



Lee coach
Leave of absence
• Page 9A

LOCAL MATTERS



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



Jeremiah Florence

ASU student youngest to run for Camilla's City Council

By Lucille Lannigan
lucille.lannigan@albanyherald.com

CAMILLA – Jeremiah Florence turned 18 at the end of July – just in time to qualify for the upcoming Camilla City Council District 2 race a few weeks later.

The Albany State University criminal justice sophomore has aspired to be a government leader since high school and said he believes there's no better place to start than his hometown's local government. By entering the race, he became the youngest person ever to run for a city council seat in Camilla.

He's running for a District 2 seat against an incumbent that's held the position for 20-plus years.

"I believe District Two needs new representation," Florence said. "With me being young, I feel like I bring fresh ideas. We need more younger people stepping up to the plate."

Florence is a Camilla native, tracing his family history in the city back several generations. He's the first in his family to run for a local government position. He graduated from Mitchell County High School in 2025 and is continuing his education at ASU.

See **COUNCIL**, 2A

Dougherty Democratic Committee plans pair of events

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Dougherty County Democratic Committee has announced a pair of events that will be hosted by the group in the coming days.

In a release from Dougherty Democratic Committee Chair Joyce Barlow, the committee announced plans for a debate

by candidates in the city of Albany's municipal election and a campaign visit by Democratic Public Service Commission candidate Peter Hubbard.

The municipal candidates' debate will be held Thursday at the Com-



Joyce Barlow

modore Conyers College and Career Academy at 1615 Newton Road. The event is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

Forum organizer Benny Hand said all candidates who have qualified for Ward II, III and V races have been invit-

ed to participate in the event.

State Public Service Commission candidate Hubbard has planned a campaign stop in the city on Oct. 15. The event will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Oakridge Enrichment Center at 1708 W. Oakridge Drive in Albany.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Albany/Dougherty groups plan meeting to discuss housing

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Dougherty County's population decline is no secret. Between the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census counts, the number of county residents dropped by nearly 9,000, a decline of more than 9%.

In some cases, the county's loss has been a gain for surrounding counties like Lee and Terrell. Now, there is an effort brewing to stop the losses.

Officials say one factor for the population decline has been the lack of construction of affordable new homes. The city of Albany has a large percentage of renters, and many of the available houses and apartments are dilapidated.

Looking to help reverse the trend and make affordable housing more available, a number of groups are set to meet next month to begin discussing how to make it happen.

"It is a significant issue," Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs said. "We don't have enough home stock to meet the

See **HOUSING**, 2A

Staff Photo:

From left, state Reps. Bill Yeara and Gerald Greene and Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Christopher Nunn were among those participating in a July 2024 ground-breaking for a workforce housing subdivision on Gillionville Road.

The city of Albany is hosting a housing conference next month to kick start a local initiative to add more affordable housing in Dougherty County.



Periodical — Mail Label

Coyote population surges, rebounds quickly



Special Photo: UGA/CAES

University of Georgia researchers have found that Eastern coyote populations stabilize faster than they can be reduced.

By Savannah Peat
savannah.peat@uga.edu

ATHENS – Trying to curb coyote populations may be a lost cause, according to a new University of Georgia study.

After careful counting of the animal across the Southeast, researchers found that Eastern coyote populations stabilize faster than they can be reduced. Using cameras, different howls as well as 18 years of data, researchers found not only one coyote per every square mile, but that despite repeated removal efforts over the years, coyote totals rebounded – and sometimes even spiked – shortly after.

Researchers found that coyotes experienced low competition from other species and lots of available prey, and that the cur-

rent control methods of coyote populations from humans didn't faze them, despite costing more than \$30,000.

The analysis suggests a need for alternatives when it comes to habitat management and biodiversity.

"In general, predator populations are contentious to manage, but coyotes are a lot harder to manage than a lot of other predators due to their really unique, amazing ability to reproduce," Heather Gaya, corresponding author of the study and a post-doctoral research associate in UGA's Warnell School of Forestry, said. "They can bounce back very rapidly."

"Therefore, the cost and man-hours that it takes to actively remove those coyotes is something that's just not sustainable or not practical on a large scale."

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Lee County High School increases graduation rate

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG -- Lee County High School's graduation rate increased by 4.29 percentage points, demonstrating an improvement from the 2023-2024 school year to the 2024-2025 school year. Overall, the four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2025 increased from 90% to 95%.

Lee County High School Principal Melissa Edwards, praised the efforts of students and staff. "Lee County High School is proud to announce an improved graduation rate for the Class of 2025," Edwards said. "This achievement reflects the dedication, perseverance, and daily hard work of both our students and staff."

The four-year high school graduation rate provides a measure of a school's success in graduating students on time.

Specifically, the metric is used to measure the percentage of students who earn a regular high school diploma within four years of entering the 9th grade. The rate provides a way for the Georgia Department of Education to compare school performance in this area with other districts across the state.

The rate is included as one of five components of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) which is the current school accountability system in the state of Georgia.

"This improvement in graduation rate is absolutely a reflection of the continued dedication to academic excellence demonstrated by our teachers, families, leaders, and community as a whole," Kathleen E.K. Truitt, superintendent of schools, said.

Board of Education member, Fran Walls, applauded the Lee

County community for being so supportive.

"I am proud of our seniors and their praise-worthy achievement," Walls said. "I am confident that it is because of the amazing support that they receive from their families and our exceptional teachers."

This improvement puts Lee County students 8% above the state of Georgia mean for four-year high school graduation.

"This increase is a celebration of our students' hard work and our teachers' commitment to student success", Kelli Duke, the senior director of learning and leadership, 6-12. "It demonstrates the unwavering support of our community and our shared goal of ensuring that every student has the support and opportunities needed to successfully graduate high school."



Special Photo: Lee County School System

Lee County High School's graduation rate increased by 4.29 percentage points during the 2024-2025 school year. Overall, the four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2025 increased from 90% to 95%.

State initiative reaches gopher tortoise conservation goal

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE – The future of Georgia's state reptile just got brighter.

The state Department of Natural Resources announced that the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Initiative has reached its goal of permanently protecting 65 viable tortoise populations. No. 65 is an easement that will conserve more than 250 tortoises and their pineland habitats on 1,210 acres just south of Cordele.

The goal is aimed at making sure the gentle, dome-shelled turtles that dig long burrows in sandy south Georgia survive for future generations. Reaching it is testament to the initiative's work to keep tortoises in the state off the federal Endangered Species Act list, according to DNR Commissioner Walter Rabon.

"We're incredibly proud of the success of these conservation efforts; avoiding federal listing not only helps protect wildlife, it also prevents potential economic impacts for our state," Rabon said. "This collaborative ap-



Special Photo: Georgia DNR

The state Department of Natural Resources announced that the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Initiative has reached its goal of permanently protecting 65 viable tortoise populations.

proach has shown great promise as a model for successful wildlife conservation in the future."

Started in 2015, the initiative has grown to nearly 30 agencies, conservation organizations, companies, foundations and private landowners. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is a member, said in its 2022 decision not to list tortoises in the eastern part of their range that partnerships helped conserve the species, even documenting populations that weren't known about.

For Austin McKinney of Newnan, signing an easement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service last month benefiting tortoises on his land made sense. The rolling tract on the Turner/Crisp County line has been in the family 100 years or more. Its forests are rich in groundcover, longleaf pine and outcrops of a unique sandstone called Altamaha grit. Bird dog field trials are held there annually.

"We've always valued uplands, quail and wildlife," McKinney said. "We take this seriously, and we're looking

forward to continuing to improve the (habitats)."

Gopher tortoises are found in the Coastal Plain from South Carolina to Louisiana. The plate-sized reptiles, the only land tortoise in the eastern U.S., are a keystone species because their burrows are used by more than 300 other species. Some of those animals are rare, like the federally threatened eastern indigo snake.

Habitat loss has threatened to put all gopher tortoises on the Endangered Species Act list. Those in Louisiana, Mississippi and western Alabama were listed as threatened in 1987. And until 2022, tortoises in Georgia and the rest of the species' range had been a candidate for listing for more than a decade.

When the initiative formed 10 years ago, only 36 of the 125 viable populations known in Georgia were protected. Research suggested that 65 were needed to ensure the tortoise's long-term survival in the state. The minimum for a self-sustaining population of gopher tortoises is 250 adults.

Albany Tree Board to hold Part 4 of Ordinance Review meetings

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Albany Tree Board will host Part 4 of its Ad Hoc Ordinance Review Committee meetings Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The meeting will be held in Room 232 of Suite 200 in the Government Annex Building at 240 Pine Ave.

The Tree Board serves under the leadership of the city's Engineering Department.

From 1A

COUNCIL

Florence said he's spent the last month knocking on doors to reach the older generation in Camilla and using social media to reach younger voters. He said he believes his running will increase voter turnout among younger generations.

Florence has already impressed older voters, as he said many of the people he speaks to said they haven't seen boots-on-the-ground campaigning for years. Still, he has to convince them that despite his age, he has the experience required to serve Camilla's voters.

Florence has been invested in Camilla's local government since his freshman year of high school, serving on Camilla's Youth Council for four

years, as "mayor" for two. As a Youth Council member, Florence got first-hand experiences in the day-to-day operations of local government. He used that opportunity to actually work with Camilla's City Council to aid them in youth engagement efforts.

The Youth Council follows the same structure as Camilla's City Council, hosting meetings and voting on various items of interest. Through the Youth Council, Florence was able to bring youth-focused events to Camilla like holiday activities or awareness campaigns. He worked with youth ambassadors across the state, traveling to Atlanta to gain leadership experience.

He's a strong advocate for youth and a persuasive leader. During his freshman year of high school, he convinced his school's administration to bring back the band pro-

gram, securing thousands in funding for new instruments and other equipment

"I think these things have really helped me to see, OK, I could make this transition from Youth Council to actual City Council," Florence said.

He's running for a city council seat at a time when Camilla's local government faces instability and division. The city's mayor was suspended by an executive order from Gov. Brian Kemp in July.

However, Florence said his priority as a councilman would be to stay focused on moving goals forward.

"I'm passionate about serving the entire community," he said. "I'd make sure we're staying focused and we're here for all of the citizens, not just some."

Florence said his platform is made up of several key issues, including infrastruc-

ture, small business support, senior care and youth empowerment.

The candidate said he'd like to see smoother, more lighted streets across Camilla, but especially in District 2.

He said he wants to host events and opportunities for local small businesses. He has ideas for weekend markets to highlight these local entrepreneurs. He said his hope is that outside industries see this support and feel drawn to Camilla as well.

"I really want to see what we can do as a city that would make industries or companies say, 'Hey, I would like to bring my business to Camilla' and work with all the parties necessary," Florence said.

The young candidate said he wouldn't forget about his

community's senior residents, continuing to find ways to better support them.

But top of mind for Florence is youth engagement and empowerment. He said opportunities for younger people have been lacking in Camilla, and he believes he can be the voice to bridge the gap and address the needs of the city's youth.

"The next generation – we are the future," he said. "If we don't start showing up for them now, we'll be in a situation where all the elders are gone, and then it's like, what do we do now?"

He said he'd like to continue expanding the Youth Council and increase opportunities for mentorships or showcases that highlight young entrepreneurs.

"We have a lot of young business owners and entrepreneurs," Florence said. "If we can have specific programs for them ... it kind of gives them that first-hand knowledge and experience."

He said he wants to be an inspiration for other youths to run for leadership positions and serve their hometowns.

"Most people of my generation aren't like 'I want to run for city council' or 'I want to help my community,'" Florence said. "They want to get far away from it and never come back. But I made that decision just four months after graduation. I'm not going to just up and leave my community. I'm going to help my community in whatever way I can."

From 1A HOUSING

need for people who need housing."

Albany is still the regional hub for retail and the place to which many workers commute for work.

The housing conference is meant to begin discussing how to keep current residents and bring in new ones.

"People are going to move to where they can get more affordable housing, work force housing," Jacobs said. "We don't have much they can consider. We have on the top end and the low end, but not something in the middle."

The issue also speaks to economic development, the city manager said. The state is scrambling to provide housing for workers at the east Georgia Hyundai plant so that workers do not have long commutes, he said.

"If we were to land a large industry, they've got to have work force housing," he said.

A 29-unit development that was started in July near the intersection of Gillionville Road and Lockett Station Road was the first multi-unit home development to come to the city in about two decades, city leaders said.

That project was funded in part through a \$923,513 grant from the state as part of Gov. Brian Kemp's Rural Workforce Housing Initiative. The funds allowed the city to improve sewage infrastructure in the area.

City officials say they hope that the development of homes with a price range of \$250,000-\$275,000 will be a catalyst for more projects in the future.

In December, ground was broken on a south Albany development of affordable houses.

The focus of the effort in Dougherty County will be homeownership rather than

rental units.

Among those invited to the Oct. 29 conference at Albany State University are representatives from the university, the Phoebe Putney Health System, Albany Housing Authority, Albany Technical College, the Dougherty County School System, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce as well as city and county officials.

"We just wanted to start a conversation and develop a strategic plan on how we address workforce housing," Jacobs said.

During the Georgia City/County Managers Association meeting last week, attendees had the chance to attend a session on Columbus' Neighborhood Works program from the Housing Authority of Columbus, the city manager said.

That nonprofit agency's work could give some insight to the work in Albany, Jacobs said.

CITY OF EDISON NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR MAYOR, POST 1 AND POST 2 COUNCIL MEMBERS

November 4, 2025

The City of Edison will hold the General Election on November 4, 2025, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Old Edison City Hall, 460 Turner Street, Edison, Georgia. The election shall be for Mayor and Post 1 and Post 2 positions on the City Council.

All persons desiring to vote in said election must be registered no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 6, 2025. Advanced and absentee voting for the election begins on October 14, 2025. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 31, 2025. If you have any questions please call (229) 835-2279.

In the event no candidate in the general election receives a majority of the total votes cast, there shall be a runoff between the candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes as provided in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-501. If a runoff election is required, it shall be held on December 2, 2025. Only those qualified electors who are eligible to vote in the November 4, 2025, special election will be eligible to vote in the special election run-off.

Salome's Stars

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Someone from your past could arrive with welcome news concerning your future. Meanwhile, avoid taking sides in a workplace confrontation until you have more facts to go on.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A decision about a relationship could have longer-lasting consequences than you might imagine, so be sure of your facts before you act. A trusted friend can help.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A strained relationship could be restored with more personal contact between the two of you. Letting others act as your go-between only adds to the ongoing estrangement.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) New facts could mean taking a new path toward a goal you've been hoping to reach. However, be sure that all your questions are answered before you undertake to shift directions.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good week for all you fine Felines to turn your attention to some important considerations such as your health, your job situation, and the status of important relationships.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid making a quick decision about a matter that needs more study. Keep your mind open for possibilities, even if they don't seem plausible -- at least not yet.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might welcome the emphasis on openness in relationships that mark this period. But

it's a good idea to avoid sharing personal secrets with people you hardly know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) There are still some questions that need to be asked and answered before you can feel confident enough to make a potentially life-changing decision.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Some lingering effects from a now largely resolved workplace confrontation could make things difficult for you. Act on this before it becomes serious.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You feel like you're finally in control of your own life after months of making compromises and concessions you never felt comfortable with. Congratulations!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) No sooner do you decide to pass on one job offer than another suddenly turns up. This one might not have everything you're looking for, but it's worth checking out.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Congratulations! With Jupiter's strong influence dominating this week, don't be surprised if you get some good news about a troubling financial matter.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are usually kind and loving, but you can be highly critical of those who don't measure up to your high standards.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Indeed, history is nothing more than a tableau of crimes and misfortunes."

Voltaire,
writer (1694-1778)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

The political left is immersed in irrational woke ideology, having abandoned reason, logic, civility and common decency, and yet they expect the rest of America to cheer them on.

Church leaders in Albany need to look in the mirror.

Fletcher, you should be ashamed writing anything that would lessen the legacy of Charlie Kirk. He was a great American and will go down in history as one of our truly great leaders.

911 ... 911 ... all of the loud Georgia fans have gone missing after the loss to Alabama.

Lee County parents: Just how are your children benefiting from the millions spent on football? Or is this just to benefit a very small percentage of the student body with a large percentage of available funds? No matter the source, they should be distributed to the benefit of all.

Charlie Kirk was a true patriot, a true American, something that will never be said about you, Fletcher.

Actually, squawker, Trump has more reasons why he said nothing about Melissa Hortman's assassination. First, she is a Democrat. Second, she is a woman. Third, she challenged Minnesota House Republicans for their distressful and racist behavior toward newly elected minority members. But most of all she was the Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives and opposed many of Trump's policies and could not help him gain media attention that he craves like a crack addict.

I'm just willing to bet we didn't hear the entire story about Jalen Johnson's brother.

Have you noticed that Georgia's two senators are always on the losing side of every vote? Our senators mean nothing to our state nor our nation. Their votes are null and void on every bill and every appointment.

There seems to be a lot less "barking" today after the Dogs' loss to Alabama Saturday. Welcome to reality, UGA fans.

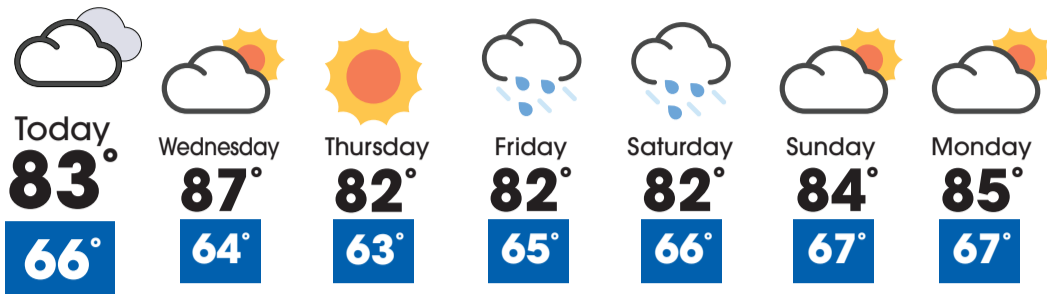
No one asked for pickleball courts. Parents have just been begging for safer streets and quieter neighborhoods for our kids. How can that be interpreted as pickleball courts?

It's scary that your column is absolutely true, Fletcher. Trump and his goons jumped on the death of Charlie Kirk to start the process of taking away our right to free speech. Crazy that that jerk from Louisiana brought up the Constitution in his diatribe and then said he's going after Americans' right to free speech ... as guaranteed in that document's First Amendment.

Did you know that shrimp are born males but turn into females as they mature? Much like the Democrats that post in the Squawkbox.

Thank you, Carlton, for speaking the truth about the attempts by our idiot president and his boot-lickers who have decided to use the death of a racist sycophant to crank up their quest to kill our Constitution. Please keep speaking out; we have too many people who are OK with anything Trump does, even if it deprives them of their rights.

Weather Forecast



THE ACES ON BRIDGE® ■ BARRY RIGAL

"Our fellow-countryman is a model of a man, quite fresh from nature's mould! Rough he may be. So are our bears. Wild he may be. So are our buffaloes."

-Charles Dickens

The North-South bidding here was crude but effective, since the spade slam was a fine contract. Alas, declarer did not fully utilize his assets in the play.

After ruffing the club lead, declarer played a trump to dummy and a heart off the table. East did well by ducking, allowing declarer to sneak the trick, but South's joy was short-lived. He ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed another club in order to pull trumps, but he still had two heart losers left in his hand one down.

ANSWER: There is a temptation to bid two clubs to show both majors in one fell swoop, but do not really have the values to act again by myself after that and that call would risk playing in hearts when partner is 2-2 in the majors. I prefer to start with one spade and back in with hearts later. If the spades were worse and the hearts better, I might bid two clubs anyway. The auction will never stop in one spade or this deal... will it?

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ruffs a heart, ruffs a club, ruffs a heart and ruffs a club. Playing off the major-suit winners will force one defender to guard hearts, and the other clubs. Neither can keep diamonds — 3 perfect double squeeze.

NORTH 09-12-A			
♦ K 10 2	♠ 8	♥ A K 10 7 3	♣ 10 9 6 5
WEST			
♦ 7 5	♠ 4	♥ 6 5	♣ A K Q J 8 7 4 2
EAST			
♦ 9 3	♠ A J 10 9 6 3	♥ Q J 9 2	♣ 3
SOUTH			
♦ A Q J 8 6 4	♠ K Q 7 5 2	♥ 8 4	♣ ---
Vulnerable: North-South Dealer: South			
The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1♣	5♣	5♠	Pass
6♣	All pass		
Opening Lead: Club king			
BID WITH THE ACES 09-12-B			
South holds:			
♦ A Q J 8 6 4	♠ K Q 7 5 2	♥ 8 4	♣ ---
South	West	North	East
?			1♣

ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Wife feels neglected by husband caring for ailing father



Dear Eric: My husband and I have been married almost five years, and it has been wonderful. Six months ago, we had a major disruption when my 83-year-old father-in-law was diagnosed with dementia. He was admitted to hospice last week. We have no one to help with him, except for a sitter that is draining his wallet.

My husband and I have an 11-year-old daughter, and she and I literally miss him. My husband works during the day and as soon as he gets off, he goes to his dad's. My husband says I can come there to see him, but my father-in-law's house is in a flood zone, and the basement is covered with black mold, so I am sort of scared to spend a lot of time there.

We used to spend Sundays going to church and to eat, I miss it so much. I am not trying to be selfish, and I realize this is just a season that will pass. I do not want my father-in-law to pass away, so part of me feels guilt for taking this out on my husband who is just trying to wear all these hats. We had an argument and he told me he has no help, not even me. Let me mention that I am in grad school to get my master's in social work, so I am not sitting at home doing nothing. Please help?

-Alone at Home

Dear Home: You're right that this is a season. Moreover, it's an important one in your husband's life, in your father-in-law's and in the life of your marriage; I'd encourage you to rethink how you're showing up.

Caregiving family members often experience profound isolation, on top of the frustration and grief that can come from

watching a loved one decline physically and/or mentally. It can be hard, if not impossible, to find space for self-care or emotional processing. This is difficult for everyone. Your feelings of loneliness are valid, but please put them in context. It's neither your husband nor father-in-law's fault that this is happening and it's not their responsibility to fix it.

This is what life is right now. Your marriage will be stronger if you spend some time reading up on how family members can support those with dementia and those caring for them. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a good place to start. There are likely local support groups or resources for caregivers and families.

Try the Family Caregiver Alliance. You may find some helpful perspective in the new book "The Unexpected Journey" by Emma Heming Willis, about her experience as a caregiver for her husband, actor Bruce Willis. The letter below has additional resources.

Dear Eric: This morning, while reading "Caught in the Middle" I raced to the computer to add to your advice about family members who want to come visit despite the letter writer's spouse's advancing dementia.

I co-facilitate an Alzheimer's Caregivers Support group sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. I am also the primary caregiver for my husband of 45 years who was diagnosed with the disease 10 years ago.

I would strongly suggest that "Caught in the Middle" not deny relatives the opportunity to visit but encourage them to make video calls before they attempt

to visit. It's during those kinds of calls that his family members will get a better and deeper appreciation for what "Caught" is dealing with, how his dementia is progressing, as well as how they should respond to him if they still choose to visit.

Additionally, I would also encourage every member of his family to begin to educate themselves about this disease. Support groups are life and sanity "savers" for caregivers and family members. Finally, if these family members truly wish to help, encourage them to stay at a local hotel when/if they come to visit or chip in to pay for respite care for "Caught" to get away for a few days.

-Third Time at Bat with Alzheimer's Disease

Dear Third Time: Such sage advice and wonderful resources. Thank you!

Dear Eric: I have a friend I have known for decades. Normally when we speak on the phone, she talks about her life and concerns at great length. Now, I am growing a little weary that our conversations are so one-sided. What can I say to her to raise her awareness about this, or should I just let it go? Frankly, I have begun shying away from her.

-All Talked Out

Dear Talked Out: Gentle but clear redirection might help. "I'm excited to talk to you about [X] but when we talk, I sometimes have trouble interjecting. It would mean a lot to me if you'd ask me about my life or made space for me to share."

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

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Moments in time



On Oct. 13, 1773, French astronomer Charles Messier discovered the first-known spiral galaxy and named it the Whirlpool Galaxy. It would be another three centuries before scientists confirmed that our own galaxy, the Milky Way, is also spiral shaped.

On Oct. 14, 1977, pop singer, former beauty queen and spokesperson for Florida orange juice Anita Bryant was hit in the face with a pie by gay rights activist Tom Higgins while speaking at an Iowa event to promote her campaign to repeal anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people.

On Oct. 15, 1864, the world's first successful combat submarine, the H.L. Hunley, went down in Charleston Harbor during a demo run, killing its inventor and namesake along with seven crew members. The vessel was recovered and performed its only successful mission the following year when it sank the Yankee ship Housatonic, but sank again, taking its third ill-fated crew with it. Raised again in 2000, it is currently on exhibit in Charleston.

On Oct. 16, 1964, after conducting a successful nuclear test, China became

the fifth nation with atomic bomb capability, after the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France.

On Oct. 17, 1985, magicians Penn & Teller notably responded to "Late Night" host David Letterman's invitation to "surprise" him on their next appearance on his show by unleashing hundreds of cockroaches from a top hat onto his desk. While Letterman was unsurprisingly hardly pleased, he later admitted the stunt made "great TV."

On Oct. 18, 1974, singer Al Green was attacked by his former girlfriend, Mary Woodson, in his Memphis home while taking a bath. Woodson dumped a pot of scalding grits on his back before retreating to a bedroom where she killed herself with Green's gun.

On Oct. 19, 1994, Jesse Timmendequas was charged with killing 7-year-old Megan Kanka in New Jersey. The crime inspired Megan's Law, a statute requiring that information about convicted sex felons be made available to the public. Versions of Megan's Law have been passed in many states since her death.

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PERSPECTIVES

The Albany Herald

Carlton Fletcher, Editor

albanyherald.com
Georgia Trust for Local News

COLUMNIST ■ MICHAEL FERGUSON II

Bottoms draws standing-room-only crowd in Albany

A packed crowd filled the Charles Driskell Community Center in Albany Tuesday to meet former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, now a candidate for governor of Georgia.

It was standing-room-only, and the energy in the room made it clear: Southwest Georgia is engaged, informed, and ready to ask hard questions. Despite leaving Atlanta at 6:30 a.m. and working through a full-day itinerary, Bottoms showed up present and energized. She introduced herself not just as a public figure, but as someone ready to connect — and to listen.

During the Q&A session, the candidate fielded pointed questions from people of all ages, including a sharp 14-year-old concerned with criminal rehabilitation, college students asking about the job market, and community members worried about rising utility costs, housing shortages and the region's future.

Bottoms answered each question with patience, clarity and depth.

Three key takeaways from Bottoms' platform emerged:

1. Expanding Medicaid Access — Bottoms made expanding Medicaid a central pillar of her campaign. She stressed that doing so would bring more doctors, more services, and more stability to rural communities, including those in southwest Georgia, where hospitals are closing and care is harder to access.

2. Eliminating State Income Tax for Teachers — To address teacher shortages and low morale, she proposed removing the state income tax for teachers. It's a bold move aimed at restoring respect and compensation for one of the state's most vital professions.

3. Reviving Rural Economies through Industry Procurement — Bottoms emphasized spreading state contract opportunities beyond metro Atlanta. Her plan focuses on bringing procurement pipelines and business development to rural areas, helping create jobs and rebuild local economies from the ground up.

What made the event truly memorable wasn't just the policy — it was the personal. Bottoms talked openly about her father's incarceration and what it was like to visit him as a child. She spoke about the need for criminal justice reform, not in abstract terms but as someone who's lived through its impact.

She also made it clear that therapy and mental health care should be treated as a matter of public health, not shame. In that moment, the room shifted. It wasn't just a campaign stop, it was a connection.

I went in expecting to meet a politician seeking office. Myself, and many others around me, left feeling like we met Keisha, who just happens to be a highly qualified candidate

running for the governorship of Georgia, and who wants to earn your vote.



FERGUSON

Michael Ferguson II is an Albany Herald columnist, a community activist and a U.S. Army veteran.

The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

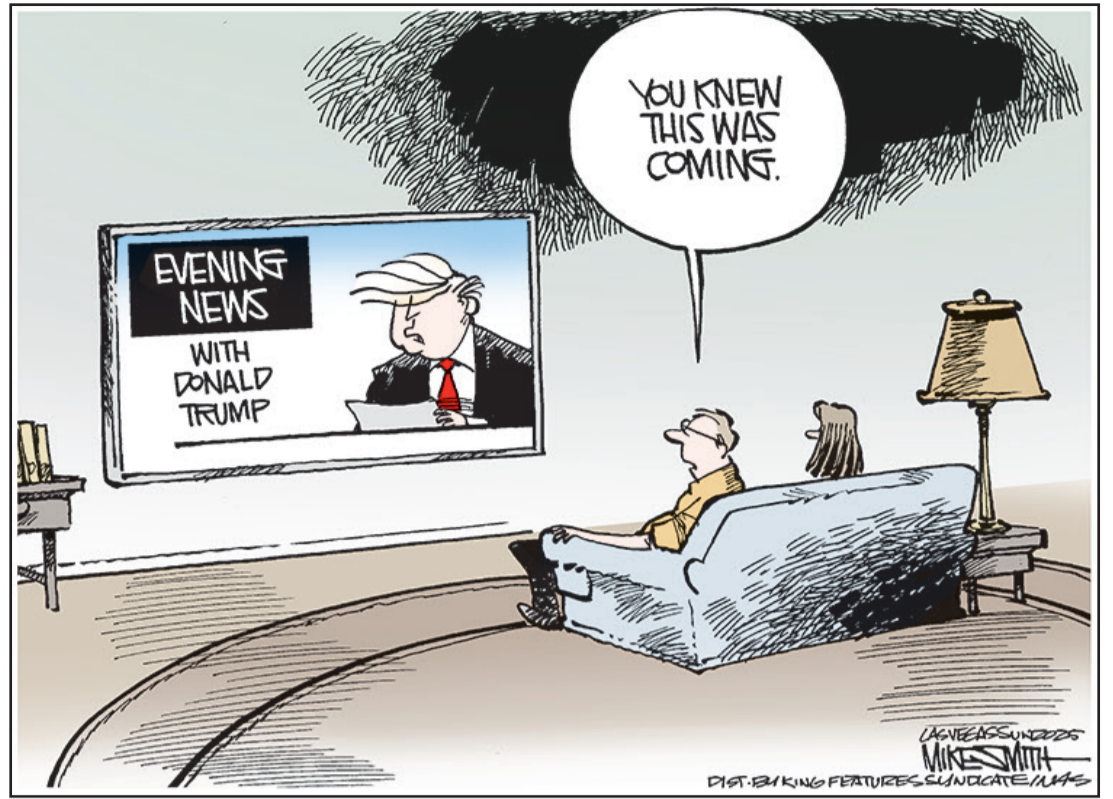
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."
—1 Corinthians 3:9



COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

When words become a blessing

We live in a world where words are everywhere. From the moment we wake up, we're surrounded by notifications and headlines, passing conversations and background chatter. Most days, we barely notice the sheer volume of words flying around us. But sometimes, a single phrase can stop us in our tracks.

Not long ago, I stood in line at the grocery store and overheard someone say, "I swear to God..." her voice casual, almost absent-minded. She wasn't angry or trying to be disrespectful; it was just something to say while waiting for the cashier. I remember thinking: When did we get so comfortable with words that ought to be sacred? Have we grown too relaxed with the power they carry?

Moments like that remind us that words aren't just noise. They're tools, sometimes gentle, sometimes sharp. They can lift us up or leave behind a bruise we didn't mean to cause. Who hasn't felt the sting of a careless comment or the warmth of a kind word at just the right moment? A simple "I see you," or "thank you," or "I forgive you" can open doors in the heart that nothing else can.

We notice this especially in the small places: a teacher addressing a struggling student, friends talking about someone who isn't in the room. Even how we say someone's name matters. Spoken with kindness, a name becomes a gift. Spoken with contempt, it can become a wound.

Yet in the rush of everyday life, it's easy to forget how much our words matter. Silences fill with filler. Promises tumble out on autopilot. Names — our own, others', even God's — sometimes pass our lips with barely a thought.

In my own faith tradition, there's an ancient teaching that speaks directly to this. In the Hebrew Bible, we read the Third Commandment: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." (Exodus 20:7) At first glance, it sounds like a rule about profanity, but the original Hebrew goes deeper. The phrase translated as "in vain" also means "care-

lessly" or "emptily." The commandment isn't just about avoiding curses; it's about treating God's name, and by extension, all sacred words, with intention and reverence.

That's why, in Jewish practice, many of us write "G-d" with a dash. It's not superstition. It's a pause, a visual reminder that some things are too precious to treat casually. The dash is there to make us slow down, to notice, to honor.

But this insight isn't limited to religious language. In Jewish thought, speech is called a "garment of the soul," the bridge between our inner world and the world around us. Proverbs puts it plainly: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." (Proverbs 18:21) A rumor travels far. A word of encouragement lingers for years. A reputation can be torn down with a whisper, a spirit healed by a single sentence.

There's a classic story about a sage who gave a young man a feather pillow and told him to scatter the feathers off a rooftop. When the young man finished, the sage asked him to gather them up again. The lesson? Once words are out in the world, they can't always be retrieved. They carry farther than we imagine.

So where does that leave us? We don't need to be silent, nor do we need to tiptoe through every conversation. But perhaps we're called to pause more often, to speak with intention, to choose words that build up rather than tear down, to treat names (especially God's name) as something holy, not just another phrase to fill the air.

What if today, we chose just one moment to speak more kindly, or to pause before speaking at all? What kind of space might that open for ourselves, and for God?

In a world that rewards the loudest voice, there's quiet courage in speaking with reverence. Every time we do, we create a little more room for trust, for healing, and for something sacred to dwell among us. And when we make that space, our words really can become a blessing.



HAMBOURGER

Yonatan Hamburger is a rabbi and writer dedicated to serving spiritual seekers of all backgrounds on behalf of Chabad of Rural Georgia. Contact him at y@tasteof Torah.org.

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ JOHN COWAN

Restoring trust starts with Congressional term limits

In Georgia, we pride ourselves on our commonsense. From the farms of south Georgia to the mountain towns of north Georgia to the suburbs of Atlanta, people know the difference between leaders who serve the public and politicians who serve themselves.

And today, more than ever, Georgians see a Washington that is broken. Trust in Congress is at historic lows. Confidence in elections is waning. And gridlock in Washington has left major issues — health care, immigration, debt, even national security — unsolved.

One solution can help restore faith in government and revitalize our democratic system.

Congressional term limits. Our state's history shows that citizen leadership is at the heart of good government. From Jimmy Carter leaving his farm in Plains to serve as governor before becoming president, to Newt Gingrich, who shook up Washington as Speaker of the House, Georgians have repeatedly proven that fresh leadership can bring bold ideas.

Yet Congress has become the opposite of citizen leadership. We see career politicians who have been in Washington for 30, 40 even 50 years. They become insulated from the people they represent, more loyal to lobbyists and special interests than to voters. That is not the Georgia way.

Term limits would restore the principle that elected office is public service, not a lifetime career. Just as we expect governors, state legislators, and even presidents to serve limited terms, so too should members of Congress.

Poll after poll shows that Americans no longer trust Congress. Here in Georgia, I hear it first-hand from Rome to Savannah: People believe Washington doesn't listen. Too many voters feel elections no longer matter because incumbents almost always win. The numbers back it up.

In 2022, more than 90% of incumbents were re-elected. That's not because voters think Congress is doing a great job. It's because the system is rigged to protect those already in office. Name recognition, fundraising advantages, and gerrymandered districts make it nearly impossible for challengers to compete.

By passing a constitutional amendment for term limits, we can restore confidence in our

elections. Georgians will know that no matter how powerful a politician becomes, their time in office is limited, and new leaders will have the opportunity to step forward. That certainty will bring more compe-

tition, more accountability, and more faith in the system.

Georgia families are facing pressing issues every day. Housing costs are skyrocketing, and Inflation has squeezed family budgets.

The national debt now exceeds \$34 trillion. Congress, instead of addressing these problems, spends more time bickering and scoring political points.

Why? Because career politicians focus on staying in office rather than solving problems. They worry more about the next election than the next generation. Term limits would change that dynamic. With the clock ticking, members of Congress would be forced to focus on solutions, not careers. They would have the courage to tackle tough issues — whether it's balancing the budget, reforming immigration, or securing our elections — because they wouldn't be beholden to special interests or re-election campaigns.

The Founders gave us the tools to fix this problem. Article V of the Constitution allows the

people, through their state legislatures, to propose amendments when Washington refuses to act. And Washington has refused; Congress won't limit its own power. That

means it's up to the states, and Georgia can lead the way.

In fact, the people of Georgia overwhelmingly support term limits. Recent surveys show more than 80% of Georgians, regardless of political party, want them. This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue, it's a Georgia issue, an American issue.

Our state legislature should move swiftly to join the growing number of states calling for congressional term limits. By doing so, Georgia can help restore faith in government and inspire other states to act.

The problems in Washington are real, but so is the solution. Term limits will restore trust, strengthen our elections, and ensure Congress works for the people again. Georgians know that no one should make a career out of Congress; it should be a season of service, not a lifetime of privilege.

I call on my fellow Georgians, and especially our state legislators, to demand action. Let us be the state that helps restore the bond between the people and their government. Let us send a clear message to Washington: Congress belongs to us, not to career politicians. It's time to pass congressional term limits. Georgia should lead the way.

John Cowan is the Georgia State Chair for U.S. Term Limits. He is a neurosurgeon and founder of Cortex Toys and Cortex Holdings in Georgia.



COWAN

What to watch

TUESDAY

September 30, 2025

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

Chad Powers

Hulu ■ **New Series**

This original half-hour football comedy on Hulu and Hulu on Disney+ stars Glen Powell as a disgraced quarterback chasing redemption. Disguised under a wig, prosthetics, and southern charm, he reinvents himself as walk-on oddball Chad Powers. The series is inspired by Eli Manning's viral ESPN sketch, where the NFL legend (and series producer) went undercover at Penn State tryouts.

AMC FANiversary of 'The Shining'

AMC, 7 p.m.

All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. Hardly! Make some time to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Stephen King's classic thriller starring Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall.

Murder in a Small Town

FOX, 8 p.m.

When a body is found at a local wedding between members of two feuding families, Alberg (Rossif Sutherland) and team are called to the scene to investigate. Camryn Manheim guest-stars in the new episode "Blood Wedding."



'On Brand With Jimmy Fallon'

DAVID HOLLOWAY, NBC

Doc

FOX, 9 p.m.

Amy (Molly Parker) grapples with having memories while treating a mother-to-be with a mysterious condition. Felicity Huffman joins the cast as Dr. Joan Ridley in the new episode "Delusions of Grandeur."

High Potential

ABC, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Eleven Minutes," a man with a troubled past is killed under mysterious circumstances and Morgan (Kaitlin Olson) and the LAPD uncover a tragic motive behind his death. Morgan opens up to Ava (Amirah J) about her father, forcing Ava to confront truths she isn't ready to face.

On Brand With Jimmy Fallon

NBC, 10 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Jimmy Fallon hosts this new reality competition show that follows a group of marketing creatives from various backgrounds who will work on a campaign for a major brand, writing jingles and producing commercials for different companies during every episode. At the end of the season, one will be named the best in the business and will receive a cash prize. Bozoma Saint John, the former chief marketing officer for Netflix (and current cast member of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*), is both a judge on the show as well as a mentor to the creatives.

CATCH A CLASSIC

70th Anniversary of James Dean's Death

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

He was the epitome of cool and the symbol of youth rebellion in the 1950s. In memory of the iconic and unique acting style of James Dean, who died on Sept. 30, 1955 — at the young age of 24 — TCM has dedicated an entire evening to his work, beginning

with the fascinating half-hour **Campbell Summer Soundstage: Life Sentence** episode (1953), where a young Dean plays Hank Bradon, an imprisoned felon who escapes and finds that being on the run is just a new form of imprisonment. The evening continues with his limited but popular film resumé of **East of Eden** (1955), 1955's **Rebel Without a Cause** (pictured) and **Giant** (1956), concluding with a documentary that looks at one of the greatest Hollywood filmmakers of the 20th century in **George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey** (1984).



WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'The Vow'

KERRY HAYES, SMPSP

Moana (2016, Children) Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson **Freeform, 6 p.m.**

Zombieland (2009, Comedy) Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg **SYFY, 6 p.m.**

From the World of John Wick: Ballerina (2025, Action) Ana de Armas, Keanu Reeves **Starz, 6:53 p.m.**

The Shining (1980, Horror) Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Vow (2012, Romance) Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum **Encore, 7:13 p.m.**

Love, Romance & Chocolate (2019, Romance) Lacey Chabert, Will Kemp **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Playing With Fire (2025, Suspense) Kirsten Comerford, Stephen Adekolu **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Fugitive (1993, Action) Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Coco (2017, Children) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Freeform, 8:30 p.m.**

What Men Want (2019, Romance-comedy) Taraji P. Henson, Tracy Morgan **BET, 9 p.m.**

The Exorcist (1973, Horror) Ellen Burstyn, Linda Blair **AMC, 10:30 p.m.**

Species (1995, Science fiction) Ben Kingsley, Michael Madsen **MGM, 11:25 p.m.**

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What to watch

WEDNESDAY

October 1, 2025

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

Shifting Gears

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Get ready for a *Home Improvement* reunion! In Season 2's first episode, Patricia Richardson, Richard Karn and Debbe Dunning will guest-star alongside their former costar Tim Allen, who plays auto shop owner Matt Parker. Nancy Travis and Jenna Elfman will also return as guest stars this season.

Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent

The CW, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Good Neighbours," a shooting at a condo building leads Graff (Aden Young) and Bateman (Kathleen Munroe) to a 20-year-old cold case that they must solve in order to catch the killer.

The Twisted Tale of Amanda Knox

Hulu

This original limited series on Hulu and Hulu on Disney+ stars Grace Van Patten as Amanda Knox — an American exchange student in Italy wrongfully convicted of the murder of roommate Meredith Kercher. The *Twisted Tale* is based on co-producer Knox's own account of authorities' flawed interrogation, her coerced confession, and her stunning conviction, followed by her nearly four-year incarceration and fight to prove her innocence.

Big Cats 24/7

PBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "New Beginnings" the core of the Xudum Pride has fled south, but a group of its young females surprises the team in the north. Meanwhile, tragedy strikes the cheetah mother, Pobe, and Lediba, the leopard, struggles to provide for her ever-growing cub.



'Abbott Elementary'

PAMELA LITTKY, DISNEY

Chicago Med

NBC, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

In the Season 11 premiere "We All Fall Down," victims of a house fire are rushed to Gaffney Medical, and the team fights to save two sisters injured in an incident at an all-night rave.

Abbott Elementary

ABC, 8:30 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

School is back in session! Will Gregory (Tyler James Williams) and Janine's (Quinta Brunson) slow-burn work romance change the dynamics of the school? Tune in to find out.

Chicago Fire

NBC, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

A new face at Firehouse 51 causes tension, while rising chaos in the city brings new challenges to the team in the Season 14 premiere "Kicking Down Doors."

Ice Road Truckers

History, 9:30 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

The popular series returns after an eight-year hiatus, following a group of skilled, highly trained and thrill-seeking truckers (veterans Todd Dewey and Lisa Kelly are back) in Northern Canada who put their lives on the line battling dangerous conditions to deliver life-saving supplies to remote communities.

Chicago P.D.

NBC, 10 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

The first episode of this season kicks off a month after the events of the epic Season 12 finale, when Deputy Chief Reid (Shawn Hatosy) was killed. A lot has changed for the Intelligence Unit: Voight (Jason Beghe) is still navigating the fallout of his choices, and the rest of the team are caught in the middle. Plus, a new cop will be joining the unit, played by Arienne Mandi, and Joel Murray is joining as the new head of IAD.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Julie Andrews Birthday Tribute

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Legendary singer/actress Julie Andrews turns 90 today. Born in 1935 in England, Andrews rose to stardom at a young age, first singing for Queen Elizabeth at just 13 years old. The queen would later honor her with a damehood. Andrews' most unforgettable roles were in *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins*. She's voiced plenty of popular characters over the years as well, from the queen in *Shrek 2* to narrating Netflix's drama *Bridgerton* as Lady Whistledown. Turner Classic Movies celebrates this icon's birthday with four of her films. First up is the 1965 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical **The Sound of Music** (pictured),



20TH CENTURY FOX

which earned five Academy Awards and paired Andrews with Christopher Plummer. Next is the romantic comedy **Victor/Victoria** (1982) costarring James Garner and Robert Preston. Following is **Torn Curtain** (1966), a spy thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock and costarring Paul Newman. Finally comes **Hawaii** (1966), an epic drama based on a James A. Michener novel and costarring Max von Sydow, Richard Harris and Gene Hackman.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Think Like a Man'

ALAN MARKFIELD

Jack Reacher (2012, Action) Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike **Starz, 6:45 p.m.**

Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin **Freeform, 6:50 p.m.**

Halloween (1978, Horror) Donald Pleasence, Jamie Lee Curtis **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993, Children) Danny Elfman, Chris Sarandon **Disney, 7 p.m.**

Saw (2004, Horror) Cary Elwes, Danny Glover **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

B.A.P.S (1997, Comedy) Halle Berry, Martin Landau **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Hocus Pocus (1993, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

Halloween II (1981, Horror) Jamie Lee Curtis, Donald Pleasence **AMC, 9 p.m.**

Think Like a Man (2012, Romance-comedy) Michael Ealy, Jerry Ferrara **BET, 9 p.m.**

Saw II (2005, Horror) Donnie Wahlberg, Tobin Bell **SYFY, 9:55 p.m.**

Abducted: The Mary Stauffer Story (2019, Drama) Corina Akeson, Reese Alexander **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Heartbreakers (2001, Comedy) Sigourney Weaver, Jennifer Love Hewitt **VH1, 10 p.m.**

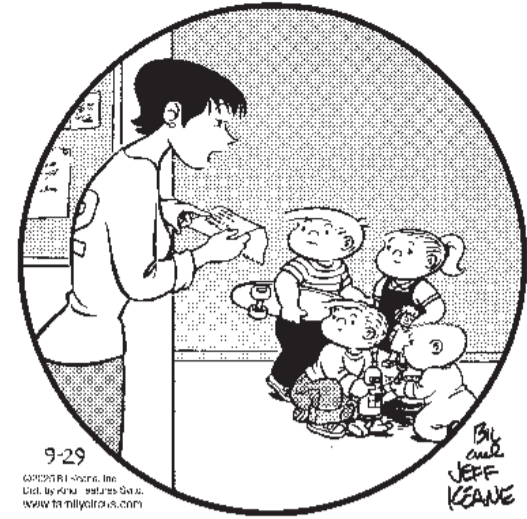
From the editors of **weekly TV**
TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



Medical hecklers.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"For the information of whoever's been adding to my grocery list, there's no 'K' in 'chocolate.'"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



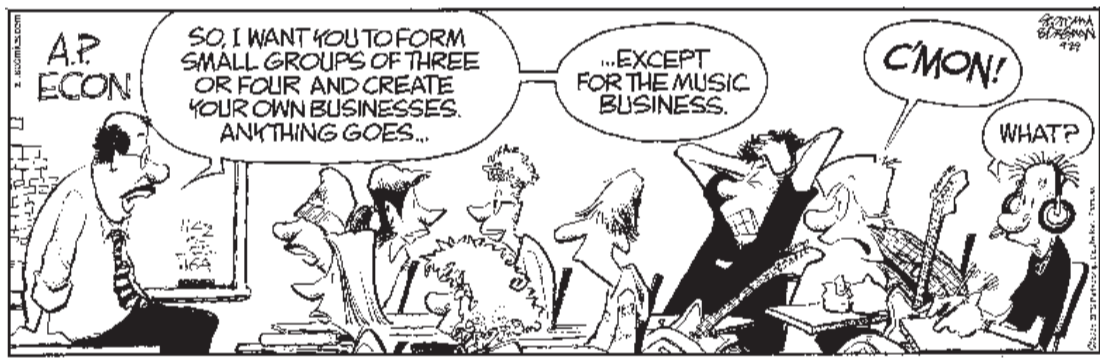
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



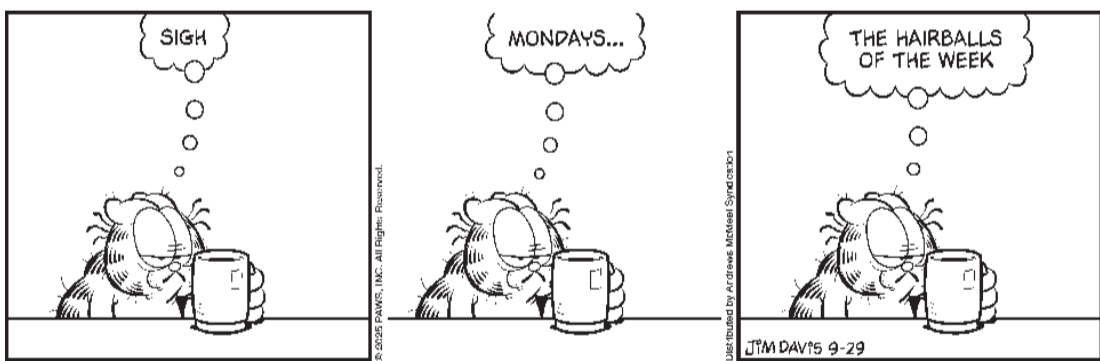
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sanson



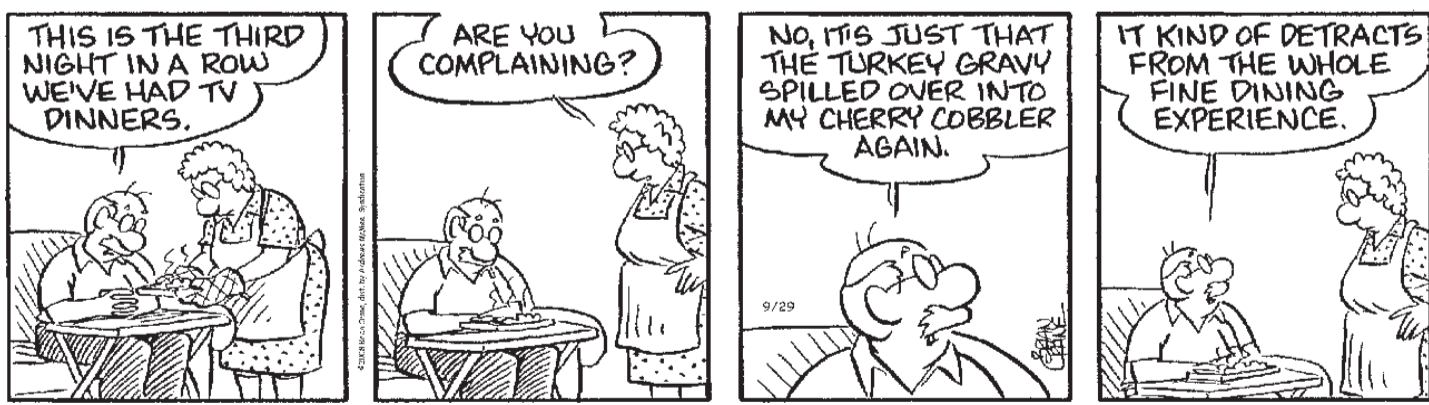
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

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

HAND ME

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:

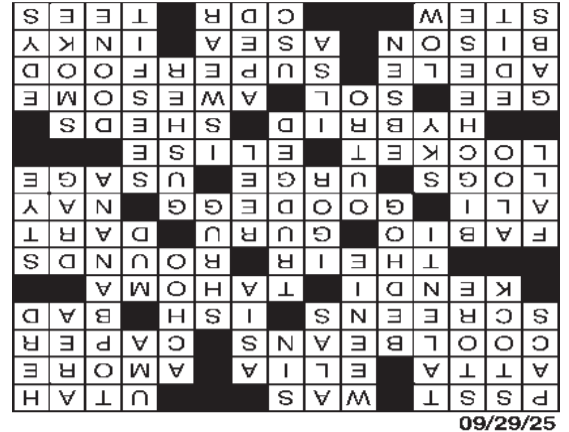
Hand-me-down

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- Hushed "Hey, over here!"
 - "What ___ I supposed to do?"
 - The Beehive State
 - Flour for chapati and roti
 - Director Kazan
 - Love, in Italian
 - "Neato!"
 - Tangy bud in a piccata recipe
 - Multiplex array
 - "Sorta"
 - Spoiled
 - "How To Be an Antiracist" author Ibram X. ___
 - Indigenous name of Mount Rainier
 - Those people's
 - Bar purchases
 - Italian model on the cover of many romance novels
 - Spiritual guide
 - Move suddenly
 - Comedian Wong
 - "Mensch"
 - Opposing vote
 - Fireplace stack
 - Hankering
 - Utility bill info
 - Pendant with a photo
 - "Hamilton" actress Renée Goldsberry
 - Zedonk or zorse
 - Loses, as fur
 - "_ willikers!"
 - Spanish sun
 - "Gnarly!"
 - One-named "Skyfall" singer
 - Marketing term for nutrient-rich fare, or what the answers to the starred clues are
 - Yellowstone grazer
 - Sailing
 - Like water surrounding a startled cuttlefish, maybe
 - Slow-cooker dish
 - Burnable data-storage medium, for short
 - Golf pegs
- DOWN**
- Campaign support gps.
 - Soup base
 - One of 500+ in the Mall of America
 - Gelato brand in clear jars with brown screw-top lids
 - Hot dog, casually
 - "Sadly ..."
 - Sloth, for one
 - Actress Thurman
 - "Head honcho"
 - Vicinity
 - Group of buffalo
 - Nepal's continent
 - "Gesundheit" elicitor
 - Sleeper who takes all the blankets
 - "I dunno" gesture
 - Plodded
 - Coffee, slangily
 - "Young Frankenstein" assistant
 - "What a ___!"
 - Eyelid affliction
 - Autumn
 - Potatoes, in Indian cuisine
 - "Influential person"
 - Instagram video
 - Closing section of a song
 - Productive oil well
 - Pie in the ___
 - Deems appropriate
 - "Breakfast at Tiffany's" actor Buddy
 - "Cross my heart!"
 - "Casablanca" heroine
 - Lorna ___ cookies
 - Chimney output
 - Chats on and on
 - Revise a manuscript
 - Mimicked
 - "Grand" ice cream
 - Burner setting
 - L.A. school

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



By Taylor Johnson
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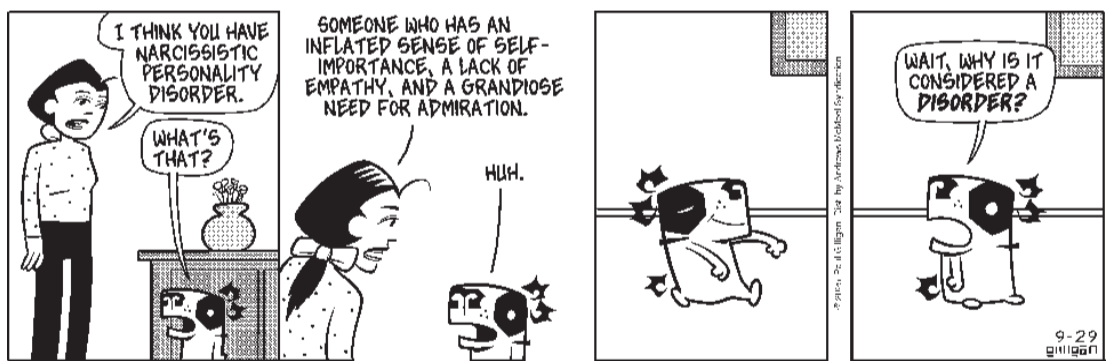
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

FOUND IN A CREEL Solution: 6 letters

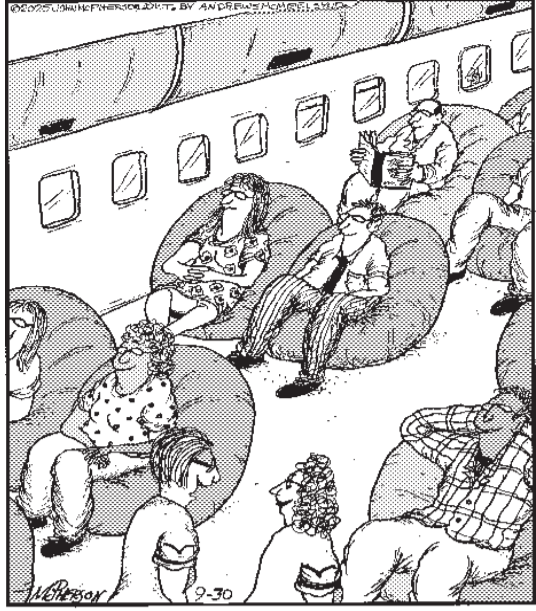
E S S H R I M P W I C K E R E
R Q R D N A L T O C S O L B U
S E U E R S A W R C T S A A Q
E T N I T E U E E R R O K S I
M S N I P S P P L U A I E K T
A E S B A M B O O S P L H E N
R V S T A T E O P T B I E T A
F R I H E L N N L A C V R L T
A A F O Y N A O T C A O R N C
B H R S O Q N E C E H S I F E
R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

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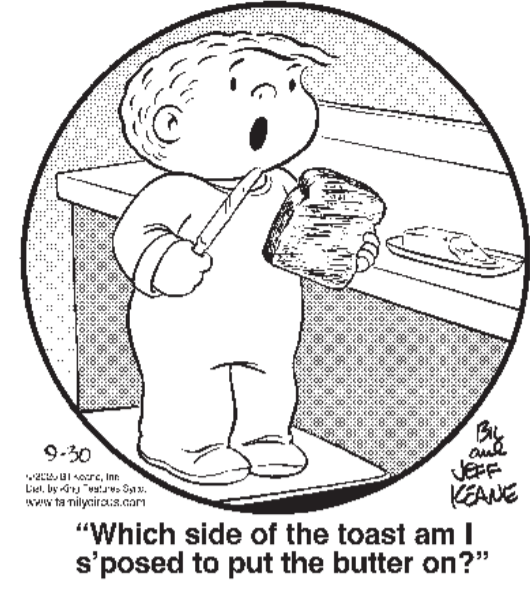
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TODAY'S ANSWER: Willow

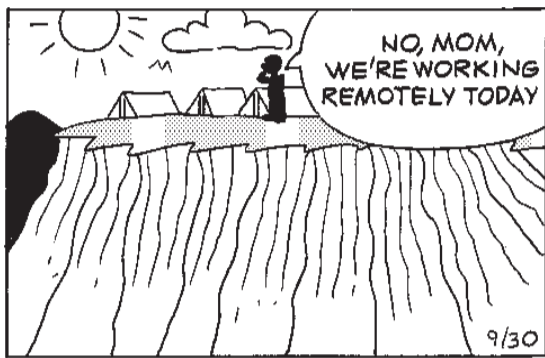
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



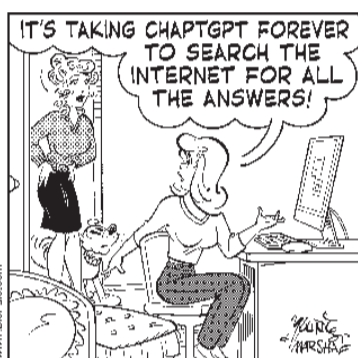
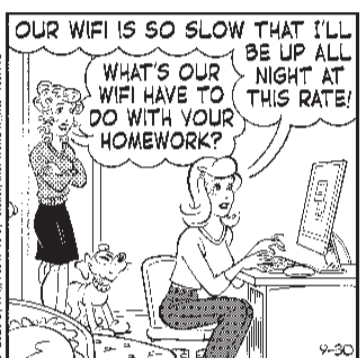
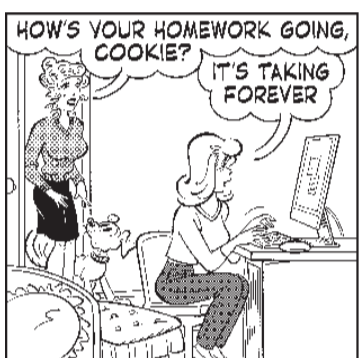
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



CROSSWORD

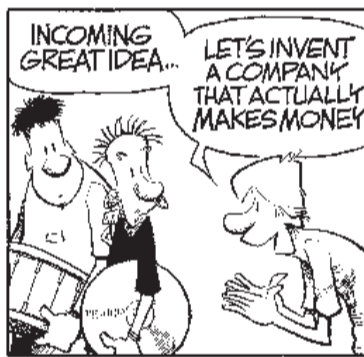
- ACROSS**
- 1 "I wouldn't — on it!"
 - 4 Recipe meas.
 - 7 Pillow cover
 - 11 Pother
 - 12 Apple tablet
 - 14 Cotton type
 - 15 Enclosure for a parakeet
 - 17 Press
 - 18 Sicilian volcano
 - 19 Oil processing plant
 - 21 Stir-fry pan
 - 23 "— can play that game?"
 - 24 Fine particle
 - 28 Bid
 - 32 Statute
 - 33 Reuben bread
 - 34 Get along
 - 35 Small forest buffalo
 - 37 Fleur-de- —
- DOWN**
- 1 Innocent one
 - 2 Make revisions to
 - 3 Shredded
 - 4 A twitching
- 40 Come in first**
- 41 Humdinger
 - 43 Rejected
 - 45 Pasture
 - 47 Ovine animal
 - 48 Of the home
 - 52 — mater
 - 56 Calif. neighbor
 - 57 Quite large
 - 59 "— of Thrones"
 - 60 Writer — Stanley Gardner
 - 61 Naval letters
 - 62 Toboggan
 - 63 Norton and Sullivan
 - 64 Half score
- 5 Glittering**
- 6 Knight's young attendant
 - 7 "Frasier," to "Cheers"
 - 8 Charter
 - 9 Love god
 - 10 Numerous

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13		14	
15			16					17	
18				19				20	
			21	22		23			
24	25	26			27	28		29	30
32				33				34	
35			36			37	38	39	40
41			42			43		44	
			45			46		47	
48	49	50			51			52	53
56					57			58	
59					60			61	
62					63			64	

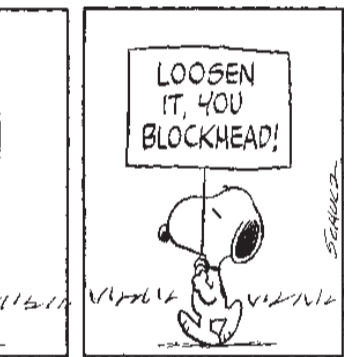
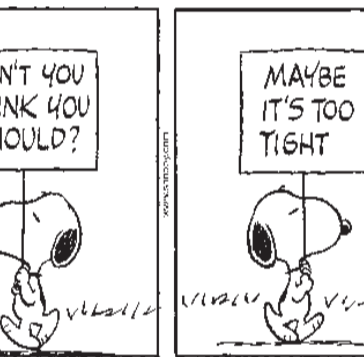
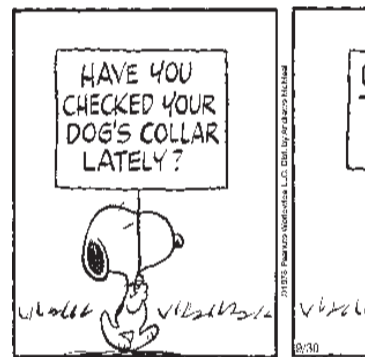
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



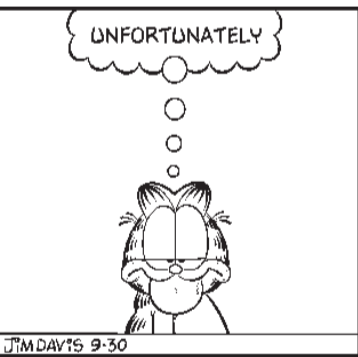
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



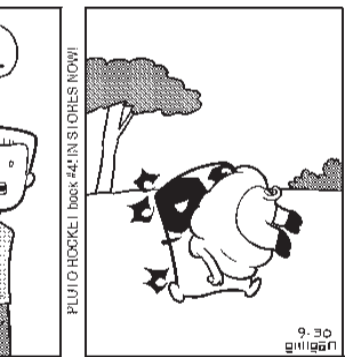
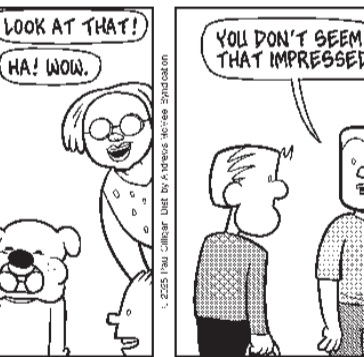
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

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

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.

STOCKINETTES Solution: 7 letters

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

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Absorb, Ankle, Bandage, Barrier, Base, Body, Cast, Circulation, Clean, Cloth, Comfort, Compression, Cotton, Elastic, Extremity, Fabric, Health, Hospital, Knits, Limbs, Lymphedema, Medical, Nurse, Orthopedic, Sanitary, Shape, Sleeve, Sock, Soft, Splint, Sprain, Stitches, Stretch, Surgery, Swelling, Varicose, Walk, Warmth, Wash, Wear, Width

TODAY'S ANSWER: Protect

Georgia Southwestern breaks Day of Giving record with \$223,000

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University celebrated its most successful Day of Giving yet, raising a record-breaking \$223,021 during its seventh annual event on Sept. 18. The university surpassed its ambitious goals of 600 donors and contributions from all 50 states, marking a new milestone in GSW's fundraising history.

A total of 602 donors from across the U.S. and three additional countries contributed to scholarships, athletics, program enhancements, campus facilities, and student leadership. This year's Day of Giving saw a 35% increase in dollars raised compared to last year, bringing the cumulative total to more than \$745,000 since the initiative launched in 2019.

"This is my favorite day of the year," Stephen Snyder, executive director of the GSW Foundation and assistant vice president for Advancement, said. "The generosity and engagement of the Georgia Southwestern community never ceases to amaze me."

Everyone involved in this event is intent on seeing that every goal is met, and the energy in Americus that day is palpable. Thank you to the volunteers, donors and the businesses that partnered with GSW this year. I am so grateful for them all."

A highlight of the day was the successful completion of the "Turn the Map Gold" challenge, a spirited tradition to secure support from all 50 states that motivates the GSW community to reach family and friends across the country to participate.

A gift from each state turns

that state gold. The initiative, aimed at boosting donor participation, helped make this year's event a true nationwide success for the third year in a row.

"I was truly energized by the passion and enthusiasm surrounding GSW's Day of Giving," GSW President Michelle Johnston said. "The overwhelming generosity of the Hurricane family, spanning across the nation, made this our most successful year yet. I am so proud of how our community continues to invest in the future of Georgia Southwestern and the students we serve."

Supporters also showed their Hurricane pride by dining and shopping at the 30 participating local businesses, each donating a portion of their sales to Day of Giving.

The campaign was led by the Day of Giving Committee,



Special Photo

Georgia Southwestern State University celebrated its most successful Day of Giving yet, raising a record-breaking \$223,021 during its recent seventh annual event.

including Chelsea Collins, Kim Elizabeth Kennedy, Sydney Comer, Caitlin Downs, Hunter Peak, Kearston Holtzclaw, Scott, Angela Smith, Stephen Snyder, Tracy Taylor and Krystal Whittaker. For more details, visit www.gsw.edu/dayofgiving.



The bi-annual Ag Engineering Technology Truck and Tractor Pull at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will be held on the ABAC campus Thursday-Saturday.

Bi-annual ABAC Truck and Tractor Pull set

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — The roar of engines and the thrill of competition return Thursday-Saturday with the bi-annual Ag Engineering Technology Truck and Tractor Pull at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College here.

First held in March 1974, the AET Truck and Tractor Pull has grown into one of ABAC's most popular traditions. That inaugural event drew more than 10,000 spectators and featured ABAC's tractor Cracker Jack claiming victories in the 7,000- and 9,000-pound classes.

This fall, the excitement spans three nights. Gates open at 5 p.m. each evening, with events beginning at 7 p.m.

Thursday — Amateur Night: Pulling is open to the public, this is the perfect oppor-

tunity for newcomers to try their hand at truck and tractor pulling. Tickets are \$10, with free admission for children ages 5 and under.

Friday and Saturday, — Southern Pullers Competition: The Southern Pullers Association sanctions two nights of professional competition featuring top drivers and powerful machines. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and under. ABAC students, faculty, and staff with a valid ABAC ID can attend for just \$10.

Organized by ABAC's AET students, the Truck and Tractor Pull continues to be a cornerstone campus tradition, held each spring and fall. Tickets are available at the entrance gate.

For more information, call (229) 391-5000.

State agencies plan feral swine workshop

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

CAMILLA — Feral swine have become increasingly detrimental in Georgia, causing significant damage to agricultural crops and natural resources throughout the state. The economic impact of damage caused by feral swine in Georgia is estimated at \$150 million.

A group of agricultural and natural resource organizations are partnering to bring Georgia's top experts on feral swine together in a series of educational workshops for farmers and landowners.

The partnering agencies will host the workshop and trapping demonstration opportunities on Nov. 19 in Camilla at the Mitchell County Ag Center, located at 4590 Highway 37 East in Camilla. The workshop will be from 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. with lunch provided. This workshop is sponsored by the Flint River Conservation District.

Topics will include disease issues, swine biology, economics, water quality issues, effective control techniques, transport issues, and regulations. A question-answer session featuring a panel of experts will follow. There also will be a feral swine trapping demonstration.

Partnering agencies for this effort include the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Georgia Association of Conservation Districts, Georgia Department of Natural Resources — Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources.

There is no cost to attend the workshops, but space is limited. Pre-registration is required. More details and registration information is available at www.GACD.us/events.

FERAL SWINE WORKSHOP & TRAPPING DEMONSTRATION

WED, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Mitchell County Ag Center
4590 Hwy 37 East
Camilla, Ga 31730
9:00am-12:45pm

LUNCH PROVIDED

EVENT IS FREE, BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED
www.gacd.us/events

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Disease Issues ✓
- Biology & Economics ✓
- Water Quality Issues ✓
- Control Techniques ✓
- Trapping Demonstration ✓
- Transport Issues ✓
- Regulations ✓
- Question and Answer Panel ✓

Questions? Leanne at 706-436-7683 or leanne.chafin@gacd.us
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FLINT RIVER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Special Illustration

Armed Ocilla career criminal sentenced to 19 years in prison for gun possession

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

VALDOSTA — A convicted felon with a lengthy criminal past was sentenced

to serve nearly two decades in prison after he was found guilty at trial of illegally possessing a firearm while outside a Dollar General store

in Valdosta.

Donald Patrick Parr, 69, of Ocilla and formerly of Valdosta and Jennings, Fla., was sentenced as a federal armed career criminal to serve 235 months in prison to be followed by two years of supervised release by Senior U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands. Parr was found guilty at trial of one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. There is no parole in the federal system.

"The penalties are steep for armed career criminals caught illegally possessing firearms in the Middle District of Georgia," U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. "I want to thank the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office and ATF for helping us hold repeat offenders accountable for their continued disregard of the law."

"Our partnership with local agencies like the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office is vital in tackling gun violence and ensuring that those with a history of criminal behavior are held accountable for their actions," ATF acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge Robert Davis said.

According to court documents and statements referenced in court, a Lowndes County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to a call concern-



Special Logo

ing a man — later identified as Parr — sitting inside a car at a Dollar General parking lot for more than an hour and periodically falling asleep. Authorities discovered Parr was wanted for drug charges in Palo Pinto County, Texas.

Law enforcement found a little over a gram of methamphetamine, a bag of marijuana and a .22 caliber revolver in Parr's vehicle. Parr has multiple prior felony convictions for possessing controlled substances with intent to distribute, making terroristic threats, aggravated fleeing and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Monica Daniels and Sonja Profit are prosecuting the case for the government.

Tourism sets new record in Georgia

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Tourists and business travelers continued flocking to the Peach State last year, injecting billions into the economy, according to new state numbers from Gov. Brian Kemp.

A record 174.2 million traveled across the country and the globe to visit Georgia in 2024 and spent \$45.2 billion, up 4% from the year before, Kemp said in a statement issued by his office.

The governor traveled to Savannah for a state tourism conference, where he revealed the numbers. He credited Georgia's cultural attractions, its communities and its scenery — from coast to mountains — for a third record-breaking year in a row.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development said more than 17 million



(Contributed/Explore Georgia)

Gov. Brian Kemp speaks recently at the Georgia Governor's Tourism Conference in Savannah.

of the visitors were domestic travelers here for business and conventions. Their numbers were up nearly 5%, accounting for \$4.6 billion in spending.

Tourism is the state's second-largest economic contributor, according to the agency.

The influx — more than 15

times the state population of 11.2 million last year — bolstered the bottom lines of hotels, restaurants, and recreation and transportation businesses.

Government also took a \$5.1 billion cut, with Kemp saying the state and local tax revenues saved each household an av-

erage \$1,285 in taxes.

This article is available through a partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Association's nonprofit, tax-exempt Educational Founda-

Dean Fabrizio placed on leave of absence

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Lee County High School head football coach Dean Fabrizio announced Sunday afternoon that he has been placed on a leave of absence from his position, citing “mistakes” and personal issues that require his attention.

In a statement released Sunday, Fabrizio said:

“Due to mistakes that have been made on my behalf, as well as some personal issues that I need to attend to, I have been placed on a leave of absence as Head Football Coach from Lee County High School for the immediate future. In my 17 years as head coach at LCHS, we have al-

ways tried to hold the members of the football program to the highest standard. I hold myself to the same standard, but unfortunately, I have failed in that regard. I will be taking this time to address this and seek help. I have poured my heart and soul into our football program, our school, and our school system for 17 years. I apologize to our school, parents, community, alumni, supporters and most of all the members of this program. We have a very capable group of assistant coaches who will lead the team in my absence.”

Lee County offensive line coach and assistant head coach John Flath will serve as interim head coach. Flath has been on staff with the Trojans for seven years.

While rumors circulated on social media, the Lee County school system provided a brief statement that did not specify the reasons for Fabrizio’s leave or its duration.

“The statement says all we can say at this time,” said Yolanda Robinson, the public relations director for Lee County Schools.

The school system’s statement read: “The Lee County School System recently received information concerning an employee that merited further investigation. At this time, that employee has been placed on administrative leave while the district reviews the situation and conducts an investigation.”

See **FABRIZIO**, 10A



File photo

Lee County head coach Dean Fabrizio has built one of the strongest high school football programs in Georgia during the past 17 years. He announced Sunday that he is taking a leave of absence.

Albany State rolls past Allen University; Knowles injured

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Albany State’s first home game of the season had everything: sunshine, a packed house - at least on the home side, a runaway scoreline. It also had something the Golden Rams didn’t want — their quarterback on the sideline in the third quarter.

Isaiah Knowles, the SIAC’s preseason Player of the Year and the centerpiece of this offense, left Saturday’s 57-14 win over Allen with an injury. His status is unknown. His importance is not.

Up to that point, the day had been pure celebration. The Coliseum crowd roared as Knowles opened the scoring with a 14-yard touchdown strike to Omari Stewart. Roderick McCrary plowed in from the 1. Tiant Wyche burst 34 yards for another score. The defense forced a safety. By the end of the first quarter, it was 22-7. By half-time, it was 36-7.

Albany State (3-1, 2-0 SIAC) rolled up nearly 600 yards, running and throwing with equal ease. Stewart finished with seven catches for 121 yards. Wyche ran for 104. The defense collected five sacks and three takeaways, highlighted by Abraham Clinkscales’ fumble recovery and Jonovan Carr’s interception.

When Knowles went out, redshirt freshman Jayden Kinney stepped in and looked anything but tentative. The McEachern High product fired a 66-yard touchdown to Jamill Williams and tacked on rushing scores of three and 39 yards. By then, Allen — which upset Clark Atlanta a week earlier — was long gone.

It was the second year in a row Albany State hung 57 on Allen. The fans left with sunburns and smiles. Next week brings a trip to Jackson, Tenn., where Lane College (1-3) awaits after a gauntlet of HBCU heavyweights.

Fifty-seven points, again. The day looked perfect — until it didn’t.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Dougherty defensive back Jarnard Walker prepares to step in front of Monroe’s Kohlin Brownlee for an interception that changed everything Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium. Walker picked off the pass and raced 99 yards for the pick six to give Dougherty a 23-19 win.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Deerfield-Windsor’s Riles Walden returns the opening kickoff 83-yards for a touchdown against Baconton Community Charter School.

High School Football Roundup: Dougherty, Deerfield-Windsor, Worth County, Sherwood Christian all win

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor and
Sonja Stroyls

Dougherty 23, Monroe 19

ALBANY — Rivalries turn on plays like this. Monroe was on the doorstep, the homecoming crowd ready to roar, when Dougherty’s Jarnard Walker flipped the night.

The Dougherty defensive back intercepted a pass near his own goal line and sprinted 99 yards down the sideline for the decisive touchdown, giving the Trojans a 23-19 region win Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium.

The Tornadoes led 13-7 at half-time and stretched it to 19-7 when quarterback Keyon Thomas broke free for a 43-yard score early in the third. But penalties piled up, including one that erased a 58-yard touchdown pass. A safety and Micah Joyner’s 19-yard pass to Jayden Corbett pulled Dougherty close before Walker’s sprint sealed it.

Thomas had touchdown runs of 15 and 43 yards and Jordyn Shorter added a three-yard wildcat score. Dougherty leaned on Daishon Malone, who scored from 17 yards before halftime.

The Trojans (2-4, 1-0) walked away with a lifeline. Monroe (2-4, 0-1) left with frustration.

Deerfield-Windsor 29, Baconton Charter 0

BACANTON — Rain poured down, but Deerfield-Windsor was unbothered. The Knights scored in all three phases and smothered Baconton Charter 29-0.

Riles Walden returned the opening kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown, and Turner Simmons added a 41-yard interception return just minutes later. Quarterback Lane Sceals threw for 227 yards and two scores, finding David Hutchins from 25 yards and Brantley Michlig from 60. Witt Rushton chipped in a field goal.

Simmons had seven tackles and three sacks to anchor a defense that

forced Baconton into punts nearly all night. Hutchins finished with 86 receiving yards, while Michlig added 68.

The Knights (6-0) open region play at home Friday against Brookwood.

Worth County 49, Brantley County 0

NAHUNTA — No. 1-ranked Worth County added another exclamation point, scoring seven times in the first half and cruising to a 49-0 region win over Brantley County.

Brodey Hancock kicked three field goals, Kaden Chester scored twice, and quarterback Lyndon Worthy connected with Jayden Farley and Jace Collier for touchdowns. Treshaun Jones added a rushing score.

The defense dominated, holding Brantley to minus-6 rushing yards and 28 total yards. Dashaun Rockwell capped the shutout with a pick-six.

Worth (6-0, 2-0) hosts No. 3 Thomasville (5-1) next week in a top-five showdown.

Sherwood Christian 34, Valwood 30

VALDOSTA — Sherwood Christian needed every bit of a 16-play drive to stay unbeaten. Quarterback Tripp Roberts capped it with a one-yard sneak with 23 seconds left, and David Albano’s interception at the 8-second mark clinched a 34-30 region win.

Roberts rushed for 155 yards and two scores and threw for 129. Chuck Lagrange added 77 rushing yards and a touchdown catch. Albano delivered four tackles, two sacks, a fumble recovery, a blocked PAT, and the game-saving interception.

The Eagles (7-0) have won 17 straight and will host Westwood next week.

Thomas County Central 35, Lee County 21

THOMASVILLE — Lee Coun-

ty pushed No. 2-ranked Thomas County Central to the brink but couldn’t overcome penalties in a 35-21 road loss.

Jordan Bush threw an 80-yard touchdown to Jaden Upshaw and added an 88-yard scoring run. Dominique Ball tied it 21-21 in the third, but the Jackets immediately answered and pulled away.

Bush finished with 302 total yards. Upshaw caught four passes for 116.

Lee (4-2) faces Coffee (3-3) next week in Douglas.

Other scores
Southland Academy 44, Terrell Academy 7

Sumter County 62, Jordan O Early County 18, Seminole County 7 Randolph-Clay 36, Pelham O Miller County 28, Terrell County O Pataula Charter 28, Calhoun County 7
Vidalia Heritage 53, Westwood 14

Oregon, Ole Miss rewarded for huge wins with Top-4 rankings

Field Level Media

Oregon and Ole Miss parlayed Top-4 victories into Top-4 rankings in the latest AP Top 25 poll, released Sunday afternoon.

Oregon supplanted Miami at No. 2 just behind top-ranked Ohio State — a 24-6 winner over Washington — while Miami is now third, and Ole Miss is fourth.

The Ducks defeated previous No. 3 Penn State in Happy Valley 30-24 in overtime on Saturday to get to 5-0 this year. The Rebels likewise stayed undefeated (5-0), upending previous No. 4 LSU, 24-19.

No. 4 is Ole Miss’ highest ranking since 2015.

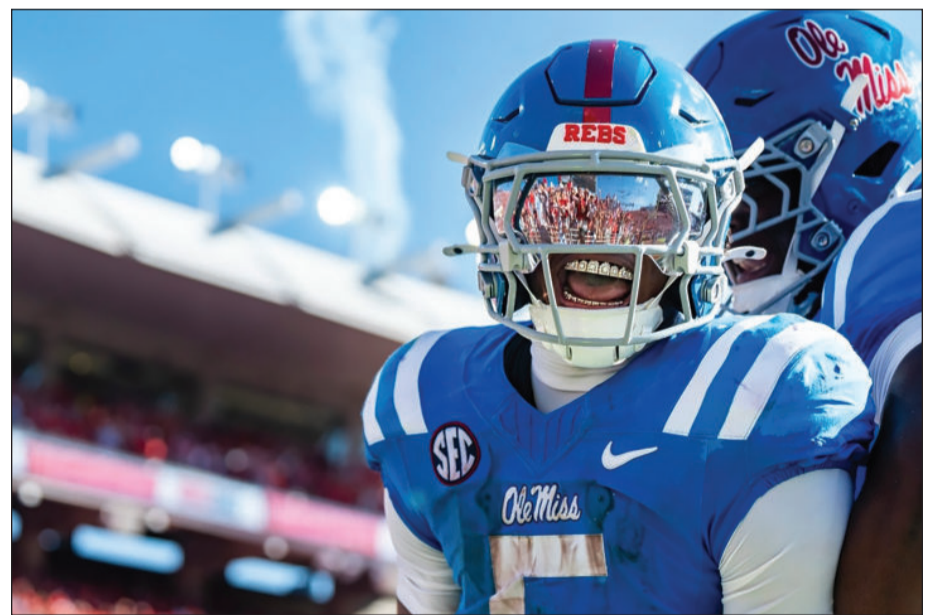
Penn State fell to seventh, while the Tigers are now 13th.

Texas A&M climbed to sixth after its 16-10 win over Auburn, while Indiana moved up to eighth after defeating Iowa 20-15.

Oklahoma rose to fifth and Texas rose to ninth during bye weeks.

Georgia’s 24-21 loss to Alabama knocked the Bulldogs down to 12th, two spots below the aforementioned Crimson Tide, and their lowest ranking since 2020.

Florida State, despite its dominant Week 1 win over Alabama, was the week’s biggest dropper after its 46-38 overtime loss to Virginia. The Seminoles are now 18th after dropping 10 spots, while Virginia made its



Special Photo: Ayrton Breckenridge/Clarion Ledger

The Ole Miss Rebels (5-0) knocked off LSU Saturday afternoon and saw their top 25 ranking climb to No. 4, their highest ranking since 2015.

first poll debut in six years at No. 24.

Arizona State also reentered the poll at No. 25 after beating TCU Friday night.

TCU and Southern Cal fell out of the rankings.

The full top 25 is as follows:

1. Ohio State (4-0)
2. Oregon (5-0)
3. Miami (4-0)
4. Ole Miss (5-0)
5. Oklahoma (4-0)
6. Texas A&M (4-0)
7. Penn State (3-1)
8. Indiana (5-0)
9. Texas (3-1)
10. Alabama (3-1)
11. Texas Tech (5-0)
12. Georgia (3-1)
13. LSU (4-1)
14. Iowa State (5-0)
15. Tennessee (4-1)
16. Vanderbilt (5-0)
17. Georgia Tech (5-0)
18. Florida State (3-1)
19. Missouri (5-0)
20. Michigan (3-1)
21. Notre Dame (2-2)
22. Illinois (4-1)
23. BYU (4-0)
24. Virginia (4-1)
25. Arizona State (4-1)

Braves beat Pirates in Charlie Morton's likely farewell

Field Level Media

Chris Sale pitched 5 2/3 strong innings, Ronald Acuna Jr. provided the offense with a home run and the Atlanta Braves closed the season with a 4-1 win over the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

Atlanta (76-86) salvaged a game in the three-game series. Pittsburgh (71-81) won the season series against the Braves 4-2.

Sale entered the game with one out in the second inning. He approved the idea of coming out of the bullpen to give 41-year-old veteran Charlie Morton, a former Brave, what is expected to be the final start of his career.

In his first appearance out of the bull-

pen since 2012, Sale (7-5) pitched 5 2/3 innings and allowed one run on four hits and two walks, with nine strikeouts.

Tyler Kinley pitched a scoreless eighth and Raisel Iglesias worked a perfect ninth to earn his 29th save.

Ronald Acuna Jr. got the Braves on the board in the first inning with a two-run blast that traveled 451 feet deep into the bleachers in left-center field. It was the 21st homer for Acuna.

Morton, signed by Atlanta after he was released by Detroit this week, pitched 1 and a third scoreless innings and left after striking out Alexander Canario on a curveball, the signature pitch of Morton's career. He departed to an extended standing ovation after what is

expected to be the final appearance of his 18-year career.

Pittsburgh starter Johan Oviedo (2-1) pitched five innings and allowed two runs on three hits and three walks with three strikeouts.

Pittsburgh got its run in the sixth on an RBI single by Joey Bart.

Atlanta added two insurance runs in the eighth. Matt Olson singled in a run and scored when Jared Triolo made a bad throw to first base.

Morton became the 71st player used by the Braves this season, breaking the MLB record of 70 set by Miami in 2024 and matched by Baltimore this season. Morton was the 46th pitcher used by the club.



Special Photo: Jordan Godfree-Imagn Images

Atlanta Braves pitcher Charlie Morton embraces fellow pitcher Chris Sale after what is expected to be the final appearance of his 18-year major league career in Sunday's 4-1 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates at Truist Park.

Michael Penix, Bijan Robinson power Falcons past Commanders

Field Level Media

ATLANTA — Michael Penix Jr. completed 20 of 26 passes for 313 yards, two touchdowns and an interception on Sunday, as the Atlanta Falcons posted a 34-27 victory over the visiting Washington Commanders.

Bijan Robinson had four catches for 106 yards, while rushing for 75 yards and a score as the Falcons (2-2) beat Washington for the first time since 2018 following four straight losses in the series. Drake London had eight catches for 110 yards and a score in the win.

Former Atlanta quarterback Marcus Mariota started for Washington in place of the injured Jayden Daniels. Mariota threw for 156 yards, two touchdowns and an interception for the Com-

manders (2-2), who were out-gained 435-294. Matt Gay went 4-for-4 on field goal attempts in the loss.

Trailing by seven after half-time, Washington cut Atlanta's lead to 17-13 on Gay's 52-yard field goal at the 10:12 mark of the third.

On the next play from scrimmage, Penix found Robinson out of the backfield, who ran 69 yards to Washington's 7-yard line. Penix then connected with Kyle Pitts for a 7-yard touchdown pass to give the Falcons a 24-13 lead.

Mariota and Penix traded interceptions before Gay's 40-yard field goal then trimmed Washington's deficit to eight.

Atlanta answered with a seven-play, 72-yard drive, stamped with Tyler Allgeier's 15-yard rushing touchdown, extending the lead to 31-16.

On fourth-and-three from Atlanta's 24-yard line, Mariota perfectly placed a touchdown pass to Deebo Samuel. Mariota found Zach Ertz on the two-point conversion, pulling Washington within seven at the 8:48 mark of the fourth.

Atlanta converted its first three third down attempts on the next drive, including Penix's 22-yard pass to Pitts, which ultimately set up John Parker Romo's 26-yard field goal.

After advancing to Atlanta's 24-yard line, Gay drilled his fourth field goal with 1:33 left. Pitts recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the win.

Romo's 38-yard field goal began the scoring in the first quarter, before Penix hit London on a 5-yard touchdown pass to extend the Falcons'



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Atlanta quarterback Michael Penix and running back Bijan Robinson led the Falcons to their second win of the season Sunday at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

lead to 10-0 with 49 seconds left in the opening quarter.

Mariota then found Luke McCaffrey for a 5-yard touchdown to cut the Commanders' deficit to three at the 11:31 mark of the second quarter.

After Penix's 43-yard pass

to London, Robinson juiced and spun his way to a 14-yard touchdown, pushing Atlanta's lead back to 10 with 8:27 left in the first half.

Gay's 43-yard field goal then trimmed Washington's deficit to 17-10.

Bainbridge announces coaching change

By Joe Whitfield

Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — Change came swiftly for the Bainbridge Bearcats. Less than 24 hours after a lopsided loss to rival Cairo dropped them to 0-6, the Decatur County school system announced Saturday that head coach Jay Walls has been relieved of his duties.

Defensive coordinator Mike Harville will take over as acting head coach for the remainder of the season, effective immediately.

Walls' tenure was brief and bumpy. In his second season, he leaves with a record of 1-15, the lone victory coming in last year's finale against Dougherty. Bainbridge opened this year with six straight defeats, capped by Friday's 35-6 setback against Cairo.

It wasn't long ago that Bearcats football had a much different look. Under longtime coach Jeff Littleton, Bainbridge was a regular in the state rankings and played for a Class 5A championship in the 2018-19 season. The program that once prided itself on deep playoff runs is now searching for direction.

Harville inherits a roster that has shown flashes but has yet to put together a complete performance. His debut will come Friday night in Albany, when the Bearcats face Westover at Hugh Mills Stadium.

For Bainbridge, a school with a proud football tradition, the second half of the season becomes about more than wins and losses. It's about restoring an identity that, for now, feels lost.

Moving the Chains: Takeaways from Week 5

By Scott Ludwig

Magic Ludwig1@gmail.com

Last week two schools, UCLA and Virginia Tech, fired their head coaches. I mentioned things happen in three's. So this week Oklahoma State completed the trifecta by firing Mike Gundy, the second-longest tenured coach in college football (20 years), behind Iowa's Kirk Ferentz (26).

Also last week, tickets for the October 4 'Battle of Florida' in Tallahassee between Miami and FSU were being sold for well over \$1,000 in the secondary market. After the Seminoles loss to unranked Virginia in double overtime, the value of the tickets is dropping faster than the price of gasoline during Covid. Make no mistake: besides turning over the ball 3 times apiece, both teams played well. Only the Cavaliers played better — at least when the game was on the line. The game went into overtime when FSU threw an improbable 11-yard touchdown pass with 36 seconds left in the game, the extra point tying the game at 35. Worth mentioning: a lengthy booth review was needed to confirm the receiver caught the ball. Then the teams traded field goals in the first OT period, and Virginia scored a TD/2 point conversion in the second. Then FSU scored what appeared to be a TD of their own on third down, but another lengthy booth review determined the receiver bobbled the pass before running through the back of the end zone. On fourth down FSU threw an interception. Game over: UVA — 46, FSU — 38.

All that to ask this: why are so many passes being examined under a microscope to determine whether or not they were completed? The officials are turning the process into rocket science. How about using this rationale: if it looks like a duck and quacks like a

duck, call it a duck. Besides, if the NCAA is really serious about booth reviews, they should consider giving questionable pass interference at the very least a second look.

Another question: is it just me, or does it seem like the most popular recreational activity in Australia is punting footballs? It seems every college football team's punter hails from Down Under these days.

Now that Notre Dame won a game and is ranked (#22), their 56 — 13 win over Arkansas, a team from the SEC, will probably catapult the into the Top Ten. Forget about the fact that in the 5+ seasons with Sam Pittman as their head coach, the Razorbacks are 14 — 29 in conference games. Incidentally, Pittman's buyout is just \$9.3 million; Gundy's was 15.

#23 Illinois kicked a 40-yard field goal as time expired to upset #21 USC, 34 — 32. By the way, one of the announcers called it an 'upset.' In my book, any time a team from the west coast loses, it's par for the course. Which reminds me: #1 Ohio State beat Washington, 24 — 6.

In the biggest Big Ten game of the week, #3 Penn State hosted #6 Oregon. It was the Nittany Lions' 8th White Out game, which thus far had generated mediocre results (4 wins in 7 games). Head coach James Franklin had something to prove, as his record at Penn State against ranked teams is 15 — 28, which includes a disappointing 4 — 20 record against teams in the Top Ten. Against everyone else, his record is 89 — 14. It took a couple of overtime periods, but Franklin didn't disappoint: Oregon — 30, Penn State — 24. Also of note: Penn State's record in White Out games is now even at 4 — 4.

The two ranked 'brainiac schools' — #16 Georgia Tech

and #18 Vanderbilt — both won to up their records to 5 — 0. Vandy had to break a sweat early in the game against Utah State before pulling ahead for a 55 — 35 win. Tech, on the other hand, probably would have lost in regulation to Wake Forest had it not been for the referees missing an offsides penalty against them that was so blatant Wake's quarterback just knew he had a free play and threw a Hail Mary that fell incomplete., which ultimately led to the game going into overtime. Tech scored a TD and kicked the extra point; Wake scored a TD and fell short on a two-point conversion. Final score: Tech — 30, Wake — 29.

Let's take a closer look at how Tech and Vandy came to be ranked. Other than being undefeated, of course. In their first 4 games, Tech's opponents were a composite 7 — 9; none of their opponents had a winning record. For Vandy, their 4 opponents weren't even that strong: their composite record was 4 — 12. Vandy still has to face Alabama, LSU, and Texas. Meanwhile, the only true test Tech has left is their season finale against Georgia. In short, at this point it's much too early to think of either team as worthy of the playoffs because there are still important games to be played, even though Tech has just one ... and that one, Georgia, will be out for blood (you'll find out why shortly).

By the way, my early favorite for the Heisman is Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia, who threw for a team record 5 touchdowns against Utah State, and has been virtually unstoppable this season.

Despite the fact that #15 Tennessee coach Josh Heupel followed the Les Miles handbook of clock mismanagement to a T at the end of regulation, the Vols managed to pull out a 41 — 34 overtime

victory over previously undefeated Mississippi State on the road. For the Bulldogs, it was their 13th consecutive loss in SEC games. Rumor has it that they've already October 18th circled on their calendars, which is when they play the Florida Gators in the Swamp. Florida head coach Billy Napier could not be reached for comment, although there's a chance he may have mailed it in. Then again, I might have that last part confused with the Gators' performance in their last three games.

#13 Ole Miss defended their home turf against #4 LSU, a game that can be summarized in four words: down geaux the Tigers. Final score: Miss — 24, LSU — 19. #9 Texas A&M beat Auburn, 16 — 10, that was every bit as exciting as you would expect a 16 — 10 game to be.

#5 Georgia hosted #17 Alabama in Athens. The Bulldogs were defending a 33-game winning streak at home; however, on the flip side of the coin coach Kirby Smart's record against the Crimson Tide was just 1 — 7. Meanwhile, it's no secret that Alabama's Kalen DeBoer desperately needed another signature win. One year ago, the Crimson Tide beat the #2 Georgia Bulldogs in Tuscaloosa for his first. But now, after 16 games with the Crimson Tide, his record was 11 — 5, well below the standards set by his predecessor, the legendary Nick Saban, who lost only 5 times combined in his 7 best seasons at Alabama. As for the outcome of the game, if you remember what I said about James Franklin's record against Top Ten teams, then you also remember what I just said about Kirby Smart's record against Alabama. The outcome could have been different, had Georgia kicked a short field goal late in the

game. Instead, the Bulldogs opted to go for it on fourth down, but the running back was tripped up behind the line of scrimmage and Alabama got the ball on downs and secured the win. Smart's decision to forego a field goal proved not to be very, well, smart. Final score: Alabama — 24, Georgia — 21.

Two more games to report. Remember Syracuse, who one week ago went into Death Valley and left with a two-touchdown win over Clemson? This week they lost to Duke. By five touchdowns. At home.

One more, and it's for my sister. The Old Dominion Monarchs beat the Liberty Flames, 21 — 7, despite losing the ball 4 times (3 fumbles, 1 interception). Please don't ask me why any of that matters. You'll have to ask her.

From 9A

FABRIZIO

On Sunday evening, the Lee County Touchdown Club — the booster organization that supports Trojan football — released a message of support for Fabrizio.

"The Lee County Touchdown Club wishes to issue a statement in support of our Head Football Coach, Dean Fabrizio," the statement read. "We recognize that he will be taking a temporary leave to attend to personal issues, which are entirely unrelated to his professional duties or interactions with students. We wholeheartedly support our Coach, having witnessed his unwavering commitment to the welfare and development of players throughout his 17 years at Lee. As he navigates these personal challenges, he deserves our compassion, prayers, and support. We eagerly anticipate his return and appreciate the continued support of the Lee County faithful. Rest assured, our team

will be in capable hands until his return. Thank you, Steven Glover, President."

The announcement comes two days after No. 7-ranked Lee County fell 35-21 to No. 2 Thomas County Central in a key Region 1-5A matchup in Thomasville. The Trojans are 3-2 overall this season.

Fabrizio is among the most successful coaches in Georgia high school football. Since taking over at Lee County in 2008, he has built the Trojans into a perennial power, winning two state championships and multiple region titles. His teams have reached the postseason in 13 of the last 14 years, including an undefeated run to the Class 5A semifinals last season before falling to eventual state champion Milton.

Before the season, Fabrizio was recognized by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as the No. 3 best coaching hire in Georgia since 2000.

The Trojans are scheduled to play in Douglas Friday night against the Coffee Trojans.

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: What ever happened to Matt Dillon? He's always been one of my favorite actors, but his career seems to have slowed down in recent years.

-- L.P.

A: The now 61-year-old actor Matt Dillon first came on the Hollywood scene as a teen heartthrob in movies like "My Bodyguard" and "The Outsiders." He graduated into more mature roles and, along with it, earned critical acclaim for "Drugstore Cowboy" and "The Saint of Fort Washington." His good looks combined with his wide range of talent in both comedy and drama made him the Brad Pitt of the '80s and '90s.

His biggest hit was the hilarious comedy "There's Something About Mary," but just a few short years later, he'd earn his first Oscar nomination playing a racist cop in the Oscar-winning film "Crash." This was 20 years ago, and he's been acting steadily since but in projects that aren't very memorable.

He did appear in Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City" in 2023, but his subsequent projects weren't exactly lighting up critics. Hopefully he'll bounce back soon, but perhaps he's happy about not being swarmed by paparazzi and creating indie films at his own pace.

Q: When is "Outlander" coming back? Is it the last season, or will there be more?

-- E.B.

A: The final season of "Outlander," which is based on the series of novels by Diana Gabaldon, recently released the trailer for its upcoming season, but fans will have to wait until early 2026 for the new episodes. In the preview, Claire (Caitriona Balfe) and Jamie (Sam Heughan) are approached by a mysterious person. Their iden-

tity isn't revealed, of course, but judging by Claire's shocked face, the man is the last person she expected (to see alive?).

Since the time-traveling series debuted on Starz, each of its seven seasons has told a story from each of Gabaldon's books. However, she's now working on her 10th novel of the series. So, this final season could include not only content from her eighth book ("Written in My Own Heart's Blood") but also her ninth ("Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone").

According to TVLine, "one plot that is not in the novels but will be addressed at the top of the final season" involves the season seven finale cliffhanger of "whether Claire and Jamie's daughter, Faith, somehow survived what we thought was her stillbirth in season two."

Q: Is the actress who starred in "iCarly" in a new reality show about Paris, Texas? It looks a lot like her.

-- D.S.

A: Yes, that's Miranda Cosgrove in Netflix's "The Wrong Paris." But it's not a reality show; it's a comedy film about such a show. Cosgrove, who portrayed the titular character in Nickelodeon's "iCarly" (2007-2012) and the subsequent reboot on Paramount+, plays Dawn, a 25-year-old artist who joins a dating show in Paris only to realize it's the small town in Texas and not "the City of Love." Cosgrove also recently told Entertainment Weekly that an "iCarly" movie is in the works, which should wrap up the cliffhanger from the end of the third season of the reboot.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.
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BAKE BREAD PUDDING FROM YESTERDAY'S CINNAMON ROLLS

We often enjoy cinnamon rolls for morning coffee when relatives come for a visit during this time of year. We either pick them up at a bakery or bake this easy recipe with anyone who wants to get their hands in the dough! The next day, the "leftovers" can be transformed into a yummy "Apple Pecan Bread Pudding." Try it out for yourself:

EASY FAMILY CINNAMON ROLLS

- 1 package of yeast roll mix, or a batch of yeast bread dough
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cinnamon
- Raisins and nuts, if desired

For the glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk

Prepare and roll the bread dough into a 10-by-12-inch rectangle. Spread the dough with butter or margarine, and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Add raisins and nuts, if desired.

Roll the dough up along the long side. Slice the dough into 1-inch rounds using a bread knife. Or try dental floss to cut the dough by placing it under the large roll of dough. Lift the floss and quickly crisscross it through the dough roll to make a round.

Place dough rounds in a 9-inch pan, cover, and let rise about 1 hour. Bake in an oven set to 350 F for 35 minutes. Cool.

Stir together the powdered sugar and milk in a small bowl. Drizzle glaze over cinnamon rolls.

APPLE PECAN BREAD PUDDING

- 8-ounces day-old cinnamon rolls, cubed
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup sliced, peeled apples
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup sugar, if desired
- Maple syrup

Coat an 8- or 9-inch cake pan with nonstick spray. Place the bread cubes in the pan, and toss in the pecans and apples. Blend the eggs, milk and sugar (optional) in a medium bowl. Add vanilla.

Pour the mixture over the bread and let stand for about 20 minutes. Bake in an oven set to 350 F for about 45 minutes, until golden brown. Cut into squares to serve. Serve with warm maple syrup.

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.
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JOBS

Full-Time

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The Millennium Center - Cuthbert, GA
Program Manager

Program Manager needed for managing the daily operations of a substance use treatment program in Cuthbert, GA. Minimum requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field from an accredited institution, a CAC Level II, one (1) year supervisory experience and five (5) years experience working with chemically dependent individuals. For more information and application instructions, go to www.voase.org/careers. EOE/Drug Free Workplace/E-Verify.

Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Security Camera System (Lipsev Homes)

Construction/Service Bids

RFP packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations dance@albanyha.com beginning September 16, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by October 16, 2025 to Deneshia Taylor-Nance, Associate VP of Field Operations, at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702, with the titled subject of either of the proposals above or emailed to dance@albanyha.com. Documents must be in a clear, legible, 12-point, 8.5 by 11-inch format.

Respondents are advised to adhere to the submittal requirements. Failure to comply with the instructions of this RFP will be cause for rejection of submittals. Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing via email to dance@albanyha.com or call 229-434-4500.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- Architectural Services for Public Housing Renovations (Dennis Homes)
- Redevelopment of William Binns Homes

RFP packets may be picked up at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, or requested via e-mail to Douglas Holdridge, Modernization Director at dholdridge@albanyha.com beginning August 12, 2025.

Original responses must be delivered (and sealed) via hard copy by October 1, 2025 to Douglas Holdridge, Modernization Director, at 521 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702, with the titled subject of the proposal above. Documents must be in a clear, legible, 12-point, 8.5 by 11-inch format.

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

Revision 1
Page 1: property Address clarification: William Binn, also known as AMP 2" homes consist of two separate properties. 1) William Binn Homes, actual property, is located at 500 S. Van Buren St Albany GA. 2) Holly Homes is located at 921 Cherry St Albany GA.

Revision 2
Page 1: Submission deadline: Update the date of submission to December 1st, 2025, 1:00 PM.

Revision 3:
Page 5 section 7: Proposal submission Instructions Update to include electronic submission. Please submit to Dnace@albanyha.com

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

" D U M U G W W P V J W D J Y J D T Z G L D E . . .
Z G L D E G W U O D T L R O G Y J E M Z J U N B J
A M N Z J U D Z J G A U J N U D Z J G A U J N
U D Z J . " - R U J Y D J T D E I R

Previous Solution: "His directing of 'Gandhi' was stunning — Richard Attenborough was one of the greats of cinema." — David Cameron
TODAY'S CLUE: *yr sembo*
© NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 9-30

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 chopped cabbage salad (8)	_____
2 Nancy Drew, for one (9)	_____
3 in a direct, candid way (7)	_____
4 hens and drakes (5)	_____
5 Alberta's capital (8)	_____
6 actor Sterling K. (5)	_____
7 on horseback, perhaps (10)	_____

ESL	COL	DET	AN	IVE
ECT	KLY	BR	STR	EDM
LI	ADD	AW	DU	ONT
NG	ON	OWN	CKS	FR

Saturday's Answers: 1. COPILLOT 2. OVERTHROW 3. BOUILLON 4. BUTTERFLY 5. FREETOWN 6. DISTRACTION 7. DONNA 9/29

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 early version (5)	_____
2 safari sight (5)	_____
3 towering over (8)	_____
4 the Aleutian Islands, e.g. (11)	_____
5 not as cool (5)	_____
6 what's left behind (7)	_____
7 shrewd caution (8)	_____

DUE	DWA	DRA	ARC	RHI
NO	RE	RF	EL	ER
ING	PR	AGO	FT	EN
UD	CE	SI	LAM	HIP

Monday's Answers: 1. COLESLAW 2. DETECTIVE 3. FRANKLY 4. DUCKS 5. EDMONTON 6. BROWN 7. STRADDLING 9/30

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- "Power Up" rock band
- Follow a command
- Bring to a bubble
- Helps with the dishes
- Jakarta's island
- Documents submitted after a fender bender
- Mix
- Alabama march city
- Detectives, briefly
- Like antiques
- "I thought you just left!"
- Includes furtively on an email
- Sippy cup user
- The "I" of IV
- "I'm so relaxed!"
- Fly like a hawk
- Make reparations
- Is a trailblazer
- Centipede maker
- "Consequently ..."
- "Don't be that ___!"
- Snooping sorts
- Gear tooth
- Animation frames
- Six-time "Dancing With the Stars" champion
- "Ewe talking to me?"
- Lanka
- Wear away
- Crafts partner
- Wealthy, and what 17-, 24-, 39-, and 50-Across literally are
- Hide-and-___
- Alternative to Midol
- Image reshared for laughs
- "Nothing to it!"
- Makes it to the end
- Spanish "those"

DOWN

- Preschool basics
- Sprouse of "Riverdale"
- Rotary phone part
- Tackles a rock face
- File format for some invoices
- ace: LGBT+ orientation
- Title for the Black Knight
- Pace set by a metronome
- Home of St. Francis
- Some brunch drinks, for short
- Mall of Louisiana city
- Rather wicked
- Place for a swing set
- "Ewe OK?"
- Acoustic location devices
- Execs behind R&D breakthroughs
- Zen master's paradox
- Loosen up before exercising
- Uno less than nove
- Daddy, in Chinese
- Golf course rentals
- Companions who don't mind fast food
- Void
- Racers who make tracks
- Ben & Jerry's rival
- "Brown Skin" singer India. ___
- "What a thrill!"
- "Loki" actress Mbatha-Raw
- Story told in episodes
- Safari alternative
- In a way, casually
- Diamond or ruby
- First coat of paint
- rug: floor decor
- Tip jar bills
- Showroom model
- Organs closed during sleep
- Cloud location
- Sets in hotel rooms
- Smashing success
- Golf great Ernie

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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

09/30/25



Special Logo

Albany Technical College will join Georgia AIM (Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing) and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in hosting AIM for Tomorrow: AgriTech in Action Wednesday at ATC's Kirkland Conference Center.

Albany Tech plans AIM for Tomorrow ag day

ALBANY — Albany Technical College will join Georgia AIM (Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing) and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in hosting AIM for Tomorrow: AgriTech in Action Wednesday at ATC's Kirkland Conference Center.

This interactive Georgia AIM Week event will showcase how manufacturing, workforce training and emerging technologies are transforming the future of agriculture in Georgia.

The event kicks off at 9 a.m. and continues to 1 p.m.

Attendees will receive information on the latest technology in hydroponics, aquaponics and blockchain solutions for agritech from experts in those fields. There also will be hands-on lab activities. For additional information, contact Clinton Vicks at Atlanta's Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs at cvicks@russellcenter.org or call (202) 236-8115.

Promotional opportunity

SAN DIEGO — Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Takeria Jones from Albany is pinned by her family during a chief petty officer pinning ceremony in the hangar bay aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln is currently moored pier-side at Naval Air Station North Island.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Gage Thomas.



UGA celebrates 10 straight years among the nation's Top 20 universities

By Hannah Gallant
UGA/CAES

ATHENS — For the 10th consecutive year, the University of Georgia has placed in the top 20 among the nation's best public universities, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2026 rankings. UGA shares the No. 19 rank with Purdue University.

"The University of Georgia consistently stands among the nation's leading universities," UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "Our achievements over the past decade are a testament to the extraordinary talent of our faculty, staff and students, and to the unwavering support of alumni and friends who continually help us build on a strong foundation of excellence."

UGA and Georgia Tech remain the only two Georgia institutions in the top 20, making Georgia and California the only two states with multiple universities ranked in that tier. Among private and public universities, UGA placed No. 46 in the nation, ranked just above Case Western Reserve University and Texas A&M University and tying with Purdue University and the University of Rochester.

The USNWR rankings echo recognition from earlier this year. UGA ranked No. 18 among public universities nationwide according to Forbes and moved into the

top 10 national public universities ranking by Niche. UGA also was ranked No. 2 in the nation for best student life and No. 10 for best college campuses according to Niche. Additional accolades from Princeton Review include No. 12 among best value public schools, No. 8 for best alumni networks and No. 10 for access to financial aid.

Several individual university programs received high marks in the USNWR rankings. The Terry College of Business rose to a record No. 19, up four from the previous year, for undergraduate business programs. Once again, the college's insurance program ranked No. 1 in the nation. Terry's real estate program was No. 4, its management and information systems program was No. 13, and the marketing program ranked No. 25.

Earlier this year, Terry's full-time MBA placed among the top 20 public programs nationally in the USNWR rankings of best graduate schools. The program was rated by the Financial Times as No. 1 best value for the money worldwide. The Terry College's full-time MBA also achieved a record high ranking of No. 23 overall and No. 7 among public universities according to recent data from Bloomberg Businessweek.

UGA has also been recognized by USNWR for its ac-



Special Photo

UGA is regularly ranked among the country's top universities for study-abroad opportunities.

ademic innovation, ranking No. 33 among the nation's most innovative schools. In addition, the university placed No. 27 in undergraduate teaching.

"Our strong track record in national rankings highlights UGA's commitment to student achievement and the strategic investments we have made to support their success," said Marisa Pagnattaro, vice president for instruction and senior vice provost for academic planning. "These rankings affirm how our targeted initiatives including experiential and active learning are making a measurable difference in student success."

That student success translates to real-world value. UGA is one of only nine public universities in the U.S. with a 90% or higher six-year graduation rate. More than two-thirds of graduates remain in Georgia following graduation, and 95% are employed or continuing

education within six months.

This year's incoming class is one of the most academically qualified in the university's history, boasting an average high school GPA of 4.17, an average ACT score of 31 and an average SAT score of 1,356. The institution remains invested in students, increasing the accessibility of a UGA education with more than 1,000 need-based endowed scholarships.

Nowhere is UGA's commitment to excellence more evident than in the number of students who have received prestigious scholarships and fellowships. In the last decade, UGA has had four Rhodes Scholars, 64 Boren Fellow and Scholar offers, 11 Schwarzman Scholars, three Truman Scholars and 22 Goldwater Scholars. The university has been a top 3 producer of Rhodes Scholars among public institutions for the last 30 years.



Special Photo

Winchester Paint and Body in Albany, a second-generation family-owned business, expanded its services during Fiscal Year 2025, part of statewide expansion that helped Georgia maintain its No. 1 state for business title.

Georgia maintains business momentum with company expansions

By Ty Tagami
Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — It was another boom year for Georgia, as businesses continued flocking to the state, burnishing its record as the No. 1 place to do business.

A record-breaking \$26.3 billion flowed into the Peach State for the fiscal year that ended June 30, as companies expanded or established new locations. That is according to the office of Gov. Brian Kemp, which said the growth will translate to 23,300 new private-sector jobs over the next few years.

Area Development magazine has consistently ranked Georgia as the top state for business.

Kemp credited the state Department of Economic Development with fostering an attractive business environment. The state has supplied more than \$18 million to help rural communities prepare new industrial sites through its Rural Site Development Initiative, Kemp's office said. There are now more than 70 certified sites.

Kemp said the effort "will pay off for generations."

Company expansions at existing locations were the major driver, with 77% of the growth occurring outside metro Atlanta. But the 10-county Atlanta region remains a business hub, hosting major companies such as Duracell and Mercedes-Benz.

International investment was a major reason for the continued growth, with more than 6,500 jobs coming from expansions or new locations at companies from countries such as the Republic of Korea, Japan and Canada.

State lawmakers pledged to continue collaborating with the Kemp administration, crediting the state's ports, railways, energy systems and other infrastructure — and higher education.

"We continue to invest in workforce programs to ensure a steady talent pipeline with our existing industry partners," Lt. Gov. Burt Jones said. "These investments and initiatives will ensure we have a work force that is growing and able to meet skill sets for jobs of today and tomorrow."

Milledgeville woman found guilty in pandemic loan fraud scheme

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MACON — A Milledgeville resident was found guilty of wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain COVID-19 relief funds guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration through the Paycheck Protection Program, with most of the funds received used for luxury cars and personal expenses.

Rosalend Way, 40, of Milledgeville, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of money laundering on Sept. 24, following a three-day trial. Way is facing a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 2.

Codefendant, James Frank Austin, 51, of Ameri-

cus pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, two counts of bank fraud and two counts of money laundering on Aug. 27. Austin is facing a maximum of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. Austin is scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 19.

U.S. District Judge Marc Treadwell is presiding over the case.

"Our office will pursue justice against those who exploited a taxpayer-funded program created to sustain citizens during a national emergency," U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said in a news release. "Our federal investigative and prosecutorial team is committed to holding these offenders accountable."

"Way and Austin chose to commit fraud, further depleting funds designed to help people who struggled to survive during the pandemic," FBI Atlanta

Special Agent in Charge Paul Brown said. "The FBI and our law enforcement partners will continue to pursue criminals who cheat federal health programs and profit at the expense of American taxpayers."

According to court documents and evidence submitted at trial, Way and Austin applied for a PPP loan on behalf of Propel Opportunity Fund, a business established to raise capital through investors and use the funds to conduct pre-development work in underserved neighborhoods, preparing them for future development. The PPP loan application indicated that Propel had 18 employees with an average monthly payroll of \$420,558, and they needed the funds to make payroll, as well as to pay their mortgage interest and utilities.

The pair also submitted a fraudulent W-3 that indicated Propel paid \$4,999,789 in wages in 2019. Way claimed 100% ownership of Propel on the PPP loan application. IRS records from Propel's 2019 corporate tax return showed that the company did not pay any salaries or wages, nor did Propel's bank statements reflect payroll as suggested in the PPP application. The loan was approved and Propel received \$1,051,395.

Approximately \$500,000 ended up in bank accounts belonging to Way and was

spent on personal items including dining, retail, gas, groceries and cash withdrawals. Additionally, Austin used approximately \$30,000 in funds from another fraudulently obtained PPP loan to pay off Way's Mercedes-Benz.

Austin submitted a fraudulent PPP loan application on May 9, 2020, on behalf of the Austin Smith Center for Community Development. As a result of this fraudulent application, ASCCD was awarded a \$654,315 PPP loan. Austin also obtained another fraudulent PPP loan for Propel and received \$372,500 on March 15, 2021. Instead of these funds being spent for authorized expenditures under the PPP program, Austin used the money for personal expenses, including \$119,840 on a Bentley. Austin obtained a total of \$2,078,210 in fraudulent PPP loans.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Justice Department's National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline via the NCFD Web Complaint Form at <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

The FBI and the IRS investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elizabeth Howard and Hannah Couch are prosecuting the case for the government.

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