



**Softball streak**  
Terrell Academy wins  
4th straight  
• Page 9A

**LOCAL MATTERS**  
Judged a newspaper  
of General Excellence  
2025

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

City commissioner  
delivers ‘cease-  
and-desist’ letter  
to Dougherty  
Commission chair

By Alan Mauldin  
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – An Albany city commissioner has fired off a “cease-and-desist” letter to Dougherty County Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard after what she described as “harassment and intimidation.”

Ward VI Commissioner Diana Brown said that this incident was not the only efforts to intimidate her in recent days after she raised questions about the financing of a downtown renovation project that was presented to both entities during meetings last week.

After the Monday encounter, Brown said she wrote the letter and sent copies to Heard as well as Albany Police Chief Michael Persley and Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs.

For his part, Heard described the letter as “foolishness.”

The chairman told a Herald reporter after the commission’s Monday meeting that the accusations made by Brown are not true.

“I threw it away,” he said of the letter. “I didn’t even read it. Have I ever confronted you in a mean way? I haven’t confronted anyone in a mean way.”

In the letter to Heard, Brown said: “This correspondence serves as a formal cease and desist demand regarding your conduct towards me on August 18, 2025, at the ‘Albany State of Community’ event. At that event, you repeatedly confronted me in a public setting with questions such as ‘What do you have against me?’ and ‘Do you have a problem with me?’



DIANA BROWN



LORENZO HEARD

See LETTER, 2A



Special Photo

In several southwest Georgia communities, long-overdue infrastructure improvements are finally moving forward thanks to more than \$36.2 million in federal grant funding awarded.

Southwest Georgia communities  
receive millions of dollars in  
community development funds

By Lucille Lannigan  
lucille.lannigan@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG – In towns across Georgia, long-overdue infrastructure improvements are finally moving forward thanks to more than \$36.2 million in federal grant funding awarded to 36 communities, including several in southwest Georgia.

These grants — funded annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development and administered through the Department of Community Affairs — are designed to help rural Georgians. After an application process that spanned about half a year, the DCA released the 2025 list. This year’s grant awards include \$32.2 million for infrastructure projects and \$3.9 million for various building projects.

“Community Development Block Grants allow rural Georgians to have access to re-

sources that strengthen their infrastructure, enhance community facilities, and improve overall quality of life,” DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn said. “These grants ensure that local governments are given every opportunity to thrive. When our communities and facilities thrive, so do their citizens.”

Southwest Georgia communities Americus, Colquitt, DeSoto, Leesburg, Lumpkin, Meigs and Parrott received

\$1 million each to complete projects city leaders said the municipalities would otherwise not be able to afford. Many of them were aided by the Lee County-based Still Waters Engineering Firm.

Still Waters CEO Chad Griffin said small-town projects are the heart of his company’s mission.

“Stillwater’s acronym stands for ‘striving to improve local

See FUNDS, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

Darton Health Professions Foundation awards fall scholarships

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Darton Health Professions Foundation recently invested in the future of southwest Georgia by awarding \$57,785 in scholarships to more than 35 students for the fall 2025 semester.

Awards ranged from \$500 to \$7,136, according to need, merit, and the specific criteria of each scholarship.

“The recipients are a reflection of tireless effort and inspiring stories of remarkable individuals who are shaping the future of our southwest Georgia community,” Randae Davis, the executive director of the Darton Foundation, said. “The essays painted vivid portraits of students who are committed to their education and career, overcoming adversity, striving for academic excellence and demon-



Special Photo: Darton Foundation

Darton Foundation scholarship recipient Laura Singletary works with a group during a farm work day during the summer.

strating vision for their futures and southwest Georgia.”

The process began with 773 applications, but about 400 students submitted all the required materi-

als. All supporting facts, academic records, GPAs, and statements of financial need were verified, underscoring the foundation’s dedication to fairness and objectivity.

“While many recipients are pursuing health care degrees, the scholarships also extend to students in performing arts, education, STEM, and

See DARTON, 2A

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Special Photo: ABAC  
ABAC’s music faculty will perform in the initial First Tuesday concert of the season at the college’s Howard Auditorium on Sept. 2.



From 1A  
LETTER

“Despite my clear indication that such matters should only be addressed in a formal setting before the full Board of Commissioners, you continued to press me. Your persistence forced me to remove myself from the conversation. Your actions were inappropriate, unprofessional, and created an intimidating and hostile environment.

“I consider your behavior to be harassment. I felt unsafe as a result of your conduct.”

Brown’s letter stated that she will not engage in any personal or informal discussions with Heard outside of commission meetings or formal proceedings, and that any further attempts to confront, intimidate or harass her in public or private would be documented and reported to legal and governmental authorities.

“You are hereby directed to cease and desist from all unprofessional, aggressive or harassing behavior toward me,” Brown said in the letter. “Failure to comply with this directive may result in further legal action, including but not limited to filing a complaint with the appropriate ethics boards, governmental authorities, or pursuing remedies available under applicable law.

“Moving forward, I expect that all communication between us will be limited strict-

ly to professional, respectful and official matters.”

Brown said that the harassment, from Heard and others, came after she expressed concerns about the proposal to renovate four North Washington Street buildings during an Aug. 21 commission meeting.

The Look Again Development Group, whose financing plan includes \$3 million from the County Commission to pay a 10-year lease for space for Albany Technical College’s culinary arts program, made the pitch for the \$17 million development. The financing plan also includes a \$2 million loan from the city.

The concept calls for luxury apartments, a food hall with a planned 10 to 12 tenants and an Amici franchise restaurant.

Brown said that she is opposed at this time to granting the loan and the company’s request for a memorandum of understanding with the city, pointing to the burden to county and city taxpayers.

“They want me to vote on stuff for them, and I’m going to vote for what’s right,” Brown said. “They’ve been coming to me saying I need to work along with them. I don’t need to work with anybody. I’m going to vote in the best interest of the community. I’m not going to be bullied by them.

“I’m here to support the community and serve my constituents and be the voice for them.”

# ABAC Tuesday Concert Series set to kick off

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**TIFTON** – The 2025 First Tuesday Concert Series at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will start on Sept. 2 with a performance by the ABAC music faculty.

This event will showcase voice, piano, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, and guitar music spanning from the Baroque era to contemporary works. Pieces by Schubert, Bach, Mozart, Bar-

rios and Martin will be performed by the ABAC music faculty.

Jennifer Huang, who is head of the Fine Arts Department, said the concert will begin at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. All First Tuesday concerts are free and open to the public, with no tickets required.

“We are going to have a fantastic performance by our very talented music faculty, which will kick off this season’s great lineup,” Huang said. “Please join us for an evening of beautiful music.”

Other performances in the First Tuesday lineup include the Oct. 7 concert featuring The Legacy Chamber Players from Columbus State University, the classical guitar concert with Jeremy Avalo at the Chapel on Nov. 4, and the Trillium String Quartet on Feb. 3; the ABAC Community Choir on Mar. 3; and Songs of Broadway on Apr. 7.

For more information about the First Tuesday series, interested individuals can contact Huang at zhend.huang@abac.edu.

From 1A  
FUNDS

lives,” Griffin said. “Our firm has always worked with municipalities in south Georgia to help improve infrastructure in these communities ... a combination of water, sewer, roads, septic tanks ... anything a community may need.”

Griffin said Still Water goes into communities, talks about the grant applications with city leaders and helps map systems to pinpoint infrastructure in need of an upgrade.

“These CDBG projects are to help low- to moderate-income areas ... and benefit citizens,” he said.

Leesburg was one of the communities Still Waters worked with. The city’s receiving funds for water and sewer improvements on Hawthorne and Lee avenues, Putnam and Callaway streets, Linden Road and Kinchafoonie Drive. The project will benefit 70 people, of whom 64 are low- to moderate income, according to the Georgia Municipal Association. The total project cost is \$1,117,975, of which the city will match \$117,975.

“We’re very excited about this grant through the DCA,” Leesburg City Manager Bob Alexander said. “There’s a modern income section of town that has old clay sewer pipes and worn-out water mains that will be replaced by this grant. This will certainly help us with some of our infiltration problems that we’re having with our sewer lines these days.”

Alexander said the outdated pipes and lines have broken up underground, creating

leakage and putting stress on the sewer treatment plant.

“By upgrading and reducing what we call infiltration, this makes your wastewater treatment plant a lot more efficient,” he said. “Same thing with the galvanized water pipes that we have; this also makes for a better system and better quality of water.”

Alexander said Leesburg is anticipating growth -- Census data show the population has grown by 1,000 since 2005 -- and new developments, both residential and commercial.

“With this anticipated growth, I think it’s important to have as good infrastructure as possible for our city and citizens,” he said. “Leesburg has limited funds available to maintain all the infrastructure that needs to be upgraded, and with the assistance of the DCA, we do a much better job in upgrading our system.”

In Americus, the CDBG award will directly address residential concerns along Besse Mays Circle, and Norman Cole and LeFuse streets. The funds will go to drainage and water improvements along these streets. The total project will cost \$1,156,517 paid by Americus.

Edward Jackson, the Americus director of community development, said residents in this area vocalized concerns about stormwater and sewer drainage leading to flooding and sinkholes. He said the system in this area hadn’t been upgraded for about 20 years.

Community outreach is a key part of applying to CDBG grants.

“We did what we call a ‘cookout conversation,’ in

that particular neighborhood,” Jackson said. “My team, we went out, cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and offered an informal setting where people could come, give us their concerns, ask questions, sign waivers and say they were in favor of applying for the grants.”

The city of Parrott also took a hands-on community outreach approach when applying for the grant. Parrott City Clerk April Johnson handled community outreach, taking two months to knock on every single door in Parrott. She gathered household income surveys, and listened to resident concerns and other critical information needed to demonstrate Parrott’s eligibility.

“They were willing because it’s going to make their water services a lot better,” she said. “The larger pipes will let the water flow better.”

Johnson said residents who live farther out on water lines sometimes run into problems with the flow.

“But, we have a good water superintendent who keeps the flow and takes good care of the water,” she said.

Parrott was awarded \$1 million for citywide water system improvements. This project will directly impact Parrott’s entire population of about 150, 76% of which are low- to moderate-income households.

Parrott Mayor Jake Pritchard said the grant will be a game-changer for the city, upgrading a section of iron pipe that’s been in the ground for about 100 years to plastic piping and enlarging pipes attached to fire hydrants.

“This is the first chance in a while that we’ve had to really do some major im-

provements,” Pritchard said. “It’s going to put us in a good spot moving forward, especially if we were to have a growth spurt.”

These changes aren’t just about maintenance; they’ll also improve fire protection, eliminate any lead presence and potentially lower insurance rates for residents. For a town like Parrott, this kind of project -- which will cost the city nearly \$1.1 million total -- doesn’t come often.

“It’s (the water system project) massive compared to what normally happens,” Pritchard said. “It’s about five times what our normal big projects are.”

Pritchard said these CDBG grants are instrumental for places like Parrott to be able to do projects at the scale of the water system upgrades.

“I don’t know that there’s a better way for us to get these projects done than these block grants,” he said. “This is really the only way to get that much money for us, because otherwise we’re too small to qualify for big grants. They’re invaluable in that aspect.”

Griffin said that while the cities receiving CDBG grants have to match some funds, the amount is small in relation to the grant amount they receive.

“It allows them to not have to tax their citizens and not have to increase their water rates and then to provide good quality water to their citizens,” he said.

City leaders don’t have an exact timeline for the infrastructure projects. Jackson said a DCA conference in October will see cities awarded the funds.

Alexander said Leesburg’s project should be completed within two years.



STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

**TRUIST BANK**



**TRUIST BANK**

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Truist Bank on Westover Road as this week's Star Business of the Week. This location has the highest banking volume of any Truist branch in Georgia outside of the metro Atlanta area. Leadership attributes this success to Truist's strong reputation for excellence and the local team's outstanding customer service. Truist offers a full range of financial services, including checking and savings accounts, loans, and investment solutions, designed to meet the needs of both individuals and businesses in the community. The branch is committed to supporting local growth and economic development through personalized banking solutions and community engagement. Customers consistently praise the team for their professionalism, responsiveness, and dedication to creating meaningful relationships. Truist Bank's presence in Albany not only provides essential financial services but also contributes to the city's economic vitality. The Albany Area Chamber is proud to celebrate Truist Bank for its leadership, excellence, and commitment to serving the community. Learn more about Truist bank at [www.truist.com](http://www.truist.com).

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From 1A  
DARTON

international studies,” Sarah Brinson, dean of the Darton College of Health Professions and a foundation board member, said. “Many are already contributing to the medical work force at Phoebe Putney or other regional providers, and a significant number indicated their intention to remain in southwest Georgia.”

The Christo Family Scholarship also was granted to the university for the benefit of baseball scholarships. Coach Scott Hemmings and his staff are entrusted with making these decisions, ensuring that athletic excellence is given due recognition alongside academic achievement.

Every year, the foundation encounters essays that leave a lasting impression, stories that rise above the page and impact hearts. This year, several essays stood out, deserving great consideration.

Board Member Frances Carr reflected on the power of the essays.

“We read of students who

have no support systems, single mothers working and going to school full-time, a student who moved to Georgia on their own as a minor, and one who lost both parents while attending college,” she said. “Can you imagine losing both parents while in college? This student exemplifies the meaning of grit and determination. Not only did she remain enrolled, but she graduated with an excellent GPA and is now coming to ASU to become a nurse and give back to her hometown.”

“These are the kinds of stories that remind us why this work matters,” added Board Chairperson Pam Simmons. “It’s more than awarding scholarships, it’s investing in human potential. And the ripple effects will be felt across our region for years to come.”

The foundation believes that helping these students is far more than a process; it is a privilege, members said. Their aspirations, their resilience in the face of adversity, and their determination to rise above circumstances inspire the foundation to work harder and reach further to

change lives.

“The foundation is not just a funder,” Davis said. “We maintain meaningful contact with our recipients throughout the semester and their academic pursuits, offering support. Board members, ASU staff, and foundation staff collaborate to lend expertise, encouragement, and compassion to remove barriers.”

A recipient, who will graduate this semester, sent an email of gratitude.

“Thanks for everything this organization does for its recipients, not only in monetary means but in other contributions outside of the scholarships,” the recipient wrote. “Your mentorships have been greatly appreciated and have helped guide me through nursing school.”

The statistics tell a compelling story: hundreds of applicants, dozens of awards, tens of thousands of dollars dispersed. Yet, the true impact lies in the changed lives, the renewed hope, and the sense of community created through these scholarships.



# Horoscopes

Walk away from emotional turmoil, criticism and pressure. Refuse to let what others do influence you. Consider what brings you happiness, safety, security and ease. Don't ignore your emotions or agree to something that doesn't align with your beliefs or goals. Trust your instincts, and you'll find the best way forward.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- A change will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. A change to how you present yourself or your ideas will offer feedback that can help you make better choices.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Choose peace, charm and intelligence over discord, embellishment and absurdity. A change of plans or direction or a diversion that creates uncertainty for an opponent will help you clear your way forward.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Sit back and let the dust settle. Emotional confusion is apparent, and communication will lack the truth. Taking care of business will have the most significant influence on the outcome.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Risks aren't worthwhile. Observe when things don't measure up or when confusion takes precedence. Protect your reputation, money and health from anyone who may try to take advantage of you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- You'll have to face your demons if you procrastinate. Opportunity knocks; it's up to you to open the door. Focus on what makes you feel complete, and don't look back.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Refuse to let an

emotional situation drag you down or cause you to miss out on something that can improve your life. Change will lead to happiness and a stellar you.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)** -- Channel your energy into self-improvement, and enjoy what you learn and how it influences what you do next. Explore the possibilities and expand your interests.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Don't let hostility be your ally. Be a good listener and observer. Say little, but do a lot. Living up to your promises and feeling good about yourself will help you navigate your way to positive change and acceptance.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- You may feel comfortable sitting still, but a little exhilaration will stave off the boredom and encourage you to pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Turn your thoughts into action.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- Shake things up, but first, prepare for the fallout. Avoid letting negativity or someone's critical input lead you astray. Listen to your inner voice and follow your heart.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Go over every detail; be precise and leave no room for error. A mistake will be costly, whether it's personal or professional. Emotions and hostility will hurt your reputation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Observe the changes others implement, and learn from their mistakes. Having a practical vision and a friendly budget in place will help. Don't fear being different.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Familiarity breeds contempt -- and children.*

**Mark Twain,**  
author (1835-1910)

## 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](mailto:squawkbox@albanyherald.com)

Albany Young Marines, congratulations. Well-done! These are not celebrated relics, plaques and crumbling edifices of the past but young, standing-tall in leadership and character, hope for the present and future. There are others in Albany, few, uncelebrated, but there. These are the heritage that should demand our attention, investment and support.

Be leery of most things mainstream in American academia and big media. This includes medicine, vaccines, climate change, critical race theory, reimagined history and atheism.

I'm always reading about criminals running crime organizations from prisons with their cell phones. Some have stolen millions electronically. Cellphones and drugs, are items most smuggled into prisons. With all of our tech talents, why can't we scramble or distort the phones so they won't function inside of prisons?

Jews and Arabs are both Semites, so who are the victims of anti-Semitism?

This is getting real folks. Republicans in the Texas House forced returning Democrats to sign what the Democrats called "permission slips," agreeing to around-the-clock surveillance by state Department of Public Safety officers. However, Democratic Rep. Nicole Collier refused and remained on the House floor last Monday night. Democracy is dying in front of us. Trump and the Republican party are not hiding their march to authoritarianism.

Fletcher, you say you were raised in rural Irwin County and hunted as frequently as possible when you were young. Sorry, I'm not buying that. Anyone as vehemently opposed to guns as you has obviously never handled a firearm.

Since Trump has become president, there are less and less jobs being created every month. SMRs, I hope you have saved up.

I passed a car on Dawson Road yesterday that had no license plate, but a hand-written sign that said "Test Drive." The driver had decorations hanging from the rearview mirror and a steering wheel cover. Either they just didn't want to pay for a tag or they are criminals. APD passed by us both, unbothered. You can't make this stuff up.

Exactly how did a quarterback from Albany, N.Y., wind up on the Lee County football team?

Carlton told Tara she should embrace her mistakes. So she gave him a hug.

In March, Trump claimed the government spent \$8 million on making mice "transgender." There have been studies involving "transgenic mice," which are genetically modified to model human diseases. He either misunderstood or figured his supporters were so ignorant they'd believe it. Stop letting this man insult your intelligence and use you for his personal gain. He does not care about you. That Man Without a Family

## Weather Forecast



Today  
**80°**  
**70°**



Friday  
**80°**  
**70°**



Saturday  
**81°**  
**70°**



Sunday  
**82°**  
**69°**



Monday  
**82°**  
**67°**



Tuesday  
**84°**  
**65°**



Wednesday  
**86°**  
**67°**

BRIDGE ■ PHILLIP ALDER

## KEEP AWAKE TO THE DANGER



Some of you read these columns over the Internet. That would have been much harder to do if newspaper owners had foreseen the danger to their printed editions and always charged for everything on their websites. Now, maybe, it is too late.

Bridge players should also be keeping an eye open for dangers -- the fourth letter of my "trade" acronym. In particular, it is hard to break the habits of a lifetime when a deal comes along that does not fit into a typical pattern. In today's, how should South plan the play in three no-trump, and how should East defeat him?

After a simple Stayman auction, West leads the heart nine, top of touching cards in a suit

containing no honors.

South has eight top tricks: three hearts and five clubs. He can get a ninth winner from diamonds. The danger is that the defenders will take the first diamond trick and cash four spades. When declarer needs some help from the defenders, he should put them on the spot as quickly as possible. South should take the first trick with his ace, play a club to the queen, feigning a finesse, and call for a diamond.

Many Easts would play second hand low without even thinking. But an East who is used to deducing the danger will see that declarer has at least eight winners via three hearts and five clubs. If he is

allowed to steal a diamond trick, he will be home.

East should dive in with the diamond ace and shift to the spade king. When it holds, he continues with his second spade and the contract dies.

|                         |      |            |          |
|-------------------------|------|------------|----------|
| North                   |      | 08-28-25   |          |
| ♠ 9 8 5 2               |      |            |          |
| ♥ K J 3                 |      |            |          |
| ♦ 4                     |      |            |          |
| ♣ A Q 10 9 6            |      |            |          |
| West                    |      | East       |          |
| ♠ A J 10 4              |      | ♥ K 3      |          |
| ♥ 9 8 7 5 4             |      | ♦ 10 6 2   |          |
| ♦ 9 7 2                 |      | ♣ A J 10 8 |          |
| ♣ 3                     |      | ♣ 8 7 4 2  |          |
| South                   |      |            |          |
| ♠ Q 7 6                 |      |            |          |
| ♥ A Q                   |      |            |          |
| ♦ K Q 6 5 3             |      |            |          |
| ♣ K J 5                 |      |            |          |
| Dealer: South           |      |            |          |
| Vulnerable: North-South |      |            |          |
| South                   | West | North      | East     |
| 1 NT                    | Pass | 2 ♣        | Pass     |
| 2 ♦                     | Pass | 3 NT       | All pass |
| Opening lead: ♥ 9       |      |            |          |

COLUMNIST ■ JACK BAGLEY



## DID YOU KNOW...?

Look, there on the horizon! It's September. Ah, the time flies. As does trivia ... so let's fly with some right now.

**Did you know ...**

... sharks find fish by hearing their hearts beating?

... about 33% of the people in the world cannot snap their fingers?

... doctors and nurses in some hospitals in North Korea do not use cutting edge medical equipment? Not because the equipment isn't there; it is. But the personnel have never been trained in its use.

... you can easily tell if you're looking into a two-way mirror? To tell, just put the edge of your fingernail on the surface of the glass. If you can detect a space between the tip of your fingernail and the reflection, it's a normal mirror. If the fingernail tip meets its reflection directly ... well, don't do anything silly, because whoever is behind the mirror can see you.

... bubble wrap was originally wallpaper? Invented in 1957 by Alfred Fielding and Marc

Chavannes, the ubiquitous protective wrapping stuff was intended to be a form of three-dimensional wallpaper. Needless to say, it didn't sell, but the two engineers were not discouraged. They tried to market it next as a greenhouse insulation, but that fell flat as well. Finally, hearing that IBM was shipping a new computer model in 1961, the men offered their twice-rejected air-filled wrapping idea as a packaging material. It worked, and sales through the roof were quick to follow.

... a video game is on the

market that makes you play it twice before you see the ending? Ghosts 'n Goblins is a very difficult game to play all by itself, but when you get to the end, you get a message saying that it was all just an illusion, and you have to start all over again. Once you get to the end a second time -- which is much more difficult than the first -- you get to see the real ending of the video game.

... the writer of Alice in Wonderland created a word game? Author Lewis Carroll came up with a word game called Doublets. In this game, players transform one word into an entirely different one -- one letter at a time. The catch is, each step in the chain must be a legitimate word as well.

... the last Old West-style train robbery in the United States was in 1937? Henry Loftus and Harry Donaldson were passengers on a Southern Pacific railroad train out of El Paso, Texas, on Nov. 24, 1937. About an hour into the trip, Loftus pulled a gun on the conductor, and Donaldson began collecting valuables from the passengers. Then things began to go south. One passenger tried to intervene, a nervous Donaldson shot that passenger in the hip, and Loftus was tackled by a brakeman. During the ensuing struggle, the gun went off and the brakeman was killed, at which time some 20 passengers descended on the two would-be desperados, gave them a rather thorough beating, and tied them to their seats. When the train stopped in Deming, N.M., Loftus and Donaldson were transferred

to the authorities. They were each found guilty of murder and train robbery and sentenced to 50 to 75 years in prison.

... Monaco will cease to be an independent country if the ruling family dies? The tiny principality of Monaco on the Mediterranean coast of France has been ruled by the Grimaldi family since 1297. Now a constitutional monarchy, the tiny nation is led by Prince Albert II. Under the terms of a 2002 treaty between Monaco and France, if the Grimaldi family should ever be without an heir to the throne -- male or female -- the principality will become part of France when the last ruling prince or princess dies.

... a distillery has a unique method of getting around its county's laws? Located in Lynchburg, Tenn., the Jack Daniels Distillery is prohibited by local law from selling alcohol. Moore County in Tennessee is dry. So to get around the prohibition, the distillery sells commemorative Jack Daniels bottles that just so happen to have whiskey in them.

... you may be a sufferer of myrmecophobia? It's not uncommon; it's the fear of ants.

... the acid in your stomach is very powerful? A solution of hydrochloric acid, it is so strong it can dissolve a razor blade in less than a week. The only reason it doesn't dissolve you from the inside out is because of the lining of the stomach, which is strong enough to withstand the acid that it secretes.

**Now ... you know!**

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

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## DO JUST ONE THING

by Danny Seo

Salad spinners are handy kitchen tools that help wash greens and use centrifugal force to spin them dry. But they are also great for a whole host of other cooking ingredients. Want to remove the seeds from canned tomatoes? Just empty the can and break up the tomatoes a little bit, then spin away. Need dried canned beans for a recipe? Just rinse and spin so your hummus isn't too watery. And you don't even need to use the spinning part. Use the inner basket to soak delicate fruit like berries, then lift them right out of the water.

## Today in History

Today is the 240th day of 2025 and the 70th day of summer.

### TODAY'S HISTORY:

**In 1867**, the United States took possession of Midway Atoll.

**In 1955**, 14-year-old African American Emmett Till was murdered in Money, Mississippi.

**In 1963**, Martin Luther King Jr. made his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom event in Washington, D.C.

**In 1968**, protesters fought with police at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

**In 1996**, Prince Charles and Princess Diana formally divorced.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), author; Bruno Bettelheim (1903-1990), psychologist; Jack Kirby (1917-1994), writer/comics artist; Donald O'Connor (1925-2003), actor/performer; Ben Gazzara (1930-2012), actor; Lou Piniella (1943-), baseball player/manager; Luis Guz-

man (1956-), actor; Scott Hamilton (1958-), figure skater; David Fincher (1962-), film director; Shania Twain (1965-), singer-songwriter; Jack Black (1969-), actor/musician; LeAnn Rimes (1982-), singer-songwriter; Quvenzhané Wallis (2003-), actress/author.

**TODAY'S FACT:** The first issue of Scientific American was published on this day in 1845.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1977, Brazilian soccer superstar Pele played in his last competitive game; his New York Cosmos team defeated the Seattle Sounders 2-1 for the National American Soccer League championship.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "The only real politics I knew was that if a guy liked Hitler, I'd beat the stuffing out of him and that would be it." -- Jack Kirby

**TODAY'S NUMBER:** 2.4 -- square miles of land that makes up Midway Atoll

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between new moon (Aug. 22) and first quarter moon (Aug. 30).

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# PERSPECTIVES

## The Albany Herald

Carlton Fletcher, Editor

albanyherald.com  
Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ MICHAEL FERGUSON II

### Deep in the heart of Texas: A reflection on power, truth, and hope for healing

Deep in the heart of Texas, it appears the heart itself has grown wicked. Not wicked in the cartoonish sense — but in the way power can rot from the inside, hidden behind law, order, and polished words. We are reminded, as a people, that “We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities ...”

And the principalities are hard at work: redrawing maps, chasing dissenters through Capitol halls, and demanding silence in the face of injustice.

What we see in Texas isn’t just a political standoff, it’s a moral crisis. When elected officials like Rep. Nicole Collier are forced to choose between submission and dignity, when she refuses to sign a waiver just to avoid being escorted out of her own House Chamber by law enforcement, that is not democracy in action. That is power defending itself at all costs.

And those of us of African descent—we recognize it immediately. We’ve lived under systems like this before. Jim Crow wasn’t a myth. Voter suppression wasn’t born yesterday. The Confederate flag may have lost a war, but it never lost its grip on certain corners of America. And sometimes, yes, even the American flag itself has been weaponized to represent exclusion, not freedom.

So we don’t need to recall Hitler to understand tyranny. We’ve lived through it, right here, under banners that called themselves “just.” We have endured America’s cruelty not as abstract history but as lived reality. Our ancestors were kidnapped and brought here as prisoners of war, and we, their descendants, have spent centuries navigating the tension between hope and heartbreak.

Is it possible for America to be a beacon of democracy to the world, while denying that same democracy to its own people? You cannot wave the flag abroad and ignore the cries at home. You cannot preach freedom and punish those who practice it. And you cannot claim to love a nation while refusing to correct its course.

But today, even telling the truth about America has become taboo. Say too much,

and you’re accused of being divisive. Say too plainly, and you’re labeled “un-American.” But truth doesn’t ask for approval. Truth doesn’t need permission. And truth has always been the first step toward healing.

It is my deep desire to see this nation healed. Not out of anger, but out of love. Not because I wish to destroy, but because I wish to build something better. Still, I know healing cannot come through denial. The scriptures warn us: “They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.”

We are warned not to declare peace where there is no peace. And there is no peace in a country that silences its prophets, mocks its martyrs, and refuses to turn from its wickedness. True peace requires repentance. And repentance demands more than apologies. It demands action.

The Word is clear: “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

But how can a nation turn from wickedness it refuses to name? How can it heal from wounds it won’t even acknowledge?

We reap what we sow. And if this nation continues to sow denial, fear and injustice, the harvest will be unrest, division, and decay. But if we sow truth, courage and real accountability, then healing becomes possible.

To our white brothers and sisters: this isn’t about blame. It’s about responsibility. It’s about the courage to listen. To follow. To learn from those of us who’ve walked through fire and still found a way forward. We don’t need saviors. We need solidarity. Because some of us know the way; not because we read it in a book, but because we had to survive it.

So, no, I won’t say peace where there is no peace. But I will say this: There is still time. Time to repent. Time to listen. Time to rebuild something real. If this nation is ever to live up to the words it loves to recite, it must first learn to face the truth it fears to admit.



FERGUSON



COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

### A bear of a true war story

It’s not every day that spouses happen upon obscure pieces of history that fascinate them both, but that’s exactly what happened to my wife and me. We — along with our child — traveled to the United Kingdom to celebrate my wife’s birthday, and we planned to visit ancient Roman ruins and search for the ever-elusive good British food.

As we made our way northward, we spent a couple nights in Edinburgh, Scotland, where we saw a curious sight that recalled a bear of a true story. Not far from our hotel was a bronze statue of a kind-looking bear and a World War II era soldier with an inscription that read “WOJTEK In memory of the Polish men and women who fought ‘For Your Freedom and Ours.’”

Seeing a Polish memorial in Scotland does seem admittedly unusual, but I’ve seen weirder things. However, when you throw a bear into the mix, it becomes truly bizarre. The genesis of this statue stems from the story of a bear that was part frat boy, part pet and part soldier, and you can trace the seeds of its fame to Russia’s invasion of Poland.

In September 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland and deported hundreds of thousands of Poles to the farthest reaches of the Russian hinterland. But when Nazi Germany decided to wage war against the Soviet Union, the Russians saw utility in the exiled Poles. As such, communist leadership decided to enlist them to fight against the Nazis.

A band of Poles subsequently made its way from a Siberian concentration camp to Alexandria, Egypt, but they stopped in the Middle East. It was in Iran that they discovered a bear cub whose mother had been killed by hunters, and the Polish soldiers quickly adopted the lovable Syrian brown bear.

“Nursing the bear with a bottle of condensed milk in a vodka bottle, the soldiers treated Wojtek like a baby, perhaps because their own families had been torn apart by the war,” according to Time Magazine.

The troops raised the bear and named him Wojtek, which roughly translates to “joyous warrior.” Much like the soldiers, Wojtek liked to wrestle, kick a soccer ball and acquired an insatiable taste for beer and cigarettes.

“He would accept lit cigarettes, take a puff and swallow them,” one of his Polish caretakers wrote. “He loved to drink from a beer bottle, and when it was empty, he would look through the opening to see where the

rest of the beer was.”

Wojtek was great for the Poles’ morale, but the good-hearted rough-housing couldn’t continue in perpetuity. Europe was in the throes of World War II, and Wojtek’s friends were part of the 22nd Transport Company’s Artillery Division in the Polish 2nd Corps, which was eventually deployed to Europe.

This deployment created challenges for the Poles. Soldiers generally aren’t permitted to bring pets to battle fronts, let alone 500- or 600-pound bears, but they didn’t want to part from their beloved Wojtek. So they got creative.

“When the Polish forces were deployed to Europe, the only way to take the bear with them was to ‘enlist’ him, so he was given a name, rank and number and took part in the Italian campaign,” the BBC reported.

Once in Europe, the Poles participated in one of the fiercest battles in Italy — the Battle of Monte Cassino — and Wojtek supported his fellow soldiers on the front lines.

“In one interview, a British veteran told how taken aback he was to see the 1.82m (6-foot) bear carrying shells during the Battle of Monte Cassino,” the BBC continued.

“He absolutely showed that he was scared by the explosions, but he got used to it and was carting artillery around the place in big boxes,” a daughter of one of the Polish soldiers said. Another report claims that Wojtek was carrying boxes of spent ammo, but whatever assistance he provided, it was nothing short of amazing. The bear subsequently became famous, and the Polish division changed its insignia to that of a bear carrying a massive artillery shell.

In time, the war ended, but instead of transporting Wojtek back to the East where the Soviet Union may have used him in communist propaganda, the Poles ensured that he ended up in Scotland, where he lived in the Edinburgh Zoo. One of his former Polish caretakers visited him afterward, and even though he considered crying a sign of weakness, he “sobbed like a baby” upon seeing his old friend.

Wojtek sadly died in 1963, and in 2015, his statue became a permanent fixture in Edinburgh and has captured the imaginations of countless passersby, like my wife and me. If you make it to Edinburgh, you can pet the statue’s nose and see Wojtek’s cheerful smirk.

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



HYDEN

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:**  
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306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701

“Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.”  
—Psalms 62:1

COLUMNIST ■ KING RANDALL

### Preserving Albany’s past while building its future

Albany has always been a city with deep roots and wide branches. From the Flint River that shaped the city’s economy to the neighborhoods where families passed down land and legacy, our history still whispers through the streets we walk every day. Every brick, every steeple, every corner store tells a story of the people who came before us — people who worked, struggled, built, and believed in what Albany could be.

But now, as we look ahead, we face a question that every growing city must answer: How do we honor the past while building a future that works for everyone?

I have the privilege of serving on both the Albany-Dougherty Planning and Historic Preservation commissions, and those roles have given me a front-row seat to the crossroads Albany is standing at. Every week, we hear petitions that balance between development and preservation. A new project might bring jobs, but it also might mean tearing down a piece of Albany’s story. A historic home might need saving, but the cost and practicality of restoration weigh heavy on families and investors alike. These aren’t just technical discussions — they’re questions about identity, culture, and the kind of Albany we want to leave to our chil-

dren.

Some folks see history as something that holds us back — old buildings, old ordinances, old ways of thinking. Others see progress as a threat — fearing that growth means gentrification, displacement and the erasure of what makes Albany unique. The truth is, both sides are right to be concerned. But both sides also need each other. If we lean too far into nostalgia, we risk stagnation. If we race too quickly toward change, we risk losing the very soul of our city.

Take our downtown, for example. We’ve got structures that remind us of Albany’s heyday as a bustling economic hub. The grand storefronts, the red brick, the old theaters — they carry the spirit of generations. Many sit empty now, but they are not lost causes. With the right investment, those same walls can house businesses, apartments, restaurants, and cultural centers that breathe life back into the city. Across the country, cities have proven that preservation doesn’t mean freezing in time — it means adapting the best of what we have, to meet the needs of today.

We’ve seen this in Macon, Savannah, and

even small towns across Georgia where preservation was not just about saving buildings but about sparking pride, tourism and new opportunity. People want to visit places that feel authentic. They want to walk streets where history is visible, where stories are alive, where a city feels like it remembers who it is. Albany can do the same, if we have the will.

On the other hand, growth is coming whether we like it or not. Our job is to guide it. That means being intentional about zoning, about infrastructure, and about how we support development that lifts our entire community rather than leaving certain neighborhoods behind. Preserving our past doesn’t just mean saving buildings, it also means protecting communities, ensuring long-time residents aren’t pushed out when new opportunities arrive. Growth without protection can easily turn into displacement. Development without direction can easily turn into division.

What I want to see is balance. I want to see Albany become a place where history and progress shake hands. Where a restored home sits proudly beside a new business.



RANDALL

Where cultural landmarks are not bulldozed but built upon. Where our children can see where we came from and still feel excited about where we’re going.

This is not just a dream, it’s a responsibility. Every decision we make about land, zoning and preservation is a decision about what kind of city Albany will be in 20, 30 or 50 years. We are writing the story now that future generations will read. And if we are careless, they will inherit empty lots where homes once stood and broken memories where culture once thrived. But if we are wise, they will inherit a city that still tells its story while offering opportunity for new ones to be written.

It will take courage, investment, and compromise. It will take city leaders, developers and everyday citizens working together. But I believe Albany can be a city that remembers its roots while reaching for its future. And if we get it right, we won’t just preserve Albany’s story, we’ll write a new chapter worth remembering.

King Randall is a youth educator and founder of The X for Boys, a program dedicated to empowering young men in Albany through discipline, leadership and hands-on training.



# What to watch WEDNESDAY

August 27, 2025

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

## Fantasy Football Ruined Our Lives

Netflix ■ Original Film

In this Italian comedy, a group of longtime friends who are members of a fantasy football (meaning soccer) league become suspects in the mysterious disappearance of their league's reigning champion (Enrico Borello) when he doesn't show up at the altar on the day he is to be married — and, even more shockingly, fails to submit his fantasy lineup on the decisive day of the league, which also happens to be his wedding day.

## MLB Baseball: Pittsburgh at St. Louis

FS1, 7:30 p.m. Live

Bryan Reynolds leads the Pittsburgh Pirates against Willson Contreras and the Cardinals in Game 3 of a four-game series at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

## Family Law

The CW, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Corporate Retreat," when word of the merger reaches the firm,



'Family Law'

DARKO SIKMAN

Daniel (Zach Smadu) suggests a weekend corporate retreat to boost morale, while Abby (Jewel Staite) represents a woman in an acrimonious divorce case.

## MasterChef: Dynamic Duos

FOX, 8 p.m.

Both cooks in each duo must make the exact same dish while divided by a high wall, communicating by shouting over it. One duo will be eliminated in the new episode "The Wall."

## Bargain Block

HGTV, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "The Midcentury Modern House," Keith Bynum and Evan Thomas transform a once crumbling Detroit abode with the charm and class of midcentury modern design. The team tops off the renovation with design details including floating shelves and the perfect banquette in the dining room.

## America's Got Talent

NBC, 8 p.m. Live

America's votes will reveal which three

acts from last night's show will move on to the semifinals, and one act that advances straight to the finals with the new live show Golden Buzzer.

## Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service

FOX, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Neighborhood Kitchen," Gordon Ramsay discovers a Massachusetts restaurant that serves subpar cuisine from a kitchen plagued by contamination. Ramsay sets out to save the establishment before it is compromised beyond recovery.

## Chasing the West

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Married for 35 years, longtime California State Park Rangers turn to Drew and Jonathan Scott for a property that reminds them of state park life but with land they own. Also, an animal chiropractor and horseshoer are ready to flee their 400-square-foot rental.



WARNER BROS.

drama **Torch Song**; the 1951 romantic comedy **Goodbye, My Fancy**, also with Robert Young; and more.

# CATCH A CLASSIC

## 2025 Summer Under the Stars: Joan Crawford

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Working under the name Joan Crawford, actress Lucille Fay LeSueur not only became one of the most famous movie stars of her day but also remains an enduring symbol of old Hollywood thanks to her acclaimed performances and captivating screen presence. You'll see that Crawford magic all day today with 12 of her films airing as part of

Turner Classic Movies' Summer Under the Stars. The titles in the lineup encompass about 25 years of her career, ranging from the 1932 South Seas-set drama **Rain** to the 1957 British drama **The Story of Esther Costello**. You'll also see many great Crawford performances across various genres from the years in between, including in the 1947 psychological drama **Possessed (pictured)**, which earned her a Best Actress Oscar nomination alongside Van Heflin and Raymond Massey; the 1943 spy film **Above Suspicion**, also featuring Fred MacMurray; the 1950 film noir **The Damned Don't Cry**; the 1946 melodrama **Humoresque**, costarring John Garfield; the 1953 musical

# What to watch THURSDAY

August 28, 2025

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

## The Thursday Murder Club

Netflix ■ Original Film

Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley, Celia Imrie, Naomi Ackie, Jonathan Pryce, David Tennant and Paul Freeman are among the cast of this comedic mystery that follows a group of friends in a retirement home who gather to solve mysteries for fun but end up uncovering an actual murder case and risking their lives to figure it out.

## College Football

BTN, ESPN & FS1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Live

Thursday night college football is back for the new season with Boise State at South Florida (ESPN), Buffalo at Minnesota (FS1), Nebraska at Cincinnati (ESPN) and Miami (Ohio) at Wisconsin (BTN) among the notable games.

## Hudson & Rex

UPTV, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In the Season 7 finale, "Hot Prowl in the City," after a man is stabbed by an intruder who left no trace of a break-in, Rex's senses reveal that it was only a practice run for a scheme that goes much deeper.

## Family Lockup

A&E, 10 p.m.

In a bold bid to break the cycle of recidivism (reoffending), Sheriff Nick Cocchi of the Hampden County Sheriff's Office in Massachusetts is allowing estranged family members to spend two nights in jail to restore broken family bonds. But when the cell doors close, that's when reality sets in. Will healing begin, or will some inmates find themselves facing reintegration alone? In tonight's episode, "The Lost Brother," Robert's history of incarceration due to drug addiction has fractured his family.



'Hudson & Rex'

UPTV

# CATCH A CLASSIC

## 2025 Summer Under the Stars: Donald O'Connor (First-Timer)

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

On what would have been his 100th birthday (he was born in Chicago on Aug. 28, 1925; he died in Los Angeles on Sept. 27, 2003, at the age of 78), actor/dancer Donald O'Connor will make his Summer Under the Stars debut. The 13-film lineup features some of his most well-known musicals and comedies, such as, of course, 1952's **Singin' in the Rain (pictured)**, for which he won a Golden Globe, alongside Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Best



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.

Supporting Actress Oscar nominee Jean Hagen; **There's No Business Like Show Business** (1954), also featuring Ethel Merman and Marilyn Monroe; **Francis** (1950), the first film in the franchise that paired O'Connor with the titular "talking" mule for six films between 1950 and 1956; and the TCM premieres of **The Milkman** (1950), also featuring Jimmy Durante, and **Double Crossbones** (1951), a pirate-themed comedy/adventure also starring Helena Carter.

# MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Top Gun: Maverick'

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

**Game Night** (2018, Comedy) Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams **TNT, 6 p.m.**

**Royal-ish** (2025, Romance) Nichole Sakura, Francesca Europa **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

**Frozen** (2013, Children) Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel **Freeform, 6:30 p.m.**

**Jurassic World Dominion** (2022, Action) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **USA, 7 p.m.**

**A League of Their Own** (1992, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Geena Davis **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

**Don't Scream, It's Me** (2024, Suspense) Kaylah Zander, Nathanael Vass **LMN, 8 p.m.**

**Double Scoop** (2025, Romance) Ryan McPartlin, Taylor Cole **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

**Dumb & Dumber** (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels **TNT, 8 p.m.**

**You Don't Mess With the Zohan** (2008, Comedy) Adam Sandler, John Turturro **VH1, 8 p.m.**

**My Husband's Killer Girlfriend** (2021, Suspense) Cindy Busby, Lane Edwards **LMN, 10 p.m.**

**The Perfect Storm** (2000, Suspense) George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg **AMC, 10:30 p.m.**

**Total Recall** (1990, Science fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

**Top Gun: Maverick** (2022, Action) Tom Cruise, Miles Teller **Paramount, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



# MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'The Green Mile'

WARNER BROS.

**Heist 88** (2023, Crime drama) Courtney B. Vance, Keith David **BET, 6 p.m.**

**One Night Stand Murder** (2023, Suspense) Casey Waller, Alex Trumble **LMN, 6 p.m.**

**Avatar: The Way of Water** (2022, Science fiction) Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana **FX, 7 p.m.**

**Jumanji** (1995, Family) Robin Williams, Bonnie Hunt **E!, 7 p.m.**

**Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome** (1985, Science fiction) Mel Gibson, Tina Turner **VH1, 8 p.m.**

**Ocean's Eleven** (2001, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Matt Damon **TNT, 8 p.m.**

**Trust Her if You Dare** (2025, Suspense) Jennings Rice, Katelin Chesna **LMN, 8 p.m.**

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

**The Green Mile** (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks, David Morse **USA, 9 p.m.**

**The Ex Obsession** (2022, Suspense) Chaley Rose, B.J. Britt **LMN, 10 p.m.**

**Ocean's Twelve** (2004, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Brad Pitt **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

**Eternals** (2021, Action) Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek **FX, 11 p.m.**

**Footloose** (1984, Drama) Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer **BBC America, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



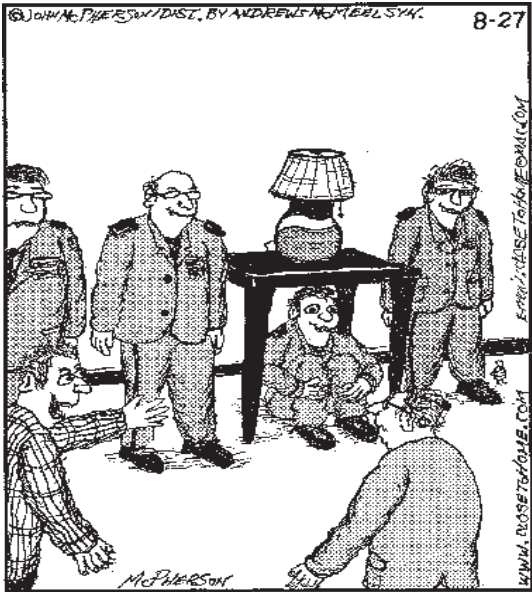
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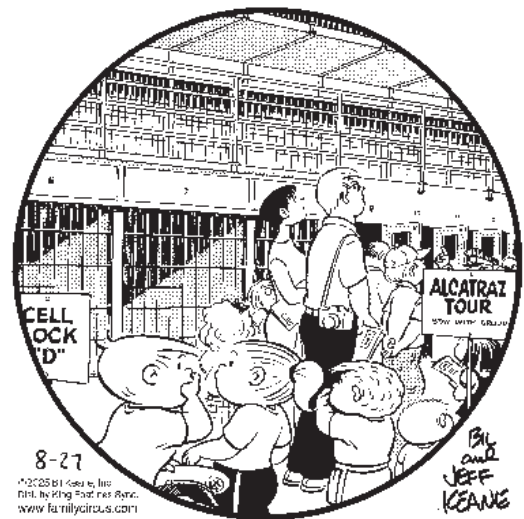


CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



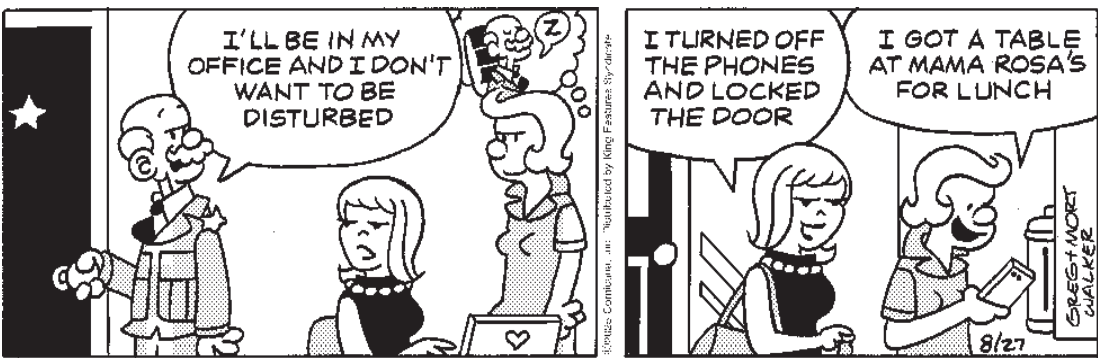
"Mr. Prime Minister, allow me to introduce you to General Knott, Secretary Adzigian, Under Secretary Maxwell and Admiral Robb."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"The break is set for midnight. Bring your snorkel. Pass it on."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



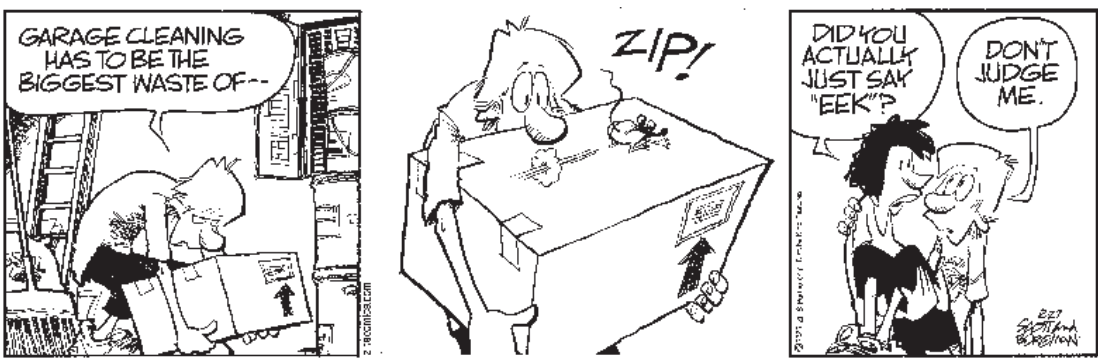
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



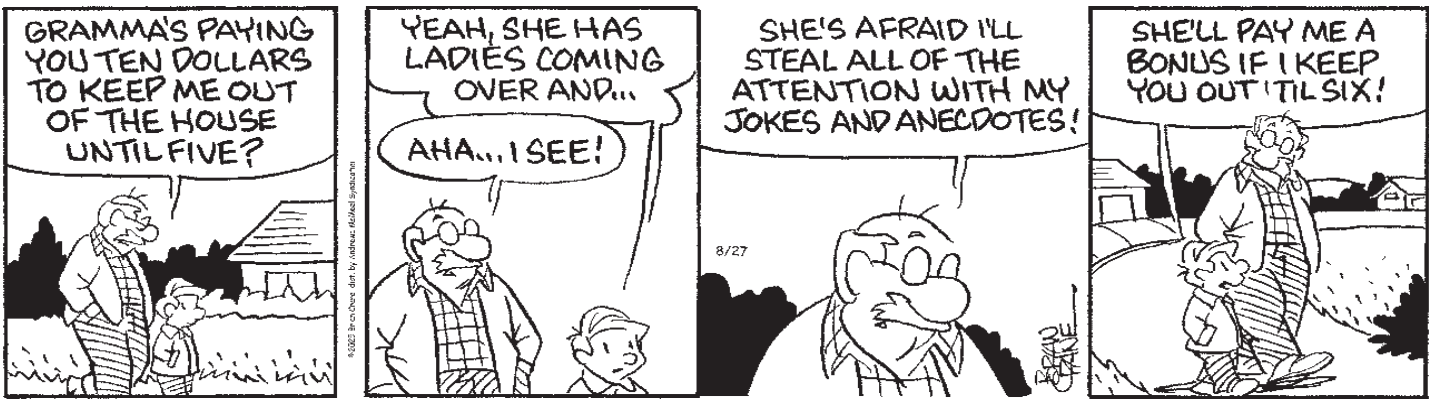
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



**SUDOKU**

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

**WHATZIT?**

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

**WRITE QUEUE**

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Right on cue

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

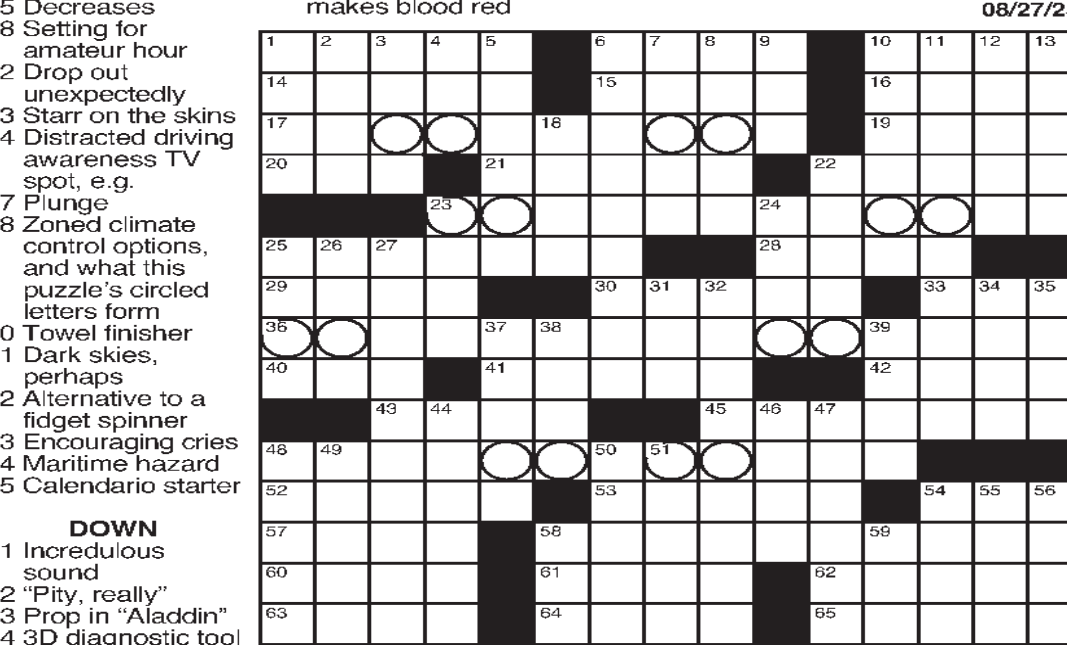
Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tropical flora
  - 6 Site with handcrafted inventory
  - 10 Lhasa
  - 14 Word after solar or lens
  - 15 Copy, informally
  - 16 Vague reply to an ETA request
  - 17 Traditional social group
  - 19 "\_\_\_ it ironic?"
  - 20 About 5 mL
  - 21 Prima \_\_\_: at first sight
  - 22 1:1, for one
  - 23 Historic hockey game at Lake Placid
  - 25 "Love is \_\_\_, love is kind ..."
  - 28 CEO's aide
  - 29 Couple
  - 30 What Diaper Genie filters trap
  - 33 Long of "The Best Man Holiday"
  - 36 Dress blues, e.g.
  - 40 Took a lunch break
  - 41 Genesis
  - 42 Overlying
  - 43 Deer dad
  - 45 Decreases
  - 48 Setting for amateur hour
  - 52 Drop out unexpectedly
  - 53 Starr on the skins
  - 54 Distracted driving awareness TV spot, e.g.
  - 57 Plunge
  - 58 Zoned climate control options, and what this puzzle's circled letters form
  - 60 Towel finisher
  - 61 Dark skies, perhaps
  - 62 Alternative to a fidget spinner
  - 63 Encouraging cries
  - 64 Maritime hazard
  - 65 Calendar starter
- DOWN**
- 1 Incredulous sound
  - 2 "Pity, really"
  - 3 Prop in "Aladdin"
  - 4 3D diagnostic tool
  - 5 Pic taken at arm's length
  - 6 Those responsible for class actions?
  - 7 Viking garment
  - 8 Sales pitch
  - 9 To this point
  - 10 "Crazy Rich \_\_\_": Jon M. Chu rom-com
  - 11 Tacky method of communication?
  - 12 Video game character who attacks by rolling into a ball
  - 13 How many ballerinas perform
  - 18 Michaels purchase, perhaps
  - 22 "Scandal" actress
  - 23 "Bosch" actress
  - 24 Take home, as pay
  - 25 Soft, strong cotton
  - 26 Still going
  - 27 Option for long-distance medical consultations
  - 31 Easter purchase for 46-Down
  - 32 Summarizing
  - 34 Element that makes blood red
  - 35 Fires (up)
  - 37 "The Christmas Song" composer
  - 38 Body prefix
  - 39 Like Formula One cars
  - 44 Places for spats
  - 46 Easter basket items
  - 47 "Ye Olde" boutique
  - 48 Many a promotional email
  - 49 Silver, in Spanish
  - 50 Focus of forensics shows
  - 51 Brock Purdy, for one
  - 54 Half-\_\_\_: skate park element
  - 55 Use a spoon to homogenize
  - 56 Concerning
  - 58 Group of meerkats
  - 59 Chaney of old films

**TODAY'S SOLUTION:**

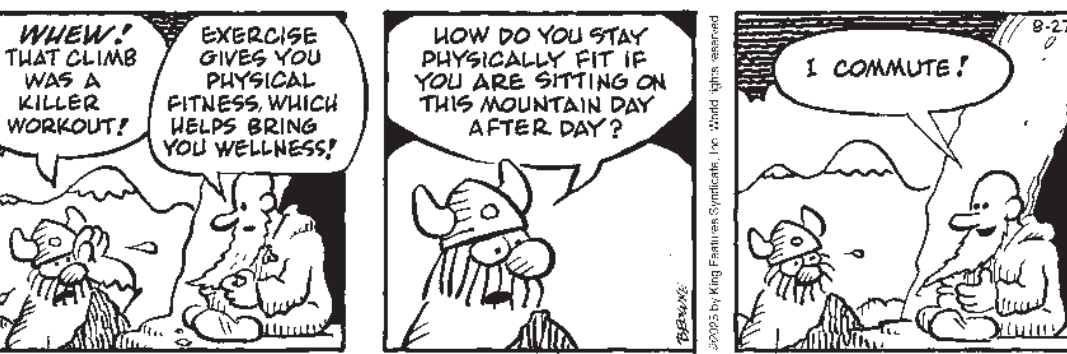
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| L | I | D | O | E |   | N | E | W | O |   | E | L | L | E |   |
| S | L | I | L | D | S | I | N | I | W |   | T | V | A | F |   |
| V | S | D |   |   | O | G | N | I | R |   | E | K | V | T | E |
|   |   |   | L | H | G | I | N | C | I | W | N |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

08/27/25



By Aaron Ullman ©2025 Tribune Content Agency, L.L.C. 08/27/25

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.

CHAGA MUSHROOMS Solution: 7 letters

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

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Alert, Amino Acids, Anti-aging, Benefits, Birch, Bitter, Blood Pressure, Boil, Brain, Brownies, Burnt, Chunky, Coffee, Conk, Crust, Digestion, Energy, Flavor, Fungi, Grow, Immune, Incense, Learn, Liver, Magnesium, Medicinal, Memory, Mood, Muffins, Muscle, Natural, Nutrients, Potassium, Rubidium, Stomach, Taste, Trunk, Vanilla, Vitamins

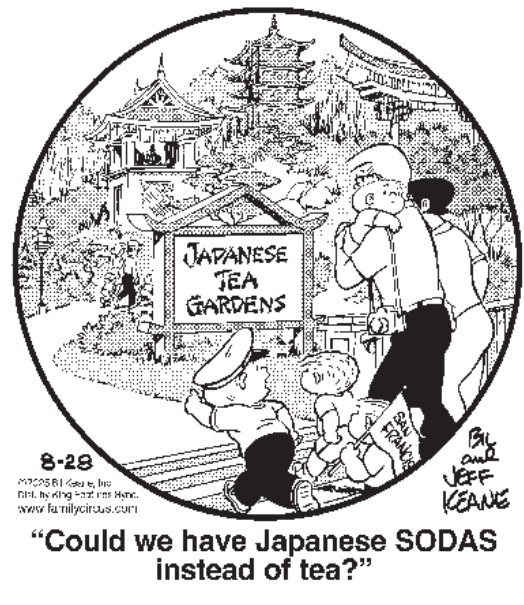
**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Extract



CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



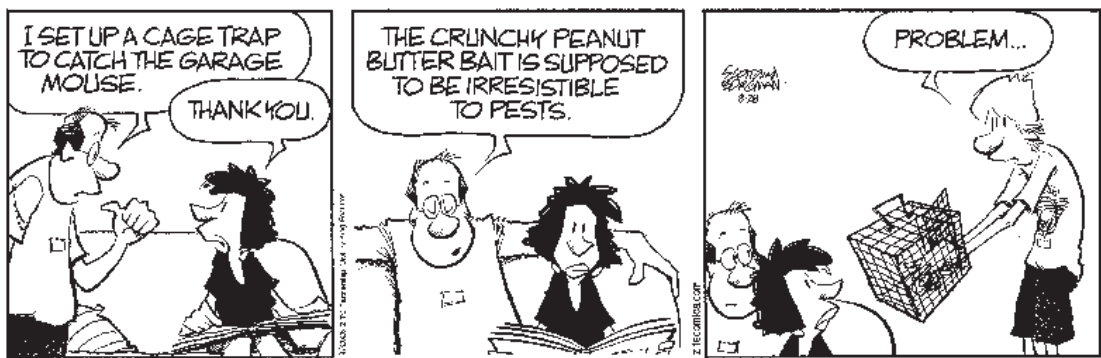
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



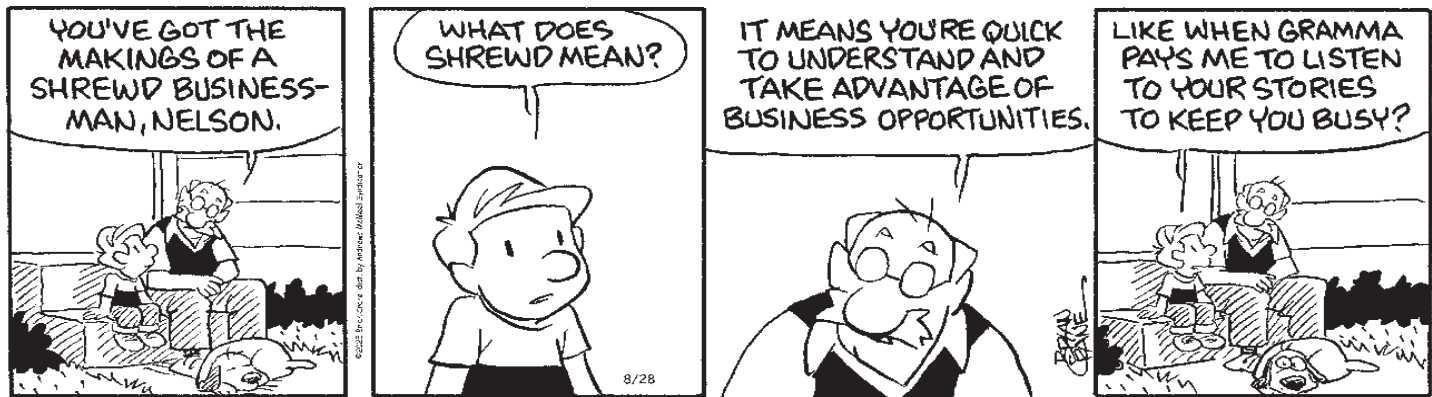
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

ENUMERATED NATS

SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Stand up and be counted



CROSSWORD



TODAY'S SOLUTION:

ACROSS

- 1 Bear hair  
4 Cheese in a mousetrap  
8 Flagpole  
12 One-pip card  
13 Nullify  
14 Colorful fish  
15 "— Be Home for Christmas"  
16 Attempt  
17 Ecuador neighbor  
18 Chuckle  
20 Magical drink  
22 Bee follower  
23 Desire  
24 Fought  
28 Banded quartz  
32 Clean water org.  
33 Unwanted plant  
35 "Twilight Zone" creator — Serling  
36 Finger count

- 37 Edible part  
38 Food fish  
39 Houston player  
41 Disobedient  
44 Sprite  
46 Fish eggs  
47 Like a fashion plate  
50 Dead duck  
53 Notion  
54 Ready, willing and —  
57 Actress — Longoria  
58 War god  
59 Earth's satellite  
60 "Little Women" name  
61 Release  
62 Sunrise direction  
63 Time periods (Abbr.)

DOWN

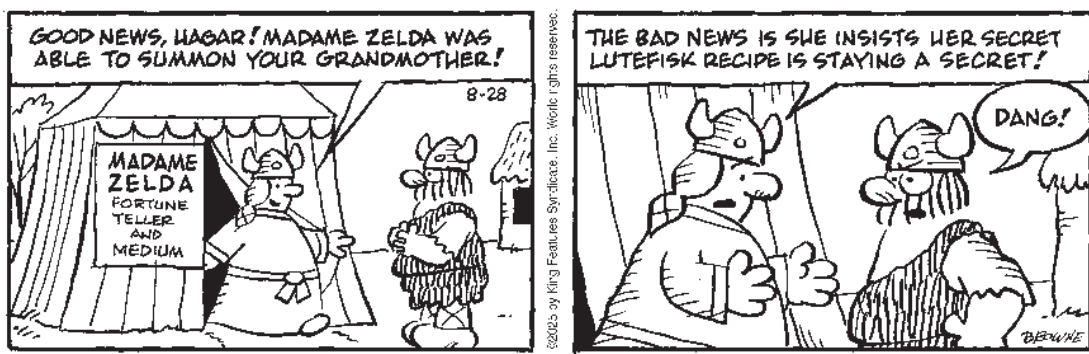
- 1 Flunk

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| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
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| 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35 |    |    |
| 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |
| 39 |    |    | 40 |    | 41 |    | 42 | 43 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 44 |    | 45 |    | 46 |    |    |    |
| 47 | 48 | 49 |    |    | 50 |    |    | 51 | 52 |    |
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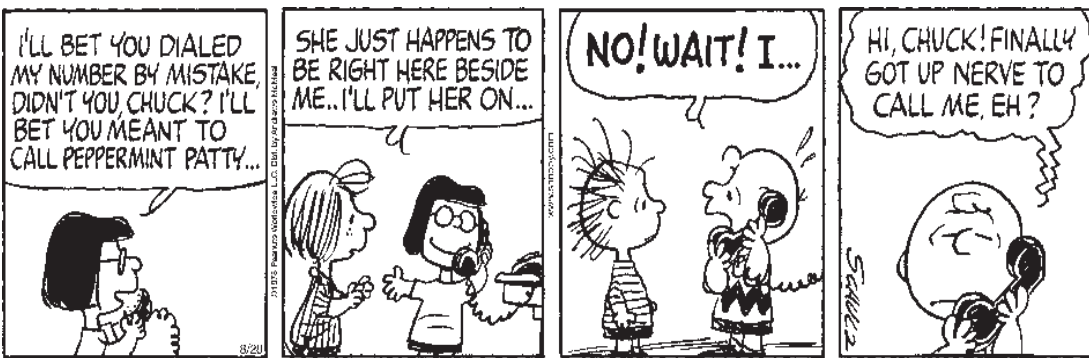
8-28

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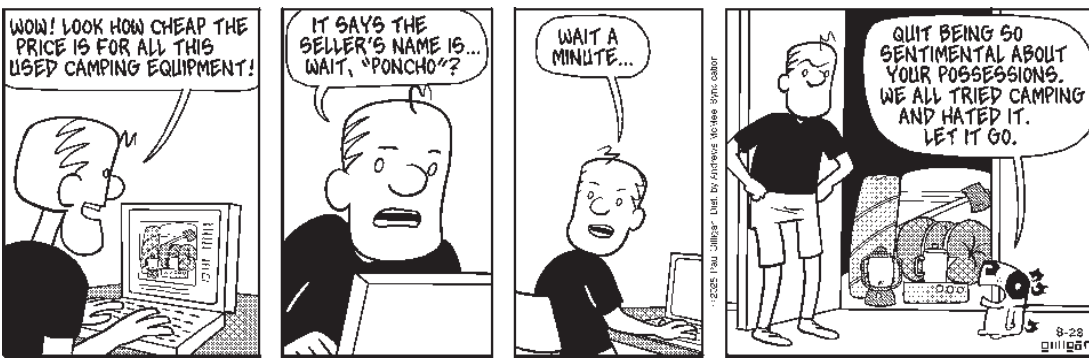
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan





# City gives residents a new way to ‘Access Albany’ using phone app

By Alan Mauldin  
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** — Reporting a power outage will be easier than ever with a new phone app, but the application will do a lot more, including allowing residents to pay utility bills and access other services.

In addition to being able to report electric outages online instead of waiting on hold when call volumes are high after a severe storm, the app provides a map showing residents if neighbors have already made a report for their area.

“They can report both power outages and go to their portal to pay their utility bill,” 311 Call Center Supervisor Nicole Sproul said. “With the outage system, they’ll be able to see all active outages in the city, so maybe they

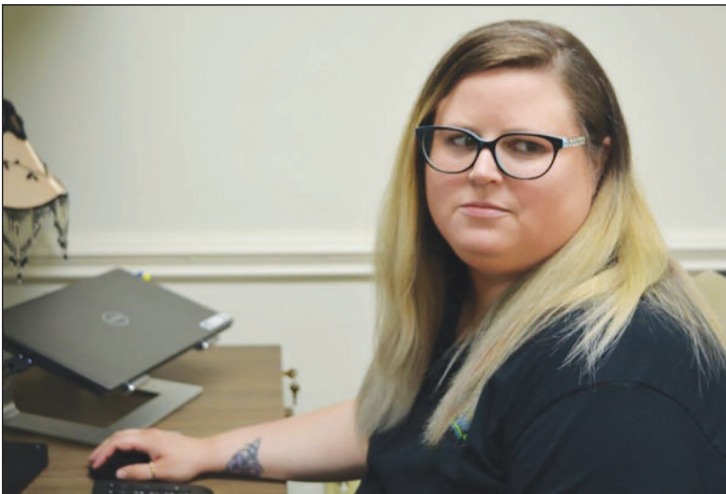
don’t have to report it if others already have.”

With Access Albany online, Albany residents still will be able to call the city’s 311 number to report issues.

Downloading the app is easy at Google Play, and it is also available in the Apple store. The Access Albany home screen gives options for viewing and paying utility bills, as well as links to the city’s Facebook page and the Albany Police Department. The menu list also includes job applications, information about the City Commission and allows for making open records requests and watching commission meetings.

In addition, there is a tab allowing residents to report a hazard or other issue to city officials.

It’s also a means by which



Krista Monk

residents can “see something, say something,” Albany Public Information Officer Krista Monk said.

“It’s for the entire community, Albany and Dougherty County,” she said. “A lot of people assume we know where all the issues are, but we don’t. If somebody has a concern about something that needs to be fixed, they can send in a request.”

Users also have a choice of multiple languages

“It (the new system) is a lot more user-friendly,” Monk said.



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Art/Jim Hendricks

Albany Museum of Art Curator of African Collections and African Diasporic Art Sidney Pettice installs an African mask from the AMA collection on the wall of the Haley Gallery in preparation for the fall exhibition “Echoes of the Past.”

## Albany Museum of Art fall exhibitions open with reception

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** — “Echoes of the Past,” a multi-gallery survey exhibition of African art and a celebration of the 130th birthday of nature artist Athos Menaboni headline the fall exhibition season at the Albany Museum of Art, which opens with an evening reception on Thursday, Sept 4.

“‘Echoes of the Past’ is the first comprehensive survey of African art at the Albany Museum of Art since ‘From African Hands,’ which was first shown in 1971 when the AMA was still known as the Southwest Georgia Art Association,” Executive Director Andrew James Wulf said. “Across the Haley, East, and Hodges Galleries, visitors will encounter more than 150 works of art, drawn primarily from our own holdings and enriched by significant loans from the North Carolina Museum of Art, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University, and the Savannah African Art Museum.”

The upstairs McCormack Gallery will be devoted this fall to the work of Athos Menaboni “A Legacy Built with Nature: Menaboni at 130” showcases works by the Italian-born American artist renowned for his exquisite depictions of birds, often accompanied by flora from their natural habitats.

His murals and illustrations can be found in homes, public buildings, and even on U.S. postage stamps.

“Time magazine dubbed Menaboni as John J. Audubon’s ‘heir,’” Wulf noted. “He also has a legacy that is deeply rooted in southwest Georgia. He spent a great deal of time here observing birds and their habitat, especially on Ichauway Plantation in Baker Coun-

ty. He was a close friend of Coca-Cola President Robert Woodruff, who owned the preserve that is now the Jones Center at Ichauway, which is recognized for its research and conservation of the longleaf pine and Coastal Plain.”

The exhibition includes five works from the AMA collection and a dozen Christmas cards on loan from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. The cards, which feature Menaboni artwork, are from a collection of his work on display at the Jones Center.

The third fall exhibition, “Framing Time: 20th and 21st Century Photography from the Permanent Collection,” will be on display in the West Gallery.

“This exhibition unites several influential photographers whose work spans nearly a century,” Wulf said. “Framing Time” highlights the evolving language of photographic images, from modernist documentation to surreal portraiture and deeply personal narrative.

The Sept. 4 opening reception for the exhibitions begins at 5:30 p.m. at the AMA, 311 Meadowlark Drive. The event is free for AMA donors at the reciprocal level or higher. The cost is \$10 for Artist Guild donors and \$15 for the general public. An online RSVP link can be found at <https://www.albanymuseum.com/event/fall-2025-reception/>.

“Echoes of the Past” and “A Legacy Built with Nature” will be on view through Jan. 3. “Framing Time” will be on view through Nov 1. The AMA is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and admission is free.

The museum also offers free field trips for schools and organizations. For information on scheduling a field trip, visit <https://www.albanymuseum.com/learn/educator-resources/>.

## Accounting, advisory firm Mauldin & Jenkins climbs in national ranking

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** — Mauldin & Jenkins, a leading assurance, tax and advisory firm, has advanced its position on Inside Public Accounting’s 2025 Top 100 Firms list, moving up three spots to No. 59.

IPA’s annual rankings are a key measure of success within the accounting profession, recognizing firms for their superior performance and exceptional client service. The firm’s improved standing is a testament to the success of its strategic growth efforts over the past 12 months, Maldin & Jenkins officials said.

“Our climb [in the rankings] is a result of our team’s hard

work and our clients’ continued trust,” Hanson Borders, the managing partner at Mauldin & Jenkins said in a news release. “Our focused initiatives over the past year, from our successful merger in the Greenville, S.C., market to strengthening our advisory services, have positioned us for continued growth and opportunity.

“Our focus on attracting and retaining top talent has also been crucial to this momentum and will remain a priority.”

The IPA Top 100 Firms list, now in its 35th year, is a widely respected benchmark for the accounting industry. Inside Public Accounting compiles



the rankings through an in-depth review of firms’ financial and operational performance, including net revenue. The rankings are highly dynamic, with firms’ positions often changing from year to year due to the rapid pace of both organic growth and expansion.

Mauldin & Jenkins is annually recognized as a Top 100 Certified Public Accounting firm by Inside Public Ac-

counting and Accounting Today and provides assurance, tax and advisory services to clients. Founded in 1918, the firm serves clients across a wide range of industries, including government, banking, technology, health care, construction, manufacturing, not-for-profit, financial services, private client services, and higher education.

For additional information, visit [mjcpa.com](http://mjcpa.com).

## Kemp headed to South America for trade mission

By Dave Williams  
Capitol Beat News Service

**ATLANTA** — Gov. Brian Kemp will lead a trade mission to Brazil and Argentina this week.

The governor and First Lady Marty Kemp will join representatives from the state departments of Economic Development and Agriculture and the Georgia Ports Authority in meeting with executives from companies already operating in Georgia or building new projects here.

Last year, Georgia exports to Brazil totaled \$748 million, with another \$120 million in exports going to Argentina.

“We’re always eager to grow those pipelines of opportunity so more Georgians from all parts of the state can benefit,” Kemp said.

“I look forward to working



Gov. Brian Kemp is leading a trade mission to Brazil and Argentina.

with our partners in Brazil and Argentina to continue to build upon our already strong relationship,” Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Tyler Harper added.

During the trip, the state economic development agency will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Georgia’s trade office in Brazil.

“Georgia’s connectivity to South America means opportunity,” Pat Wilson, the state’s commissioner of economic development, said. “Brazil and Argentina are home to some of the largest agriculture and infrastructure companies in South America, aligning with Georgia’s strong agribusiness and food and beverage industries.”

The state delegation also will include Maj. Gen. Richard “Dwayne” Wilson, Georgia’s adjutant general, who will meet with members of the Georgia National Guard and their Argentinian counterparts as part of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

tries.”

The state delegation also will include Maj. Gen. Richard “Dwayne” Wilson, Georgia’s adjutant general, who will meet with members of the Georgia National Guard and their Argentinian counterparts as part of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

## Lawmakers discuss ways to discourage tobacco sales and use

By Ty Tagami  
Capitol Beat News Service

**ATLANTA** — Smoking kills, but many still do it, and a small group of Georgia lawmakers wants to help people kick the habit and discourage others from starting.

A big challenge for a bipartisan panel in the state House of Representatives: Their main proposal is a tax increase, and tax increases are not popular in an election year. Their proposed legislation would come up for a vote in 2026, observed the chairwoman, Rep. Sharon Cooper, R-Marietta, at the last of three hearings for the House study committee on smoking and vaping.

Committee members are considering other ideas, too, such as requiring ingredient disclosures on the packaging of vaping products and banning flavors. They also discussed increas-

ing the \$10 licensing fee for vape shops to suppress their numbers. (In Georgia, it costs \$10 for a tobacco sales licensing fee and another \$10 to sell tobacco vape products.)

“There are more vape shops now in Georgia than Chick-fil-A and Starbucks combined,” Dr. Daniel Miller, a thoracic surgeon at the Medical College of Georgia who offered a buffet of statistics at the hearing, said. “They pop up anywhere for \$10. It’s incredible how they’ve exploded. It’s because it doesn’t cost anything.”

Miller said vaping products contain 25 times more nicotine than cigarettes, making them highly addictive for children.

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to children, but observers complained about lax enforcement. One in five middle school students and one in four high school students vapes, Miller said, adding that one in three college students does, as well.

Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Savannah, said he floated a sales tax increase to the chairman and members of the House Ways & Means Committee, which holds jurisdiction over taxes.

He also disclosed at the hearing that his wife’s sister, a smoker since the 1970s, had died Wednesday.

“It touches a lot of families,” Stephens, a long-time advocate for increased tobacco taxes, said.

Back in June, as the committee was getting underway, Stephens said the likelihood of federal budget cuts might decrease resistance to higher taxes on products like tobacco.

Georgia has one of the lowest cigarette taxes in the nation, the committee heard in June.

At 37 cents a pack, it is well below the national average of \$1.97. Only Missouri, at 17 cents, charges less.

“Sometimes the pocketbook and the squeeze changes minds,” Stephens said in an interview

that month, adding that the tax revenue could offset health care costs that would be borne by Georgians in the event of federal cuts, which subsequently became a reality when President Trump signed his budget into law in July.

“If you smoke long enough and hard enough,” Stephens said, “you’re going to get sick, and somebody’s got to pay for it.”

By then, federal actions were already having an impact, something anti-smoking advocates noted, saying Georgia should restore \$2.1 million to the Tobacco Use Prevention Program.

The Georgia Department of Public Health shuttered the program in May due to federal cuts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention though the state agency said “core” tobacco and vaping prevention and cessation programs were still operating.





Special Photo: Jim Rasso/Imagn Images

Atlanta Braves second baseman Ozzie Albies rounds the bases after one of his two home runs Tuesday night in Miami. Albies went 3-for-5 with four RBIs, and the Braves erupted for nine runs in the ninth inning to beat the Marlins 11-2.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Terrell Academy junior Caroline Presley pitched two complete games for wins this week, beating Southland on Monday and Baconton Charter on Tuesday.

## Back-to-back home victories Lady Eagles extend win streak to four

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

**DAWSON** — The Terrell Academy Lady Eagles are hitting their stride at just the right time. Two games in as many days produced two more victories, stretching their win streak to four and confirming that head coach Ashley Walker’s squad is finding its rhythm.

On Monday, Terrell leaned on early offense and steady pitching to turn back Southland Academy, 9-4. A day later, the Lady Eagles returned home and handled Baconton Charter, 11-3, in another game decided in the early innings.

The formula has been consistent: strike first, pile up runs, and let junior pitcher Caroline Presley do the rest.

### Monday vs. Southland

Against the Lady Raiders, Terrell jumped ahead in the second inning with singles from Hadley Webb, Alyssa Godwin, and Addler Swain. Webb and Godwin scored on Swain’s shot to center, while Jaelyn Oliver and Kacy Sheffield added RBIs for a 3-0 cushion.

In the third, Sydney Lord doubled, Lily Addison singled, and both came home on productive outs. Oliver’s double capped the inning and stretched the lead to 6-0.

Southland pushed late, loading the bases in the sixth, but Walker trusted Presley to finish. The junior escaped with a strikeout and a groundout, then completed the win. She scattered seven hits and four runs — only two earned — with five strikeouts.

“We did a really good job of attacking on offense and being aggressive,” Walker said. “We also did a good job of situational hitting and scoring runs with less than two outs. Defensively, we started out shaky with some communication issues, but we settled in and made plays behind our pitcher to get out of some jams.”

### Tuesday vs. Baconton Charter

The bats stayed hot 24 hours later. In the first inning, Addison singled home two runs and Godwin followed with a run-scoring double. Terrell added three more in the second, capped by another Addison single that drove in two.

Presley again went the distance, this time giving up eight hits and three unearned runs while striking out one without a walk.

Addison finished 2-for-2 with three RBIs. Godwin also had two hits, while Kacy Sheffield drew three of the team’s 11 walks.

Walker has stressed consistency all season, and her team is beginning to show it. “We are getting better each day,” she said after Monday’s win. “We are finally becoming more consistent throughout the lineup. We are coming along nicely, we just have to keep working and make sure we get better with each rep individually and each game as a team.”

### What’s Next

Winners of four straight and five of their last six, the Lady Eagles will look to keep the surge alive when they host Deerfield-Windsor in a key region matchup Tuesday in Dawson. First pitch is set for 4 p.m.

## Braves plate nine in ninth; leave Marlins in their wake

### Field Level Media

Former Marlins infielder Vidal Brujan slapped a go-ahead RBI double in an explosive ninth inning, and Ozzie Albies homered twice, leading the Atlanta Braves to an 11-2 win over the host Miami Marlins on Tuesday night.

Albies, who also doubled, went 3-for-5 with four RBIs. The score was tied 2-2 when Brujan delivered the first RBI in what became a nine-run, ninth-inning rally.

Reliever Tyler Zuber (0-1) started the ninth and took the loss. Josh Simpson followed and was charged with seven

runs in one-third of an inning. Simpson’s ERA went up from 6.14 to 8.87.

Marlins infielder Javier Sanoja relieved Simpson and got the final out on the first batter he faced as Nacho Alvarez hit a pop-up.

Neither starting pitcher earned a decision.

Braves rookie Hurston Waldrep lasted 5 1/3 innings, allowing eight hits, one walk and one run.

Miami’s Sandy Alcantara hurled seven innings, allowing three hits, two walks and two runs. He struck out seven batters.

Alcantara got in trouble

right away, walking his first batter — Jurickson Profar — on four pitches. Profar went to third on a Ronald Acuna Jr. single and scored on a check-swing groundout by Marcell Ozuna.

Miami tied the score in the bottom of the first as Xavier Edwards singled, advanced on first baseman Matt Olson’s fielding error on an attempted pickoff play and came home on Jakob Marsee’s line-drive single to center.

Atlanta took a 2-1 lead in the fourth on a great at-bat by Albies, who fouled off six straight pitches before pulling a 394-foot homer down

the right-field line.

Miami tied the score in the seventh inning as Sanoja stroked a leadoff double, advanced on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch by reliever Dylan Lee.

In the top of the ninth, Ozuna led off with a double, and Alvarez drew a one-out walk, chasing Zuber.

Brujan then swung at a first-pitch slider that was right down the middle, and that started the rout for Atlanta. Drake Baldwin followed with a two-run single and Albies capped the uprising with a long ball to left.

# Sherwood volleyball drops match to Thomas County Central

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

**ALBANY** — One point. That’s how close Sherwood Christian Academy came to seizing control of its volleyball match Monday night.

The Lady Eagles were a point away from a commanding 2-0 lead over Thomas County Central, but the Lady Yellow Jackets rallied, stole the second set, and never looked back. In the end, Sherwood dropped the best-of-five match 3-1, with scores of 25-21, 25-27, 20-25, 11-25.

It was a match that swung on momentum — and on a handful of points that slipped away.

### A fast start

Sherwood started strong, answering an early serving run from Thomas County Central with one of its own. Behind steady serve-receive and a 9-1 run, the Lady Eagles built leads of 15-11 and 24-15 in the opening set. When the Jackets closed the gap to 24-21, Coach Briana Collins called time. One point later, a service error ended it. Sherwood was up 1-0.

The second set appeared headed the same way. After falling behind 17-12, the Lady Eagles clawed back with an ace from Allie Hemmings, then surged ahead behind three straight aces from Lizzie Hooks. At 24-21, they were a swing away from control of the match.

But Thomas County Central answered with six of the last

seven points, stealing the set 27-25 — and, ultimately, the momentum.

### Playing elevated volleyball

“Played a great night of volleyball,” Collins said. “Started out strong and played an elevated game of volleyball tonight with good swings and smart placement. Lizzie Hooks, sophomore setter, led the night in aces and kills. The serve-receive team was strong tonight and returned some well-placed serves. Defense was playing hard tonight, picking up strong hits that we haven’t seen yet in the season. Still looking to have a more dynamic offense moving forward.”

That second set, the one that slipped away, lingered. Thomas County Central took the third 25-20 and pulled away in the fourth 25-11 to close out the match.

### A young team learning

Athletic director Jay Flynt said matches like Monday’s are part of the growth process.

“Coach Collins is still working to fit some new pieces together in the early part of this season,” Flynt said, “and playing a strong schedule tests this young team.”

For Collins, the building blocks are already showing. Her team served with confidence, received serve better than at any point this season, and found themselves in rallies against a quality opponent.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Sherwood Christian’s Lizzie Hooks returns a volley during Monday’s match with Thomas County Central. Hooks and the Lady Eagles started strong, but Thomas County Central took the match, 3-1.

Sherwood Christian, now tasked with moving forward from the near-miss, returns to the court Thursday with a region matchup at Grace Christian. From there, it’s a trip to Macon to face Mount de Sales.

The record shows a loss. The scoreboard shows what might have been. The Lady Eagles, one point away from control, know they’re also one step closer to becoming the team they believe they can be.

## Stockton takes reins as No. 5 Georgia kicks off season against Marshall

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

**ATHENS** — Georgia opens the 2025 season on Saturday the same way it has opened every year of the Kirby Smart era — with expectations of playing for championships.

The No. 5 Bulldogs host Marshall at 3:30 p.m. at Sanford Stadium, where Georgia has strung together a school-record 31 consecutive home victories dating back to 2019. The game will air on ESPN.

Season openers have been kind to Georgia. The Bulldogs are 101-27-3 all-time in lid-lifters, including 9-0 under Smart, and they’ve won 11 straight to start a season since falling to Clemson in 2013.

For Smart, who enters his 10th year with a 105-19 record, the opponent hardly matters when it comes to preparation.

“We don’t change what we do based on who we play,” Smart said Tuesday after practice. “We’re trying to do a good job of preparing just as the team can play do, so we don’t have a real good explanation for that. It’s a lot about the players.”

### New-look Bulldogs

Georgia brings back just under half of last year’s SEC championship roster. Fifty-four per-

cent of the 2025 team is in its first or second season in Athens. Smart calls it a roster that has to play with “FPE” — fire, passion and energy.

Quarterback Gunner Stockton, a redshirt junior from Tiger, Ga., is the most experienced hand. He started the Sugar Bowl loss to Notre Dame and directed Georgia’s overtime win over Texas in the SEC Championship Game. Stockton will lean on sophomore tailback Nate Frazier, who led the Bulldogs with 671 rushing yards and eight touchdowns as a freshman, and a rebuilt offensive line.

Marshall, meanwhile, is almost starting from scratch. The Thundering Herd hired Tony Gibson after Charles Huff departed for Southern Miss, and the roster features 61 newcomers.

“They’re aggressive,” Smart said of Gibson’s defense. “They love for us to stop the run, take care of their gaps, run to the ball. Whether it’s run or pass pressure, they’re aggressive.”

### Players to watch

Sophomore rushing back Dwight Phillips Jr. has emerged as a player who could change games with his speed.

“He’s trying to become a complete back,” Smart said. “He runs bigger than his size indi-

cates. He’s explosive in and out of holes, and he’s very humble and fun to be around. He’ll tell you he’s a work in progress, but he’s gotten a lot better since he got here.”

Tight end Lawson Luckie, who caught 24 passes last season, has grown into a leadership role. “He’s been a leader in his own home, he’s not afraid to speak up,” Smart said. “I’m really proud of his growth and who he’s becoming as a man.”

Defensively, inside linebacker Chris Cole, one of last year’s freshman standouts, will have an even bigger role. “He works really hard, he’s got great toughness and length, and he plays all over the field for us,” Smart said.

Special teams will also be worth watching. All-America punter Brett Thorson, who averaged 47.6 yards per kick last year before a knee injury in the SEC Championship Game, is working back. Smart said he punted in practice this week but has not been fully cleared.

### History and context

This is only the second meeting between Georgia and Marshall. The Bulldogs won 13-3 in 2004 in Athens, when David Greene passed for 209 yards and Thomas Brown rushed for 81.

Much has changed since then, but Smart still carries lessons from an earlier Georgia-Marshall connection. He recalled how Jim Donnan, who left Marshall to coach Georgia from 1996-2000, gave him his first off-field role in Athens after Smart’s playing days ended.

“I learned a lot from Coach Don in terms of motivation,” Smart said. “He was always positive, always upbeat, always believed we were going to win every game. He exuded confidence in the team.”

### The road ahead

After Marshall, Georgia faces Austin Peay before a September gauntlet that includes trips to Tennessee and Auburn and home dates with Alabama and Texas.

But first things first. The Bulldogs want to extend their home winning streak, get Stockton comfortable in his new role, and see how their younger roster responds in a season opener.

Every team wants a fast start, Smart reminded reporters, but he measures success differently.

“It’s a lot more indicative of a team that can start fast and finish strong,” he said. “Obviously the goal is to start fast and execute.”



# Softball roundup: Lee County, Worth County cruise; Westwood, Deerfield-Windsor stumble

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

## Lee County 12, Northside 0

**LEESBURG** — The game ended the way you dream it up in sandlot ball — a sprint to the plate while the defense stood flat-footed. Kennady Patrick doubled, stole third, then stole home after Northside fumbled a loose ball to cap a 12-0 Lee County win Tuesday, ended by run rule in the fourth inning.

The Lady Trojans jumped on Northside early, highlighted by a Makinley Duke double, Patrick’s RBI single, Jaydynn Frisbee’s groundout, and Jaylyn Purvis’s triple. Christina Benton earned the win, tossing four scoreless innings with five strikeouts and add-

ing two hits at the plate. Patrick, Duke, Porter Butler, and McKenzie Davis also had two hits apiece.

Coach Dwayne Suggs welcomed the easy night. “It’s good to occasionally have a game like this one today,” he said.

## Worth County 13, Cairo 0

**CAIRO** — Freshman pitcher Laurie Pritchard continued her dominant run, firing a one-hitter with five strikeouts and no walks as Worth County blanked Cairo, 13-0. Just a week removed from a perfect game, Pritchard again stole the spotlight while helping her own cause with two doubles and four RBIs.

The Lady Rams scored three in the first inning, added one in

the second, then blew it open with five in the third and four in the fourth. Ansley Bartley and Molly Williford chipped in with two RBIs each, while Worth County took advantage of 11 walks to keep pressure on Cairo.

Head coach Zach Mauldin praised the balance. “We were able to get some big hits with runners on base and our defense played great behind our pitching. It was a total team effort,” he said.

## Flint River 14, Westwood 9

**CAMILLA** — Westwood swung the bats well but couldn’t keep pace with Flint River Academy, falling 14-9 in a slugfest. Flint River collected 11 hits while Westwood finished with 10.

The Lady Cats plated five runs in the fourth inning on RBI hits from Bentley Palmer and Emma Shiver, plus a bases-loaded hit-by-pitch to Raylee Gray. Palmer, Abbey Griner, and Shiver each drove in two runs, and Bella Nurmi added two hits.

Palmer pitched all seven innings, striking out seven but yielding 14 runs (10 earned) and 11 walks. Flint River’s Rhyann Banks led all hitters, going 3-for-4 with four RBIs, while Taylor Smith added three hits and three stolen bases.

## Southland 12, Deerfield-Windsor 0

**ALBANY** — Deerfield-Windsor struggled to keep pace with Southland Academy in a 12-0 loss Tuesday.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County’s Porter Butler steps onto first base a split second late as Northside first baseman Madison Vias records an out during Tuesday’s game at Lee County High School.

The Raiders scored six in the first inning and three more in the second to take control.

Claire Hockman had the Knights’ lone hit, finishing 1-for-2. Pitcher Mary Ruth Courtney struck out six over five innings but gave up 12 runs, eight earned, on 11 hits.

Southland’s Gracie Usher drove in three runs on a 2-for-3 day, while Sarah Kate McRee doubled home two

and Kaitlyn Rustin added two hits. Alyssa Harry earned the win, striking out four in two hitless innings.

# Georgia Bulldogs: Hope and Expectation

By W. Michael Lawson  
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Hope is a powerful thing in human nature. It sustains and compels us. We write songs about it like “Don’t Stop Believin’” or “Here Comes the Sun”. We write poetry and prose about it like J.R.R. Tolkien or Emily Dickinson. Movies like “Rocky” and “Rudy” move us to cheer and applaud and pretend. Hope is the fuel to our imagination and the oxygen to our fire.

Expectation is a different thing altogether. It can be flavored with hope and layered with optimism, but it is born from experience. It is forged from trial, tribulation, and tumult. Where hope and expectation meet is that check point of emotion where many find themselves as we stare into the 2025 Georgia Bulldog football season this week.

The 2024 season for the Dawgs was one of great achievement and embarrassing low points. Reigning SEC champions? Thank you very much. Having only one game in the regular season with over 100 yards rushing? Ugly. Extending win streaks over rivals like Florida, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Clemson, and Tennessee? Fantastic. Averaging less than nine points in the first half of all games? Soul-crushing and self-defeating. So, what should Dawg Nation expect to hope for this year?

All of it. This 2025 Georgia Bulldog team absolutely can win another SEC championship. This 2025 Georgia Bulldog team can absolutely win another national championship. However, some things have to change.

Number one on our list is the Offensive Coordinator Mike Bobo and his staff on that side of the ball. Many have spent all offseason arguing about Coach Bobo and I am not going to belabor the point here. I will say, though, that while slow starts are an issue, overall performance was down. From 2023 to 2024, the UGA offense went from 5th nationally in average points per game (40.1) to 38th nationally (31.5). From 5th to 38th. That has to change. I hope it does. Do I expect it? I’ll just leave a quote from one of my brothers here, “I’m not saying I expect it to be the case, but I really want Bobo to be good. And not because that means the Dawgs are good, but because I want him to be good. He’s one of us, and it really sucks that he sucks.”

The defense, for its part, has to improve from 2024, as well. The Junkyard Dawg defense went from 5th nationally in 2023, averaging giving up (15.6) points per game to 23rd nationally in 2024 giving up an average of (20.6) points per game.

The shrinking average margin of victory from (40.1 to 15.6) in 2023 to (31.5 to 20.6) in 2024 had deleterious effects from youth development on the roster to increased injuries for the starters. That has to change.

The good news is it can. This 2025 Georgia



Michael Lawson

Bulldog team is loaded. On offense, quarterback Gunner Stockton has the ability to be a very good college player. The wide receiver room has legitimate NFL talent for the first time in years, as do the OL and TE rooms, if they can stay healthy. The running back room has as much or more depth than any in the SEC. Nate Frazier can be electric. On paper, that is an incredibly dangerous roster of future NFL players.

And the 2025 defense has the look of something special again. It would be silly to try and compare it to the famed 2021 unit, or even that of 2022, but 2023 level of production from a unit that ranked top 5 nationally is certainly something that could play out. This side of the ball is absolutely loaded, three deep, with dudes who were tabbed as future NFL talent coming out of high school, and heretofore, have been waiting their turn. Dudes like C. Miller, J. Hall, G. Harris, I. Gibson, X. McLeod, and E. Robinson have to get it done when the lights are on and the cameras are rolling, but they have the ability. The inside linebacker room is the best in the country. The back end of the defense is as athletic as we’ve ever seen in Athens. This defense can be special at the end of the year and can carry the team.

So, where does hope meet expectation going into 2025? Somewhere between Atlanta and Miami. The SEC and National championship games. This Georgia Bulldog team has the look of one that can win hardware. These Dawgs absolutely can win Coach Smart’s 4th SEC title and 3rd National title.

When our beloved Dawgs kick against Marshall Saturday at 3:30, hopes and expectations transform into reality and fact. As William Shakespeare wrote, “LET LOOSE THE DAWGS OF WAR!” Here’s to a special season, Bulldog Nation! Let’s go cheer our Dawgs to another one.

*Mr. Lawson returned home to “The Good Life City” in 2023 and is currently Vice President of Commercial Banking at Flint Community Bank. His grandfather loved the Georgia Bulldogs and read the Albany Herald every day of his life. Anything that Mr. Lawson writes is in honor of him.*



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

# Knights win one, Eagles win one

Deerfield-Windsor’s Lawton Jones chases Terrell Academy quarterback Deacon Gilchrist during Monday’s Junior Pro game in Albany. Just a few miles apart, the two schools share a spirited rivalry that starts early. The Knights won the Junior Pro game 20-0, while the Eagles took the middle school contest 6-0 after both were rescheduled from last week due to weather

# TOP PERFORMERS

## Week Two

**Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy** — 16 carries, 109 yards, TD  
**Christopher Reid, Sherwood Christian** — 4 carries, 83 yards, 2 TDs  
**Kaden Chester, Worth County** — 5 carries, 73 yards, TD

### Receiving

**Qwinton Murray, Sherwood Christian** — 8 catches, 301 yards, 5 TDs  
**Gabe Daniel, Deerfield-Windsor** — 7 catches, 102 yards, TD  
**Colby Griffis, Worth County** — 3 catches, 76 yards, TD  
**Jeryn Smith, Dougherty** — 4 catches, 71 yards, TD

**David Hutchins, Deerfield-Windsor** — 2 catches, 50 yards

### Defense

**Dylan Harden, Terrell Academy** — 11 tackles  
**Dallas Williams, Sherwood Christian** — 11 tackles  
**Mangham Pippin, Deerfield-Windsor** — 8 tackles, 2 TFL  
**Grier Morey, Deerfield-Windsor** — 7 tackles, 2 TFL  
**Chance Sims, Worth County** — 5 tackles, TFL, Sack



Tripp Roberts

### Player of the Week

**Tripp Roberts, Sherwood Christian** — Completed 13 of 22 passes for 438 yards and set a school record with eight touchdown passes in one game.

### Passing

**Tripp Roberts, Sherwood Christian** — 13/22, 438 yards, 8 TDs  
**Lane Sceals, Deerfield-Windsor** — 17/27, 268 yards, 5 TDs  
**Lyndon Worthy, Worth County** — 10/13, 216 yards, 3 TDs

### Rushing

**Josh Cabitat, Terrell Academy** — 16 carries, 142 yards, 2 TDs  
**Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian** — 9 carries, 115 yards



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Atlanta Falcons right tackle Kaleb McGary is helped off the field after suffering a lower left leg injury. The veteran lineman, who signed a two-year, \$30 million extension in August, was placed on injured reserve Tuesday and will miss the 2025 season.

# Falcons place Kaleb McGary on season-ending injured reserve

## Field Level Media

After suffering a lower left leg injury during practice last week, Atlanta Falcons starting right tackle Kaleb McGary was placed on injured reserve Tuesday and will miss the entire 2025 season.

McGary agreed to a two-year, \$30 million extension with the Falcons in early August. He’s played 93 games and made 92 starts over six seasons in Atlanta, and was

expected to be the blindside protector for lefty starting quarterback Michael Penix Jr. this season. It’s another blow to the Falcons’ offensive line depth as swing tackle Storm Norton also will start the season on the IR with a designated-to-return tag due to an ankle injury which required surgery and will sideline him for six to eight weeks.

The Falcons reportedly made their first move to address

these tackle depth issues on Tuesday by trading a conditional 2027 seventh-round pick to the Seattle Seahawks for second-year offensive lineman Michael Jerrell.

Jerrell, who turned 26 on Aug. 18, appeared in 10 games (three starts) as a rookie for the Seahawks, primarily playing right tackle. The Seahawks selected him in the sixth round of the 2024 draft out of Findlay College.







# Private, alternative education school to open in Albany

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – Specialized Education Services Inc., a division of FullBloom, a premier provider of education services for K-12 students who require additional educational and positive behavioral supports to overcome challenges that impede success in a traditional school setting, has announced the opening of Achieve Academy of Dougherty County.. Located at 1800 Massey Drive, the school is SESI’s third alternative education program in the state and the first in the Albany area.

The new school is designed for students in grades 6-12 who have faced behavioral challenges in traditional school settings. It offers a structured, supportive environment that promotes academic progress, personal growth, and social-emotional development, helping students gain the confidence and skills needed to transition successfully back to their home schools.

“Our goal is to help students see what’s possible for their future,” Daja Thomas, the executive director of Achieve Academy of Dougherty County. “We partner with the school district to welcome students who may find success in

our structured environment. Our team meets each learner where they are, with consistent support and clear expectations.”

Students are referred by the district through a waiver or disciplinary hearing process and are enrolled for a minimum placement of nine weeks (or 45 school days), allowing time for academic and behavioral progress before returning to their home school.

“We’re proud to welcome Achieve Academy to our community and to partner in providing students with the structure and support they need to succeed,” Dougherty County School System Superintendent Kenneth Dyer said. “The program creates a positive pathway for students to make real progress and return to their home schools with renewed confidence and skills.”

The program emphasizes academic achievement, pro-social behavior, and emotional wellness. Teachers and staff work closely with students and families to establish individualized goals around attendance, conduct and coursework. Related services include counseling, social work, career and technical education, and leadership opportunities tailored to student needs.

“With the right strategies and support, students can return to their home schools ready to engage and achieve,” Thomas said. “We continue to support them even after their transition, offering regular check-ins to help ensure long-term success. Whether a student needs short-term intervention or a fresh start, Achieve Academy provides the tools and encouragement to take their next steps with confidence.”

The school, which can accommodate up to 160 students, will host a community open house in September.

For more information on the program, visit: <https://sisischools.com/location/achieve-academy-of-dougherty-county/>.

Specialized Education Services Inc. is a division of FullBloom, a premier provider of education services for K-12 students who require additional educational and behavioral supports to overcome challenges that impede success in a traditional school setting. SESI partners with school districts to run in-district classrooms and private day schools that meet the academic, behavioral, and emotional needs of special and alternative education students with autism spectrum disorders, emotional disabilities, learning disabilities, and other challenges.



Kenneth Dyer

Partnering with more than 800 school districts nationwide, SESI serves nearly 13,000 students in private day schools and in-district classrooms. SESI is accredited by Cognia.

## Phoebe recognized for quality improvements

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital is one of just 158 hospitals in the country – and the only hospital in south Georgia – to receive recognition from the American Heart Association. PPMH earned the AHA’s Commitment to Quality award by achieving high performance across multiple clinical areas in the Get With The Guidelines program.

Hospitals earning this new award demonstrate a comprehensive approach to quality improvement. By participating in three or more Get With The Guidelines programs, they commit to using real-time data registries, evidence-based protocols and cross-disciplinary teamwork to raise the standard of care across multiple specialties. “This recognition reflects our team’s dedication to treating the whole patient, not just the condition,” Phoebe Putney Health System Chief

Quality Officer Stephanie Baron said. “We are focused on continuous improvement and delivering the highest quality care across every department.”

Get With The Guidelines is the American Heart Association’s hospital-based quality improvement initiative that helps ensure patients are treated in accordance with the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines. Participating hospitals benefit from tools, resources and peer benchmarking to drive better patient outcomes.

“This award highlights the impressive commitment Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital has made to improving care across multiple disciplines,” Donald Lloyd-Jones, past volunteer president of the American Heart Association and current volunteer chair of the Association’s Quality Oversight Committee, said. “By taking a systems-level approach to quality, these hospitals are building



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital is one of just 158 hospitals in the country – and the only hospital in south Georgia – to receive recognition from the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines program.

a foundation for better outcomes, fewer complications, and stronger communities.”

Get With The Guidelines is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with

the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 14 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org).



File Photo

Starting this month, Dougherty County EMS will begin using RightSite Health, a telehealth and patient navigation service that helps 911 callers get the appropriate level of care.

## Dougherty County EMS launches 911 program to improve efficiency

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – Starting this month, Dougherty County EMS will begin using RightSite Health, a telehealth and patient navigation service that helps 911 callers get the appropriate level of care, from their home when an emergency room visit isn’t needed.

Additionally, RightSite Health provides patients wrap-around services to address any additional barriers to health care. In a world of issues with access to health care and hospital overcrowding, this is an example of how Dougherty County is doing everything within its power to ensure health care is accessible to everyone and to improve efficiency in emergency services, county officials said.

“This gives our medics a better way to help callers who don’t need an ambulance; this keeps our units available for the more serious calls where minutes count,” Dougherty EMS Director James Gibney said in a news release. “It’s a win for our citizens across the board – faster and more convenient health care, lower costs for patients, reducing the burden of overcrowding on our hospital system, and helping people connect to resources that will reduce their chances of becoming dependent on our emergency services.”

“We’re proud to partner with Dougherty County to bring ER-level care into people’s homes,” RightSite’s CEO Dr. Jamo Rubin said. “Our goal is to get the patient the correct level of health care for their problem, to do so in a cost-effective manner, and afterwards connect them

with resources to make their lives better.”

In most cases, when RightSite is contacted by the 911 service, an ambulance transport to the Emergency Room is not needed. RightSite also provides navigation services to help patients navigate the health care system and ensure care is accessible to everyone.

To get people the right level of care for their problem. RightSite is simply another tool available to emergency service providers to deliver faster care, avoid unnecessary ambulance transports, reduce Emergency Room overcrowding, and ensure that people are connected to the resources they need to make their lives better.

When an emergency provider contacts RightSite, patients get immediate video telehealth care from a board-certified ER doctor from the safety and security of their home or current location. The avoid the lines, waiting and expense at an Emergency Room visit.

Additionally, RightSite navigators will connect follow-up care or help with transportation, prescription delivery, and other resources that can help those who need the services.

Patients will not be asked for any payment at the time of the telehealth visit. Those who have a health plan will be billed for a telehealth visit just like any other doctor visit. The cost of a telehealth visit is much lower than the cost of an ambulance transport and an emergency room visit. Patients may be responsible for deductibles or copays as determined by their health plan.

Learn more at [rightsite-health.com](http://rightsite-health.com).

## Southwest Health District shares tips to reduce fall illnesses

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – The Southwest Health District reminds residents that it is common to see an increase in respiratory illnesses during this time of year, particularly with the start of a new school year and increased indoor gatherings.

Respiratory illnesses that often circulate during the fall include influenza (flu), COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), common cold viruses and strep throat.

“These illnesses tend to spread more easily when children return to school and families spend more time inside,” District Health Director Dr. Charles Ruis said in a news release. “The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can

take to help prevent getting sick and protect those around them.”

Tips to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses include:

- Stay up to date on vaccines such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV (if eligible), which help protect against severe illness.
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer if soap is unavailable.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.
- Stay home when sick to avoid spreading illness to others.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Improve indoor air quality when possible by increasing ventilation.



Special Logo

The Southwest Health District reminds residents that it is common to see an increase in respiratory illnesses during this time of year and encourages individuals to protect themselves.

Most respiratory illnesses are mild, but some – especially flu, COVID-19 and RSV – can cause serious health problems for young children, older adults, and people with certain medical conditions.

For more information on preventing respiratory illnesses, visit the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/> or the Southwest Health District’s website at [www.SWHealth-District.org](http://www.SWHealth-District.org).

## Army Captain pleads guilty to stealing tractor, heavy equipment from Fort Stewart

**By Ty Tagami**  
Capital Beat News Service

**ATLANTA** — An Army captain faces up to a decade in prison after pleading guilty to the theft of expensive equipment from Fort Stewart.

Jacob Suenkel, 32, of Richmond Hill, admitted in court that he stole skid-steer loaders, trailers, generators, a tractor and other valuable equipment from late 2024 through May, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern Dis-

trict of Georgia said Monday.

Suenkel then marketed the items for sale on social media, prosecutors said. The Richmond Hill Police Department assisted with the investigation.

“Suenkel betrayed not only the U.S. Army, but also the trust placed in him by the American people,” Ryan O’Connor, special agent in charge of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division for the Southeast, said.

In addition to prison for theft and

sale of government property, Suenkel’s sentence could include a quarter-million-dollar fine. He agreed to a discharge with an adverse characterization of service, which will result in a loss of veterans’ benefits.

Fort Stewart was the site of a mass shooting earlier this month, when Sgt. Quornelius Radford, 28, allegedly opened fire with a personal handgun. No one was killed but five were injured before nearby soldiers tackled and subdued the shooter.