The Albany HERALD

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LOCAL MATTERS

Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2025

Perspectives
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Spooky contestants
Halloween spending
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‘Stay in the room:’
State Rep. Teddy Reese gives ASU Homecoming Convocation address

By Lucille Lannigan
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ALBANY – Albany State University students, faculty and alumni joined community members and leaders of the city of Albany for the university’s 2025 Homecoming Convocation.

The convocation, on Friday came after a week of celebration and ahead of ASU’s Saturday Football win, which saw the Golden Rams beat the Tuskegee Golden Tigers 7-3. Georgia Rep. Tremaine “Teddy” Reese, D-Columbus, was the ASU

See **ASU**, 2A

Fire station at Tift Park?
‘Definitively no’

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Albany city officials are not sure where the replacement Fire Station No. 2 will go, but they do know where it’s not going.

Tift Park.

And there is a chance that it will stay at the same location at 1500 Palmyra Road.

Residents’ reaction in April caused the Albany City Commission to delay a decision on the relocation, which at the time was a choice between the park and a second location a few blocks over at North Jefferson Street and Seventh Avenue.

Since that time no decision has been made, and the option of keeping it where it is has arisen.

See **FIRE STATION**, 2A



File Photo

Albany city officials confirmed that the idea to locate a replacement for Fire Station No. 2 at Tift Park has been abandoned. The city is waiting on design plans before making a final decision.

More than 150 participate in Albany ‘No Kings’ protest



Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan

About 160 southwest Georgians joined millions across the U.S. Saturday for “No Kings” protests against the Trump administration.

By Lucille Lannigan
lucille.lannigan@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – About 160 southwest Georgians joined millions across the U.S. Saturday for “No Kings” protests against the Trump administration.

Protestors stood at the busy intersection of Dawson Road and Westover Boulevard, waving signs with messages like “Albany says no kings” and “Hate won’t make America great,” for two hours. For every one angry shout or engine revving in disagreement, the protesters received countless supportive honks and cheers.

Seven million people participated in the largely peaceful day of protests across the country in opposition of President Trump’s agenda. Protesters showed up in both major cities and rural towns.

This was the second “No Kings” protest in Albany, and organizers said the crowd was much larger than the June protest crowd. The event attracted people from all across southwest Georgia from 7 to 70 years old. Albany protesters showed up to condemn Trump policies on immigration, veteran and military affairs, voting rights, health care and more.

“We’re here because we love our country, not because we hate it,” James Malphrus, one of the protest organizers, said.

The protest saw visits from two Georgia lieutenant gubernatorial candidates, Josh McLaurin and Richard Wright. Wright

See **PROTEST**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

MCLB-Albany gears up for 78th Toys for Tots program

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Despite a government shutdown that could preclude the traditional official kickoff celebration, the Christmas spirit will still shine through for the 2025 Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots campaign.

The organization is partnering with local governments, businesses and other nonprofits to bring holiday cheer to youngsters who otherwise may find nothing under the Christmas tree.

“Toys for Tots is helping underprivileged children and economically disadvantaged children have a better Christmas,” 1st Sgt. Paul Alejo Jr., coordinator for the southwest Georgia Toys for Tots effort, said. “(It’s) not just a gift, but a way of saying things are going to get better and you can pursue your dreams.”

While the Marines may not be rolling out the brightly colored train this year to announce the Toys for Tots launch for 2025, they are networking with the community to ensure that this year will be a success.

“We are officially working with our campaign,” Alejo said.

Last year, 11,646 toys were distributed to 3,716 children for the holidays in 14 southwest Georgia counties.

Since 1947, the Marine Corps Reserve has distributed 708 million toys to 314 million children through the annual program.

As always, area businesses can request a collection box for their location to remind their employees about the effort.

In addition, the campaign will hold an event with the city of Albany and the Albany Salvation Army on Oct. 29 for Small Busi-

See **MCLB**, 2A



Special Photo: MCLB-Albany

MCLB-Albany is set for its 78th Toys for Tots participations.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Phoebe Physicians



From 1A

PROTEST

said he stopped at protests in both Albany and Columbus to emphasize that the "No Kings" movement stretched beyond major cities like metro Atlanta.

As protesters shouted chants like, "We don't want no kings," Chris Dayani, an Albany resident, walked around and gathered signatures for a petition for the release of an Albany man who was detained by ICE in Miami. Dayani said the man had lived in the U.S. for 15 years. She collected several pages of signatures and handed out QR codes for a GoFundMe raising legal fees.

Rebecca Malphrus, a protest organizer, said Trump's immigration policies were top of mind for her when she planned the Albany No Kings protest. The Trump administration has followed through on its promised "crackdown" on illegal immigration, conducting violent raids and deploying ICE agents across American cities in search of illegal immigrants, frequently picking up legal U.S. residents in its attempts.

Rebecca Malphrus said she knows people from southwest Georgia who have been deported.

"This is an agricultural area, and the people that harvest our food that literally goes straight to our table are now scared to exist," she said. "Our constitution says that all people, all inhabitants, not just citizens, are entitled to due process, and that's being ignored."

Rebecca Malphrus said she's worried about the stripping of Federal funding and how it will impact southwest Georgia communities as well.

"Trump's taken funds designated for stuff like education, taken away insurance from the poorest people," she said. "That hurts poor communities like Albany and surrounding communities."

Annie Vanoteghem, an Albany resident, said the Albany area relies on federal funding because of its low income status, especially nonprofits and the public schools.

"We have so many kids ... where the only hot meal they're going to get is from their public schools, and the school nurse is going to be the only doctor they see that year," she said. "They start taking those things away, it's going to make it harder for people who are already disadvantaged to get to move up."

Several veterans joined the protest, Saturday.

Dwight Leonard, a 67-year-old Marine veteran, traveled from Sylvester to be a part of the movement.

"I wanted to come out because I am an American who spent 28 years and seven months in the Marines, and I don't like what they're doing to our military or our people," he said.

Leonard said the Trump administration disrespected military generals during the September gathering, at which top military leaders met in Virginia to hear from both Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. At this meeting, Trump suggested using U.S. cities as "training grounds for our military." Hegseth attacked what he called "woke" policies on diversity and gender inclusion. He told military leaders to "do the honorable thing and resign" if they don't like his new approach.

Leonard said he's concerned about Hegseth's new policy, which ends permanent medical shaving waivers for troops. Leonard said these waivers were important, especially for many black men, like himself, who have pseudofolliculitis, an inflammatory skin condition that results from frequent shaving of curly hair.

He said the Trump administration is also attacking Veterans Affairs. Leonard said he's already noticed longer wait times at the VA he goes to in Tuskegee, Ala.

"He's destroying the infrastructure within the VA, the military," Leonard said. "He wants to take away retirement benefits. He wants to strip down the federal government for his cronies."

Kaira Sariah, a 33-year-old Albany resident and Air Force veteran, said she's also worried about funding for the VA, especially when it comes to mental health support. After retiring from the military, Sariah worked for a nonprofit for veteran suicide prevention.

"(Trump's administration is) (D)emolishing the VA and their funding when there's already an insane suicide crisis going on with veterans," Sariah said. "For everyone that died overseas in the last 20 years, four have died at home by their own hand."

Sariah, who is from Albany, said she felt a strong sense of community and love at Saturday's protest.

"I've never been super political, but I do get down with spreading a message of love," she said. "Love can bring us together."

Several Saturday protesters came with a long history of protest. Dougherty County District 5 Commissioner Gloria Gaines was one of them, having participated in the Albany Civil Rights movement as a young girl, alongside Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s. So did Cuthbert Pastor Lamar Thomas, who marched in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 after the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, when the KKK claimed the lives of four African American girls. He held a sign that read "Hell no Kings," Saturday.

Mackenzie Carter, a 22-year-old Albany resident, said she was protesting for women's reproductive health and rights. Carter said she comes from a conservative family who voted for Trump and was nervous to attend her first protest, but she was more scared to not show up at all.

"I'm kind of terrified of the way this country is going and all of the hatred in it, and I'm fighting against all the hate, and I'm fighting not only for my reproductive rights, but my daughter's, and my future grandkids'," she said.

Yeshika Mann, an Albany resident, said she was concerned about the Trump Administration's attacks on the Civil Rights Act and voting rights, seeking to roll back civil rights protections for historically marginalized groups.

"America can't be great if it's not great for everyone," she said.

Vanoteghem said the Albany protest was a show of unity in the Albany community, which she said has a bipartisan population.

"People are coming together who would not typically march side by side," she said. "The community is banning together to take some control back. It's not just these big cities. It's not just thousands of people in a street. It's your neighbor and your co-worker and the dude you go to church with and your pastor."

From 1A

FIRE STATION

Earlier plans were to move the city's 911 call center out of the Dougherty County Judicial Building and combine it with a new fire station.

Under that scenario, the Palmyra Road site would have been too small for both facilities.

If 911 is not part of the picture, then the current location has sufficient space for a new station. Station No. 2 is more than 70 years old and is in line for replacement.

"We are definitely starting to move forward with Fire Station 2," Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs said. "We are moving in that direction."

When the April vote was taken, the Ward II commission seat was vacant, and that was a consideration in forgoing a vote at that time. The fire station is located within that ward.

About 55 residents, many holding signs stating "Save Tift Park," showed up for the April meeting to oppose locating the station within the park. Several commissioners said that they also had been contacted by residents opposed to that site.

The location of the fire station is expected to come up for consideration again in November, Jacobs said.

"We are not at the point to make any comments about the location," he said. "We are waiting on the final designs of the fire station."

One idea that has been floated for the North Jefferson Street site is for the relocation of the city's Recreation Department's administrative offices.

"The good thing is it's not going in Tift Park," Ward IV Commissioner Chad Warbington said. "We can definitively say that. Commissioner (Willie) Weaver said no definitively."





11-year-old entrepreneur to host Creepy Critters Pet Contest in Tifton

By Carlton Fletcher
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TIFTON -- Brinley Elizondo has been in love with animals as far back as she can remember. She just can't resist a furry face.

But unlike most of her peers who share her affection for pets, the 11-year-old -- "almost 12" -- has created a business to help provide healthier treats for pets who have a forever home and to help take care of the creatures that aren't fortunate enough to have a loving family.

Brinley started "Bean's Biscuits" a little over a year and a half ago, she said, "to get closer to animals and to make sure they had healthier treat options."

She makes chicken and beef, peanut butter, and peanut butter/pumpkin treats from healthy products for dogs and sells them at local events. Most of the money she makes is donated to the Tift Animal Shelter.

On Saturday, Brinley will host her first Creepy Critters Pet Costume Contest at the farmers market in downtown Tifton. Pet owners are invited to dress up their creatures and showcase them in the pet show for prizes and -- hopefully -- a whole lot of fun.

"People can sign up (on Bean's Biscuits' website) or come to the farmers market before 10:30 Saturday morning," Brinley said. "We're going to have first-through third-place prizes for the cutest pets, as determined by our judges.

"The top three will receive cash gift cards ($100, $20 and $10), toys and some of the dog treats I've made."

Entry fee is $20 per pet, and all funds raised will benefit the Tift Animal Shelter.



Special Photo

Eleven-year-old Brinley Elizondo started "Bean's Biscuits" to make healthier treats for dogs.

Brinley also will be selling her healthy, home-made dog treats at the farmers market.

"I got a book at the library called 'Forever Dog Life,' and it inspired me to start making healthy treats for dogs," the young entrepreneur said. "It talks about treating dogs healthier. It was written by a man who was friends with the owner of the oldest living dog.

"That inspired me. But I also wanted to do something for animals because I've loved them since forever."

The farmers market is located at 211 Main St. South in downtown Tifton.

City Tree Board to host ordinance review meeting

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Albany Tree Board will conduct an ordinance review meeting on Wednesday at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held in Suite 200, Room 232 of the 240 Pine Ave. Government Annex Building.

The Tree Board is a branch of the city's Engineering Department.



Staff Photo: Lucille Lannigan

Georgia state Rep. Tremaine "Teddy" Reese, D-Columbus, a 2003 graduate of Albany State University, gave ASU's Convocation Address during the 2025 ASU homecoming celebration.

From 1A

ASU

alumni who gave the convocation address. The celebration also included welcome remarks from Albany Mayor Bo Dorough and Dougherty County Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard. It was also new ASU President Robert Scott's first homecoming address since he took office in May.

"Homecoming is a celebration of the many achievements, the pride, spirit that connects our Albany State family," Scott said. "This year's theme, 'Reigniting the Flame,' reminds us of our shared responsibility ... our renewed commitment to the journey that Albany State University's on."

Dorough said he brought greetings to the ASU family from 70,000 Albany residents.

"Let me say, particularly to the alumni, welcome home," he said. "I know it is exciting for you to see these remarkably talented students. It's exciting to you to see new buildings, new programs as this institution moves forward. We welcome Dr. Scott. We're excited for the future of this institution. We know that with new administration, we have a new vision and new direction."

Dorough also apologized for the closure of the Oglethorpe Bridge, which would cause traffic disruption in downtown Albany as visitors made their way from west to east Albany to take part in homecoming activities.

"There is nothing in the world like homecoming at Albany State University," Heard said. "No one has done so much, for so many, for so long, with so little as Albany State University. ASU has impacted Albany, southwest Georgia, the state of Georgia, the U.S. and the world."

Kiersten Jones, the 83rd Miss Albany State University, welcomed the crowd with her sparkling crown along with the 13th Mister Albany State University, Brison Williams. Jonathan Bing, the president of the ASU Student Government Association, welcomed keynote speaker and ASU graduate Reese.

Reese was born in Gordon and was the first in his family to attend a college or university. He served as SGA president at ASU during his time as a student, graduating in 2003. He worked as a lawyer in Columbus and was elected to the Georgia House in 2022.

He emphasized the role his time at ASU played in him becoming a Georgia lawmaker.

"I never expected a little black boy from rural Georgia, raised in poverty by a single mother ... to one day hold a significant place in rooms where laws are made for almost 12 million Georgians," Reese said. "I was born in rural ... Georgia, but Albany State and Albany made me a man."

Reese talked about the historical significance of ASU and historically black colleges and universities in elevating black Americans. "We need" these institutions, he said.

"We need you, southwest Georgia. From Negro educational departments ... to black folks with PhDs, we need you," Reese said. "From youthful years being stolen by forcing our people to work in fields, to sitting on committees that develop agriculture policy in this state and in this country, we need you. From watching innocent people hanging from trees to sitting on the bench as judges administrating justice, we need you."

Reese spoke of the political, economic and social state of the U.S. today, calling it a "momentous" and "terrible" time.

"Without question, our world ... is threatened and tormented by international tension, national frustration, statewide agitation, and local character assassinations," Reese said. "We are seeing it all. Politicians talk less about ideas and more about their opponents. Business leaders are ditching the tried and true impacts of diversity and inclusion for lies, institutional racism, and separation. We can no longer take the back seat."

He called on the ASU alumni to vote, to stir up "good trouble" and most importantly, to stay in the room. He said there are many days, serving in the Georgia House, that he questions why he is there and if he's making an impact.

"My grandmother reminded me ... 'We fell, and died and bled so that you could get in the room. Now stay in the room,'" Reese said. "So to all of you ... I say stay in the room. No matter how large it is, stay in the room. Even when they tell you you don't have a seat, you stay in the room. When they tell you that there's no space for you on the agenda, stay in the room."

From 1A

MCLB

ness Saturday. Other events also are planned.

For more information on donating or signing a child up for the program, visit https://albany-ga.toysfortots.org/. Businesses and organizations also may contact Alejo at (504) 655-6411.

Individuals can sign up to have a child receive a toy online or by going to the Salvation Army location at 204 W. Second Ave. from 10 a.m-3 p.m. on Oct. 2 or 28, or Nov. 4, 5 and 11.

Salome's Stars
HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A work-related situation that started last month takes on increasing importance this week. The choice is still yours as to how it will evolve. Be careful not to make quick judgments.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) "Careful" is the watchword for the prudent Bovine this week. Don't let your emotions overwhelm your logic. Try for balance as you maneuver through a touchy situation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your energy levels rise to meet the challenges that will mark much of this month. New opportunities beckon. Look them over, but proceed cautiously before making any kind of decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your private life can be a problem this week as a partner becomes more difficult. Resist a reaction that you might regret. Instead of walking away, try to talk things out.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You should be your usual sunny self these days as you bask in the admiration that you adore. Enjoy it as you move into a new arena to confront an exciting upcoming challenge.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your perseverance reserves will be tapped frequently this week as you deal with the problems involved in making a new situation work for you. It'll all be worth it!

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You'll find fewer roadblocks turning up as you continue to move ahead with your plans. Expect some important news to come your way in a few weeks.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Good news! You finally get to the bottom of a pesky mystery you've been trying to solve for weeks by using some gentle persuasion to get someone to break their silence.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The best time to take on that important task is now. Move forward one step at a time so that you can assess your progress and, if need be, change direction.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new opportunities you hoped to find this month are beginning to open up. Study them carefully to be sure you make the choice that's best for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Turn a disappointment into a learning experience. Check out possible weaknesses in your approach and strengthen them. A loyal colleague offers good advice.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your new situation offers opportunities to help you get the skills you'll need in order to stop swimming in circles and finally move straight toward your goals. Go for it!

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a sharp, logical mind and a quick intellect. You would make an excellent mystery writer.

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Moments in time

* **On Nov. 3, 1883**, California bandit and stagecoach robber Black Bart, born Charles E. Boles and famous for his daring as well as his habit of occasionally leaving short poems at the scenes of his crimes, held up his last stagecoach. While he initially made a quick getaway, he was done in by the handkerchief with a laundry mark he'd inadvertently dropped and spent four years in San Quentin prison.

* **On Nov. 4, 1928**, Arnold Rothstein, a legendary New York gambler with a fortune estimated at about $50 million, was shot during a poker game at Manhattan's Park Central Hotel. He died in the hospital two days later without revealing the name of his assassin, though the fellow gambler who'd invited him to the game was tried for the crime, and acquitted.

* **On Nov. 5, 2024**, former President Donald Trump was elected to a second term in office, becoming the first president to serve nonconsecutive terms since 1892.

* **On Nov. 6, 1977**, the Toccoa Falls Dam in Georgia collapsed just hours after a volunteer fireman inspected it and found everything in order, with 39 people dying in the resulting flood.

* **On Nov. 7, 1943**, Roberta Joan Anderson, now known to the world as Joni Mitchell and dubbed the greatest female guitarist of all time by Rolling Stone magazine, was born in Fort MacLEOd, Alberta, Canada. She cemented her status in the music world as a composer rather than performer, with David Geffen of Geffen Records noting in 1994 that, "Even though we lost money on every one of her records, we always treated Joni as one of the most important artists in the world."

* **On Nov. 8, 1970**, Tom Dempsey, a professional football kicker, though he was born with no toes on his right foot, launched a 63-yard field goal in his custom shoe and set a new NFL record, beating the previous record by seven yards.

* **On Nov. 9, 1956**, French philosopher and author Jean-Paul Sartre, a long-time admirer of the Soviet Union, denounced both the USSR and its communist system following the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Art is making something out of nothing and selling it."

Frank Zappa,
musician (1940-1993)

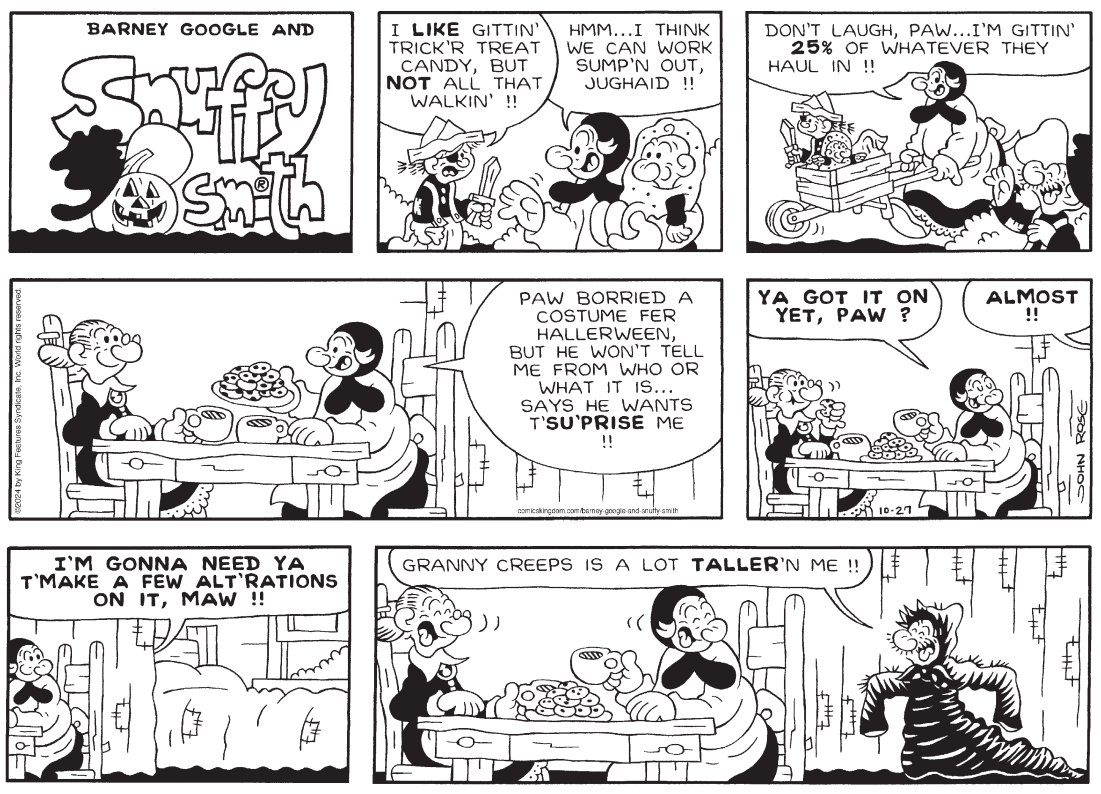
CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
82°	78°	78°	81°	78°	79°	80°
47°	49°	48°	48°	51°	58°	59°

SNUFFY SMITH ■ KINGS FEATURES





ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Friend drags up addiction-related offenses, 31 years later

Dear Eric: I have been in recovery for alcohol addiction for almost 31 years. Needless to say, my life is wonderful and so good compared to those years when I was active in my addiction.

Recently I was with someone who knew me before recovery. In a room with people who really didn't know me very well, she told the story about how I was drunk, in a blackout and stole something from someone. Now I don't know if this even happened. However, I was so embarrassed and hurt by the fact that she would do this to me.

She is my dear friend, and we have been friends for more than 50 years. I am really upset enough about this to just want to end the friendship.

It's really not the first time it's happened. It seems to happen when we are with people who have just met me or just don't know me very well. I would appreciate your thoughts on the matter.

– Not My Past

Dear Past: Congratulations on your years of sobriety. Your friend may consciously or subconsciously resent the new life you've made for yourself, especially if she felt she got the short end of the friendship stick during your active addiction. But, if those feelings exist, they're on her side of the street.

Before you sever the friendship, have a conversation in which you explain what you felt hurt by and ask if she sees it the same way. She may not realize what she's doing. If that's the case, she should quickly apologize, acknowledge what she did that was hurtful and seek to make it right going forward. If she takes the position that it's no big deal, however, you're within your right to leave the past in the past, even if that means part of that past is your friendship.

Dear Eric: My sister and I were once best friends. She has a friend from high school who was also her best friend. This friend and I have always gotten along and enjoyed each other's company.

The friendship has progressed, and my sister feels jealous and threatened by it. I live on the West Coast, and they live in the Midwest.

The friend has wanted to come visit me and has expressed the desire often. Now my sister is beside herself thinking this friend is trying to take her place. I have reassured her many times, that is not possible. Now my sister isn't talking to me. What to do?

—Only One Sister

Dear Sister: It sounds like a visit might be in order for you. Your sister's emotions are hers to manage, but you can give her a hand by talking this out in person. Jealousy is natural; we all feel it from time to time. But we have to be responsible for what we do with it. Is it reasonable for her to think she's being replaced by her friend? No, but it speaks to some deeper insecurity or question she has about your relationship.

If you want to change things, you may have no choice but to show up and say, "I care about you, I feel hurt when you won't talk to me. Can we get to the bottom of this?"

Dear Eric: This is the first time I have ever sounded in on a letter in your column but the one from "Not My Daughter" tipped the scales and I feel moved to share.

The writer, who described herself as disabled, was concerned about an upcoming visit from her terminally ill husband's adult daughter. She states the daughter steals from their home and "has told my husband that she wants me to leave when she comes to visit".

The writer was asking about secretly recording the daughter's nasty comments and behavior. Eric, you were absolutely spot on to dissuade her from this potentially illegal method. However, I'd like to add that this behavior hints strongly of elder abuse and I'd ask if there is another trusted adult friend or family member (maybe even two or three others) she could invite to be present when the daughter arrives.

An advocate in the room might be just enough to curb the nasty comments and an extra set of eyes to curtail the stealing – it's her home and there's nothing illegal about having another someone else there as a witness. If hospice is involved, she can also ask a team member to be there to mediate and act on behalf of the husband. They are trained for issues much like this.

– Concerned Reader

Dear Reader: This is excellent advice, and I heartily agree. Moreover, having a friend or two or three in the home is going to provide more immediate support – and more potential remedies – than a recording would.

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Why is Georgia sitting on $14.6 billion while our roads are full of potholes, schools are crumbling, and hard-working people are struggling to put food on the table? Oh, wait, the Republican majority doesn't give a damn because it doesn't affect them.

Only you, Fletcher, would endorse the music of someone who calls himself "Bad Bunny." Our president and the experts of his staff are only trying to protect true Americans from this evil person.

Elizabeth Warren said those people protesting are being American and patriotic, which is interesting when the majority of the protesters are paid to be there. They are not there for the cause but for the money.

I don't know if the column by Stacey Abrams is a one-off or a regular feature, but I hope it's the latter. Whe else has a better grasp of what's going on in the state and the nation? I look forward to her sharing more of her thoughts.

By the time the Trump "goons" get through spreading their lies, Bad Bunny will be Public Enemy No. 1. Do these idiots not know that, as you pointed out in the "West Side Story" lyrics, Puerto Rico is part of America?

Has everyone noticed Trump's three handmaidens -- Bondi, Leavitt and Noem -- have aged drastically? They all look 10 years older and sickly. Just like every Republican in the Senate.

Carlton, I'm pretty sure the reason that Bad Bunny is not wanted at the Super Bowl is because he is a satanist. It has nothing to do with the color of his skin.

I am proud that a community as small (and shrinking) as Albany still has a top-notch symphony orchestra. I went to a program a couple of years ago just to see what it was like, and now I attend every performance. Way to go, Mr. Hillard and all your musicians.

First you let a military deserter write for your paper, and now a gapped-tooth, lying politician? How is her fraud case in DeSoto going?

Congratulations MAGA farmers. You didn't get to sell any soybeans to China this year. And the money that you thought Trump was going to give you to compensate you for your loss, he just sent to Argentina, your major competitor in selling soybeans.

To all the "No Kings" liberals,Trump will be your president for the next 1,316 days, and likely J.D. Vance will be in office for 1,460 days.

Trump's strategy: 1) Lie about something important, like eliminating taxes on Social Security. 2) Distract everyone with another outrageous lie, like claiming Canada will be the 51st state. 3) When Democrats and the news media obsess about the second lie, everyone will forget the first lie. 4) If someone calls you on the first lie when it doesn't happen, just blame it on Democrats. That Man Without a Family

The Albany Herald
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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
—Colossians 1:14

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

When you think it's too late, there's still a way back

Most of us have at one time or another wished life had an "undo" button. Maybe it's a harsh word spoken in frustration, a friendship that frayed, or one of those decisions you replay in your mind late at night, wondering what might have been if you'd just chosen differently. Regret is part of being human. But so is hope, the steady belief that we are not forever boxed in by our mistakes.



HAMBOURGER

We see this tension everywhere. The parent who longs to repair a relationship with an estranged child. The colleague who's let down a team and wants to make things right. The neighbor who volunteers at the food bank, trying to balance the scales after a rough patch in life. We live in a world that sometimes feels obsessed with perfection: One misstep, and you're labeled by it. Yet deep down, we crave stories of redemption and second chances. It's why we're so moved by the person who gets back up, who rebuilds, who finds a new path after hitting a dead end.

Think about the way we treat our own failures compared to those of others. When a friend stumbles, we're quick to urge them forward: "Don't beat yourself up. Everyone deserves another shot." But for ourselves, grace comes harder. We replay our missteps, convinced they're etched in stone. The truth is, real growth rarely happens in those mountain-top moments when everything goes right. It's in the slow, sometimes painful work of picking up the pieces and trying again.

This is something we learn not just in our families or workplaces, but in every part of our lives. A team loses the championship but comes back stronger the next season. A community faces disaster and rallies to rebuild. Even in technology, version 1.0 is almost never the final word. There's always an update, a patch, a way to improve what came before. The very fabric of our lives is woven from trial and error, forgiveness and fresh starts.

It's this same human longing for renewal that I find so powerfully echoed in a story from my own tradition, one that's resonated with generations across faiths and backgrounds. In the Book of Exodus, there's a moment that feels as raw and real as anything in our own day-to-day lives. The people of Israel, having just experienced a moment of incredible closeness to God, falter ... badly. In their fear and uncertainty, some turn away and make a golden calf. It's a betrayal that would seem, by any logic, to mark the end of the story.

But what unfolds next is honestly astonishing. Moses, their leader, doesn't just plead for forgiveness, he breaks the very tablets inscribed with God's words. It's a bold, almost shocking move. Out of the ruins, something new is forged: God grants a second set of tablets, this time not as a pure gift from above, but as the result of Moses' persistence and the people's willingness to begin again. The lesson here isn't just about forgiveness; it's about partnership, about how real transformation is built not in the glow of perfection but in the gritty work of facing our failures and forging a new way forward.

What I find most moving is that both the shattered first set and whole second set of tablets are kept together in the Ark of the Covenant. It's a striking image: Our failures and our triumphs, side by side. The message is clear. We're not called to erase our past or pretend the cracks never happened. Instead, we're invited to carry the broken pieces with us, not as dead weight but as reminders of where we've come from and how much we've grown.

For all of us, no matter our background, these ancient words offer something deeply relevant. None of us gets it right the first time, every time. Yet God's door is always open. A genuine desire to change, to mend what's been broken, carries immense spiritual power. Sometimes that means forgiving someone else. Sometimes it means forgiving ourselves.

Second chances aren't just a luxury for the lucky few, they're a core part of what it means to live a life of faith. We are more than the sum of our stumbles. Each new day brings the possibility to begin again, to rebuild, to write a better ending. And maybe, if we're honest, that's the truest kind of grace there is.

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

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Coming out the other end of a trial by fire

Nicole Shanahan was the running mate of RFK Jr. until he suspended his presidential campaign in 2024. A few months later, her life took a significant turn.



FOWLER

Having a childhood marred by poor parenting didn't prevent her from becoming an attorney and a Silicon Valley tech entrepreneur. It did launch her into an ongoing quest for meaning and truth. She practiced meditation and other forms of spirituality, and participated in the Burning Man festival.

This annual Labor Day fest in the Nevada desert promotes radical self-expression.

Shanahan describes it as a spiritual and sensory experience with constant orgies, illegal drugs, and occultic ceremonies. She invokes C.S. Lewis' words, "The safest road to hell is the gradual one -- the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

This, she said, describes her Burning Man journey.

"There were no sudden jolts, no dramatic crossroads, only a slow descent," she said. "Before you realize it, you become an empty vessel, lost, pretending, unable to find joy, and unable to find God. I was not just on the road to hell; I was already living it."

Hers is an ancient, cautionary tale. "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Pet. 5:8)

Soon after the political campaign, Shanahan almost lost her life when she miscarried at 20 weeks. While recovering, she reached out to a Christian friend who explained that Jesus can wash away sins and defeat the darkness.

"It took the pain of that moment to finally break through the last, most stubborn skeptic in me," Shanahan admitted. "I said yes to accepting Jesus as my Savior."

Life took a significant turn toward hope and light.

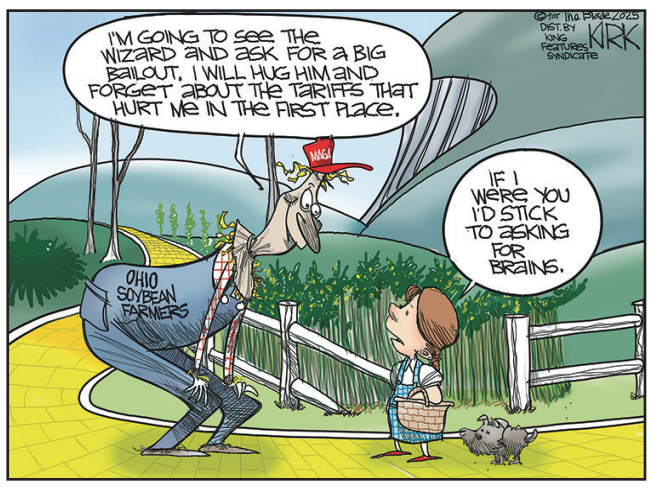
"It took waking up from a near-death experience to see the truth finally, and to find the courage and humility to come to Christ for all the things I once went searching for at Burning Man," she said.

Shanahan offers a challenge: "For those who are searching, who feel the same longing I once did, I can only say this: Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. Faith is not about having all the answers but about trusting in the One who does. And when you find Him, you will know you are finally home."

In January 2025, Shanahan received baptism as her public declaration of faith in Christ. If your story, like hers, includes spiritual searching, personal trauma, and trial by fire, Jesus offers truth, healing, and hope. As a believer, trials become proof of your faith.

Peter knew this only too well: "You have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 1:6)

Wayne Fowler has been a pastor and columnist in Georgia since 1996. Email mountainchristian@ brmemc.net.



GUEST COLUMNIST ■ WILL THAULT

An ultracrepidarian's take on the Gaza Peace Plan

Having neither diplomatic nor political experience in foreign affairs, I do hold an honorary Ultracrepidarian Degree in Unsolicited Opinions, which makes me highly qualified to ruminate with you over Trump's 20-point peace plan for the Gaza Strip.

.Setting aside one's hatred or love for our president, it seems the rest of the world, desirous of peace in the Middle East, loves this plan. The implementation of Phase 1 of the plan is already underway with a ceasefire, along with a hostage and Palestinian prisoner exchange.

Newsreel footage showing Israelis and Palestinians alike dancing in the streets in celebration of what they hoped to be an end to the war, plus the overwhelming representation of 31 countries and four international organizations at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit last Monday, marked an unprecedented moment in time.

Egypt, Turkey and Qatar joined the U.S. in signing the "Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity" document that day, with the UK pledging $27 million to help provide water and sanitation to war-torn Gaza, as well as proposing a future conference in Britain to coordinate plans for reconstruction and recovery. The European Union pledged another 1.6 billion in euros to the Palestinian Authority over the next two-years, along with contributions to Gaza's reconstruction and recovery.

After the signing, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi held a side meeting with nine of the countries in attendance to discuss ways to maintain the ceasefire agreement and to follow up with scheduling a Cairo Conference for Early Recovery and Reconstruction next month.

The greatest challenge is to put an end to the Hamas threat in the region by having them lay down their arms in return for amnesty and "commit to peaceful co-existence." The peace plan goes on to offer "members of Hamas who wish to leave Gaza (will be provided) safe passage to receiving countries."

Now is when I put my ultracrepidarian degree to the test... How do we restore a people and their homeland victimized by the total devastation caused by war and continued subjugation to threats and exploitation by homegrown terrorists from within? Dozens of Palestinians suspected of colluding with Israelis have already been executed without trial in public squares by Hamas since the ceasefire began. It reminds me of the murder of innocent civilians by the Nazis in occupied France during World War II as retaliation for underground resistance fighters.

Germany, too, suffered from the near total destruction of their country due to saturation bombing and the crushing blows of heavy armored divisions as they closed in for the kill from all sides in the final months of that war. In defeat, they found their country and even their capital, Berlin, split in two by the victorious occupying forces of the USSR and the West.

There was hunger, homelessness, poverty, displacement and disorder. Yet today Germany has become a thriving European nation, greater than ever before. How can that be and could the same be said someday of Gaza?

After the unconditional surrender of Hitler's political and military dictatorship, there were two solutions for what to do with the vanquished Third Reich. The Russians chose to rule their occupation zone, East Germany, with an iron fist, while the U.S., UK, and France focused on demilitarization, democratization, and economic reconstruction, which included humanitarian aid and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. Clearly, the Western Allies' approach was far superior to Russa's in that West Germany recovered much faster than East Germany before the reunification.

I see parallels between the transitional governance structure in West Germany after World War II and the proposed elements in the peace plan for Gaza. Immediately following Germany's surrender, the Allied Control Council was created to oversee governance. Its primary purpose was to demilitarize Germany and prevent the resurgence of militarism, while ensuring security and managing affairs.This transitional government also was used for denazification,.

The call for a demilitarized Gaza and a transitional government structure echoes this approach, prioritizing peace and stability over military conflict. Like denazification, this would require a dehamasification of the region, by totally disarming and disenfranchising Hamas. This would be enforced by the soon-to-be-formed International Stabilization Force, made up of Arab and international partners, with the help of Egypt and Jordan to secure the border areas.

Also, ISF deployment in Gaza would allow training and support for vetted Palestinian police forces. It took almost four years to complete the denazification efforts culminating in the Nuremberg Trials of post-war West Germany. Dehamasification of the tiny Gaza Strip would require only a fraction of that time.

As the Hamas threat weakens, the Israel Defense Forces would withdraw completely from the territory, based on standards, milestones, and timeframes in line with demilitarization mutually agreed upon by the IDF, ISF, the guarantors, and the U.S.

In post-war Germany, the Allies allowed political parties to begin forming in the Western zones within a year of occupation, leading to the establishment of local and regional governments despite ongoing Allied control. By comparison, in the agreed-upon peace plan, the Gaza International Transitional Authority/Palestinian Technocratic Committee would be formed to provide day-to-day governance, overseen by a Board of Peace.

In addition, encouragement of the Palestinian Authority's involvement, would recognize the value of local governance in peacemaking. Like Germany, perhaps different political parties could be allowed to emerge among the people as well. In West Germany, post-war reconstruction was vital for stability, supported by initiatives like the Marshall Plan, which ultimately provided economic aid to 16 countries in Western Europe after the war, significantly contributing to the region's economic stability and growth.

Similarly, the Gaza peace plan promotes economic development in Gaza, including a focus on infrastructure. Pledges are already being made toward this end by a host of Arab and partnering nations.

Something that the Allies didn't consider in their rehabilitation of West Germany, though, was an international transitional body instead of autonomous Allied zones. In the case of Gaza, the Board of Peace, headed by Trump and past UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, would set the framework and handle funding for Gaza's redevelopment. The Gaza International Transitional Authority/Palestinian Technocratic Committee and the ISF would fall under the supervision of the Board of Peace.

Finally, post-war reconstruction in West Germany included the establishment of a human rights framework to prevent abuses and ensure civil liberties. The Gaza plan also focuses on protecting civilian rights and demonstrates a commitment to peace coupled with justice.

By examining these parallels, it seems possible that the transitional model used in post-war West Germany might offer additional insights regarding the proposed steps in the Gaza peace plan. Both tout structured governance, economic stability and international cooperation; all critical in achieving long-lasting peace in a conflict-torn region, filled with centuries of hatred and mistrust.

But what do I know? I'm just an ultracrepidarian and an old one at that.

What to watch

TUESDAY

October 21, 2025

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

NHL Hockey
ESPN, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live

The Florida Panthers and Boston Bruins face off at Boston's TD Garden and the Colorado Avalanche collide with the Utah Mammoth at Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

NBA Basketball
NBC, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live

The NBA returns to NBC in a historic TV rights deal that tips off with tonight's season-opening primetime doubleheader. The Houston Rockets are at the NBA champion Oklahoma City Thunder and the Golden State Warriors are in Los Angeles to take on the Lakers.

Dancing With the Stars
ABC, 8 p.m.

Dancers are defying gravity in this new episode featuring numbers from the smash hit musical *Wicked*.

NCIS
CBS, 8 p.m.

In the conclusion of the "Prodigal Son" Season 23 two-episode premiere, Parker's (Gary Cole) pursuit of vengeance for his father's murder could have deadly consequences.



'Top Guns: The Next Generation'

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Murder in a Small Town
FOX, 8 p.m.

A troubled high schooler discovers a wounded body in the woods, leading investigators to look for the attempted murderer. Tyler Posey guest-stars in the new episode "Strangers Among Us."

100 Day Dream Home
HGTV, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "After the Storm," a couple loses everything in a hurricane, and Brian and Mika Kleinschmidt take a fresh and innovative approach to rebuild their home. They're starting from scratch, and a new method for building on the water brings unexpected challenges.

Paranormal Revenge
Travel Channel, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Eye in the Sky & The Creeper," a man receives threatening messages from a stalker, and he is horrified to learn that the threats are coming from the other side. And, when a history buff takes souvenirs from a Civil War cemetery (never a good idea!), a general comes back from the dead to seek revenge.

NCIS: Origins
CBS, 9 p.m.

When the body of a college swimmer washes up on the beach, the team must determine if it was an accident or murder in the new episode "Who by Fire."

Doc
FOX, 9 p.m.

A popular weight-loss medication reveals the cracks in a couple's relationship and two sisters face an unexpected diagnosis in the new episode "Tightrope."

Top Guns: The Next Generation
Nat Geo, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

In "Last Chance," the Season 1 finale, graduation week has arrived for Navy and Marine Corps student pilots. They've got one final opportunity to prove they deserve their prestigious wings.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Boris Karloff & Bela Lugosi
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Spend the evening and beyond with horror legends Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi as TCM features five spine-chilling films from its library. First up is 1934's **The Black Cat (pictured),** based on the Edgar Allan Poe short story. An architect and psychiatrist (Karloff and Lugosi), old rivals, square off with an innocent couple caught in the middle. Next is **Son of Frankenstein** (1939), a sequel to the original in which Karloff reprises his role as the Monster, and Basil Rathbone plays the son of the doctor who tries to revive the Monster with the help of his assistant Ygor (Lugosi). Following is **The Body Snatcher** (1945), in which Karloff plays a cab driver responsible for obtaining corpses for a doctor (Henry Daniell). Next is **The Invisible Ray** (1936), in which a mad scientist (Karloff) becomes lethally radioactive after discovering a new element, which drives him to seek revenge on those he believes have wronged him. Wrapping things up is **You'll Find Out** (1940), a mystery/comedy that also features Peter Lorre. Bandleader Kay Kyser and his orchestra get caught up in a mysterious plot to murder a young heiress when they are hired to play at her birthday party in a spooky old mansion.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Thanksgiving'

TRI STAR PICTURES

Don't Knock Twice (2016, Horror) Katee Sackhoff, Lucy Boynton **Showtime, 6:25 p.m.**

Saw III (2006, Horror) Tobin Bell, Shawnee Smith **SYFY, 6:45 p.m.**

Final Destination (2000, Horror) Devon Sawa, Ali Larter **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Thanksgiving (2023, Horror) Patrick Dempsey, Ty Victor Olsson **FXM, 7:25 p.m.**

Goodfellas (1990, Crime drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Once Upon a Christmas Miracle (2018, Drama) Aimee Teegarden, Brett Dalton **Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m.**

Respect (2021, Biography) Jennifer Hudson, Forest Whitaker **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Woman With the Red Lipstick (2024, Suspense) Rebecca Liddiard, Marshall Williams **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Borderlands (2024, Science fiction) Cate Blanchett, Kevin Hart **Encore, 9 p.m.**

Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall **BET, 9 p.m.**

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009, Comedy) Kevin James, Jayma Mays **Starz, 9 p.m.**

The Last House on the Left (2009, Horror) Tony Goldwyn, Monica Potter **AMC, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

PLAN AHEAD With TV Weekly Magazine
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MOVIES 24/7 GRIDS BEST BETS

What to watch

WEDNESDAY

October 22, 2025

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

NBA Basketball
ESPN, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

ESPN's season-long coverage of the NBA begins with a twin bill featuring the Cleveland Cavaliers at the N.Y. Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs at the Dallas Mavericks.

Shifting Gears
ABC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Danger," Matt (Tim Allen) sees a chance to teach Carter (Maxwell Simkins) a lesson about facing his fears after a raccoon appears in the yard.

The Floor
FOX, 8 p.m.

Promises are broken, alliances are betrayed and justice is delivered the new episode "Karma." Rob Lowe hosts.

Nature
PBS, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

In "Walrus: Life on Thin Ice," the Season 44 premiere, Kirk Johnson, a paleontologist and Sant director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, embarks on an Arctic adventure to uncover the hidden lives of walruses and the threats they face as climate change shrinks the sea ice.

Abbott Elementary
ABC, 8:30 p.m.

Gregory (Tyler James Williams) steps in to host game night at his apartment in the new episode "Game Night."

99 to Beat
FOX, 9 p.m.

The remaining 48 contestants compete in "Butterfly Catch," "Balloon Cup Transfer," "Piggy Bank Raid," "Boat Float" and "Hang a Painting" in the new episode "Who Framed Ken & Erin?" Ken Jeong and Erin Andrews host.



'Nature'

ALEX TATE, WINDFALL FILMS

NOVA: 'Ancient Desert Death Trap'
PBS, 9 p.m.

Across the Middle East lie thousands of enigmatic stone megastructures whose shapes, when seen from the air, look like giant kites. The oldest were built around 7000 B.C., predating the earliest Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge by several thousand years. Since their discovery in the 1920s, these "desert kites" have posed a stubborn mystery: Who designed them, and why were they built?

Chicago P.D.
NBC, 10 p.m.

A string of violent robberies across the city digs up one family's secrets in the new episode "Root Cause."

Secrets of the Dead
PBS, 10 p.m.

In 2023, three amateur codebreakers announced they had successfully decoded the secret correspondence of one of the most tragic characters in European history: Mary, Queen of Scots. Fifty-seven encrypted letters detail the exiled queen's efforts to free herself from imprisonment and gain advantage over her rival, Queen Elizabeth. Now, after four centuries, Mary's urgent pleas can be revealed.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Remembering Connie Francis
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Tonight, Turner Classic Movies remembers singer and actress Connie Francis, who died July 16 at age 87. We start with 1960's **Where the Boys Are (pictured),** in which Francis plays one of four college girls who travel to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in search of fun and romance. Costarring George Hamilton and Jim Hutton, the film features the title track as performed by Francis. Next comes **Follow the Boys** (1963), where Francis plays one of four women who follow their men in the U.S. Navy to Italy. **Looking for Love** (1964) follows, where Francis plays an aspiring singer who decides to give up her show business dreams to find a husband, but her plans are complicated when her accidental invention reignites her singing career. The film features cameos from Hamilton, Danny Thomas and Johnny Carson as themselves. Last is **When the Boys Meet the Girls** (1965), in which Francis plays a small-town postal worker trying to save her father's debt-ridden Nevada ranch by turning it into a resort for divorced women. The film features guest appearances from Herman's Hermits, Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs, Louis Armstrong and Liberace.



EVERETT COLLECTION

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Gone Girl'

MERRICK MORTON

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Part 2 (1986, Horror) Dennis Hopper, Caroline Williams **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Captain America: Civil War (2016, Action) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr. **USA, 8 p.m.**

Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (2016, Action) Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders **MGM, 8 p.m.**

The Fly (1986, Horror) Jeff Goldblum, Geena Davis **Showtime, 8 p.m.**

The Sweetest Christmas (2017, Romance) Lacey Chabert, Lea Coco **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Hocus Pocus 2 (2022, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **Freeform, 8:35 p.m.**

Ghost Ship (2002, Horror) Julianna Margulies, Ron Eldard **AMC, 9 p.m.**

Nightcrawler (2014, Suspense) Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo **Showtime, 9:45 p.m.**

Anyone But You (2023, Romance-comedy) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell **FX, 10 p.m.**

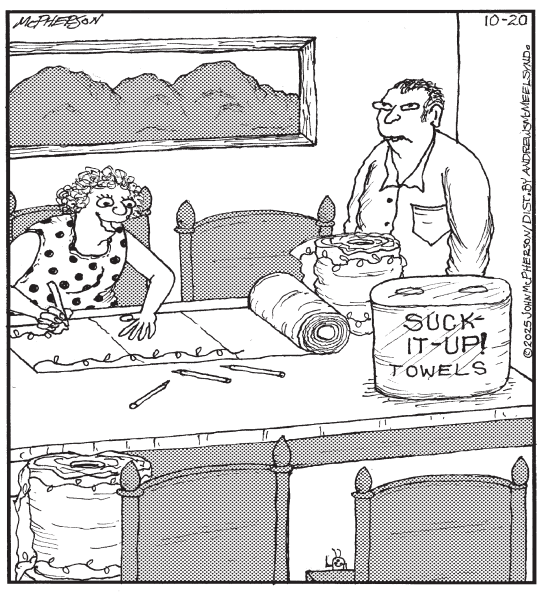
Snatched From the Crib (2025, Suspense) Anna Marie Dobbins, Brittney Q. Hill **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Shallow Hal (2001, Romance-comedy) Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black **TNT, 11 p.m.**

Gone Girl (2014, Mystery) Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike **HBO, 11:25 p.m.**

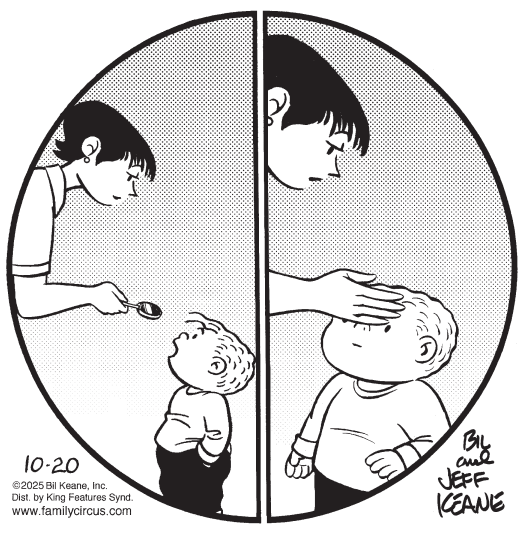
From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"I'm saving us a BUNDLE by buying plain white paper towels, and then drawing my own flowery design on them!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"No, thank you."

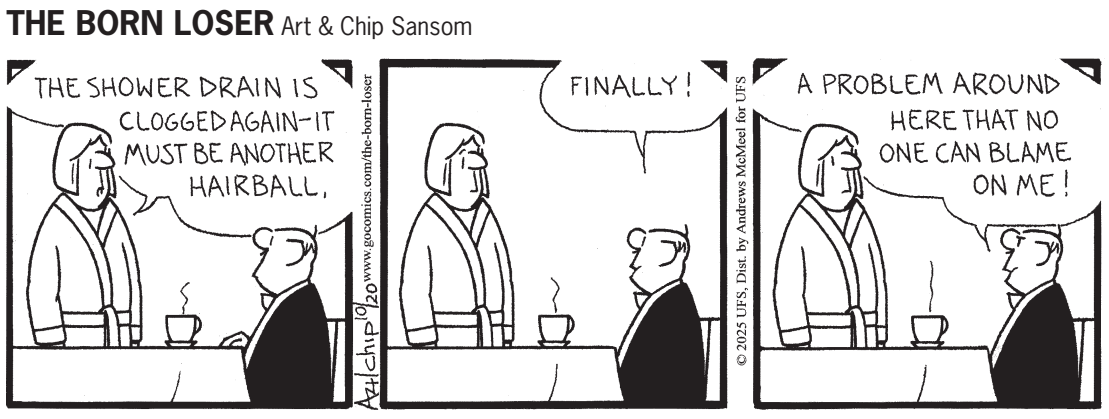
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



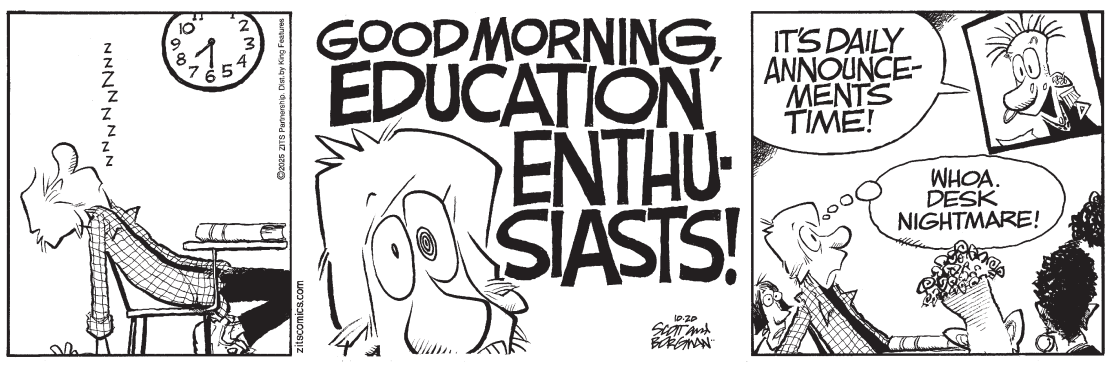
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



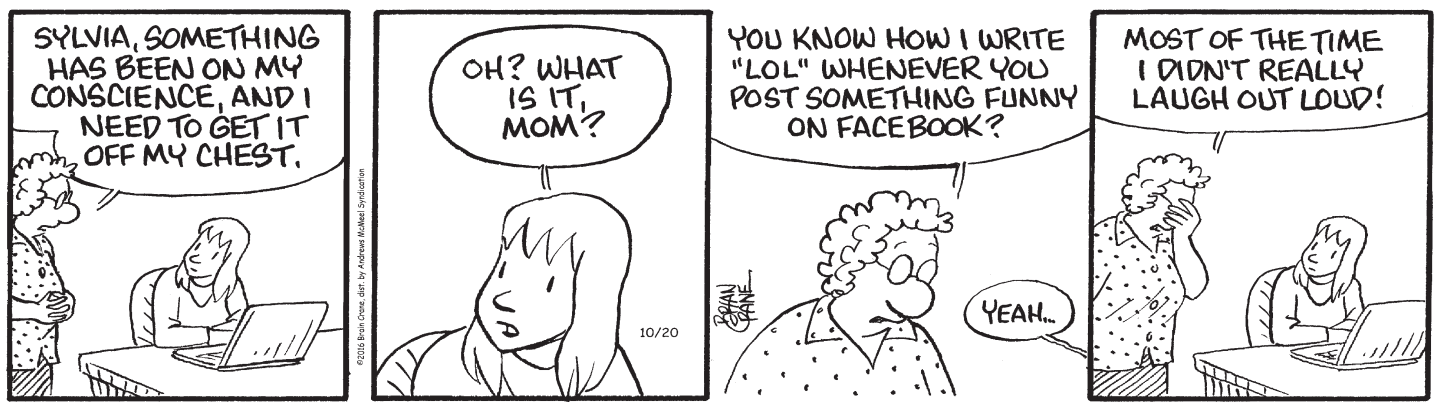
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

WHATZIT?

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



TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Growing pains

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Prefix with gender
4 East Coast gas station chain with a goose logo
8 Play group?
12 Little troublemaker
13 Purple flower
14 Wind instrument that typically has 23 tone holes
15 Hopping pal of Pooh
16 *Breakfast chain founded in metro Atlanta
18 *Harlem Globetrotters legend known for his shaved head
20 Florida freshwater springs mammal
21 Make it to
22 "Gracious!"
24 __ Diego Padres
25 "Gracious!"
27 Ceiling spinner
30 Brief "We'll figure it out later"
31 Jazz horn
32 Baseball apparel company
34 *Dramatic snag in the outfield
37 "Pick up the pace!"
38 Female 11-Down
39 "Go team!"
40 Guffaw
41 __ and aahed
43 Theater chain initials
44 Research on a rival, briefly
45 Tennis legend Gibson
48 Cupcake topper
51 *Feature of some blocky footwear
54 Combo meal component, and what the answers to the starred clues have
56 Bard's before
57 More than one can count
58 Some UNESCO World Heritage Sites
59 Quoter's "I'm aware of the error"
60 Join using heat
61 Singles
62 Shriek of fear

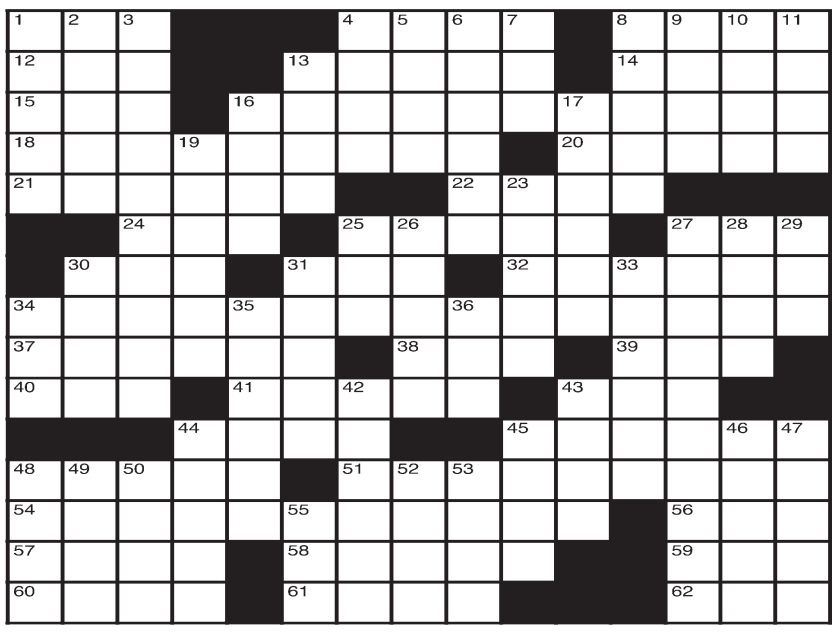
DOWN

1 Historian's word of approximation
2 "Later"
3 Gambling venue that may offer Super Bowl parlays
4 Elastigirl, to Mr. Incredible
5 __ Romeo
6 Enjoy a mudhole
7 Blackjack card
8 Pirate riches
9 Sit beside
10 Won by a __
11 Buck or 38-Across
13 __ Back: movement focused on ancestral sovereignty
16 MGM Grand rival
17 HS course that taught practical skills
19 Tough to move
23 Dating app "designed to be deleted"
25 Card game that requires no skill
26 Iron __: rust
27 Greek salad topper
28 St. Louis landmark
29 "Pass"
30 Drive-__ window
31 Hunch over
33 Campfire output
34 Mission-driven individual?
35 Slow-moving, as traffic
36 Silent "Go for it"
42 "Sounds like a blast!"
43 Brewmaster brews
44 Without stopping
45 Many moons
46 Spooky
47 Smart __
48 "That much was clear to me"
49 Quote as a source
50 Megastar
52 Lake between Toledo and Buffalo
53 Commotions
55 To's counterpart

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

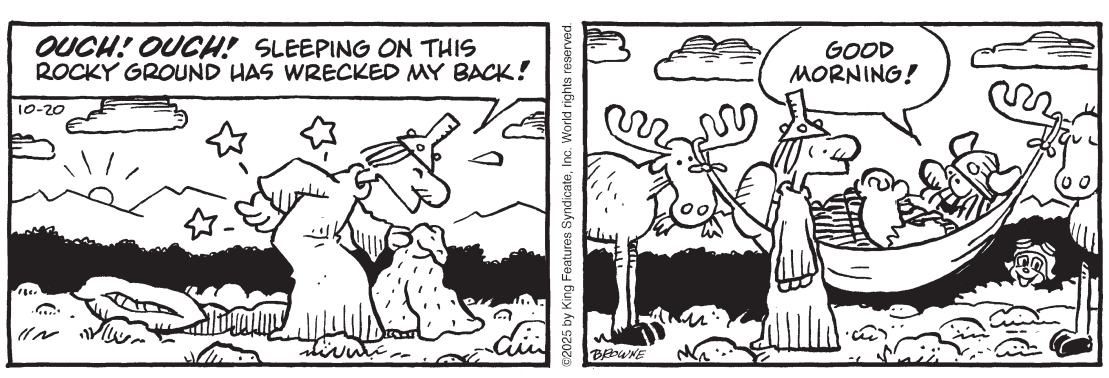
10/20/25



By Matthew Stock
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10/20/25

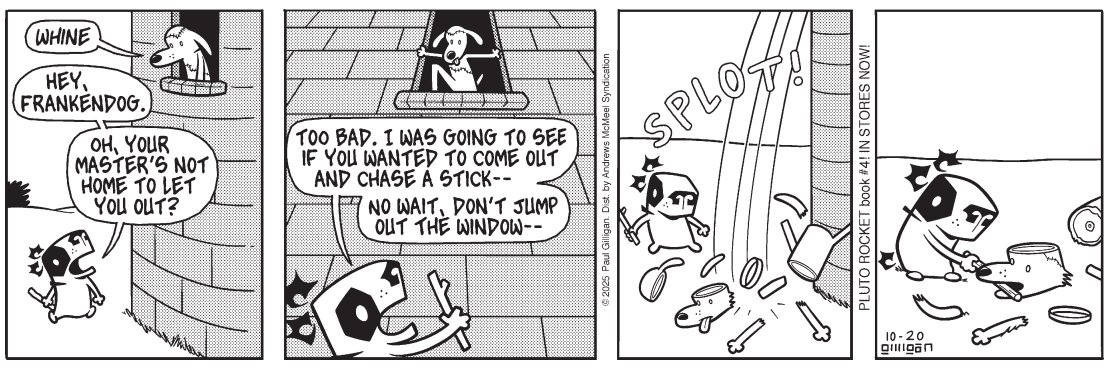
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

THAT IS JUST ABSURD — **Solution: 5 letters**

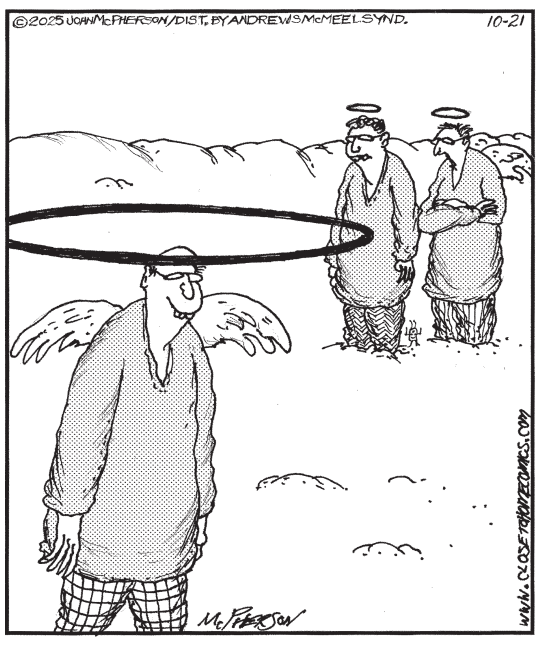
S	H	L	U	D	I	C	R	O	U	S	T	C	A	F
I	U	S	S	H	O	C	K	I	N	G	O	O	F	Y
P	N	O	I	M	I	E	L	B	A	H	G	U	A	L
E	Y	C	I	N	C	L	I	K	N	A	R	P	(W)	R
C	R	C	O	R	O	Z	L	C	A	W	E	(I)	R	D
U	A	I	R	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	(L)	O	I	R
L	R	P	Y	R	R	L	S	M	G	(D)	F	U	D	E
I	T	R	R	K	E	E	I	A	T	I	I	T	I	A
A	N	E	M	I	A	L	C	H	W	N	C	R	C	M
R	O	T	R	F	Z	E	E	T	A	V	T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

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Astonish, Bizarre, Claim, Comical, Contrary, Deny, Disagree, Dream, Eerie, Facts, Fiction, Foolish, Freaky, Funny, Goofy, Hilarious, Illogical, Incorrect, Invalid, Irrational, Laughable, Ludicrous, Made Up, Mock, Mystery, Myth, Outrageous, Peculiar, Pointless, Prank, Pretend, Rare, Ridiculous, Shocking, Theory, Wacky, Weird, Wild, Wrong

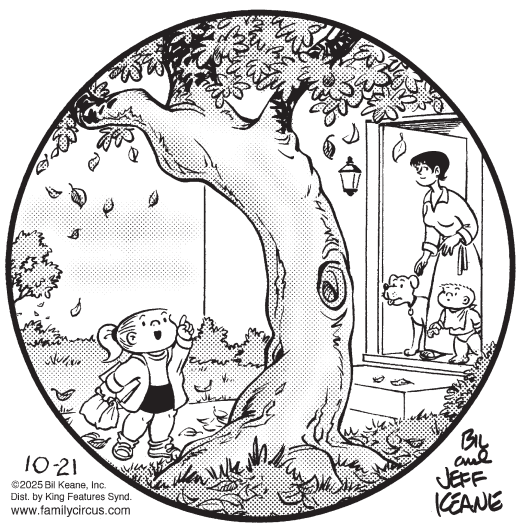
TODAY'S ANSWER: Crazy

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



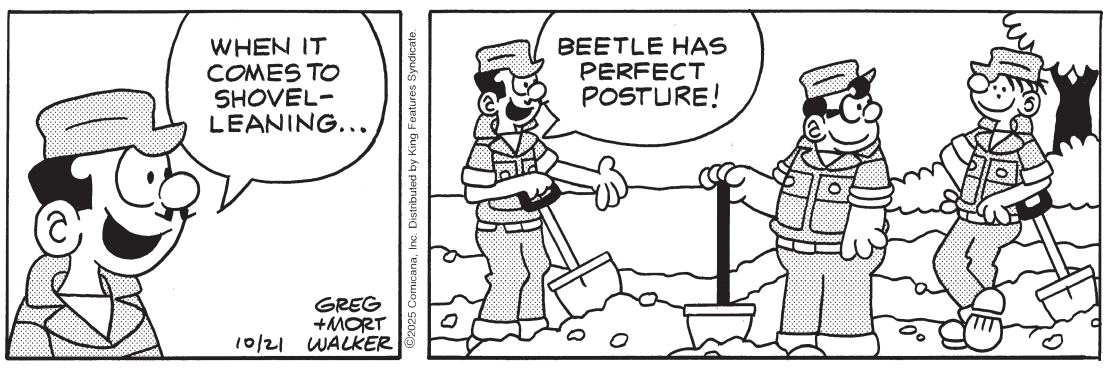
"Oh, him? He invented the hula hoop."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

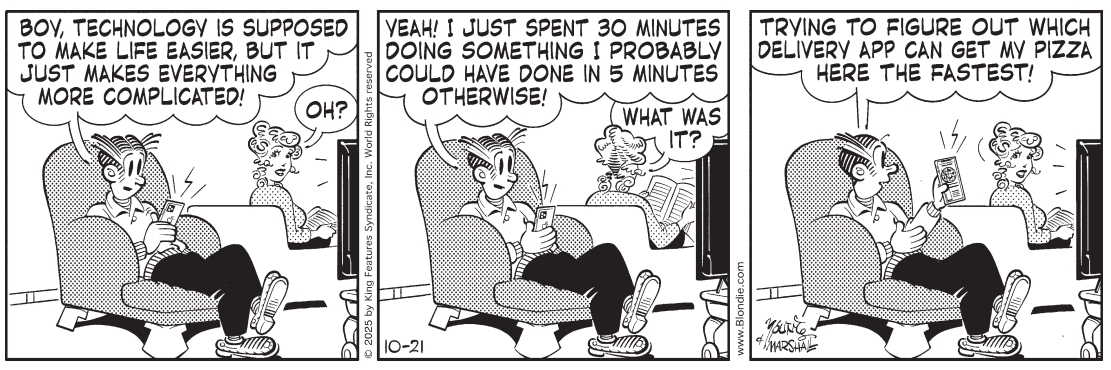


"Mommy, will you watch that pretty red one, and save it for me when it falls."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



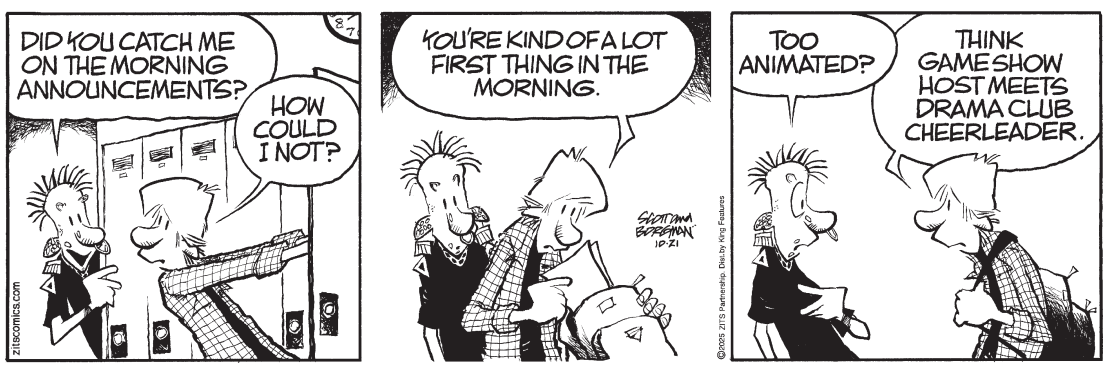
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



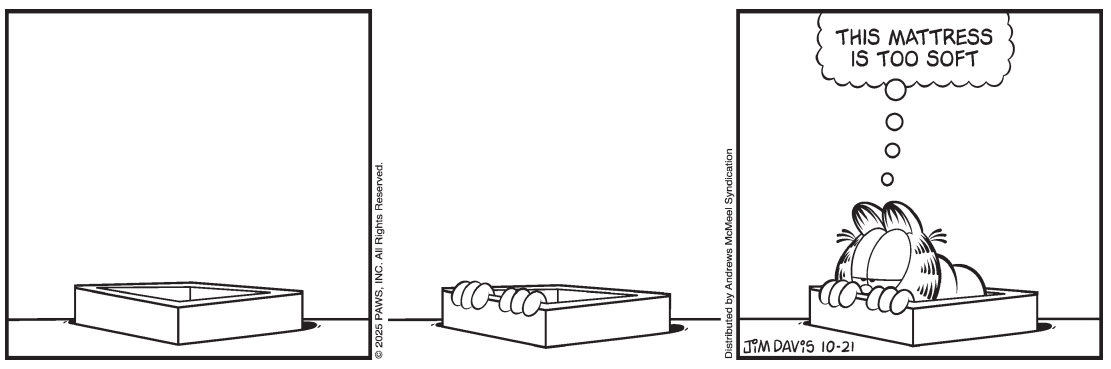
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



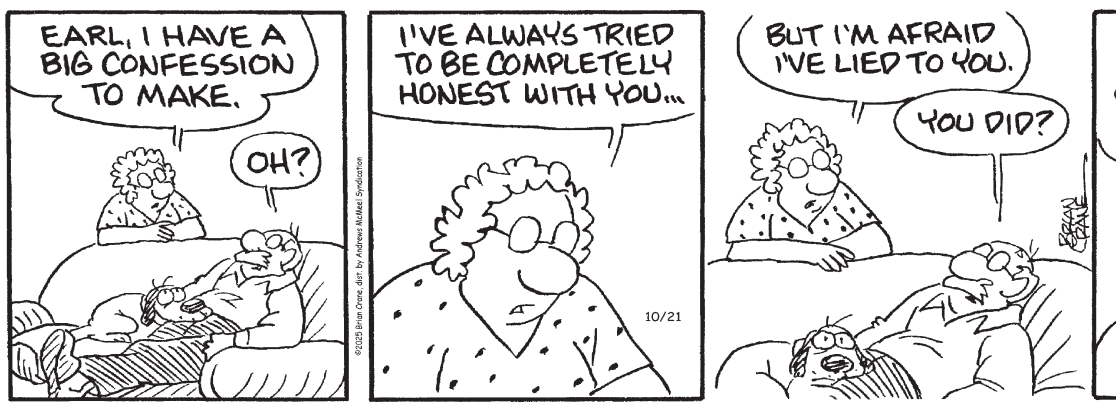
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

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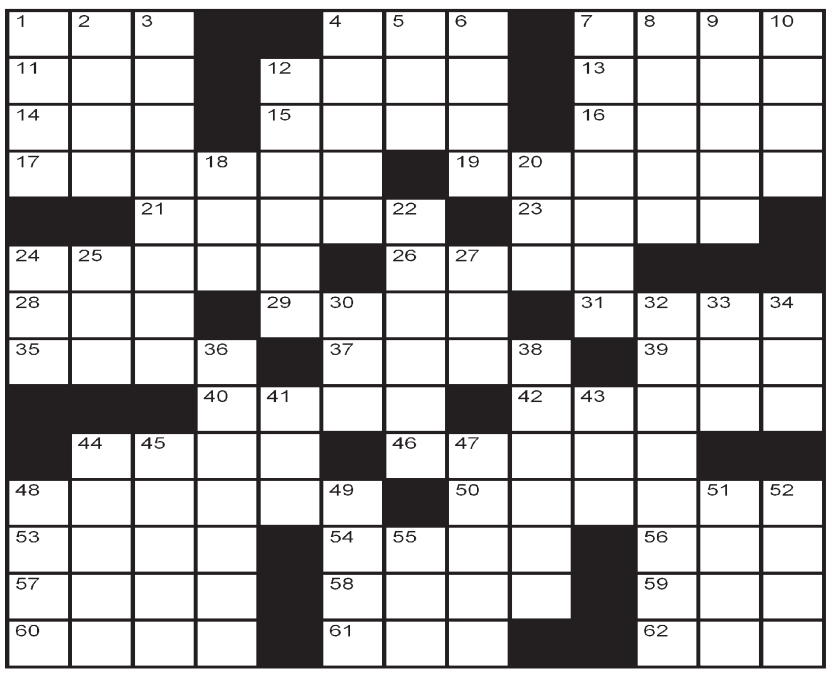
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Costa — Sol
4 Barfly's bill
7 Overcharges
11 Like "1989" or "Reputation" for Taylor Swift
12 Concern
13 Jazz great — Fitzgerald
14 Curved letter
15 "Woe — —!"
16 State near Minn.
17 Go back to an earlier way
19 Wisconsin city
21 Man at the podium
23 Took to court
24 Magnate
26 Craft
28 Actress — Lupino
29 Catch a glimpse of
31 Dexterous
35 "— we forget"
37 Mottled
39 Chinese chairman
40 Remotely
42 Stage whisper
44 Walking stick
46 Bottled water brand
48 Yearned
50 Hospital worker
53 River in Ireland
54 Sunrise direction
56 Role in "The Matrix"
57 Brad
58 Dilettantish
59 Tin
60 Spread for bread
61 Grassland
62 "... — I saw Elba"

DOWN

1 Fawn
2 Gaelic
3 Gamblers' destination (2 wds.)
4 Liking
5 Garment
6 Ale
7 Saved
8 Big hit from years past
9 Not flavorful
10 "For Pete's —!"
12 Group of friends
18 Big bird
20 Inquire
22 "The — Strikes Back"
24 A thousand thou
25 Poem
27 Sailor's assent
30 Mineral spring
32 High rank
33 Craze
34 — the line
36 Hybrid fruit
38 Small and delicate
41 Charge
43 Perched
44 Pinkish color
45 Singer — Lennox
47 Prospect
48 Comedian Jay —
49 Distribute cards
51 Raise
52 Not any
55 Have being

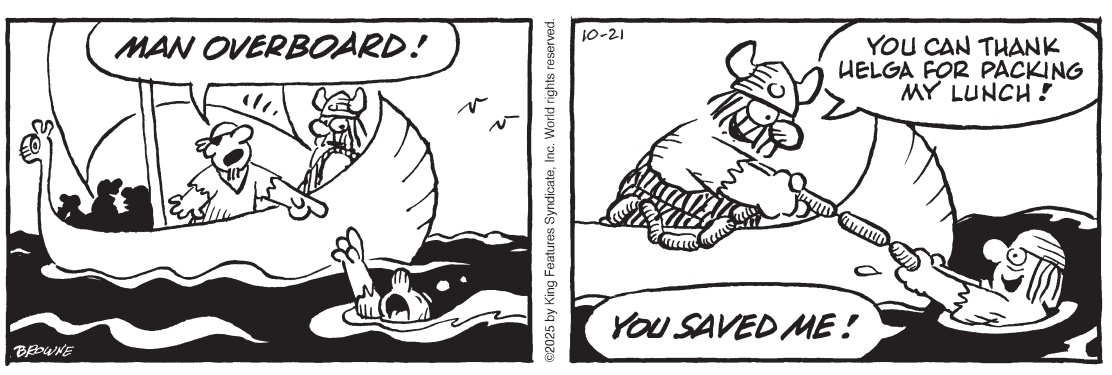


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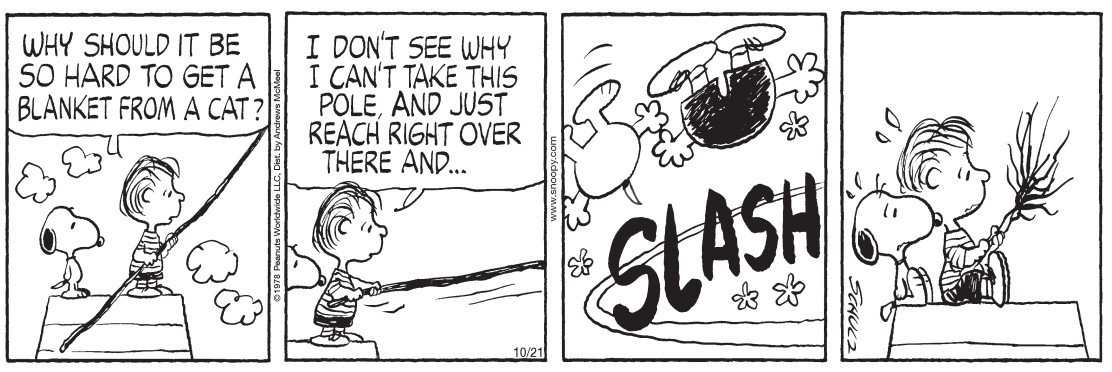
TODAY'S SOLUTION:



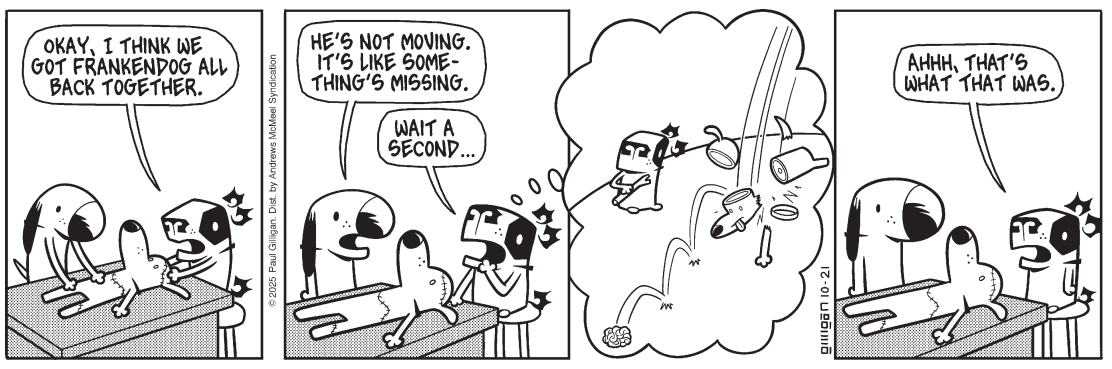
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.**

MADE FROM BIRCH **Solution: 11 letters**

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

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Altar, Arches, Arrow, Bark, Basket, Bed Frame, Beer, Boat, Bookshelf, Cabinets, Centerpiece, Door, Dowel, Durable, Fire, Forest, Furniture, Hard, Holiday, House, Lumber, Medicine, Nature, Oils, Paper, Plank, Rustic, Shade, Shampoo, Soap, Solid, Syrup, Table, Timber, Tongue Depressor, Toothpicks, Toys, Tree, Trim, Vanity, Veneer, Window, Wood

TODAY'S ANSWER: Decorations

WHATZIT?™

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

ANCHOR

Whatzit ©2025 Paul Sellers

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Drop anchor

ABAC spotlights first responders on Life Safety Day

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON – Safety took center stage at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recently as the front circle of campus came alive with flashing lights, demonstrations and interactive displays for Life Safety Day.

Students, faculty and staff spent the day connecting with first responders from across the region — including ABAC Police, EMTs, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources game wardens — who showcased their work and the many ways they help keep both ABAC and surrounding communities safe.

"Events like this give our students and employees the chance to see the people and tools behind the badge," interim campus Chief of Police Mike Tompkins said. "We want everyone at ABAC to know that safety is a shared effort. The more our community understands what we do and how we respond, the stronger and safer our campus becomes."

The event transformed the front circle into a hands-on learning hub. Visitors explored emergency vehicles, tested safety equipment, and spoke with professionals about topics ranging from alcohol awareness to mental health and coping strategies. EMTs demonstrated oxygen equipment; SWAT officers displayed specialized gear like a battering ram, and game wardens brought one of their patrol boats for an up-close look at their fieldwork.



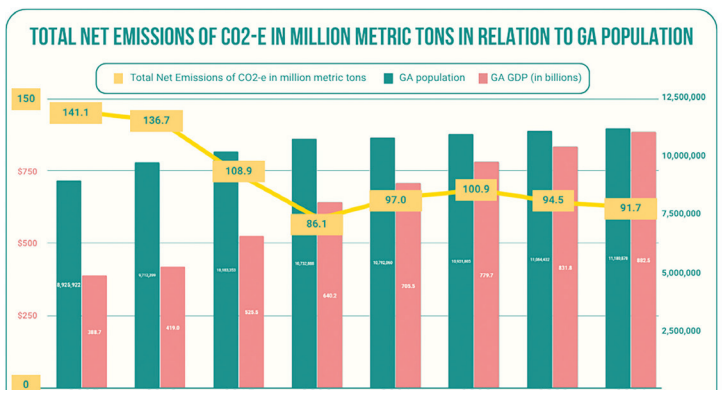
Special Photo: ABAC

First responders were honored at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Life Safety Day recently.

For ABAC President Tracy Brundage, events like Life Safety Day highlight the college's ongoing commitment to protecting and empowering its community.

"Today, we bring those initiatives together with one clear goal: to educate, prepare and empower our community to prevent emergencies and respond effectively when they occur," Brundage said. "Life Safety Day is more than demonstrations and displays — it's an opportunity to build connections between students and first responders, between neighbors and agencies, and across our entire campus. Together, we're creating a culture of prevention, preparedness, and care for one another."

Life Safety Day is part of ABAC's continued focus on fostering a secure, supportive environment where learning, living, and safety go hand in hand.



Special Illustration

Georgians have cut greenhouse emissions almost in half

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist

ATLANTA – Georgia has cut its greenhouse gas emissions per person nearly in half in the last 20 years, mostly by replacing coal power plants with natural gas and solar. But the state still has a long way to go to cut emissions enough to make a dent in climate change, according to a new analysis by Georgia Tech researchers in partnership with Drawdown Georgia.

Georgia's net emissions totaled 92 megatons in 2024, down from 141 megatons in 2005.

The state's carbon dioxide emissions per person dropped by 45% from 2005 to 2023, the third-largest reduction in the country according to the Energy Information Administration. The Georgia Tech analysis found a 49% drop by 2024.

Report author Marilyn Brown, a professor at the Carter School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech, said the decline is especially impressive because in the same period, the state's economy has boomed.

"What we're doing is proving you can grow your economy, you can grow your population and reduce your emissions," she said.

Georgia's net emissions – the amount of carbon dioxide put out minus what's absorbed by carbon sinks like forests and marshes – dropped by 33% from 2005 to 2024, while the state's GDP grew by 127%, according to Brown's analysis. That means the carbon intensity of Georgia's economy, a measure of emissions per unit of economic output, dropped by 71%.

But the state still has a long way to go to further cut emissions, which is key to fighting climate change. Meanwhile, Georgia Power is extending use of its remaining coal plants and adding natural gas capacity, which produces less carbon dioxide than coal but does still generate greenhouse gases.

And residential use of natural gas has actually increased. Electric heat pumps are popular in rural areas without access to gas, Brown said, but Georgia's cities aren't switching to them as quickly.

"Heat pumps pay for themselves rapidly, but people are afraid to retire an operating gas system," she said.

Transportation emissions – now Georgia's leading source of greenhouse gases – are about the same as in 2005. Emissions from diesel trucks have increased, thanks to a booming freight sector and the increasing popularity of online ordering and deliveries, the report finds.

Delivery vehicles could be a potential bright spot in the years to come, though, according to another report by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, looking at electric vehicle trends in the region. Sales of non-passenger medium- and heavy-duty commercial electric vehicles soared in Georgia in the last year, leading the country with more than 3,000 vehicles sold. The SACE report credited that trend largely to delivery and cargo vans.

The Georgia Tech report lays out recommendations for further cutting emissions, including expanding EV adoption and further electrifying freight fleets, further decarbonizing electricity with large-scale solar and storage, and electrifying buildings.

It also highlights the state's carbon sinks like forests, which go a long way to offsetting Georgia's emissions.

"We are sinking as much CO2 almost as the magnitude of our transportation sector's emissions," Brown said. "It's very big, so we need to protect that."

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.

Thomasville Center for Arts celebrates 30 years of Wildlife Arts Fest

THOMASVILLE – For three decades, the Thomasville Center for the Arts has hosted one of the nation's premier wildlife and sporting arts events — the Wildlife Arts Festival — and this year the center will be celebrating in a big way.

From Nov. 20-23, visitors can explore world-class exhibits, meet acclaimed artists, and immerse themselves in the magic of the time-honored tradition of the annual Wildlife Arts Festival. The event will pay tribute to the Festival's visionary founders, Margo Bindhardt and Bob Crozer, and will celebrate all those who have supported the work of the center for many years.

"I have a deep appreciation for those who have supported this event and for the Center for the Arts," center board president Haile McCollum said. "For three decades, the volunteers and sponsors who support the Wildlife Arts Festival have enabled our community to celebrate the connection between land, wildlife and art that makes Thomasville so special."

The public kickoff of festival season will begin early on Nov. 6 with a public art unveiling in the UnVacant Lot (217 W. Jackson St., Thomasville) presented by Hurst Boiler, 1915 South/ASHLEY, and the city of Thomasville. Free and open to the public, the event will begin at 6 p.m. with the unveiling of a public art installation featuring the work of festival artist Lucrezia Bieler.

"We teamed up with Hurst Boiler to craft an installation that highlights Lucrezia's detailed and delicate paper cuts in a new, meaningful way," center Public Art Director Darlene Crosby Taylor said. "Using the art of metalwork, we've designed 5- and 7-foot lanterns with Lucrezia's artwork casting both light and shadow throughout the space."

At the public art unveiling, festival organizers also will introduce this year's event lineup and showcase a new piece of public art that reflects the spirit and beauty of the Thomasville community. Bieler's public art installation, "Licht und Shatten," will remain on view through Feb. 6.

Beginning the week of Nov. 17, wildlife fine artists and artisans from across the globe will convene in the Red Hills. The festival's 30th anniversary host committee, in partnership with the Center for the Arts' board and staff, will formally welcome artists at a private reception presented by Toscoga Marketplace and The Dog & Pony on Nov. 20.

"This special gathering honors our esteemed patrons and festival artists," Erin Wolfe Bell, the Center for the Arts' executive director, said. "It will be an intimate evening of Southern charm and gracious hospitality designed to capture the warmth and camaraderie of our town."

The next day, art enthusiasts are invited to Art in the Wild for a morning of artistic discovery as acclaimed Wildlife Arts Festival artists work en plein air throughout the scenic and historic grounds of Pebble Hill Plantation. Visitors will experience the beauty of nature through the eyes of talented artists and watch masterpieces come to life in real time, inspired by the rich landscape and native wildlife. Art in the Wild, presented by TC Federal Bank and Colony Bank, will take place on Nov. 21 from 10 a.m.-noon. Admission onto the Pebble Hill grounds is $10 per vehicle and open to the public.

The Fine Art Show & Artisan Market officially kicks off on Nov. 21 with an invitation-only VIP champagne reception and awards celebration, presented by Wellington Shields, and an exclusive underwriter-only black-tie preview party.



Special Photo: Molly Novak

The Thomasville Fine Arts Show weekend is a family-friendly experience featuring activities for youths and adults alike.

"This is a time for our most generous festival supporters to get a sneak peak of this year's exhibition," Bell said. "Additionally, we'll be honoring the visionaries behind three decades of the Wildlife Arts Festival with some very special awards."

The Fine Art Show & Artisan Market presented by Synovus will then be free and open to the public throughout the weekend, on Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Nov. 23 from noon-4 p.m.

The weekend's events will showcase wildlife and sporting artists, top-shelf hand-crafted goods, Southern bites and libations, lively outdoor social events, and an array of family-friendly wildlife encounters and art experiences. This year, the much-anticipated juried Fine Art Show will feature painter Thomas Brooks and sculptor Chris Wilson, alongside more than 50 painters, sculptors, carvers, jewelers and photographers.

During the free two-day Fine Art Show & Artisan Market, there truly is something for everyone. From traversing the vibrant halls of a world-class gallery filled with wildlife art and shopping the hand-crafted goods in the market, to nurturing young artists through hands-on activities and by touring the Junior Wildlife Arts competition – festival visitors will have plenty to do.

The Creative Covey Floral Workshop, presented by 1915 South/ASHLEY, will take place on Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. Participants will join guest designer Mary Catherine Folmar, owner and chief designer of Birmingham's Cotton & Quill, for a hands-on topiary workshop. Registration is required: $250 for non-members and $225 for members.

On Nov. 23 at 1 p.m., 1915 South/ASHLEY presents the Wildlife Art Workshop with nationally-renowned artist Kathryn Mapes Turner. Known for capturing the beauty of nature in expressive paintings, Turner will guide participants of all skill levels to create a timeless work of wildlife art. Participants can experience this exclusive opportunity to learn from an exceptional artist and teacher in an intimate setting. Registration is required: $150 for non-members and $125 for members.

A full festival schedule, including ticket information for workshops and parties can be found at thomasvillearts.org/wildlife or by calling Thomasville Center for the Arts at (229) 226-0588.

CAES Dean Place defends title as champion milker at Sunbelt Ag Expo

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE – Nick "Velvet Hands" Place has defended his title as Sunbelt Ag Expo champion milker.

Dean and director of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Place won his fourth cow-milking contest at the annual event in Moultrie.

This year Place took the win against Schaapman Holsteins' Harry Schaapman, who came in at a close second, and Harmony Grove Dairy Farm's Jiles Coble, who brought home third.

Each competitor was allotted a minute of milking per cow, adding the milk to a measuring cylinder between rounds.



Special Photo: Sean Montgomery

Four-time cow milking champion Nick Place, left, defended his title against Harry Schaapman and Jiles Coble at the Oct. 14 Sunbelt Ag Expo event in Moultrie.

The CAES Department of Animal and Dairy Science assisted with the competition, which included dairy cows from Schaapman Holsteins.

Sunbelt Ag Expo is an annual agriculture trade show with more than 1,200 exhibitors demonstrating the latest farming techniques and technology.

Golden Rams edge Tuskegee 7-3 in homecoming game

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The fans packed into the Albany State Coliseum didn't get an offensive shootout for homecoming — but they got something even better: a gritty win sealed by the kind of defense that has long defined Golden Rams football.

Behind a relentless "Dirty Blue" unit and a bruising ground attack led by Tiant Wyche, Albany State beat Tuskegee University 7–3 on Saturday afternoon in front of the biggest crowd of the year. The victory lifted the Golden Rams to 6-1 overall and 5-0 in the SIAC.

The game's only touchdown came early. After quarterback Jaydon Kinney's first pass was intercepted by Tuskegee's Mikael King Jr., the Albany State defense immediately answered by forcing a punt. Kinney and the Rams then pieced together a 12-play, 90-yard drive that set the tone for the afternoon — 10 of those plays were runs, six by Wyche, who capped the march with a 2-yard touchdown run. Kyle Wright's extra point made it 7–0 midway through the first quarter, and that proved to be all Albany State would need.

Wyche finished with 94 yards on 18 carries and the game's lone score, while Aljhanod Thomas added 73 yards on 12 carries. True freshman

See **RAMS**, 10A



Special Photo: Reginald Christian, Albany State University
The Albany State Golden Rams remained unbeaten in the SIAC after beating Tuskegee 7-3 on Saturday. Their biggest challenge of the season lies ahead Saturday when they travel to Columbia, S.C. to face undefeated Benedict College.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor
Georgia tight end Lawson Luckie smiles after one of his three touchdowns during Saturday's game at Sanford Stadium in Athens. Luckie and the Bulldogs moved up to No. 5 in the latest poll after beating Ole Miss, 43-35.

Georgia, Georgia Tech climb in Top 25 poll

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — The state of Georgia isn't ruling college football, but it's firmly part of the national conversation. Both Georgia and Georgia Tech continued their climb in the latest Associated Press Top 25 poll, released Sunday after a wild weekend that saw nine ranked teams go down.

The Georgia Bulldogs (6–1) moved up four spots to No. 5 after a 43–35 win over Ole Miss, while Georgia Tech (7–0) surged to No. 7 following its road victory over Duke that preserved the Yellow Jackets' perfect record. It marks the first time in more than a decade that both programs have ranked inside the AP top 10 in the same week.

At the top, Ohio State (7–0) held steady at No. 1 with 60 first-place votes, followed by Indiana (7–0), Texas A&M (7–0), and Alabama (6–1).

Georgia's win in Athens was powered by quarterback Gunner Stockton and tight end Lawson Luckie, who connected for three touchdown passes. Luckie's performance — including two scores in the second half — helped the Bulldogs erase an early deficit and hold off Ole Miss' late charge.

The Bulldogs, now firmly back in the playoff discussion, will take a bye week before preparing for their annual showdown with the Florida Gators on November 1 in Jacksonville.

Meanwhile, Georgia Tech's undefeated season continued with a 27–18 win at Duke, fueled by a record-setting 95-yard fumble return touchdown from Omar Daniels, a Moultrie native and Colquitt County High School graduate. The Yellow Jackets' rise to No. 7 is their highest ranking since 2014, as head coach Brent Key's squad remains one of just a handful of unbeaten Power Five teams.

Elsewhere in the Top 25, Indiana climbed to No. 2 — the highest modern ranking in school history — while Vanderbilt cracked the top 10 for the first time since 1947 after upsetting LSU, which dropped to No. 20. Four new teams — Louisville,

See **POLL**, 10A

No. 1-ranked Rams fry Bacon, 52-14

By Sonja Stroyls
Sonja@albanyherald.com

SYLVESTER — The Worth County Rams' touchdown cannon got plenty of use Friday night. By the time the smoke cleared, the Rams were still undefeated — and their homecoming crowd had witnessed another offensive fireworks show.

Worth County scored seven touchdowns, hit seven extra points, and added a field goal on the way to a 52–14 rout of Bacon County, improving to 9–0 on the season.

The game began with a brief moment of suspense — and then became all Rams. Bacon County recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff, but any hope the Raiders had of keeping pace disappeared on the next play when Chance Sims intercepted a pass from quarterback Scottland Hennesy and returned it to the Raiders' 30-yard line.

From there, the Rams' offense — led by quarterback Lydon Worthy — took command. Worthy connected with Kaden Chester on a long completion to the 15, and a few plays later Treshaun Jones powered in from two yards out. Brodey Hancock's PAT made it 7–0, and the rout was on.

Worth County's balance on offense and aggression on defense overwhelmed Bacon County throughout the first half. Worthy found Colby Griffis for a big gain to set up a 20-yard touchdown run by Chester, then connected with Griffis again for a 23-yard scoring pass that stretched the lead to 21–0 by the end of the first quarter.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls
Worth County running back Kaden Chester eludes a Bacon County defender Friday night as the undefeated Rams rolled past Bacon County, 52-14 in Sylvester.

Moments later, Tray Matthews delivered a defensive highlight of his own, intercepting a pass and returning it 25 yards for a touchdown with just 12 seconds left in the quarter. Hancock's extra point made it 28–0.

The Rams' defensive front, featuring Brady Weaver and King Toomer, spent much of the night in the Raiders' backfield. Bacon County was forced to punt repeatedly, setting up short fields for Worth County's offense.

In the second quarter, Worthy found Jaquaveon Nelson on a 15-yard touchdown pass to make it 35–0. After another interception — Matthews' second of the game — Chester added his second rushing score from two yards out for a 42–0 advantage.

Worth County closed the half in style. After a fumble recovery by Dewight Council, Worthy hit Jayden Farley on a 64-yard touchdown pass to push the score to 49–0 at halftime.

The Rams added one more score in the third quarter when Hancock booted a 25-yard field goal, extending the lead to 52–0.

Bacon County finally broke through in the fourth quarter after Hennesy left the game with an injury. Receiver Amar'e Ryals took over at quarterback and threw two touchdown passes — a strike to Santiago Bizzell and a 10-yard toss to Isaiah Thomas — to close the gap to 52–14.

Simmons' pick-six sparks Westover to 42-21 win over Monroe

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Under the bright lights at Hugh Mills Stadium, with old teammates now on opposite sidelines, the story almost told itself — one quarterback facing his past, another finding his future, and a single defensive play that flipped everything.

When it was over, the Westover Patriots walked off with a 42-21 victory over Monroe, a win built on precision, poise, and one unforgettable interception return.

It was a night rich in irony. Monroe quarterback Keyon Thomas, who spent three years guiding Westover's offense before transferring for his senior season, threw for 186 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 101 more and another score. On the other side, sophomore Gabriel Hopper, the Patriots' third starting quarterback since Thomas' departure,



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Westover quarterback Gabe Hopper strolls into the end zone after one of his three touchdown runs Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium.

turned in his best performance yet — completing all eight of his passes for 123 yards and rushing eight times for 34 yards and three touchdowns.

And yet, the game's defining moment came from a defender.

With Westover clinging to a 20-14 lead in the third quarter, Thomas broke loose for a 47-yard run down to the 24-yard line, and Monroe looked ready to take control. But on fourth-and-10, Thomas dropped back and fired toward the end zone. Waiting for it was Mikhail "Kell" Simmons.

See **SPARKS**, 10A

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High School Round-up: Deerfield-Windsor, Lee County, Sherwood win again

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

VALDOSTA — The Deerfield-Windsor Knights left Valdosta Friday night with more than just a dramatic win — they left with their first region championship in 10 years and the kind of momentum that could carry them deep into November.

Behind the steady arm of Lane Sceals and the clutch playmaking of Gabe Daniel, the Knights rallied to beat Valwood 21-20, clinching the GIAA Region 3-AAA title in thrilling fashion.

The victory also marked a bit of poetic symmetry: Deerfield-Windsor and Valwood met last year in the state championship game, and after Friday night's contest, a rematch seems entirely possible.

Valwood jumped out to a 10-0 lead before Sceals connected with Daniel on a 64-yard touchdown pass, trimming the deficit to 10-7 at halftime. In the third quarter, Sceals found Cross Mitchell for another score to give the Knights a 14-10 advantage.

The Valiants regained the lead moments later when Andre Belcher intercepted a Sceals pass and returned it for a touchdown, putting Valwood ahead 17-14. They later pushed the margin to 20-14 with a field goal after a Deerfield defensive stand at the goal line kept them out of the end zone.

That stand proved pivotal.

With nine minutes remaining, the Knights took over near their own 20-yard line and began a patient, determined drive that tested both poise and heart. Facing fourth-and-six with less than two minutes left, Sceals once again looked to Daniel — and the duo delivered. The senior wideout hauled in the game-winning touchdown with 1:52 remaining, completing one of the biggest comebacks in program history.

"Lane threw a perfect pass and Gabe did what Gabe Daniel does," said head coach Jake McCrae. "This one was really special — to come from behind against a really good team and win like that. It was really special."

Sceals finished 23 of 35 passing for 287 yards and three touchdowns, while Daniel caught 12 passes for 185 yards.

With the region title secured, Deerfield-Windsor (9-0) will wrap up the regular season next Friday night against Mcclay of Tallahassee — the same team that handed the Knights their last loss, 28-21, nearly a year ago.

Lee County dominates Veterans

In Leesburg, No. 7-ranked Lee County (6-2) rolled to a 48-3 victory over Veterans High School, putting together one of its most efficient offensive performances of the season.

The Trojans built a 42-3 halftime lead and finished with 498 yards of total offense, including 360 rushing yards, as the running clock shortened the second half.

Jordan Bush carried four times for 88 yards and two touchdowns, while J.R. Walker added 82 yards and a score on four carries. Quarterback Marcus Snipes rushed for 74 yards on four attempts, and Dominique Ball added 58 yards and a touchdown on five carries.

The Trojans' offense was balanced and relentless, and their defense limited Veterans to a single field goal in the opening half. Lee County will host Northside-Warner Robins next Friday at Trojan Field.

Sherwood Christian stays perfect

At Legacy Field in Albany, Sherwood Christian continued its dominant season, overwhelming Fullington Academy 66-6 to improve to 8-0.

The Eagles erupted for 32 first-quarter points and led 53-0 at halftime, putting the game well out of reach before the second half began.

Quarterback Tripp Roberts had another stellar night, completing 7 of 10 passes for 200 yards and four touchdowns while adding 64 rushing yards and a fifth score. Sophomore running back Chuck Lagrange powered the ground attack with 129 yards and three touchdowns on 10 carries.

Receiver Qwinton Murray was nearly unstoppable, catching four passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns. On defense, Lawson Brooks recorded six tackles, including two sacks, while Evan Johnson and Hunter Gregg each added four tackles.

The win keeps Sherwood Christian among the favorites in the GIAA Class AA 8-man playoff picture. The Eagles will close out the regular season next Friday night in Bainbridge against Grace Christian Academy.

Florida fires Billy Napier

Media Reports



Special Photo: Maria Lysaker-Imagn Images

The University of Florida athletics program will owe Coach Billy Napier an estimated $20 million after firing him Sunday.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — One day after fans booed through a narrow win, the University of Florida made it official — the Billy Napier era is over.

The Gators fired Napier on Sunday morning, ending a turbulent four-year tenure defined by unmet expectations and mounting frustration in The Swamp. The decision came less than 24 hours after Florida's 23–21 win over Mississippi State, a game punctuated by audible "Fire Billy!" chants from the home crowd despite the victory.

Athletic director Scott Stricklin cited the program's lack of consistent progress and on-field results as the reason for the change. Florida began the season 3–4 overall and 2–2 in SEC play, continuing a pattern that had fans and boosters questioning the program's direction.

Napier departs with a 22–23 overall record and a 12–16 SEC mark — Florida's lowest winning percentage since the 1940s. His four seasons produced records of 6–7 in 2022, 5–7 in 2023, a promising 8–5 rebound in 2024, and this year's 3–4 start that sealed his fate.

A stunning home loss to South Florida earlier this fall — Florida's first defeat to an in-state program other than Florida State or Miami since 1938 — was a turning point. That setback, combined with uneven quarterback play and mounting penalties, erased the goodwill Napier had earned from last year's modest resurgence.

Napier, hired in December 2021 after leading Louisiana to four straight Sun Belt title games, was brought in to restore stability and rebuild recruiting pipelines. But his tenure instead underscored how far the once-dominant program has slipped since the Urban Meyer era.

Florida will owe Napier roughly $20–21 million in buyout money, with half due within 30 days and the rest spread over several years — adding to the financial strain of a program still paying former coach Dan Mullen.

Stricklin is now leading what he described as a "thorough and confidential national search" for a replacement capable of restoring Florida's championship pedigree.

Early reports from ESPN, CBS Sports, and the Gainesville Sun identify Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin as the favorite among boosters, though his $9 million contract and SEC ties could complicate matters. Eli Drinkwitz of Missouri, Jedd Fisch of Washington — a Gainesville native and former Spurrier assistant — and Notre Dame's Marcus Freeman are also expected to draw interest.

Other names linked to the search include Rhett Lashlee of SMU, Brent Key of Georgia Tech, and recently dismissed Penn State coach James Franklin. For now, longtime assistant Billy Gonzales will serve as interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

Napier's firing marks the latest chapter in Florida's long search for stability. Since 2010, the Gators have cycled through six head coaches — a staggering figure for a program that once defined SEC dominance.

The expectation in Gainesville remains unchanged: championships. And as the Gators embark on another rebuild, one truth lingers over the program like a scoreboard glow on a humid night in The Swamp — Florida isn't chasing respectability; it's chasing relevance.

From 9A

RAMS

quarterback Zhay'Lyn Bell, a 6-foot-5 product of Atlanta, took over at quarterback and guided the offense the rest of the way. Bell completed 10 of 21 passes for 68 yards and rushed 11 times for 54 yards, showing poise and mobility in his most extended action yet.

Tuskegee's lone score came midway through the third quarter on a 50-yard field goal by Lorcan Ryans, trimming the lead to 7–3. Later in the quarter, Wright attempted a 39-yard field goal for Albany State, but Tuskegee's Timothy Grayson blocked the kick.

The Golden Tigers threatened again late, driving inside Albany State territory, but on fourth-and-14 from the 38, defensive back Corey Petty stepped in front of a pass to seal the victory with a game-clinching interception.

Statistically, the Rams dominated the trenches. Albany State rushed for 215 yards on 47 carries and outgained Tuskegee 284-196 in total offense. The Golden Rams held the Tigers to 85 rushing yards and just 3 of 15 conversions on third down.

Defensive end Derrick Drayton, a junior from College Park, led the charge with five tackles and three for loss, as the Dirty Blue front bottled up nearly every Tuskegee drive.

The victory came on national television on ESPN+, with next week's road matchup against Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., set to air as well. Benedict College (7-0) beat Edward Waterson Saturday, 31-27, to remain undefeated. The winner of Saturday's game could determine home-field advantage for the SIAC championship.

Terrell Academy Lady Eagles' final four bid halted after thrilling tournament run

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Special Photo: Submitted

The Terrell Academy Lady Eagles finished 21-8 and one win away from a state championship game appearance after losing to Westfield and John Milledge Friday at the South Commons Complex in Columbus.

COLUMBUS — Thursday at the GIAA state softball tournament, Terrell Academy looked every bit like a team capable of challenging the state's elite. The Lady Eagles racked up 27 hits in their first two games and played their way into the Final Four before running into a familiar powerhouse — Westfield, the seven-time defending state champion.

In Friday's matchup, Westfield's ace Camilla Bloodworth proved why the Lady Hornets have owned GIAA softball for nearly a decade. Bloodworth threw a no-hitter, striking out 11 and walking just two as Westfield edged Terrell 3-0 in a winner's bracket contest.

Terrell's starter Caroline Presley pitched well in defeat, going six innings and allowing three runs (two earned) on 10 hits. Westfield broke through in the third inning when Madeline Katz delivered a two-run single. Presley retired the next several batters to keep the Lady Eagles close, but Terrell's offense — which had been red-hot earlier — was silenced by Bloodworth's command and velocity.

That loss sent the Lady Eagles to the loser's bracket, where they faced John Milledge Academy for a chance to earn another shot at Westfield.

Terrell jumped out early behind a sacrifice fly from Lily Addison in the first inning and a three-run second that featured an RBI single by Presley and a two-RBI triple by catcher Emma Lane, building a 4-0 lead.

John Milledge clawed back with four runs in the third to tie it, but Lane's sharply hit ball in the fourth gave Terrell a brief 5-4 lead when Hadley Webb came home to score. The Lady Eagles' hopes faded in the fifth, however, when two hits and an error led to a pair of John Milledge runs and a 6-5 loss.

Presley went the distance once again, striking out four while giving up six runs (four earned) on 15 hits. Lane finished 2-for-4 with two RBIs, and Webb added two hits for Terrell.

Head coach Ashley Walker said his team had nothing to hang their heads about.

"We gave it everything we had. We had opportunities to win but fell short. It was what a Final Four game is supposed to be — exciting and action-packed. We accomplished many goals — we won 21 games and a region championship. Nothing to be disappointed about. It was a very fun year and words cannot express how proud I am," he said.

John Milledge went on to face Westfield for the state championship on Saturday, with the Lady Hornets capturing their eighth straight GIAA title.

For Terrell, the season ended a game shy of a rematch with the champions — but with plenty to celebrate: a 21-win season, a region crown, and a postseason run that showed the Lady Eagles can compete with anyone in Georgia's private-school ranks.

From 9A

POLL

Illinois, Arizona State, and Michigan — entered the poll after pivotal Week 8 wins.

AP Top 25 – Week 9
(Released October 19, 2025)

Ohio State (60) – 7–0 – (Last week: 1)
Indiana (6) – 7–0 – (3)
Texas A&M – 7–0 – (4)
Alabama – 6–1 – (6)
Georgia – 6–1 – (9)
Oregon – 6–1 – (8)
Georgia Tech – 7–0 – (12)
Ole Miss – 6–1 – (5)
Miami (FL) – 5–1 – (2)
Vanderbilt – 6–1 – (17)
BYU – 7–0 – (15)
Notre Dame – 5–2 – (13)
Oklahoma – 6–1 – (14)
Texas Tech – 6–1 – (7)
Missouri – 6–1 – (16)
Virginia – 6–1 – (18)
Tennessee – 5–2 – (11)
South Florida – 6–1 – (19)
Louisville – 5–1 – (NR)
LSU – 5–2 – (10)
Cincinnati – 6–1 – (24)
Texas – 5–2 – (21)
Illinois – 5–2 – (NR)
Arizona State – 5–2 – (NR)
Michigan – 5–2 – (NR)

From 9A

SPARKS

Simmons stepped in front of the pass near the 14-yard line, turned upfield, and outran everyone — 86 yards to the house. His pick-six and the ensuing two-point conversion made it 28-14, and the roar from the Patriots' sideline echoed through Hugh Mills.

"Simmons' play changed everything," said Westover head coach Corey Joyner. "We gave up two touchdowns by not playing smart. I'm happy about our performance, but not happy with the penalties. Still, it was a great job by our players and coaches."

Simmons also caught two passes for 37 yards, making his presence felt on both sides of the ball.

Monroe struck first. After Talaun Jones returned the opening kickoff deep into Patriot territory, Thomas connected with his brother Calvin Thomas on a screen to the 3-yard line, then found Jaciune King for the short touchdown. Jocsan Martinez's extra point made it 7-0.

Westover needed only minutes to answer. Senior running back Christian Nix — who finished with 74 yards on six carries — broke two tackles behind the line, bounced to the right sideline, and raced 45 yards for a touchdown to tie the score.

Thomas then hit Jordyn Shorter, another former Patriot, on a 50-yard strike to reclaim the lead for Monroe at 14-7. But Hopper and Simmons connected on a crucial fourth-and-seven conversion, setting up Hopper's first touchdown run of the night. Moments later, a bad snap over Thomas' head gave Westover the ball at the Monroe 1. Hopper scored again, giving Westover its first lead, 20-14, at halftime.

After Simmons' interception return widened the gap, Monroe unraveled. Another high snap forced the Tornadoes into a fourth-and-42 punt from deep in their own end. Westover took advantage, and Hopper capped the drive with a 7-yard scoring run — his third rushing touchdown of the night.

Still, Thomas wouldn't quit. He led a late drive, connecting with Talaun Jones on a screen that set up his own short touchdown run to make it 35-21. But Westover added a final touchdown in the closing minutes to seal the win.

For Hopper, it was validation — a night when the sophomore showed calm command in his biggest rivalry game yet.

"He's improved every day," Joyner said. "Coach Jaylen Joyner and Cameron Hopkins have done a great job mentoring Gabe, and it's showing."

Monroe head coach Lacey Herring credited his players' effort despite the costly mistakes. "All of our guys played their hearts out," Herring said. "We gave them three easy scores — two with bad snaps and then the pick-six. Simple mistakes hurt us most tonight."

The victory lifted Westover to 5-2, setting up another crosstown showdown next Friday against Dougherty High, coached by Corey Joyner's younger brother Uyl Joyner. Monroe, now 2-5, will travel to face Bainbridge.

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q:Who is the actress who plays Callie on "The Hunting Wives"? Was she ever on a daytime soap? I know I've seen her somewhere. -- A.K.

A: That's Jaime Ray Newman playing the sheriff's wife, Callie, in the hit Netflix series "The Hunting Wives," which is about a group of East Texas socialites with deadly secrets. She's known to daytime soap audiences for her role as Kristina Cassadine, whom she played from 2001-2003 on "General Hospital."

She's gone on to land one primetime role after another whether it's in a recurring capacity or a contract player; she starred in "Veronica Mars" in 2006, followed by short-lived series like "Eastwick" and "Eureka."

She played Vanessa Hemmings, one of Grayson's love interests, for two seasons on "Drop Dead Diva," one of the Sacklers in "Dopesick," and widow Sarah Lieberman in "The Punisher." And this is just a small sample of her credits, but if "The Hunting Wives" remains a hit, it'll be the series that makes Jaime Ray Newman a household name.

***

Q:I saw a commercial for a new "9-1-1" show that is set in Nashville. It looked like singer LeAnn Rimes is in it. Is she part of the permanent cast? -- B.I.

A: "9-1-1: Nashville" is the third series in the "9-1-1" franchise of shows, and it premiered on Oct. 9 on ABC. Just like its predecessors "9-1-1" and "9-1-1: Lone Star," it follows a team of firefighters, paramedics and police officers who respond to emergency calls while also navigating the drama of their personal lives. The newest chapter stars a very familiar face to network TV audiences, Chris O'Donnell, who starred in the huge hit "NCIS: Los Angeles" for 14 seasons.

Joining O'Donnell on location in Nashville and the surrounding areas is Jessica Capshaw ("Grey's Anatomy") and Grammy-Award-winning artist LeAnn Rimes. Both are full-time cast members. While she's known more for her beautiful singing voice, Rimes has several acting credits. In fact, Rimes met her husband, actor Eddie Cibrian, on the set of their Lifetime movie "Northern Lights" about 15 years ago.

"9-1-1: Nashville" could be the hit Rimes needs to catapult herself into a full-time acting career. It's not a sure bet, however. "9-1-1: Lone Star" with Rob Lowe was canceled after just five seasons because of budget reasons, but the original "9-1-1" starring Angela Bassett is still going strong with its ninth season, which premiered on Oct. 9.

***

Q: When do the Winter Olympics start, and which networks will it be on? I don't want to miss it. -- D.E.

A:The 2026 Olympic Winter Games will be held from Feb. 6-22, 2026, in Milan and Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy. NBC will be the main network to once again host the games and its numerous events, which are also streaming on Peacock.

The "Today" show's Savannah Guthrie and NBC Sports' commentator Terry Gannon will host the Opening Ceremony on Feb. 6. They'll also be joined by three-time Gold-Medal-winning snowboarder Shaun White in the booth. Be sure to visit NBC.com for further details as it gets closer to February.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

James Medford Kelley

James Medford Kelley, 79, of Ashburn passed away Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Pruitt Healthcare of Sylvester.

James was born in Ochlocknee, Florida on February 26, 1946 to the late James Bart and Gola Mae Parker Kelley. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church. James was a car lover, especially antique cars.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandra Pate Kelley of Ashburn; sons, James Walter (Robin) Kelley of Ashburn and Wesley Warren (Christy) Kelley of Ashburn; sister, Teresa Ann Kelley Crews of Lake Butler, Florida; brother, Don Matthew (Carol) Kelley of Lake Butler, Florida; grandchildren, Caitlin (Luis) Tyson, Laina (Kaleb) Pry and Madison Kelley. He is also survived by one great-grandchild, Goldie Tyson.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Perry Funeral Chapel with entombment to follow at Harmony Cemetery. The family will greet friends from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Perry Funeral Chapel.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

"G NJGWWP RUNMTL FMZGT GEEJKUR UOJ FGN ROJ FJTU UONMBLO GTX DR JTTMVWJX VP OJN REGNR."

— EGNWP RDZMT

Previous Solution: "God put us here, on this carnival ride. We close our eyes never knowing where it'll take us next." — Carrie Underwood

TODAY'S CLUE: U = B

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

"K HT MZC KMVBKMWS CZ GXR NWVHAIW K NWBKWUW H VWXCHKM KOMZXHMVW HCCWMSI CFW NWIC LXKWMSIFKGI." — WIIHRKIC THXR VHMCJWBB

Previous Solution: "A really strong woman accepts the war she went through and is ennobled by her scars." — Carly Simon

TODAY'S CLUE: A = U

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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-m ail 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 Dnance@albanyha.com



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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES / **SOLUTIONS**

1 burrito wrappers (9) _____
2 thought back (on) (9) _____
3 added heft (8) _____
4 elaborate nature (10) _____
5 a piano has seven (7) _____
6 colorful conclusion (6) _____
7 at long last (10) _____

RTIL	TO	REF	GHT	ED
LECT	ED	VES	SET	XITY
TIMA	UL	LAS	COM	OC
TELY	TA	SUN	PLE	WEI

Saturday's Answers: 1. COASTER 2. KNITS 3. CHARLIZE 4. FLATTENED 5. ADELAIDE 6. BALUSTER 7. LATERIGRADE 10/20

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES / **SOLUTIONS**

1 Arizona and St. Louis teams (9) _____
2 bills' security feature (9) _____
3 acted shocked (6) _____
4 short computer game sounds (5) _____
5 nation surrounding Gambia (7) _____
6 Jaguars' QB Lawrence (6) _____
7 pointlessly perambulating (9) _____

VOR	ERM	CAR	SP	ALS
WAT	AL	ARK	BL	EG
GA	WA	IPS	DIN	ERI
ND	NG	TRE	SEN	ED

Monday's Answers: 1. TORTILLAS 2. REFLECTED 3. WEIGHTED 4. COMPLEXITY 5. OCTAVES 6. SUNSET 7. ULTIMATELY 10/21

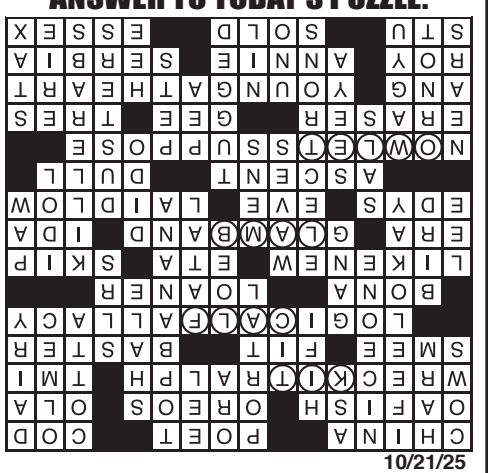
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CROSSWORD

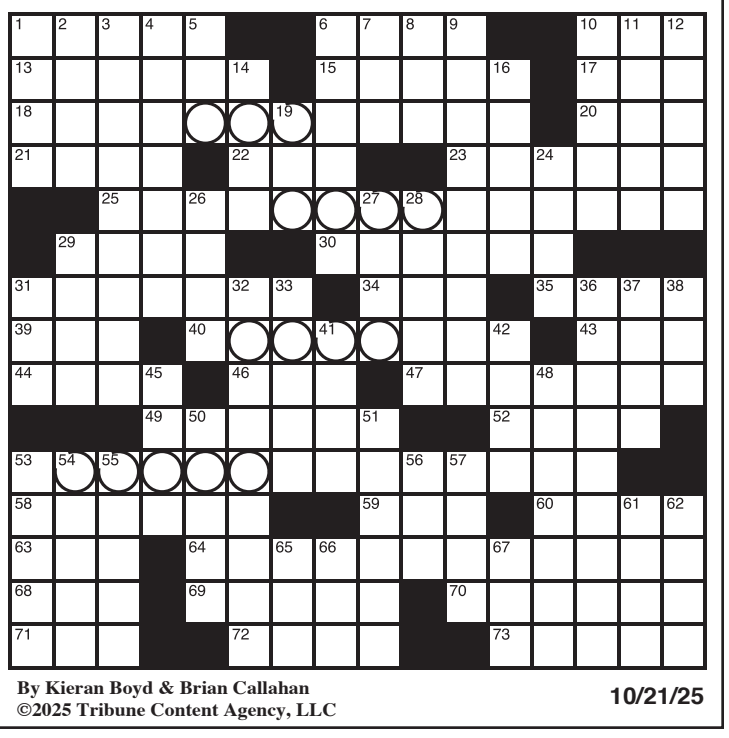
ACROSS
1 Asian country that dominates badminton in the Olympics
6 Expert who works with both feet and meters?
10 Cape __, Massachusetts
13 Clumsy
15 Sandwich cookies
17 São Paulo salutation
18 Animated Disney film set in an arcade
20 Brief "I don't need the details!"
21 "Peter Pan" pirate
22 In really good condition
23 Turkey-roasting aid
25 Hole in an argument
29 __ fide
30 Replacement car
31 In really good condition
34 Letter between zeta and theta
35 Pass over
39 Notable time
40 Rock group with flashy outfits
43 Boise's st.
44 Ice cream brand
46 Night before
47 Knocked to the ground
49 Rise
52 Boring
53 "Consider this ... "
58 Pencil end
59 "Oh wow!"
60 "__ bien!"
63 With 31-Down, "Life of Pi" director
64 Feeling like age is just a number, and an apt description of 18-, 25-, 40-, and 53-Across
68 Rob __ cocktail
69 Writer Proulx
70 Belgrade's country
71 Early Beatle Sutcliffe
72 Auction cry
73 County of southeast England

DOWN
1 Ranch ruminants
2 "No __, no foul"
3 "Doing all right"
4 "Good job!"
5 Request
6 Door
7 Pop singer Rita
8 Snakelike fish
9 Big enchilada
10 Terra-__ tiles
11 Native of Veracruz
12 No-no for a vegan
14 Classic LP player
16 Sedimentary rock
19 __-tac-toe
24 Some camera shop buys, for short
26 Crew
27 "Stay" singer Lisa
28 Like some programming errors
29 Feathered friend
31 See 63-Across
32 Subatomic particles with a negative charge
33 "... amber __ of grain"
36 Core muscles to die for
37 Venerated object
38 Furry foot
41 Department store section
42 First queen of Carthage
45 "Do the Right Thing" pizza place
48 Fluffy cleaners
50 "Toodles!"
51 Yanked
53 Approaches
54 "... up to you, though"
55 Japanese cattle breed
56 Word after "chick" or before "hen"
57 Feathered or furry friends
61 Cleveland's lake
62 Lay's chips in a tube
65 __, due, tre
66 Soccer zero
67 Tee-__

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



10/21/25



By Kieran Boyd & Brian Callahan
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10/21/25

Georgia Power experiments with cost-efficient power lines

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist

MACON – Georgia Power is using a new device to make power lines in Macon more efficient. It's a demonstration project, but if the company decides to adopt the technology more widely, it could help reduce the need for pricey upgrades to Georgia's grid to meet rising energy demand.

The piece of hardware, developed by grid technology company Switched Source, helps power get where it's needed more efficiently.

Electricity distribution is complicated, and constantly changing. A single circuit might power not just whole neighborhoods of homes, but big-box retail stores, schools, restaurants and more. All those buildings use different amounts of power at different times of day as people go to school and work, shop, charge electric vehicles or run their air conditioners.

That means electricity in the power lines can get congested.

"The distribution circuit is kind of like a three-lane highway with barriers between the lanes," Charlie Murray, co-founder of Switched Source, said. "So there's off ramps from a given lane that go to a neighborhood, and those off-ramps are very difficult to change."

The new Switched Source device in Macon takes down those barriers so electricity can get where it needs to, when it needs to, more efficiently.

A single set of utility poles typically has multiple wires on it, and the technology enables energy loads to switch between those wires on a second-to-second basis as needed, to "level out the electrical stress," Murray said.

As utilities like Georgia Power try to meet rising demand for energy, many are looking at ways to improve their transmission and distribution systems to carry more energy more efficiently, including technology like this that can help them avoid spending lots of customer money to build new power lines.

"We make each electron go a little bit further," Murray said. "Our device is really just in real time making sure that we're using the system to its maximum capability."

It could also help utilities restore power faster after a storm, he said, by enabling them to reconnect downed wires quickly without the risk of overloading parts of the system.



Special Photo: WABE/Grist
Georgia Power is using a new device to make power lines in Macon more efficient.

Switched Source has already conducted other demonstrations of this technology. After this demonstration project in Macon, Murray said he hopes that Georgia Power and other utilities in the state could install more of these devices throughout the grid.

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.



File Photo
The faltering economy is keeping many Americans from Halloween spending, but a survey shows that plenty of people plan to spend more this year.

Halloween budgets creep up to an average of $192

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

Witches, ghosts and ghouls may be scary, but the true terror of the looming Halloween holiday for some is the cost.

A LendingTree survey of 2,000 Americans looks at how many will celebrate this year, how much they'll spend, whether they'll go into debt for the festivities and more.

What the survey found may spook budget-conscious Americans: The 9 in 10 consumers who plan to celebrate expect to spend an average of $192 on Halloween this year, up from $172 in 2024.

Some of the findings:

• Halloween is creeping closer, and Americans are ready to spend on scares: 9 in 10 plan to celebrate this year, spending an average of $192 — up from $172 in 2024. Candy is the top purchase at 60%, with pumpkins (35%) and outdoor decorations (34%) also high on the list of spooky shopping items.

• However, the thrills can come with a chill for the wallet: 1 in 4 (25%) revelers have gone into Halloween debt before and expect to again this year, up from 17% last year. Among those who've overspent, 40% did so to make their kids happy and/or outdo their neighbors' decorations. Overall, more than half (53%) of overspenders regret it.

• Still, the economy is putting a spell on some spenders: More than 6 in 10 spenders say they are skipping certain Halloween purchases this year due to financial uncertainty, with candy (33%) and decorations (32%) most likely to vanish from spenders' carts.

• Even as spending rises, the Halloween spirit isn't as strong for everyone: While 43% of spenders plan to dole out more than they did last year, 21% say their interest in spending on Halloween has decreased over the past five years. Additionally, 44% think people spend too much on the holiday

Spirited Halloween spending could be more nightmarish for budgets this year than last, with costs creeping higher. But that won't stop most from celebrating.

Nine in 10 Americans plan to cough up cash for some sort of celebratory Halloween touch, with candy (60%) leading the way. The other leading items people plan to spend money on are:

• Pumpkins and/or carving supplies (35%);

• Decorations for outside their home (34%);

• Decorations for inside their h ome (33%);

• Halloween-related food items, not including candy (27%);

• Costumes for themselves (25%) .

Halloween spenders plan to shell out an average of $192 this year, up from $172 in 2024. Men plan to spend more than double what women plan to spend — $259 versus $126. And not surprisingly, those with children younger than 18 plan to spend significantly more ($305) than those with children 18 or older ($106) or those with no children ($135).

Among generations, it's millennials ages 29 to 44 who plan to spend the most ($265), followed by Gen Xers ages 45 to 60 ($188), Gen Zers ages 18 to 28 ($169) and baby boomers ages 61 to 79 ($91).

How are revelers planning to spend the haunting holiday? Buying holiday treats is the most frequently planned activity (44%). A close second is watching a scary movie (43%), with 63% of celebrators saying they may subscribe to a new streaming service to watch Halloween movies and shows, up from 52% last year.

Other top planned celebratory activities include:

Decorating their home (39%);

Baking or cooking Halloween-themed foods/treats (29%);

Going to a Halloween-related activity like a pumpkin patch, hayride or haunted house (28%);

Dressing up in a costume (25%);

Going to a Halloween party (24%);

Going trick-or-treating (23%);

Making Halloween crafts (20%);

Sharing Halloween content like photos or videos on social media (20%).

Part of the reason for higher holiday spending is that the prices for the Halloween items we love are growing, according to Matt Schulz, LendingTree chief consumer finance analyst and author of "Ask Questions, Save Money, Make More: How to Take Control of Your Financial Life." If you want to have the same party you had a year or two ago, you'll likely have to spend more.

"There are more and more options for Halloween fun, and some can be really pricey," Schulz says. "However, some of our increased Halloween spending is simply that the holiday can be so much fun. People make so many sacrifices throughout the year because of the economy and myriad other reasons, and every so often they want to let loose, get a little wild and have fun with their friends and family. Halloween allows for that like few other occasions."

The current economy is striking fear in the carts of some Halloween spenders, with more than 6 in 10 spenders saying they've skipped certain purchases due to financial uncertainty.

"Cutting back on things like candy and decorations is further proof that many Americans are struggling financially," he says. "Tough times require sacrifice, and that means dialing back the fun of Halloween for a lot of people."

Georgia Museum of Agriculture presents Terror on the Tracks

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON – Get ready for a frightfully fun weekend as the Georgia Museum of Agriculture dares you to face your fears at "Terror on the Tracks" — a haunted walking trail and train experience like no other, happening Thursday and Friday.

When the clock strikes the witching hour (8–11 p.m.), the trails come alive with ghostly ghouls, eerie sounds, and spine-tingling surprises waiting around every corner. Do you have what it takes to make it through? If the scares stir up your appetite, satisfy your ghoulish cravings with local food trucks serving up frightfully good eats all night long.

Then, keep the fun going on October 25 with Trick or Treat in the Village from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. — a family-friendly event where kids of all ages can show off their costumes and enjoy a day full of sweet treats and fall fun.

Tickets are just $10 plus fees in advance or $15 at the gate, but don't wait — they're vanishing fast! Grab yours at link.abac.edu/TerrorTracks. Not recommended for anyone under 13 (or the faint of heart).

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture is located at 1392 Whiddon Mill Road in Tifton. For more information, visit gma.abac.edu.



Special Illustration
The Georgia Museum of Agriculture's Terror on the Tracks haunted event is set for Thursday and Friday.

Southwell now offers neurologic physical therapy in Tifton

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON – Southwell Outpatient Therapy Services in Tifton has recently added neurologic physical therapy to its array of rehabilitative services. Kate Vickers provides specialized PT for conditions caused by nervous system diseases or injuries. The nervous system includes the brain, spinal cord and nerves.

Vickers earned an undergraduate degree in exercise and sports science from the University of Georgia and a doctor of physical therapy degree from Augusta University. She followed with advanced PT training in neurological disorders at TIRR Memorial Hermann Outpatient Rehabilitation in Houston and Shepherd Center Inpatient Rehabilitation in Atlanta.

"Neurologic PT is a specialized branch of physical therapy focused on rehabilitating the nervous system, brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves to improve mobility, balance, endurance and daily function," Vickers said. "It addresses a wide range of impairments like muscle weakness, poor coordination, spasticity, sensory changes, and loss of function that impact safety as well as independence resulting from neurological disorders and injuries."

Vickers said she works closely with orthopedists, neurologists, and other physicians to evaluate and treat stroke and incidents involving the brain and blood vessels; spinal cord injury; traumatic and acquired brain injuries; balance, dizziness and other vestibular disorders; tumors affecting the nervous system; Parkinson's disease; multiple sclerosis; Guillain-Barré and chronic inflammatory neuropathy; and movement and coordination disorders.

Drew Dorminey, Southwell's director of the Orthopedic Service Line, said Vickers' unique focus is a complement to Southwell Outpatient Therapy Services.

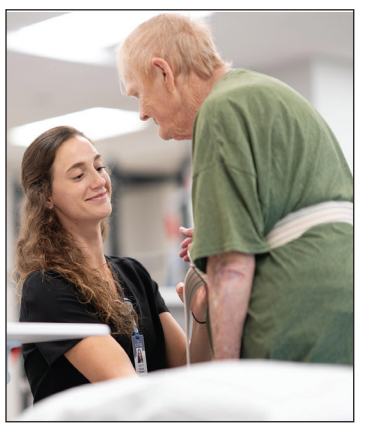
"We are excited to have Kate on our team," Dorminey said. "In addition to general physical, occupational, and speech therapy services, we are proud to offer specialized care like neurologic PT with Kate. Another example of specialized PT is pelvic floor physical therapy for women, which we introduced in 2022. We continue to grow so people can have advanced rehabilitative care close to home, work and family."

Dorminey said if a person notices a change in his/her mobility or receives a neurologic diagnosis, Vickers can be helpful in assisting with improving mobility and prevention of further loss. Some conditions also require regular tune-ups done annually or when changes are noticed.

"A referral is required for Kate's services, so we encourage patients to talk to their physician or advanced practice provider," Dorminey said.

Southwell Outpatient Therapy Services is in Tifton at 2227 U.S. Highway 41, 3rd Floor. For more information, visit www.MySouthwell.com or call (229) 353-6188.

"It's an honor to assist local residents with neurologic conditions and injuries to optimize their health and well-being," Vickers said.



Special Photo: Southwell
Kate Vickers offers advanced physical therapy for Southwell patients with neurological disorders.