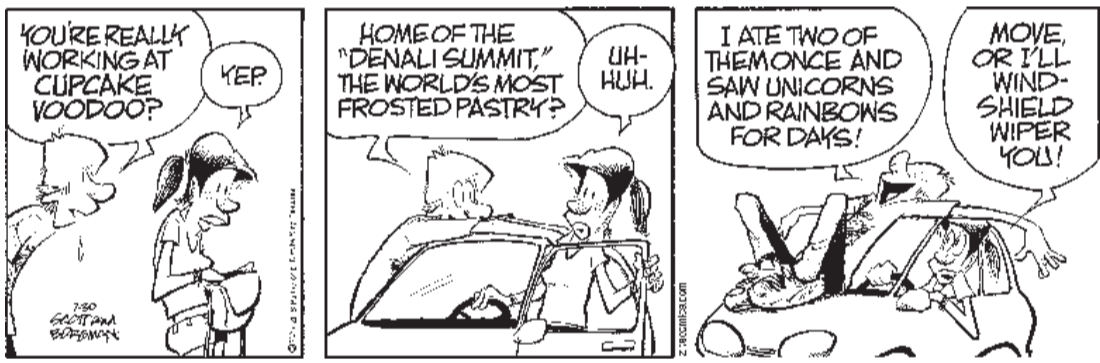
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sanson



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



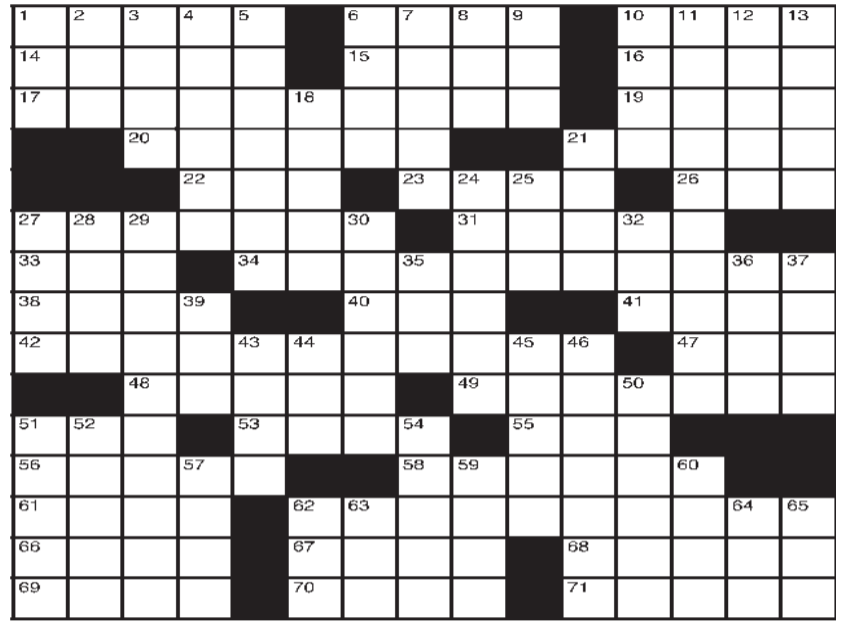
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like just-cut radish slices
 - 6 Butter used in pantua
 - 10 Lack of objectivity
 - 14 Wood that repels moths
 - 15 Covered with grease
 - 16 "Do ___ others ..."
 - 17 Place to catch some rays
 - 19 Nose-in-the-air sort
 - 20 Set of the rosary
 - 21 Scavenging carnivore
 - 22 [This isn't my typo]
 - 23 Like a locked door
 - 26 Visibly embarrassed
 - 27 Traffic report vehicles, briefly
 - 31 Readily available
 - 33 Guatemala gold
 - 34 Place to catch some rays
 - 38 ___ of Skye
 - 40 Not 'neath
 - 41 "Basket of Bread" painter Salvador
 - 42 Place to catch a ray
 - 47 Pepsi holder
 - 48 Hide from prying eyes
 - 49 Pool section with diving boards
 - 51 Residue in a fire pit
 - 53 Desperate request
 - 55 Jellyfish home
 - 56 Midnight fridge visits
 - 58 Petty complaints
 - 61 Coin in the Trevi Fountain
 - 62 Place to catch a ray
 - 66 Penny-___
 - 67 "What ___ wrong?"
 - 68 "Broad City" star
 - 69 Bratty back talk
 - 70 Tons
 - 71 Like reserved seats
- DOWN**
- 2 Remote button with a red dot
 - 3 Response to "Anyone see that?"
 - 4 Least dangerous
 - 5 More expensive
 - 6 "No news is ___ news"
 - 7 Spots for queens
 - 8 "Hostel" director
 - 9 Calm part of a storm
 - 10 Unable to hang out
 - 11 State sought in meditation
 - 12 Right wrongs
 - 13 Just terrible
 - 18 "Large" prefix
 - 21 URL opener
 - 24 Souped-up car
 - 25 ___, dos, tres
 - 27 Hairdo
 - 28 Approximately
 - 29 Top choices for golfers
 - 30 Provide comfort to
 - 32 Say further
 - 35 ___ and far between
 - 36 Family group
 - 37 Warmhearted
 - 39 Toronto summer hrs.
 - 43 Catches a few z's
 - 44 Adult ed class
 - 45 Sticky pine secretion
 - 46 Slay in shape
 - 50 Spanish dish with rice and saffron
 - 51 Calculus calculations
 - 52 Bathroom hot spot
 - 54 Singer's representative
 - 57 "What ___ it matter?"
 - 59 "Well, darn!"
 - 60 Enjoy a bubble bath
 - 62 Bird with piercing eyes
 - 63 Jensen Huang of Nvidia, e.g.
 - 64 Atomic number of hydrogen
 - 65 Competed in a relay, say

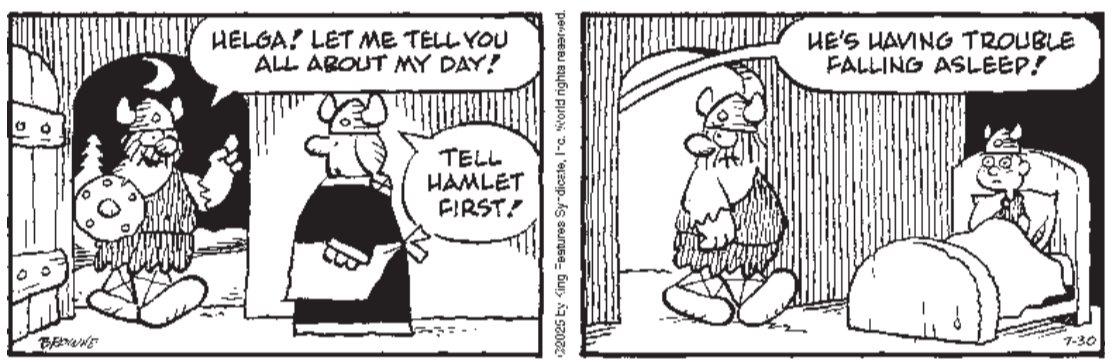
TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

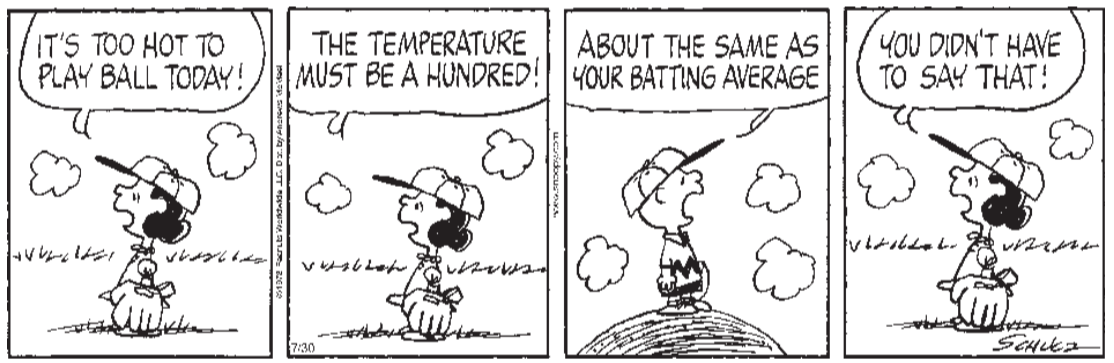


By Dan Kammann & Zhoujin Burnikel ©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 07/30/25

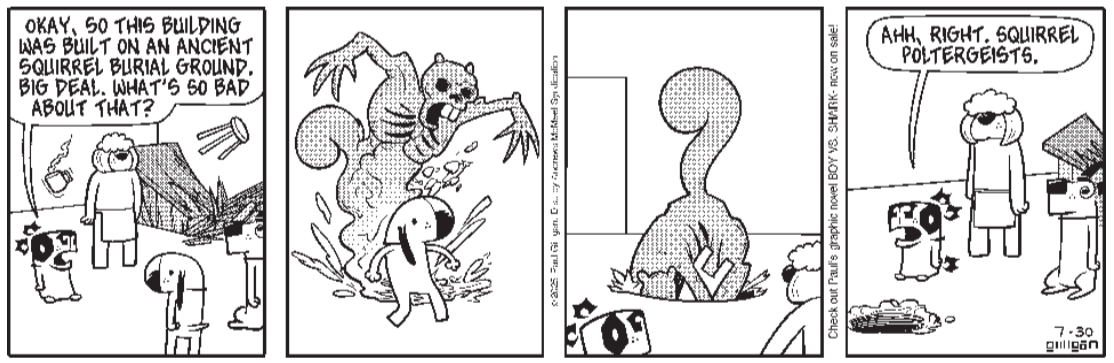
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

GREASY FOODS Solution: 10 letters

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

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Bacon, Bite, Bread, Brie, Burgers, Butter, Carnival, Cheddar, Cheese, Chicken Wings, Cream, Crispy, Duck, Egg Rolls, Eggs, Fast, Food Trucks, Fried, Fries, Hash Browns, Hungry, Icing, Lamb, Margarine, Meat, Melt, Messy, Nachos, Napkins, Oils, Omelet, Pastry, Patty, Pizza, Potato Chips, Ribs, Roast, Salt, Sausage, Shrimp, Snack, Soaked, Steak, Tacos

TODAY'S ANSWER: Onion Rings

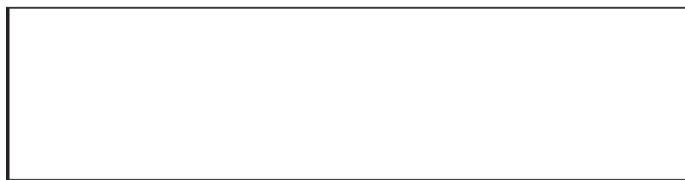
SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



THIEF

SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS:

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

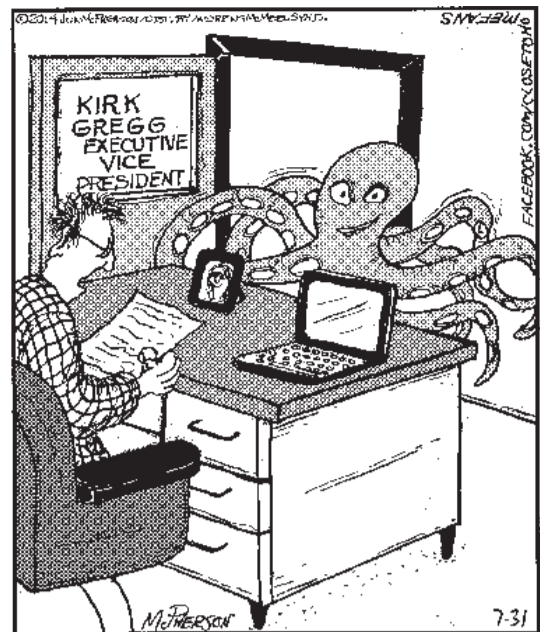
TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

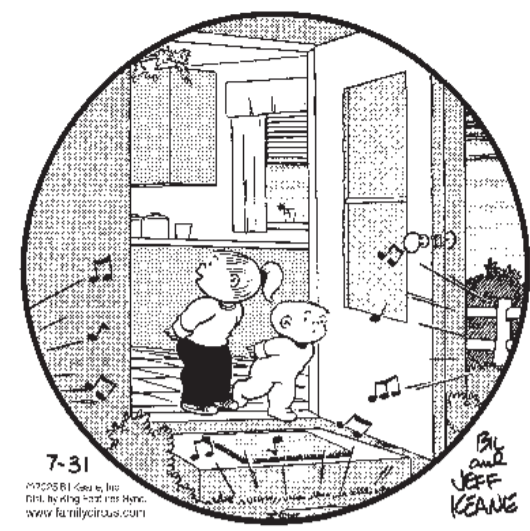
Under taker

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"According to this, you excel at multitasking."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane

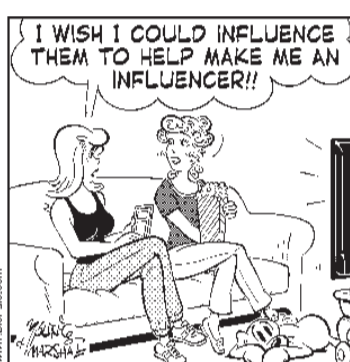
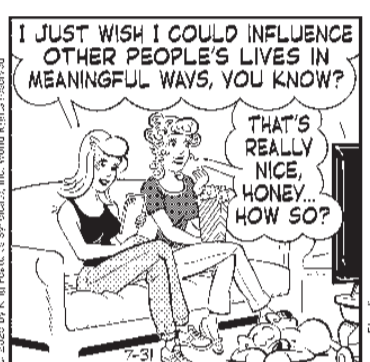


"The crickets are beginnin' to tune up."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sanson



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "— Your Eyes Only"
 4 Lugged
 9 Snaky shape
 12 ET's craft
 13 Kitchen item
 14 Dye container
 15 Recite
 16 Rose oil
 17 Actress — Marie Saint
 18 Grab
 20 "Guess Who's Coming to —"
 22 Land parcel
 23 Raison —
 24 Related
 26 Eil
 29 Domicile (Abbr.)
 30 Actor — Ferrigno
 31 Stretched tight

DOWN

1 To-do
 2 In the blink — eye
 3 Supporter of the monarchy
 4 Pamphlet
 5 Promise
 6 Explosive stuff
 7 "Yikes!"
 8 Ridicule

35 Actor — LeBlanc
37 Skill
38 CIA relative
39 Injures
41 Printer's blue
42 — operand
45 One in a litter
46 Has being
48 Coarse fabric
51 Twitch
52 Speak
54 Physicians' org.
55 Fruity drink
56 Tantalize
57 Swindle
58 Directed
59 Chew the scenery
60 Before

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

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

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



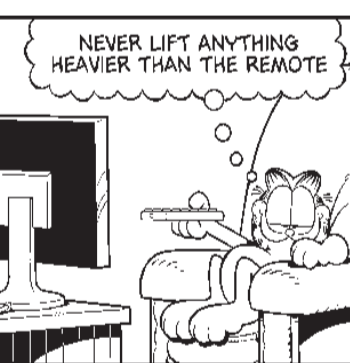
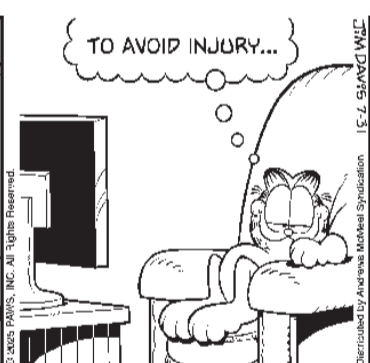
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



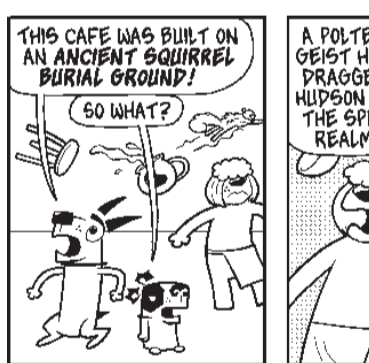
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

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

IT'S PRIVATE Solution: 6 letters

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

sick death death

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Sick to death

Atlanta embraces cheap, effective way to beat heat: Cool roofs

By Matt Simon
Grist

ATLANTA -- Walk outside into 100-degree heat wearing a black shirt, and you'll feel a whole lot hotter than if you were wearing white. Now think about your roof: If it's also dark, it's soaking up more of the sun's energy and radiating that heat indoors. If it were a lighter color, it'd be like your home was wearing a giant white shirt all the time.

This is the idea behind the "cool roof."

Last month, Atlanta joined a growing number of American cities requiring that new roofs be more reflective. That significantly reduces temperatures not just in a building, but in the surrounding urban environment.

"I really wanted to be able to approach climate change in the city of Atlanta with a diversity of tactics because it's far easier to change a local climate than it is a global one," City Council member Liliana Bakhtiari, who authored the bill, said.

Because cities set their own building codes, they can regulate roofs regardless of the whims of the Trump administration, which is aggressively rolling back climate policies. Experts say cool roofs are a simple, relatively cheap, and effective way to save people from extreme heat.

"I like to say that reflective materials transform rooftops from problem to power," Daniel

J. Metzger, a senior fellow at Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, said. "Cool roofs give homeowners the power to improve health outcomes and air quality while saving money on their own energy bills."

Other cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, have also passed cool-roof ordinances, but they often only cover flat roofs, like you'd see on a commercial building. Atlanta's ordinance covers all roofs, though it only mandates that new ones be made cool — it's not forcing anyone to rip theirs off if it's not time to replace. So it'll take some time for every roof in the city to change, but Atlanta is also rapidly growing with new construction.

"It's going to be kind of a gradual, ongoing, but ideally a permanent response to rising temperatures," Brian Stone, director of the Urban Climate Lab at Georgia Tech, said. "This is pushing Atlanta into one of the more forward-looking cities."

The Smart Surfaces Coalition — a nonprofit that works with cities to enact cool roof ordinances — estimates that Atlanta's new building code will cool the city overall by 2.4 degrees Fahrenheit during peak summer temperatures, and by as much as 6.3 degrees in the city's hottest neighborhoods. It further calculates that over a 35-year period, the ordinance will result in \$310 million in energy savings, due to resi-

dents having to run their air conditioners less.

"It's a super cost-effective way to make the city healthier, more competitive, cut energy bills, and protect jobs," Greg Kats, founder and CEO of the Smart Surfaces Coalition, said.

A cool roof is a passive technology that keeps working on its own. For the flat roof of a commercial building, a simple coat of white paint will do. Manufacturers also make special cool roof shingles that reflect more sunlight. Whatever the strategy, cool roofs are no more expensive to install than traditional ones, and can even be cheaper. They also extend the life of a roof because there's less wear and tear of the material expanding in the heat, then contracting when it cools down.

Like any other city, Atlanta is struggling with the urban heat island effect: As a summer day wears on, the built environment of asphalt, brick, and concrete absorbs more of the sun's warmth. This raises temperatures perhaps 20 degrees Fahrenheit above the surrounding countryside, where there's more vegetation releasing water vapor to cool the air. At night, that stored heat slowly releases from a city, keeping temperatures abnormally high into the morning.

The urban heat island effect gets especially bad in lower-income neighborhoods, where there's typically less tree cover than in richer areas.

"These folks are getting the



Special Photo: Grist

Last month, Atlanta joined a growing number of American cities requiring that new roofs be more reflective.

triple whammy," Mark Conway, a council member who sponsored Baltimore's cool roof ordinance, said. "Not only is it hotter in those areas of the city, but then also they don't have the trees and the shade to help them, nor can they pay for the AC."

While getting more air conditioners into more homes will help save lives as cities get hotter, it's not a cure-all. For one, the units use a lot of energy, and Atlanta's residents already deal with some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a significant proportion of their income goes to electric bills. Two, air con-

ditioners actually make urban heat worse: They work by extracting heat from indoor air and pumping it outside — that's why you feel a blast of hot air if you walk by one of them. And if the grid goes down because too many people are running their AC and other appliances at once, everyone's now at much higher risk.

"When a house loses power, if its only intervention to stay cool is air conditioning, it's very likely that people inside of that home are going to quickly overheat," Grace Wickerson, senior manager of climate and health at the Federation of American Scientists,

a nonprofit think tank, said.

At the same time, American cities are complementing cool roofs with more trees. Cleveland, for example, has set a goal of getting all its residents within a 10-minute walk of a green space by 2045. Trees provide shade and also release cooling water vapor, like rural vegetation does. Parks and gardens also soak up rainwater, preventing flooding.

"There's just a long litany of good reasons to plant as many trees as possible, and cool roofs don't take away from that," Metzger said. "They work together to overall cool the city."

Benjamin Land sworn in as Supreme Court justice

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Benjamin A. Land was officially sworn in Monday to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Gov. Brian Kemp appointed the former Georgia Court of Appeals judge to the state's highest court to fill the seat vacated by former Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, who left the bench at the end of March to return to private practice. The governor administered the oath of office in the North Wing of the State Capitol Building.

Land's brother, U.S. District Court Judge Clay D. Land of the Middle District of Georgia, introduced him, stating that Benjamin Land's "keen and curious intellect," his strong work ethic, and his understanding of "people of all circumstances and backgrounds" are assets that make him an "exceptional judge."

"In our system, judges have a unique and essential, but limited, role to interpret the law and not to create the law, to try and discover what those who wrote the law meant when they wrote it, and to apply that meaning to present-day circumstances," Clay Land said of his brother. "Ben gets that.



Special Photo: Georgia Supreme Court

Benjamin A. Land was officially sworn in Monday to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

"Finally, once arriving at the meaning of the law, an exceptional judge must have the courage to say what that law is, even if that judge personally disagrees with the outcome and even if it causes the judge personal and, yes, in the case of elected judges, political discomfort. Judicial independence is paramount in any representative democracy. ... Ben has demonstrated that he understands the proper role of a judge and has the courage to make decisions consistent with that understanding. In short, he knows what is meant by the rule of law, he appreciates the importance of it, and he possesses the conviction to

play his role in maintaining it."

Justice Land was appointed by Kemp to serve on the Court of Appeals in July 2022 and was re-elected statewide in 2024. He also has served as a judge of the Superior Court for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, appointed by then-Gov. Nathan Deal in 2018.

While a trial judge, Land served on the Council of Superior Court Judges Budget Committee and Pattern Jury Instructions Committee. During his time at the Court of Appeals, he chaired the Rules Committee and served on the Legislative Committee.

Justice Land is a Double Dawg. He earned his undergraduate

and law degrees from the University of Georgia, graduating summa cum laude from the UGA School of Law in 1992 and finishing second in his class of 202 students. Following law school, Land ran his own private law firm, focused on civil litigation and trial practice.

During his remarks, Land noted that 35 years ago he interned at the Supreme Court of Georgia under Justice George T. Smith. On his first day, he got lost in downtown Atlanta but still managed to make it to the court on time.

He pledged to the citizens of Georgia, as well as to his fellow justices, to be on time for oral arguments and other court functions but also to "work as hard as I can to reach the right result in every case for the right reason, without fear, without favor, or without affection."

He also quoted former Court of Appeals judge and civil rights lawyer Herbert Phipps of Baker County: "You have to have the courage to do the right thing when the whole world is watching. And you have to have the integrity to do the right thing when no one is watching. I can think of no better motto for any judge, and I can think of no better words to describe my approach to this job."

Fake Romeos used social media to swindle women

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A Georgia man has been convicted in a Louisiana federal court for his role in a scheme that involved stringing along women online then extracting millions of dollars from them.

During a four-day trial, prosecutors presented evidence that Kenneth G. Akpieyi, 44, played a key role in defrauding women by connecting them with romantic partners on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms, the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Louisiana said.

The conversations then moved to encrypted platforms, including WhatsApp, where the perpetrators asked the women to send money for fraudulent reasons, such as for charity or to help with family illnesses, prosecutors said.

Eight victims testified to-

tal losses exceeding \$3 million, prosecutors said.

Michael M. Simpson, the acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, praised the FBI in New Orleans for their work on the case. Simpson also thanked the Cobb County Sheriff's Office and the FBI in Atlanta.

Akpieyi, who lived in Marietta under the alias Phillip Anderson, used his company, KGA Autobrokers LLC, to obscure the movement of victims' money, with funds reaching bank accounts in China, the United Arab Emirates and other countries, prosecutors said.

Akpieyi will be sentenced Nov. 5 and could get up to 20 years in prison for conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and 20 years for conspiracy to commit money laundering. He also faces hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

AAPHC to present Legislative State of Union



File Photo

Albany Area Primary Health Care CEO Shelley Spires will host a virtual health seminar Friday.

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Albany Area Primary Health Care CEO Shelley Spires will serve as host of a virtual Legislative State of the Union discussion on health care in area communities.

From the comfort of their home or office, participants will join Spires and special guests for a discussion of health care issues created primarily by the political division in the country. Rural health care is making headlines now more than ever, especially as many small communities face

the growing threat of medical deserts, areas where no medical care is available within an hour's drive.

Officials at Albany Area Primary Health Care say they are committed to preventing these medical deserts from forming in southwest Georgia. Serving 12 counties across the region, AAPHC ensures that providers and essential services remain accessible to its patients and their families.

To learn more about what's ahead for rural health care in southwest Georgia, join the conversation from 9-10 a.m. Aug. 8.

Arlington's New Bethel Missionary Church awards scholarships

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ARLINGTON — Pastor Jeffery Haynes Sr. and the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Arlington recently announced the two award recipients for the 2025 New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Scholarship awards.

The first recipient of the \$500 scholarship is Nazariah Cannon. She is the daughter of Pastor Jeffery Haynes Sr. and Jessica Haynes. Nazariah was a 2025 honor graduate of Early County High School and says she plans to attend Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta in the fall. She has served in the Youth Choir as well as various activities in

New Bethel Ministries.

The second recipient is Zechariah Canidate, who has been offered a full-ride scholarship at Cleveland State Community College in Tennessee. Canidate was voted MVP of the Calhoun County Basketball Team this year and has been a faithful part of New Bethel's youth ministry, including singing in the Youth Choir. Canidate is the son of Tomika Canidate. He said he believes his faith in God and faithfulness in the ministry has led him to the point he has reached today.

"Both youths have exemplified what it means to be dedicated to the Lord," Haynes said of the students. "Train them up in the way they should go."

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Special Photo: Jay Biggerstaff-Imagn Images

Kansas City Royals center fielder Kyle Isbel makes a leaping catch at the wall during Tuesday night's 9-6 win over the Atlanta Braves. Isbel also delivered the game's biggest blow at the plate, clearing the bases with a three-run double in a five-run sixth inning.

Achilles tightness sidelines Acuña in Braves' 9-6 loss

Field Level Media

Kyle Isbel's three-run double highlighted a five-run sixth inning while Vinnie Pasquantino homered and doubled as the Kansas City Royals won 9-6 over the visiting Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

Jonathan India had a two-run double, and Bobby Witt Jr. recorded two RBI singles as the Royals evened this three-game set with their sixth win in nine games. Austin Riley and Marcell Ozuna homered for the Braves, who removed Ronald Acuna Jr. in the sixth inning after he struggled to corral Pasquantino's double. The team described the ailment as Achilles tightness.

Fresh off signing a two-year, \$46

million contract extension to stay in Kansas City, Seth Lugo (8-5) held the Braves off the scoreboard for five innings. He wound up allowing seven hits, three runs and four walks over 5 2/3 innings while registering five strikeouts.

Ozuna, subject of consistent trade rumors, added an RBI single in the seventh for the Braves, who have lost eight of 10. Recently acquired Erick Fedde (4-11) made his first start for the Braves and allowed four runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Fedde retired the first two batters he faced, then Pasquantino sent the ball just inside the right-field foul pole for a 1-0 Kansas City lead.

In the bottom of the second, India hit the left-field fence on a ball that drifted away from Atlanta's Jurickson Profar

to drive in two. Witt followed with a run-scoring hit.

Lugo was cruising until two out in the sixth. Riley took him deep over the center-field wall. After Michael Harris II singled, Ozuna clubbed his second homer of the series to make it 4-3. Lugo then loaded the bases, but Hunter Harvey entered and got Profar on a lineup to center.

The Royals, on the other hand, didn't waste their bases-loaded opportunity in the sixth. Isbel cleared the bags with a hit off Enyel De Los Santos that Profar appeared to take the wrong angle on. The ball reached the left-field wall for a 7-4 Kansas City edge. Isbel scored on another hit from Witt, who then scored on Pasquantino's ground-rule double.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Baconton Charter senior Makaya Logue gives Coach Blake Pollock a high five during a summer game in Moultrie. Logue, a senior shortstop and pitcher, is one of the players to watch this season as the Lady Blazers open their season this weekend with four games.

Baconton Charter softball ready to battle for region title

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

BACONTON — There's something different about the Baconton Charter Lady Blazers this year—and Head Coach Blake Pollock can feel it.

After a tough 2024 campaign that saw the Lady Blazers finish 7-17 overall and fourth in Region 1-A, Pollock enters the 2025 season with fresh optimism. His confidence isn't rooted in flashy stats or a dominant ace in the circle—it's grounded in something far more fundamental.

"They're just more mature," Pollock said. "They're playing for each other now. Last year we didn't have that. This year, they're having fun, they're working together, and it shows."

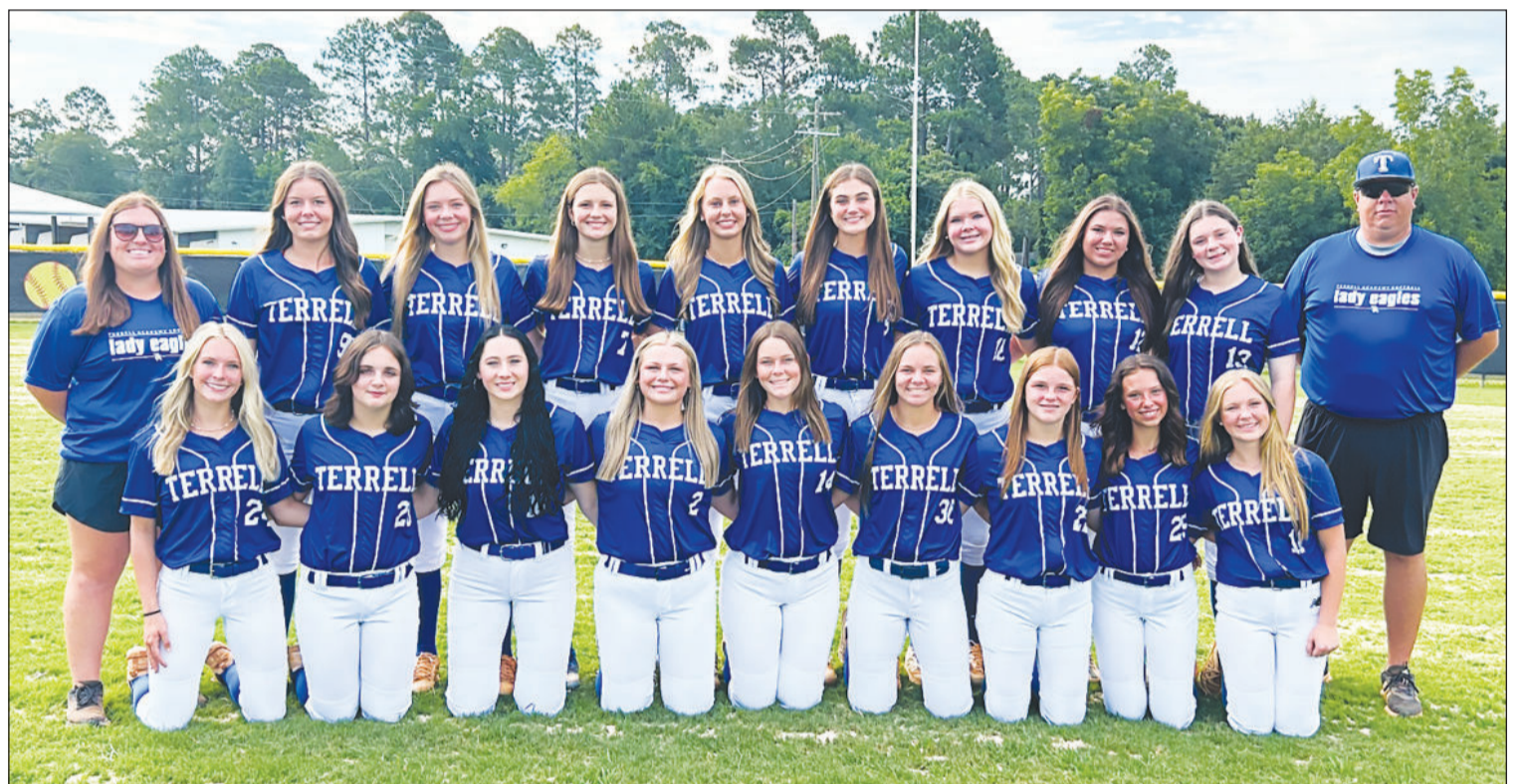
Baconton opens the season this weekend by hosting a two-day tournament featuring 15 teams. The Lady Blazers will face Southwest Georgia on Friday at 4 p.m., then return Saturday for games against Southland, Westwood, and Citizens Christian—all on home turf.

Pollock has coached his share of teams in his seven years leading the program, but last season, he admits, was the toughest.

"I think it was the worst season I've had here," he said. "But Tuesday we scrimmaged in Americus and the vibe on the field felt completely different. It felt right."

Offensively, Pollock expects his squad to hit the ball

See **SOFTBALL**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

The Terrell Academy Lady Eagles opened the softball season Wednesday against Southwest Georgia Academy. Now led by long-time basketball coach Ashley Walker, the Lady Eagles are looking to contend for a region title this season.

Lady Eagles open softball season with hope, heat, high expectations

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

DAWSON — It was hot on Wednesday afternoon, but that didn't stop the Terrell Academy Lady Eagles from opening their softball season. Heat's just another challenge — and this group seems ready for whatever comes their way.

They'll welcome the Lady Warriors of Southwest Georgia Academy to Dawson for the season opener, the first official game under new head coach Ashley Walker.

"We've got a really good group of girls who've been working hard," Walker said. "We had a scrimmage last week against Tattnall — the defending AAAA champions — and we were right there with them. We lost 9-8, but it showed me this team is competitive."

Walker takes over a program that finished second in the region last season behind perennial powerhouse Tiftarea. The Lady Eagles believe they're built to

challenge again — and maybe even climb one step higher.

The roster leans on experience, with four seniors providing leadership and consistency: catcher and utility standout Emma Lane, second baseman Sydney Lord, and veteran players Adler Swain and Ellie Ogletree.

Lane is the anchor behind the plate and in the lineup. She batted .500 last season and has already committed to play college softball at the University of West Georgia. Her goals this year are as bold as her bat.

"As a team, I think we can win the region and make a run in the state playoffs," Lane said. "And personally, I'm working to stay above that .500 mark again. That's what I expect from myself."

Lord is the spark plug — the kind of player who shows up early, leaves late, and lifts up everyone in between. Her senior season isn't just about wins and stats.

"I love playing the game," she said. "But

I also know it has a bigger purpose. My hope is to bring more light to the people around me — on this team and in life. Of course, we want to get to state, but it starts with supporting each other."

While the leadership is strong, success often starts in the circle — and that's where junior pitcher Caroline Pressley is expected to make her presence felt.

"Caroline's been working hard in the circle," Walker said. "She's throwing with more confidence and getting better every time out."

Pressley's development could be a key difference-maker as the Lady Eagles navigate a region that feels more wide open than usual. Tiftarea remains the team to beat, but with new coaches at Terrell Academy, Deerfield-Windsor, and Brookwood, there's a fresh dynamic that could shake things up.

For the Lady Eagles, that starts now — in the heat, at home, with a new coach and a roster that's not backing down.

As Walker put it, "We're ready to play."

Thomas era begins at Monroe; Deerfield-Windsor eyes repeat run

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The countdown to high school football's return ends Friday night in Albany as two of the city's premier programs — Monroe and Deerfield-Windsor — take the field for preseason scrimmages that offer an early glimpse into what fans can expect this fall.

At Hugh Mills Stadium, Monroe will host Sumter County in what marks the debut of former Westover quarterback Keyon Thomas, who transferred just days ago. Meanwhile, on the west side of town, defending GIAA Class AAA state champion Deerfield-Windsor welcomes Tattnall Square Academy to campus for its preseason tune-up.

The scoreboard won't matter, but the lessons will.

New Era Begins at Monroe with a Familiar Face

Monroe head coach Lacey Herring knows exactly what he's looking for when the Golden Tornadoes take the field Friday night — and it starts in the trenches.

"We're looking for physicality up front," Herring said. "We really want to improve our run game and get more consistent there, and with our red zone scoring. That is

our primary focus."

Monroe's offense will be led by senior Keyon Thomas, a dynamic dual-threat quarterback who starred at Westover for the past three seasons before transferring to Monroe last week. His presence solidifies a position that was previously up for grabs — and gives Monroe a proven playmaker as it heads into one of the toughest opening stretches in the state.

The Golden Tornadoes begin their regular season at Thomas County Central, then visit Colquitt County in Week Two before traveling to Dothan, Ala., to face one of Alabama's top-ranked teams.

"We've got to build depth," Herring said. "We've got some guys who need reps — that will be much needed going into our first three games."

Friday night, Monroe will get its first live test. Herring hopes it's the first step toward becoming a team that doesn't just hang with elite competition — but beats them.

Defending Champ Deerfield-Windsor Focuses on Depth, Health — and Repeating

There's not much mystery about what Deerfield-Windsor will look like in 2025 — and that's a good thing.

The Knights return nearly their entire roster from last



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor Head Coach Jake McCrae is working to keep his talented team focused and healthy as the Knights try to make some history with back-to-back state championships. The term "high expectations" is an understatement with this talented and experienced football team.

year's state championship team, and they've only gotten deeper, adding several key pieces as they begin their title defense.

"Our main focus Friday is to get through it healthy," head coach Jake McCrae said. "We've had a great summer. The guys are hungry and have worked really hard."

Defensively, the Knights are loaded. They've added linebacker Turner Simmons, a transfer from Southland Academy, to an already dangerous unit. Junior Gage Tomlinson has emerged as one of the team's top defenders and is expected to take another leap forward this fall.

See **ERA**, 10A



Special Photo: Tork Mason / USA TODAY NETWORK

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks at a league event earlier this year. Goodell confirmed that one NFL employee was seriously injured in Monday's Midtown Manhattan shooting, which targeted the building housing league headquarters.

Mayor: NYC gunman was targeting NFL headquarters

Field Level Media

The man who police say shot and killed four people and seriously injured another in a Midtown Manhattan office building Monday evening apparently held a grudge against the National Football League.

New York Mayor Eric Adams said in interviews Tuesday morning that the suspected gunman, 27-year-old Shane Devon Tamura of Las Vegas, left a note in which he said he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy after playing high school football.

"He seemed to have blamed the NFL," Adams said. "The NFL headquarters was located in the building, and he mistakenly went up the wrong elevator bank."

The note was found on his body after he reportedly died by suicide. It has not been confirmed as to whether he suffered from CTE, the degenerative brain disease that has been linked to contact sports, including football.

Among the four killed was an off-duty New York City police officer, 36-year-old Didarul Islam, working a private security detail. Surveillance video shows Tamura walking into the building carrying an assault rifle around 6:30 p.m., and three of the people killed were in the lobby.

Despite the alleged shooter not finding the NFL offices, one league official was shot and seriously injured, commissioner Roger Goodell said in a memo issued to employees Monday night. Leading financial firms also have space in the office building at 345 Park Ave.

"He is currently in the hospital and in stable condition," Goodell wrote about the employee in the memo, which was obtained by ESPN. "NFL staff are at the hospital and we are supporting his family. We believe that all of our employees are otherwise safe and accounted for, and the building has been nearly cleared."

Goodell said the league office would have heightened security in the days and weeks ahead and told New York-based employees either to work remotely on Tuesday or take the day off.

Authorities said Tamura had a concealed firearms permit issued by the Las Vegas Police Department. He was also previously given a work card, now expired, by the Nevada Private Investigators Licensing Board.

ABC News reported that Tamura played running back for Grenada Hills Charter in high school in the Los Angeles area.

New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said Monday that Tamura had a "documented mental health history." He is believed to have arrived in New York shortly before the shooting after driving from Las Vegas. Officers found a revolver, a backpack, ammunition and unspecified medication in his vehicle, a double-parked BMW, per ABC News.

Sanders reveals cancer scare, tumor removal this offseason

Field Level Media

Colorado head coach Deion Sanders said Monday that a cancerous tumor was discovered on his bladder this offseason but he is now cancer-free after his bladder was removed.

Sanders, 57, announced the update in his return to campus at Boulder, Colo., along with his medical team.

"I'm thankful," Sanders said. "It has been a tremendous journey. It's been tough. I think I dropped 25 pounds. ... Just dealing with a catheter, dealing with all of the stuff I had to deal with. Right now, I'm still dealing with going to the bathroom. It's a whole life change."

In reminding people of all ethnicities to seek medical attention in a time of need, Sanders said, "Get checked out because it could have been a whole other gathering if I hadn't."

Dr. Janet Kukreja said the cancer was considered high risk since the tumor was starting to affect a muscle near the bladder. During surgery, Sanders' bladder was removed with the "creation of a new bladder," according to Kukreja.

"I am pleased to report that the results of the surgery is that he's cured of the cancer," Kukreja said.

Said Sanders: "You can clap. It's OK."

Wearing denim overalls and a cowboy hat, Sanders was upbeat throughout Monday's press conference.

"I've built myself up to where I'm able, I'm strong, I'm ready," Sanders said. "I'm still probably about 12 pounds down but

I'm going to get that right. I'm going to fill these overalls up like no other. But it has been a tremendous journey."

The bladder tumor was ultimately discovered through Sanders' yearly body scan that, among other things, searches for issues associated to previous unrelated blood clots that caused two toes to be amputated in 2021.

Sanders admitted he was going through medical challenges after the Buffaloes' season ended but had not given details of his health issue until Monday.

Last week, in a social media video posted by his son, Deion Sanders Jr., the coach said, "You know I'm still going through something. I ain't all the way recovered." The video showed him stepping into an ice bath, walking, shooting hoops and attending a tennis lesson.

The former NFL star has been giving consideration to his own mortality since the spring.

"Yesterday was tough because I had to make a will," Sanders said in a video that was shot in May but not released until Sunday. "That's not easy at all to think you may not be here."

However, when asked at the press conference what it was like to stare death in the face, Sanders continued to be upbeat.

"I didn't stare death in my face, I stared life in the face," he responded. "I'm allowed to go through these trials and tribulations so that I can touch and reach and bless people with my words, with the energy with that thing that God gave



Special Photo: Kirby Lee-Imagn Images

me. So I never thought about no death. I got to make a will because I want to be a business, I want to be a good steward for my kids and for my family. But no, I got too much life to be thinking about death ... And I got work to do. We got win the third championship."

In his third two seasons at Colorado, Sanders' teams have gone a combined 13-12, including 9-4 last season when the Buffaloes played in the Alamo Bowl. The team's 2025 season starts Aug. 29.

Chicago Cubs legend Ryne Sandberg dies at 65

Field Level Media

Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg, a longtime Chicago Cubs star who was one of the game's greatest-ever second basemen, died on Monday at age 65.

Sandberg battled prostate cancer for more than a year.

The Cubs tweeted, "With great sadness, we share that Ryne Sandberg has passed away today."

After getting six at-bats for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1981, Sandberg was traded to the Cubs and became a fixture in Chicago for 15 seasons.

The 10-time All-Star was an all-around performer, as proven by his nine Gold Gloves and seven Silver Slugger awards.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement, "Ryne Sandberg was a legend of the Chicago Cubs franchise and a beloved figure throughout Major League Baseball. He was a five-tool player who excelled in every facet of the game thanks to his power, speed and work ethic."

"Ryne remained active in the game he loved as an ambassador for the Cubs, a manager for the Phillies and in the Minor Leagues, and a frequent participant at the Hall of Fame. His many friends across the game were in his corner as he courageously fought cancer in recent

years. We will continue to support the important work of Stand Up To Cancer in Ryne's memory."

Jane Forbes Clark, chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, added in a statement, "Ryne Sandberg had a relentless work ethic and an unshakable positive outlook. With it, he inspired all those who knew him. He always emphasized his respect for the way the game should be played, for his teammates and for the Hall of Fame, especially during his 2005 induction speech."

Sandberg, affectionately called "Ryno," was selected the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1984, when he hit .314 with league-high totals of 114 runs and 19 triples to go with 19 homers and 84 RBIs. He topped the NL with 40 homers in 1990.

In 2,164 career games, Sandberg hit .285 with a .344 on-base percentage, a .452 slugging percentage, 282 home runs, 1,061 RBIs and 344 stolen bases. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005, and a statue of Sandberg was unveiled outside Wrigley Field last year.

Longtime Cubs teammate Mark Grace said, "When you examine the offense and defense, you'll find some years where he was the best player you've ever seen



Special Photo: David Banks-Imagn Images

in your life."

The Cubs got to the playoffs just twice in his career, losing in the NL Championship Series in 1984 and 1989. Sandberg logged a career .385 average (15-for-39) with a home run, six RBIs, six walks and three steals in 10 postseason games.

He went on to manage the Phillies from August 2013 to June 2015, compiling a 119-159 record.

Moving the Chains: When Life takes a Timeout

By Scott Ludwig

MagicLudwig1@gmail.com

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. JFK is assassinated. Man first steps on the moon. Nixon resigns. 9/11.

These are the moments that people who lived through them will always remember. They can tell you where they were, who they were with, and the first thought that crossed their mind when they occurred.

What they may also remember is that when they happened, time seemed to stand still.

The world of sports, although not quite on the same level as

those life-changing experiences, nonetheless has had its fair share of 'stop the presses' moments as well. Moments when life needed a timeout — just so everyone could catch their breath.

Certainly, sports is full of moments that stir up the best of memories. The New York Jets' improbable win in Super Bowl III. Hank Aaron surpassing Babe Ruth. Forty-six year old Jack Nicklaus winning his 18th major championship at Augusta. Michael Jordan leading the Chicago Bulls to a threepeat: not one time, but two.

However, just as it is in life, sports haven't always been a bed of roses. Otherwise, a timeout wouldn't have been necessary:

- In 1983, when professional golfer Jack Newton lost his right arm and eye after walking into the spinning propeller of a Cessna trying to catch a flight home to Australia to be with his family. Later, the words of his daughter on the way to see him in the hospital on her fifth birthday — "Will daddy still be able to hug me?" — proved to be just what he needed to hear to go on living.
- When the University of

Maryland's uber-talented Len Bias needlessly lost his life to a drug overdose, just two days after what had been the biggest day of his life when he was selected by the Boston Celtics with the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA draft.

- When eight members of the militant group Black September infiltrated the Olympic Village in the 1972 Summer Games, killing two members of the Israeli team and taking nine other team members hostage - who were then also killed by the militants during a failed rescue attempt.

In 1991, when Los Angeles Laker superstar Earvin 'Magic' Johnson publicly announced he had HIV - as the world collectively held its breath - and that he would retire immediately to dedicate his life to, in his words, 'battle this deadly disease.'

- When the reigning champion of the 1999 U.S. Open, Payne Stewart, was killed in the crash of a Learjet flying from his Florida home to Texas to play in the year-ending Tour Championship in Houston. Investigators determined that the aircraft failed to pressurize and, after everyone on board was incapacitated by hypoxia, flew on autopilot until it ran out of fuel and ultimately crashed in a field in South Dakota.

From 9A SOFTBALL

well and lean on a reliable defense. Pitching, once a weakness, has seen improvement thanks to a full summer of work.

"We're not going to blow anyone away on the mound," he said, "but we'll be competitive. We've got four girls who can get the job done."

Those four are senior Makaya Logue, junior Jaden Sealy, Marcie Bradshaw, and Marie Cruz. Logue and Sealy—both featured in the Albany Herald's upcoming "Players to Watch" list—will anchor much of what the Lady Blazers hope to accomplish.

Logue, a senior who splits time between shortstop and the pitcher's circle, stands out with her consistency.

"She's probably the smoothest shortstop I've ever coached," Pollock said. "And she's got a great bat, too."

Sealy, a versatile junior with college-level aspirations, plays third base, shortstop, and pitches when needed.

"She's a wall on defense," Pollock said. "No matter where you put her, she makes the play. And at the plate? I think she struck out once all of last season. When she gets on, she usually scores."

Another key piece is senior outfielder Mary Grace Welch,

who is also exploring her options for playing beyond high school.

"She might be the best outfielder I've ever coached," Pollock said. "And she's steady at the plate."

With a new season comes new possibilities — and Pollock believes this team is good enough to chase a region championship. But he knows the road won't be easy.

"Miller County is probably the biggest challenge in the region right now," he said. "They've got a really good team this year."

Pataula Charter could also pose problems — in part because of a familiar name helping out behind the scenes.

"Bubbar Birdsong is over there mentoring one of their coaches," Pollock said. "And anytime Bubbar is involved, you know they're going to be well coached."

Pelham is another team Pollock isn't taking lightly.

"They've got some good athletes," he said. "They can beat anybody on any given day." Still, what gives Pollock the most hope isn't just talent — it's the maturity and chemistry that wasn't there a year ago.

"This group is just different," he said. "They want to win, but more than that, they want to win together."

From 9A ERA

"Turner brings more depth at linebacker, and Gage has really come on strong," McCrae said. "We feel really good about that side of the ball."

Offensively, fans can expect more of the same — and that's bad news for opposing defenses. Quarterback Lane Seals returns after throwing for nearly 3,000 yards last year. His top three receivers — Gabe Daniel, David Hutchins, and Brantley Michlig — are all back, giving the Knights continuity and chemistry in the pass-

ing game.

New to the mix is 6-foot-6 tight end Brady Davis, who adds size, athleticism, and another red-zone weapon. The only major loss from last season is running back Cole Jones, who rushed for over 1,200 yards before graduating. In his place, a committee of backs will look to carry the load.

"We don't have another Cole right now, but we've got a group of guys who are ready," McCrae said. "It'll be more by committee, and we're OK with that."

Friday's scrimmage against Tatnall Square will be less about scheme and more about

acclimation — to the heat, the game speed, and the grind of another long season.

The Knights officially open the 2025 season on August 15 at home against rival Southland Academy, a matchup that's already drawing plenty of attention

Kickoff for both scrimmages is set for Friday evening. The Knights will kick off at 7 and the Golden Tornadoes at 7:30. The weather will be hot, the goals will be simple — and for Monroe and Deerfield-Windsor, the road to something special starts now.

From 2A

FLATT

State had proposed. But Flatt had already made the commitment, and his integrity demanded he honor it.

“I’ve given my word,” he told Susan. “And I can’t go back on it.”

So the family packed up and moved to Albany. That decision, to honor a verbal commitment, would become a defining moment. It wasn’t about career advancement. It was about character. Flatt’s belief in doing what’s right, even when it hurt, shaped everything that followed.

That kind of character would later carry him through the hardest leadership trials of his life: First State’s conversion to Regions and the post-financial crisis rebuilding of AB&T. The Regions experience scarred many, Flatt included. The software failed. Clients panicked. The bank was flooded with complaints. But Flatt didn’t quit.

“People would call me at home, mad,” he said. “I just talked them off the ledge. That season prepared me for AB&T.”

And when AB&T needed

him, he was ready.

The decisions he made in those first years — raising capital, rebuilding trust, assembling the right team — set a tone the organization still lives by. He brought on people he trusted, many of them respected peers from his past life. He hired for character, not just resume. And he leaned on those relationships to build a future that was sustainable, not just cosmetic.

One of his most unconventional but important early hires was Jimmy Lindsey.

“We couldn’t afford Jimmy,” Flatt said. “But I knew I needed him. He had the pulse of the people. He was perceptive. And I needed someone who wasn’t afraid to speak truth to power.”

It’s easy to overlook what that kind of thinking meant in the moment. The bank was climbing out of a financial hole. Revenue was tight. There was no room for extras. But Flatt wasn’t building a quarterly earnings statement, he was building an institution.

And institutions are built with people. With trust. With culture.

“My mother imparted values,” Flatt once said. “My father enforced them.”

Those values — discipline, integrity, humility — guided his every move. Whether it was sitting beside his grandfather, J.P. Luther, during Chamber of Commerce meetings in Americus, or defending a hire nobody else understood, Flatt was always looking forward.

He didn’t need affirmation. He needed purpose. His grandfather’s love for community ran deep, and Flatt absorbed it early.

“He never made much monition,” Flatt said of his grandfather. “It was never about what was good for J.P. Luther. It was about what was good for the people around him.”

It’s easy to romanticize such stories after the fact. But in Flatt’s case, the thread holds true. From the moment he raised that first round of capital at AB&T to the day he passed the baton, he never stopped believing in the power of local banking done right. He believed in conversations. In character. In doing the hard things, quietly, without applause.

Flatt believed that a banker’s word still meant something. And because of that belief, shared and lived, he helped turn a struggling institution into a model of community banking. He didn’t do it for glory. He did it because he believed in what banking could be. Should be. In his mind, the job was never about transactions. It was about trust.

And if there’s a legacy to measure Luke Flatt by, that’s the one that matters most. And that is the gold standard.

Brad McEwen, a former journalist, is Senior Vice President of Branch Banking and Brand Execution at AB&T.

through 4-H. Her guiding light was her intention to help take care of others.

Her family would like to thank her devoted team of caregivers (Felicia Canty, Willie Mae Williams, Shukeea Anderson, and Carolyn Allen) who provided great kindness and wonderful care.

Her funeral service will be at 2 pm on Tuesday, July 29 in Walden Chapel at First Methodist Church of Albany. The family will receive friends prior to the service in Walden Chapel beginning at 1:30.

Those desiring may send donations to First Methodist Church, 307 Flint Avenue, Albany, GA 31701 or to the Georgia 4-H Foundation, 306 Hoke Smith Annex, Athens, GA 30602 (or georgia4hfoundation.org).

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

Charles Lavon Odom

Charles Lavon Odom of Cordele passed away Sunday, July 27, 2025, surrounded by his family at Willson Hospice House in Albany at the age of 58. Lavon was born in Arlington and was the son of the late Charles Louette Odom and Patsy Ruth Willingham Johnson. Lavon was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia with a BS Degree in Ag Economics and was employed with Nutrien Ag Solutions. Because of his association with the University, he always cheered for the Dawgs. Lavon led a rich and full life with a family that he adored and many friends that he cherished. Lavon was a story

teller and loved to entertain all. There was often some doubt as to whether his tales were true or not. He loved the outdoors and was an avid Bass tournament fisherman. He attended Ebenezer Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 5 years, Shae Gordon Odom of Cordele; four children, Megan Battles (Josh) of Hawkinsville, Jake Odom (Courtney) of California, Trip McDonald (Holley) of Blakely and Ashley McDonald (Taylor) of Seneca, SC; his mother and her husband, Pat and Troy Johnson of Eufaula, AL; two brothers, Shannon Odom (Stephanie) of Blakely and Heath Odom (Chelsea) of Smithville; a sister, Georgia Odom of Arlington; four grandchildren, Hazel Battles, CharlieAnn Battles, Bristol Battles and J.D. Battles, all of Hawkinsville; a number of nieces and nephews; and many special friends. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025, at Ebenezer Baptist Church with Rev. Mark Jones officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service beginning at 1:00 p.m. Arrangements are by Rainey Family Funeral Services in Cordele, GA. An online guest register is available at www.raineyfuneral.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 fizzy drinks (5)	_____
2 commemorated (10)	_____
3 taking a teacher’s place (7)	_____
4 “Cheers” star Rhea (7)	_____
5 diplomas, for example (11)	_____
6 prized Boardwalk properties (6)	_____
7 cross swords with, verbally (9)	_____

ERC	SOD	CEL	DEN	ING
LM	LS	BB	ALT	EBRA
ELS	TED	TIA	AS	CRE
SU	ATE	AN	PER	HOT

Wednesday’s Answers: 1. COFFEEMAKER 2. RATTLERS 3. COCREATE 4. FLAG 5. COVERTLY 6. SATURDAY 7. FANS 7/31

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Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids
Koinonia Farm, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, is requesting proposals for Grant & Project Management related to the planning and restoration of the historic Koinonia Farm in Americus, GA. The project is being funded by a grant from the National Park Service. All restoration work must be done in compliance with the Secretary of Interior Standards. Proven expertise and experience with National Park Service restoration project is necessary. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, August 1, 2025. For a full RFP package, send an email to elizabeth@koinoniafarm.org

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 dnhance@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 dnhance@albanyha.com or call 229-434-4505.

Public Hearings
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Albany-Dougherty Historic Preservation Commission will conduct a public meeting on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** (In-Person) Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public. Please note, there is also a virtual option. The meeting will take place at the following location.

222 Pine Avenue, Room 100
Albany, GA 31701

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95219225113?pwd=VU94ZzNpbFdtS2dMN04yUzI1YWx6UT09>
Meeting ID: 952 1922 5113
Passcode: 515128
One tap mobile

Public Hearings
+16465588656,95219225113#,,,,*515128# US (New York)

PUBLIC HEARING - 623 Whitney Avenue: request by Angie Jones for the consideration of the Harris Home as a local landmark.
PUBLIC HEARING - 710 N. Washington Street (25-040): COA request by Josh Mazur for the demolition of the structure.

Exact description of the property is on file at the Planning & Development Services Department, 240 Pine Avenue, Room 300, and may be reviewed along with any other information regarding this request between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Telephone number is (229) 438-3901

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Albany does not discriminate based on disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The Human Resources Department has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided there, is available at the office of Human Resources.

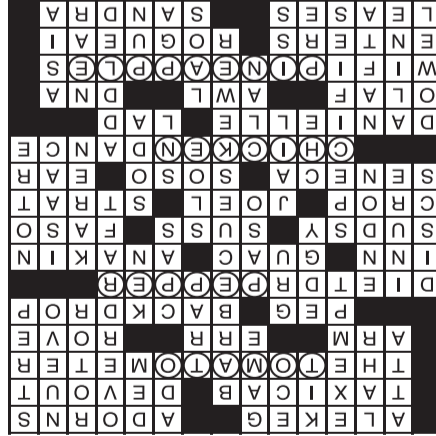
The City of Albany will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (7 working days). Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in any open meeting, program, or activity of the City of Albany, Georgia should be directed to Paul Forgey, AICP, Director, Planning and Development Services, 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, Georgia, 31701, (229) 438-3901.

Public Sales/Auctions
NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property under The Georgia Storage Facility Act. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on Friday the 15th day of August, 2025 at 10:00 AM on Lockerfox.com. Said property is Store Space Albany - Gillonville, 1512 Gillonville Rd, Albany, GA, 31707 Kayentra M Johnson CC7 Home good misc items, Household Goods, Misc Items. Anthony Reddick AA15 Building Materials, Furniture, Misc Items. Sheena Lofton C07 Home goods , misc items. Peter Jones Jr B07 Home goods ... misc items. Marchello Crapps JJ1 . Dexter Watson A12 Home goods , misc items. Sheena Lofton D14 Home hoods misc items. Larry Shivers CC34 . Fardyl Anthony 1016 Assorted Boxes & Totes, Household Goods, Misc Items, Furniture. Margaret Fillmore KK21 Assorted Boxes & Totes, Household Goods, Misc Items. Alicia Soilberry HH1 Assorted Boxes & Totes, Household Goods, Misc Items. Chandra I Welsey-Carr C20 Home good misc items. Felix F Bush CC6 Assorted Boxes & Totes, Furniture, Household Goods, Misc Items. Melissa Merritt CC9 Home good misc items, Assorted Boxes & Totes, Household Goods, Misc Items. Willie C CUTTS DD23 Assorted Boxes & Totes, Household Goods, Misc Items. Tahler A Jones DD12 Home good misc items All purchased items are sold as is, where is, and must be removed within 48 hours of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

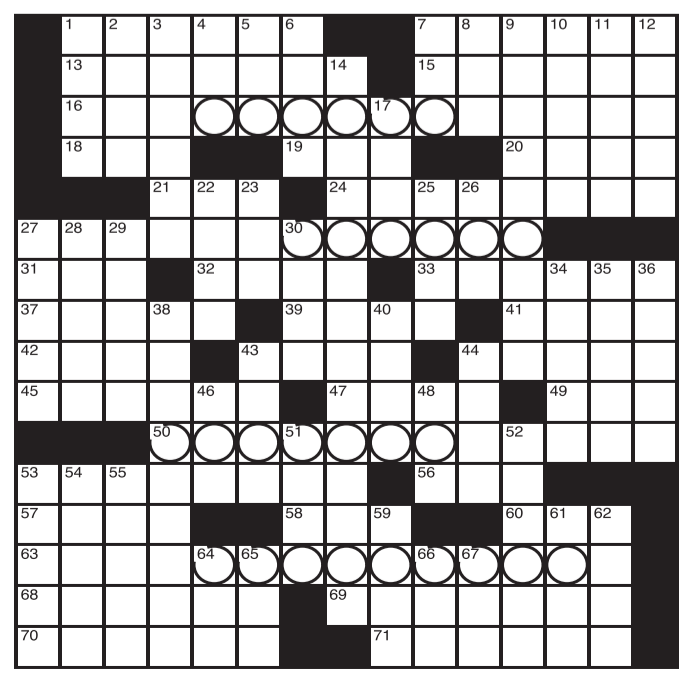
CROSSWORD

- | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 4 First-aid ___ | 38 Indicates precisely | 53 Wooden pin |
| 1 Pub delivery | 5 Good for the planet, for short | 40 Gin infusion fruit | 54 Flared skirt style |
| 7 Festoons | 6 Risk or Trouble | 43 Monopoly corner | 55 International pact until 2020 |
| 13 Hailed lift | 7 Big fuss | 44 Pop | 59 China neighbor |
| 15 Deeply religious | 8 JFK’s party | 46 “Weekend Update” co-host | 61 Just around the corner |
| 16 Rating scale on a film review site | 9 Account action that may result in a fee | 48 “Weekend Update” program | 62 59-Down’s continent |
| 18 Biceps locale | 10 Drone part | 51 Group with a tartan | 64 Start to fix? |
| 19 ___ on the side of caution | 11 New, in Mexico | 52 Confused | 65 Research facility in orbit: Abbr. |
| 20 Roam | 12 ___ throat | | 66 Links gp. |
| 21 Battleship piece | 14 Stick on a grill, or what passes through this puzzle’s circled words? | | 67 Many a one-liner |
| 24 Setting | 17 Atlanta hip-hop genre | | |
| 27 Drink with zero calories and a blend of 23 flavors | 22 Boundary-pushing | | |
| 31 Rest stop in a high-fantasy game | 23 “Despicable Me” role for Steve Carell | | |
| 32 Seven-layer dip layer, for short | 25 IRS form experts | | |
| 33 Darth Vader’s first name | 26 Jeong of “Community” | | |
| 37 Like a bubble bath | 27 Burned items | | |
| 39 Tease (out) | 28 Accustom | | |
| 41 Burkina ___: West African country | 29 Finish with | | |
| 42 Harvested plants | 30 El ___, Texas | | |
| 43 “The Last of Us” protagonist | 34 Actress Gillan | | |
| 44 Certain Fender, casually | 35 Novelist Asimov | | |
| 45 Iroquois nation | 36 “The Hunchback of ___-Dame” | | |
| 47 Decidedly meh | | | |
| 49 Pink Mr. Potato Head piece | | | |
| 50 Wedding reception activity with flapping and clapping | | | |
| 53 Steel on library racks | | | |
| 56 Young fellow | | | |
| 57 Former NHL goalie Kötzig | | | |
| 58 Shoemaker’s tool | | | |
| 60 Genetic testing material | | | |
| 63 Devices that test internet security | | | |
| 68 Goes in | | | |
| 69 Skynet in “The Terminator,” e.g. | | | |
| 70 Rental agreements | | | |
| 71 George’s “Gravity” co-star | | | |

ANSWER TO TODAY’S PUZZLE:



07/31/25



By Daniel Hrynick ©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 07/31/25



Colquitt Regional Hospital, Jim Matney

Colquitt Regional, CEO honored on national list for health care excellence

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE — Colquitt Regional Health System has earned recognition for its excellence in health care, being named to Becker's Hospital Review's 2025 list of "100 Great Community Hospitals." In addition, Colquitt Regional President & CEO Jim Matney was honored as one of Becker's "207 Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know," highlighting his leadership in transforming rural health care in south Georgia.

Becker's editorial team selects hospitals for the list based on excellence in clinical outcomes, patient experience, innovation and work force engagement. Colquitt Regional has received numerous national accolades, including 20 "A" safety grades from The Leapfrog Group and the designation and redesignation as a Pathway to Excellence hospital from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The hospital's forward-thinking approach includes the addition of advanced procedures and services such as gynecologic oncology and the recent acquisition of the da Vinci 5 surgical robot, the most ad-

vanced surgical robot available today, bringing tertiary-level care to the region.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and unwavering commitment of our entire team," Matney said. "From our physicians and nurses to support staff and administrative team, every person plays a vital role in delivering exceptional care to our community. I'm incredibly proud of the culture of excellence we've built together."

Colquitt Regional's recent investments also include the opening of the Ameris Bank Medical Education Center in 2023, a state-of-the-art training facility that supports the health system's growing commitment to work force development and medical education.

"Colquitt Regional is not just a hospital, it's a cornerstone of our community," Hospital Authority Chairman John Griffin said. "Under Jim's leadership, we've seen unprecedented growth, innovation and recognition. Being named one of the nation's top community hospitals is well-deserved and reflective of our long-standing dedication to being exceptional in everything we do."

Matney's inclusion on Becker's list of top community hospital presidents and CEOs demonstrates his impact on health care in the region. During his tenure, Colquitt Regional has more than doubled its work force. It has also expanded service lines to include psychiatry, reconstructive surgery, radiation oncology and established residency programs in family medicine, psychiatry, and obstetrics/gynecology. He also serves on the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals board, where he champions policies to enhance health care access across rural areas.

"Health care is personal, especially in smaller communities," Matney said. "At Colquitt Regional, we are committed to making (the hospital) the first choice for health care and ensuring our patients receive world-class care without having to leave home."

For more information on these accomplishments, contact the Colquitt Regional marketing department at (229) 890-3552.



A gathering of geese

Staff Photo: Tara Fletcher

This group of geese — a gaggle? — proved the old saying that waterfowl will take to any body of water, even a puddle in a shopping center parking lot. The geese, and other wild animals in the area, have been looking for any place cool this week during 100-degree-plus temperatures.

Legalized gambling back on General Assembly's agenda

By Dave Williams

Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers resumed a perennial debate Monday over whether gambling should be legalized in Georgia.

"We've been talking about this issue since my hair was black," decidedly gray state Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Savannah, quipped as the newly formed House Study Committee on Gaming in the State of Georgia kicked off a series of hearings due to run through the fall.

While future meetings will take up online sports betting and parimutuel betting on horse racing, Monday's hearing at the Oconee County Administrative Building in Watkinsville focused on casino gambling.

Ed Clark, president of EchoPark Speedway, until recently known as Atlanta Motor Speedway, used the occasion to reiterate the facility's plan to build a "destination" casino resort adjacent to the racetrack in Hampton.

He said the project would create up to 3,000 construction jobs and another 2,500 to 3,000 permanent full-time and part-time jobs for Henry County residents, 70% of whom currently work outside of the county.

"This is an opportunity for them to work closer to home and make a comparable salary," he said.

Legislation introduced in the General Assembly in previous years called for building six destination casino re-

sorts around the state, which would generate an economic impact of \$2 billion a year.

Clark cited a straw poll the Georgia Republican Party conducted during last year's GOP primary that showed overwhelming public support for putting legalized gambling before voters in a statewide referendum.

"I don't think the legislature should be legislating morality," he said. "I think the citizens of Georgia need to decide."

But Paul Smith, executive director of the Christian public policy organization Citizen Impact, said the deck would be stacked in any voter referendum on gambling by well-heeled industry lobbyists able to underwrite an expensive campaign in favor of legalization.

Mike Griffin, a public affairs representative for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, said any tax revenue the state could bring in from legalized gambling would be more than offset by the social costs.

"When gambling increases, crime goes up, bankruptcies go up, addiction goes up," he said. "Jobs go down, savings go down, and spending on necessities goes down."

Several members of the committee said a key question that will occupy their upcoming debate over legalizing gambling will be how to allocate the state's share of the proceeds.

Rep. Yasmin Neal, D-Jonesboro, suggested the General Assembly consider using tax revenue from gambling to recover some of the federal dollars the state will lose because of spending cuts by the Trump administration.

Others favored putting the funds toward health care or using it for education along the lines of the Georgia Lottery, which steers tax revenue from ticket sales to Georgia's HOPE Scholarships and pre-kindergarten programs.

Committee members who have backed legalizing gambling during past sessions countered the moralistic arguments against it by asserting that gambling is already widespread in Georgia. However, it is unregulated and the state isn't benefitting in the form of tax revenue.

"My effort is not to expand or encourage but to regulate and put guardrails around things already happening in this state," Rep. Marcus Wiedower, R-Watkinsville, the committee's chairman, said.

A resolution Wiedower sponsored this year calling for a constitutional amendment to legalize sports betting in Georgia remains alive for lawmakers to consider next year. The study committee has until Dec. 1 to issue recommendations.

South Georgia members of drug trafficking organization found guilty

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

VALDOSTA — Three co-conspirators involved in an armed drug trafficking organization based out of Cook County were found guilty at trial this week of federal drug and weapons charges, the second federal trial of members of this criminal organization.

Calvin James Smith Jr., 36, of Tifton was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, one count of distribution of methamphetamine and one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Smith faces a maximum of life in prison.

Eddie Lee Hardley, 36, of Adel, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances. Hardley faces a maximum of life in prison.

Yardley Payne, 57, of Adel, was found guilty of one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and one count of possession of a firearm by a drug user. Payne faces a maximum of 15 years in prison per count.

Senior U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands is presiding over the case. Sentencing dates will be determined by the court. There is no parole in the federal system.

"This case highlights the commitment of our law enforcement partners alongside our office to combat armed drug trafficking organizations and hold those connected to them accountable for their crimes," U.S. Attorney William Keyes said. "We are thankful for the strength of the collaboration between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the Middle District of Georgia as we work together to make the communities we serve safer for everyone."

"The success of this large-scale investigation and the arrests of these drug dealers demonstrates the FBI's commitment to fighting the drug trafficking organizations responsible for driving addiction and destroying communities," FBI Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Paul Brown said.

"Today's verdict sends a clear message that criminal organizations operating in Georgia, especially those trafficking in dangerous drugs and using firearms to further their operations, will be held accountable," GBI Director Chris Hosey said. "This conviction is a testament to the tireless work of our law enforcement partners, who have dedicated countless hours to ensuring that those who threaten our communities with violence and illegal substances will face justice."

According to court documents



File Photo

Three co-conspirators involved in an armed drug trafficking organization based out of Cook County were found guilty at trial this week of federal drug and weapons charges.

and statements referenced in court, the FBI undertook the investigation beginning as early as December 2020 of an armed drug trafficking organization centered in Adel. The DTO was led by co-conspirator Calvin James Smith Sr., aka "Rollo," 56, of Adel, who, in January 2025, was found guilty at trial of all 23 counts charged in the 44-count indictment.

The investigation determined that Smith, Hardley and Payne conspired with others to distribute large quantities of methamphetamine and crack cocaine, as well as marijuana, working with several associates of the DTO. Agents discovered 13 locations used by the criminal organization. Search warrants were executed at these locations on Nov. 10, 2022, and methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, marijuana

and 15 handguns and rifles were seized. Agents recovered more than five kilograms of pure methamphetamine, more than 10 pounds of marijuana and several hundred grams of crack cocaine and cocaine.

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, the Adel Police Department, the Hahira Police Department and the Moultrie Police Department.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Monica Daniels prosecuted the case for the government with assistance from Criminal Chief Leah McEwen and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Morrison.

New Georgia Senate panel to take up abolishing state income tax

By Dave Williams

Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The state Senate is about to begin laying the groundwork for making Georgia the 10th state with no income tax.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, who chairs the budget-writing Senate Appropriations Committee, has announced plans for a series of hearings a newly created committee will hold later this summer and fall to pave the way for him to introduce legislation during the 2026 General Assembly session to eliminate Georgia's income tax.

"This is about competitiveness, economic freedom, and letting hard-working Georgians keep

their money in their pockets," Tillery said during a news conference inside the state Capitol.

Tillery will chair the new Senate Committee on Eliminating Georgia's Income Tax, which will include eight Republican senators and three Democrats. The panel is being formed by Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, the Senate's presiding officer, who has pledged to make getting rid of the state income tax a key platform plank as he seeks the GOP nomination for governor next year.

Georgia Republicans have long made reducing the tax a major priority but have stopped short of abolishing it altogether. This year, the legislature's Republican

majorities passed a bill backed by Gov. Brian Kemp that cut the income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19% retroactive to the beginning of the current tax year.

Various proposals to repeal the tax that have sounded good on the campaign trail have prompted concerns over how to replace the lost tax revenue. States that don't have an income tax have tended to offset that revenue with higher sales taxes.

Tillery said the nine states currently doing without an income tax have not suffered the financial catastrophe detractors have predicted. While the list mostly includes Republican-led states like Texas, Tennessee and Flori-

da, the Democratic-controlled states of New Hampshire and Washington also have done away with their state income taxes.

Tillery said he's not entering the committee process with preconceived ideas of how to replace the revenue Georgia would lose by abolishing the state income tax. He said he wants to hear from Jones, fellow committee members, and from representatives of the nine states without an income tax.

"We've got plenty of ideas to choose from," he said.

The committee will have until Dec. 15 to report its findings and recommendations to the full Senate.