

Standouts honored
All-Albany football team
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LOCAL MATTERS
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026



Bruce Maples

Albany citizens complain of ‘foul odors’ along Washington, Jefferson streets

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY – Several Albany citizens say something foul is in the air in the city’s busy central district along Washington and Jefferson streets, and they point to a nearby recycling center as the possible cause of odors that they say sometimes are so bad they force residents inside.

David Dixon, a retired Miller Brewing Co. environmental engineer, said on muggy days the smell near Complete Resource Management on North Washington Street is so “overwhelming” people nearby, including a pair of day care centers, are forced to seek relief inside.

“I have smelled the noxious acid/fuel type odor along North Washing-

ton Street and at Jefferson and 11th Avenue as recently as Jan. 5,” Dixon, a Flint Riverkeeper Emeritus board member, said. “I am deeply concerned about the source of this air pollution and what chemicals it may contain, as my granddaughter attends the Phoebe Learning Tree Pre-K school a few blocks



David Dixon

See ODORS, 2A

Henderson Gym replacement project under way in south Albany

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – When the Henderson Gym was completed in south Albany, Jimmy Carter was the president and the city was a much different place than it is today.

For nearly 50 years, Albany youngsters have shot hoops in the facility and used it as a hangout. But now city officials are saying the aging structure has reached the end of its lifespan.

On Tuesday, those officials turned a few shovelful of dirt to celebrate the next chapter at the gym’s Willard Avenue location. It is one of several recreation projects in the works for the city.

Over the next year, a \$9 million, 17,000-square-foot facility is slated to rise to replace the old building.

“This building has meant a lot for this community since 1977 or 1978,” Mayor Bo Dorough said prior to the groundbreaking ceremony. “I think

we need to understand these facilities have outlived their useful lives, and they need to be replaced.

“I agreed we need to tear these facilities down to build amenities for the future of Albany, to make an investment in these areas that had been neglected.”

The facility will include not only basketball courts but also a community center, community garden outside, space for after-school programs and a room dedicated to adult activities.

“Not only is this going to enlarge the appearance (and) quality of life for south Albany, it will serve as a beacon (that) our city is committed to our citizens and our city is looking forward to the future of our community,” the mayor said.

When he was on the commission years ago, Dorough

See GYM, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Albany officials participate in a Tuesday groundbreaking ceremony at the 701 Willard Ave. Henderson Gym facility. The gym, which opened in the late 1970s, will be replaced with a new facility over the next year.

Periodical — Mail Label

Albany police to initiate repeat offender program to help tackle gun violence

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Looking to break the cycle of violent crime in the city, the Albany Police Department will launch a program this week looking to identify and reach those most at risk of being both victims and perpetrators in that cycle.

Police will launch the Repeat Offender Initiative on Friday, with the goal of intervening with what they describe as the “1% of the population that drive the gun violence that has plagued the city.”

In 2025, there were 23 homicides in Dougherty County.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Albany Police Department Capt. Terrence Whitlock, left, and Police Chief Michael Persley give a presentation on Tuesday to the Albany City Commission about the Repeat Offender Initiative that is being launched on Friday.

The program has had success in Atlanta, where police

See VIOLENCE, 2A

Albany Area Arts Council to present ‘WE BE THE BLUES’

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – The Albany Area Arts Council will present “We Be the Blues,” a landmark solo exhibition by local artist Botini Feb. 5-March 6 at the Arts Council’s Carnegie Library Gallery, 215 N. Jackson St., in downtown Albany.

An Opening Reception will be held Feb. 5, from 6–8 p.m., and the public is invited to

attend this free event. Attendees will experience the rich indigo palettes, expressive figuration, and layered symbolism that Botini uses to examine resilience, ancestral memory, and the quiet majesty of everyday black existence; honoring lives shaped by endurance, creativity, and collective spirit.

The opening reception will

See BLUES, 2A



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Special Illustration

The Albany Area Arts Council will present "We Be the Blues," a landmark solo exhibition by local artist Botini Feb. 5-March 6 at the Arts Council's Carnegie Library Gallery.



**From 1A
BLUES**

feature a special live performance by legendary Albany native Rutha Mae Harris, performing "Pray For Me," a powerful song from the "We Be the Blues"

album and soundtrack, a preview screening of the "We Be the Blues" documentary, offering insight into the stories, people, and places that shaped the work, and a living community art installation, inviting audiences to engage with the exhibition as an active celebration rather than a passive viewing experience.

Born in Valdosta and based in Albany, Botini is a self-taught artist known for her evocative portrayals of black people; particularly black women, as culture bearers and storytellers. Her work has been exhibited throughout Georgia and the Southeast and is recognized for its emotional honesty, historical depth, and unmistakable visual voice.

"We Be the Blues" will be on view throughout Black History Month and stands as a celebration of the lives, legacies, and enduring brilliance of black families in the South, AAAC officials said.

The gallery is open Monday-Thursday, 12-4 p.m., with other hours available by appointment.

The Albany Area Arts Council is dedicated to fostering the growth of the arts in southwest Georgia. Through various initiatives and programs, the council strives to promote artistic excellence and make the arts accessible to all members of our community.

The mission of the AAAC is to support, promote, and advocate for the arts and artists in Albany and the surrounding region, while stewarding the historic Carnegie Library for the benefit of the public. For more information, contact the Arts Council at (229) 439-ARTS (2787) or visit the <https://albany-artsCouncil.org/> website.

**From 1A
ODORS**

away. Whatever it is, it needs to stop, as it is affecting the quality of life of local residents and employees in this area."

Resident Marla Edmonds said the smell is so bad it seeps into people's homes.

"The odor is terrible—unbearable at times," Edmonds said. "On some days, it's so strong you can actually taste it, and it burns your eyes. When it's at its worst, we try to stay inside. Neighbors have also complained, describing a strong chemical smell that seeps into their homes.

"There are two day cares in the immediate area, as well as a hospital very close by, that all have had either employees, caretakers or guests complain about this smell. It is deeply unfair that so many people — especially children, patients and staff — are forced to suffer because of the continued operation of this facility."

But officials at CRM, located at 1701 N. Washington St., said there are no offensive smells associated with the plant that recycles organic materials for use in landscaping projects.

"We work with organic stuff, so there are at times 'earthy' smells associated with what we do, but not the kind of smells that are offensive," Complete Resource Management Manager Whitcomb Barnhill said. "We don't see it as odors; it's more a dirt kind of smell. It never gets stinky.

"Now before the city had that big pipe burst around New Years, there were times while they were working down Washington that there were sewage smells. That kind of goes with the territory with that kind of work."

The city of Albany has been working on a \$100 million-plus sewer/stormwater separation project along Washington and Jefferson streets for the better part of a year. And Assistant City Manager for Operations Bruce Maples said any recent odor issues may have been related to an issue that sprung up on Dec. 30.

"We haven't had any complaints about odors in that area, although we did get complaints on Westover Road (in northwest Albany) when it got real cold last month," Maples said. "Cold weather tends to keep gases closer to the ground, increasing the possibility of smells.

"Around 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 30, we had an issue with a force main at Lift Station 26 where Oglethorpe (Boulevard) runs into Albany State (University). That force main is one of the busiest in the city; sewage from the northeast and northwest sectors of the

city are carried through Lift Station 26 to the treatment plant."

The issue was something of an anomaly, Maples said, in that it centered around a break in pipe that is rated to last 100 years, and the pipe is 15 feet under the ground.

"We couldn't shut the station down during that busy time, so we had our people and a Jim Boyd Construction crew working 26 hours straight to try and contain the spillage. Finally, around 4 a.m., things slowed down enough we were able to shut down the lift station, clear away the sewage and make repairs.

"During this process, we had to send sewage into areas along Washington where manholes that are normally closed were opened. That's the only thing, off the top of my head, that could have led to bad odors in that area. I can't say enough about how our city employees and the Jim Boyd Construction crew stepped up to get this issue taken care of. They worked 26-27 hours straight, until around 4 a.m. on Jan. 1 to deal with this issue."

Still, Dixon and others say the offensive smells likely are being created at CRM.

Naquesia Sloan, the director of the nearby Child Care Network day care center, said that while she can't pinpoint the smells as coming from the recycling center, there are days that she has to keep children in her care inside the facility.

"I can't say for sure these odors are dangerous or where they're coming from, but it smells really bad, and it happens fairly often," Sloan said.

A spokesperson for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital said that while none of the hospital's employees has complained about offensive smells that he's aware of, a "couple of people have asked about unpleasant odors."

Complete Resource Management H.R. Manager Fletcher Ogletree said he's not aware of any complaints directed at the recycling plant in the 5 1/2 years he's worked there.

"There are certain aromas associated with organic material when it breaks down, and I'm not saying that people aren't having issues," Ogletree said. "But I'm not aware of any complaints being made. This company has always, since I've been here, done what it can to mitigate any issues that might arise.

"I can honestly say we do our best to be good neighbors."

Maples said the city will readily respond to any future complaints.

"I am not aware of any complaints being made about this issue, but I will tell our citizens that if they'll let us know if they encounter offensive odors, we'll follow up," he said. "They can reach out to us, and we'll look into it to see if there's anything unusual."

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGED BEER & WINE LICENSE

Albany Enterprise Inc., trading as Marathon Mart at 402 N Westover Blvd, Albany, Georgia 31707 give notice that I have applied for an Alcohol License to be considered as a transfer of ownership. Albany Herald Run Dates: January 1, 3, 6 & 8

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR, BEER, AND WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **JREA Albany LLC**, doing business as **Courtyard by Marriott**, located at **3019 Kensington Court, Albany, Georgia 31721**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **on-premises consumption of liquor, beer, and wine**, for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the *Albany Herald* on **January 8, January 10, and January 13, 2026**, or on the **next three (3) consecutive publication dates thereafter**, in compliance with applicable law.

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.

" Z B K U L N R S C R G R I I K T S Y Z S M ,
C G R C Y T I T S Y H , U B D U L P H T , U S
N G T P T K U L H C U I K U L P H C U P K . "

Previous Solution: "In a field / I am the absence of field. / This is always the case. / Wherever I am / I am what is missing." — Mark Strand

TODAY'S CLUE: *H sjenbø Z*

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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.

" T B T H G X T H K E D N T X R A M D H N T E N
N D A K T X B I K E R A K N T 1 0 - S K T H -
D C G V R G B I D X T S X , ' R C D Z K O T M N T R E
F T O V X M T H H D B ! ' " — F D I E E S G K M M

Previous Solution: "If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story." — Orson Welles

TODAY'S CLUE: *A sjenbø Z*

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**From 1A
GYM**

said, recreation was often one of the last spending priorities and one of the first items cut when budgets were tight. With the support of the commission, that has changed, and Tuesday's gathering demonstrates that commitment, he said.

"We're going to change south Albany, and you're going to see it," Dorrough said.

The opening of the new Henderson facility will come

about two years after the re-opening of the Driskell Park Community Center in January 2025. Carver Park and the Bill Miller Community Center are among future projects on tap.

"When we invest in these facilities, we invest in the community," Ward VI City Commissioner Diana Brown, in whose district Henderson Gym is located, said. "We need to reinvest in our children, put more focus on gyms and programs. We can come together and do things like Driskell Park and all the parks. The

greatest investment we can have (is) for our children. We as leaders can come together and make it work, give the children what they need."

The commissioner said that sidewalk projects in the area will allow youngsters to safely walk to the facility.

The new community center will transform the community, City Manager Terrell Jacobs told the audience of community members and city and Dougherty County officials.

"That's what it's all about," he said.

**From 1A
VIOLENCE**

initiated the program in 2022 and credit it with reducing violent crime.

Albany was chosen as a pilot expansion program for the Atlanta initiative.

Elements include a repeat offender tracking unit that shares information on those offenders with other law enforcement agencies and has resulted in a 50% decrease in repeat offenders with prior convictions of violent felonies being held without bond until trial.

The Albany program will begin with two officers assigned to the initiative.

"It's a lengthy process," Persley said. "Look, the majority of crime committed in our community is committed by a small number of people. In 2024, I had an opportunity to hear a presentation from the Atlanta Police Department on their Repeat Offender Task Force."

During a presentation to the Albany City Commission on Tuesday, police officials gave several examples of offenders who had been in and out of the court system on assault and other felonies, cycling in and out of jail, and later ended up being the victims

of violence themselves.

Police will work with the district attorney's office, judges and other officials to prevent violent defendants from re-entering the community while awaiting disposition of violence charges. Part of the initiative is to make better cases to secure convictions against violent offenders and to identify and monitor those who are a risk to commit violence.

"We will target crime, and we will concentrate on individuals who are committing these crimes," APD Capt. Terrence Whitlock, who is heading up the Albany initiative, said. "We're talking about that 1% that is actually committing crimes."

The officer gave an example of one individual who was a victim in 2022, the same year he was arrested on rape, entering auto and motor vehicle theft charges. In 2023 the same man was charged with armed robbery, released from jail and later himself became a homicide victim.

As part of the program, police will train individuals in the community to monitor courts to review the performance of law enforcement and prosecutors in criminal cases.

In addition to more closely monitoring those who are most likely to play a role in violent

crime through monitoring and encouraging pre-trial detention when warranted, at-risk individuals also can receive intervention, including assistance with substance abuse, employment training, anger management and other support.

There are several individuals and organizations working to help those who are at risk to escape the violence and gang activity, Persley said, and those efforts can use more support.

"We have a whole bunch of community challenges," he said. "At some point, these folks have to be given another way. We're going to continue to do the enforcement, but at some point we need to reach out."

One area where police are falling short is in enforcing curfews, Commissioner Diana Brown said. Children also need programs to help them avoid the violence on the streets, she said.

"Where's our programs for children?" she said. "Tell me one program we're investing in for the children. Some of these children just need to know you care. We need to involve the community to be a part of it. It's going to take all of us. We have a curfew in place, but we're not enforcing it."

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Inn & Suites | Albany Mall

STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes the Hampton Inn & Suites as this week's Star Business of the Week, kicking off the new year with a wonderful turnout from Chamber members.

Guests were welcomed by owners Hitesh and Nisha Patel, who moved to Albany more than 20 years ago and shared their appreciation for the strong, supportive business community found here. Located in a key business and retail sector, the Hampton Inn & Suites is strategically situated across from the Albany Mall and the Shoppes at Westover, making it an ideal choice for business travelers and families alike.

The Star Business of the Week is presented by WALB News 10 and Fleming & Riles Insurance, with treats provided by Sugar Mama's Bakery.

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ALBANY CEO
STAMAS
First Media Services

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you've been waiting to launch something in your career or as a side gig, today could be the day to get a great outcome if your individual cycles are also strong enough. Share from the heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communications could be favorably exchanged, information should be understandable, and audiences should be receptive. Share some joy and play, laughter can be deeply healing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Seeing the deeper ways relationships and systems link together could shed some interesting light. In community, all flourish together. Some time at home could recharge drained inner batteries.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Support from those closest means so much, you and someone important could both be willing to go the extra mile now if needed. Despite a high-scoring day, an emotional plea could fall flat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your health could be improving or may soon. Try to destigmatize healthy needs. If debating between presenting facts versus making a more emotional appeal, read your room. Either or both could be the right approach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your instincts could be begging you to lighten up — creation and play are two of the most enlivening and replenishing activities, yet they are seldom prioritized. Feed your inner child if you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You could be seeing some real progress in projects you've been working on. Home-based businesses and remote work can be favored now. Some time spent in self-examination could yield new insights.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Reformulate your thoughts. You may have been temporarily blinded, give a rethink to a matter that's been at the forefront of your mind. Reach out to a friend who might need support.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A continued focus on financial matters should bring helpful solutions. Pay attention to wise advice. You could come across as a little resistant today, even with love in your heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A sexy vibe continues. Like the old song, you could be too sexy for your _____. If you enjoy the attention, have fun. If it's uncomfortable, whip out your boundaries and keep them strong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people have an inner dialog, some do not. If you do, it could be talking up a storm today, pay attention to inner insights. A shared money situation could be thorny or emotional.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A friend circle, a tribe, a crew, your homies, whatever you call your closest community, the spotlight is on them. Also highlighted are any group memberships. Build something with your people.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You've got the glow for sure during your birthday month, you might stop traffic. Some thrive on this kind of attention, some don't. If it's not your idea of a good time you'll need extra-strength boundaries. Listen to the advice of those you respect, they could be onto something very important for you. Your sense of self could be strong, don't let someone who isn't truly loyal upend that. By February you could have some challenges that disrupt your logic and strategies, don't take this personally. Early to mid-March could impel you to make a move that wouldn't improve matters at all, don't let a negative mindset drive actions. By April if not late March, the road through 2026 smooths out a lot. You could enjoy improved cash flow, loving family, new beginnings, fame, career drive, being on your perfect path, and overarching protection and support. Sounds good. Head down in the beginning of the year and this can be your reward.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Those who don't know how to weep with their whole heart, don't know how to laugh either."

Golda Meir,
Israeli prime minister (1898-1978)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

U.S. disastrous and internationally criminal policy orchestrated by rogue narcissistic president and impotent, silent Congress is summarized by Rubio's egg salad explanation for Venezuelan oil ceasing military invasion for economic and strategic purposes: "I assure you they are probably better off." Well, I "assure" him, we are not stupid.

Have we not heard this before? "Ain't nobody's business how many children I have. Ain't nobody's business what kind of food I buy at the food store. Ain't nobody's business how many wigs, tats and fake eyelashes I buy. Ain't nobody's business telling me to get a job. Ain't nobody's business I get section 8 housing." But if I work and pay taxes, it is certainly my business.

Sorry, Canada, looks like Venezuela will become America's 51st state.

The Herald article about this new city chaplain, preacher Smith, being appointed? Does he receive a salary? Article says nothing about a salary, so is it an honorary appointment or is he buddies with the city commissioners and gets paid for what seems like should be an honorary appointment?

Cancer impacts us all. Your article brought it a little closer to home for a lot of us.

As a commissioner, Jon Howard is dedicated and sincere. Here again, however, is this passive, dismissive, allowing rhetoric: "encourage residents ... to resolve to clean up." How about, "You're a pig and disrespectful; it's illegal; we'll find you and severely fine you and throw your buttocks in jail"?

My health insurance from my job went up 8% this year. Thanks Don and Brian.

Fletcher, mentioning the Queen Bee radio station brings back fond memories. Boy, I wish we could bring it back. ... That's what happens when you let crooks run things.

The letter to the editor concerning tax increases and payments to former County Manager Michael McCoy all goes back to preacher Lorenzo. It was his racist rants about McCoy being a "white man's Negro" and then getting his fellow stooge commissioners to vote to fire McCoy. Preacher Lorenzo seems to like to call others ignorant, but his ignorance is costing all of us money.

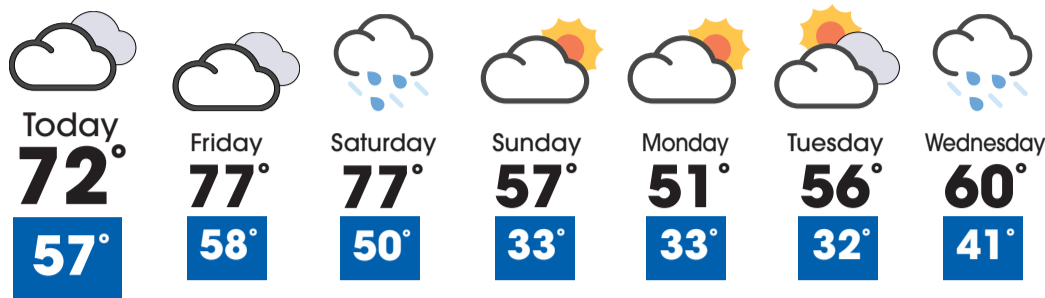
Come on, crybaby Bulldog fans, UGA needs better players not coaches.

So Trump says he's now in charge of Venezuela. I hope he does a better job there than he's done in this country. That Man Without a Family

Biden let Venezuelan druggies and crooks in and gave them free rent and cash from your hard-earned tax dollars. President Trump used that same money to yank narco dictator Maduro and wife outta bed in the middle of the night and jail them stateside.

ADS: Advertising can be placed by phone, email and/or in person Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am - 5 pm or call 229-888-9300. For classifieds and display/public notices/online ads email Phil Cody at phil.cody@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300. Our office is at 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31701. **BILLING:** Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, contact number: 229-888-9300.

Weather Forecast



By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

NORTH			
▲ A 5 3			
♥ Q J 8 7			
♦ K 6 5 3			
♣ 7 3			
WEST		EAST	
▲ K Q 10 9		▲ 8 7 6	
♥ 6 3		♥ 5 2	
♦ 10 9 7 2		♦ A J 4	
♣ K J 9		♣ Q 8 6 5 2	
SOUTH			
▲ J 4 2			
♥ A K 10 9 4			
♦ Q 8			
♣ A 10 4			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
Opening lead - ♠ K			
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Daily Bridge Club

Good and bad habits

It's said that good habits come from resisting temptation. Unlucky Louie has the bad habit of playing too fast, and his results show it.

Louie was declarer at four hearts, and West led the king of spades. With not a moment's thought, Louie took dummy's ace, drew trumps and led a diamond from dummy to his queen.

East won the next diamond with the jack and returned a spade, and West took his ten and queen. The defense also got a club for down one.

ERROR

Louie can resist anything but temptation; he made a beginner's error at Trick One. Louie must let the king of spades win (a "Bath Coup") so West can't safely continue spades.

If West shifts to a trump, Louie wins in dummy and leads a diamond to his queen. He leads a trump to dummy and returns a

second diamond.

When East's jack wins, he leads a spade to force out the ace. But Louie ruffs a diamond, dropping East's ace, and returns a trump to dummy to pitch his last spade on the king. He loses a club but makes game.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 4 2 ♥ A K 10 9 4 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 10 4. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one heart and he raises to three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has about 17 points with four-card heart support.

He didn't open 1NT, so his hand will be shapely. A grand slam is likely. Cue-bid four clubs. Then if partner cue-bids four diamonds, bid five hearts to ask him to go on with a "control" in the unbid spade suit. He may hold A Q 3, Q 8 5 2, A K J 9 4, 5.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

ADVICE COLUMNIST ■ ERIC THOMAS

Arrogant contractor makes house work a chore



Dear Eric: I have to work with a very arrogant person, and it is hard to manage his dismissive attitude and grumpy remarks.

The thing is, I am paying him to do work on my home. He is a talented and skilled person, but his personality is very off-putting as he seems to honestly believe he is the smartest person in the room, which is ridiculous.

He acts like everyone else is stupid but him. Although he doesn't actually directly call me or anyone else stupid, his attitude says it clearly. Consequently, I dread dealing with him, but I do need his help right now.

How do you deal with someone who isn't directly calling you a moron but acts like you are one?

I have come to believe he actually thinks he is being polite and helpful when his demeaning and rude dismissiveness is what is actually coming across.

— Respect, Please

Dear Respect: You may not be able to change this guy's personality — which may be predisposed to arrogance and dismissiveness — but you can give him some constructive criticism relating to how the two of you interact.

Try to pick one or two things that you've noticed repeatedly and address them specifically, rather than talking to him about his general demeanor. It is easier to get defensive and dismissive about broad statements. Instead, try saying something like, "I want to give you some feedback about our working relationship, if you're open to it. I'd like to be able to communicate clearly so the project is successful. When I hear things

like [here you'd insert a specific example], it sounds dismissive to me. Instead, if you're giving me an update on the work, could you phrase it like this instead?" Adjust the language to suit your style, of course. The goal is to bridge the gap between intention and impact.

Working relationships thrive on communication, so it's good to ask for what you need and to offer solutions for parts of the relationship that aren't working for you. I hope he's receptive and communicates his needs clearly back to you. If he's not, he may not be the best person for the job.

Dear Eric: To your excellent reply to "Leftovers, Anyone?", who was a bit unsettled over her daughter-in-law's Friends-giving meal mirroring her own Thanksgiving, I have a suggestion. My wife and I are the eldest of our extended family and often host Thanksgiving. This year, with my wife recovering from surgery, we had a dish-to-pass non-traditional meal, where I cooked the main entree (grilled dry-rub flank steak) and everyone brought a side dish or dessert. We all had a great family time, and no one complained about the lack of turkey!

— No Turkey, Still Great

Dear Still Great: I love a potluck holiday! Many hands make light(er) work.

Dear Eric: Librarian here, replying to "Deleted Post", whose son got angry about a parent posting news about the letter writer posting a photo of the son's wedding to social media. The letter writer wrote, "I feel bad because my son seems to feel he can forbid me from shar-

ing this news with my friends."

I have noticed that many people default to "owning" their social media accounts and therefore the right to post whatever they like. Friends and family members will take photos, or, sometimes worse, be browsing their old files and snap a pic of an ancient photo and share it online.

Enthusiastic and informed consent is the way to go here. Show the people in the photo the photo first. Before you post, ask, "Do you mind if I post this on [this platform]?" Every. Single. Time.

You don't own their faces. There are lots of reasons someone might not want a photo posted, ranging from it simply being an unflattering shot, to future employers Googling their name, through to hiding from an abusive ex or being in witness protection.

Even with privacy settings locked down, the Terms of Use that we all click "agree" to, usually without reading, give the online platform free range of whatever you post. The landscape is entirely different. The way we post and share must be, too.

— Social Media Caution

Dear Caution: This is an important reminder for everyone. When it comes to someone's digital footprint, it's always better to ask permission than to ask for forgiveness after posting. And when it comes to sharing personal news online, it's best to ask oneself, "whose news is this?" If it's your news, you can share it. If it's someone else's news, even if that person is a child or close relative, get their OK. Or better yet, let them share it and follow their lead.

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



1790: President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address in New York City.

1815: Major General Andrew Jackson led American forces to victory against British troops in the Battle of New Orleans, the final major engagement of the War of 1812. The battle was fought after the Treaty of Ghent was signed, but before the news reached the armies.

1867: African American men gained the right to vote in the District of Columbia after the Republican-controlled Senate overrode President Andrew Johnson's veto.

1912: The African National Congress (ANC) was founded in South Africa. The organization, which later played a major role in the fight against apartheid, is

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Argyle Day
- Earth's Rotation Day
- Elvis Presley's Birthday
- International Typing Day (also known as World Typing Day)
- National Bubble Bath Day
- National Career Coach Day
- National English Toffee Day
- National JoyGerm Day

- National Male Watchers Day
- National Snuggle a Chicken Day
- National Take the Stairs Day
- National Winter Skin Relief Day
- Show and Tell Day at Work
- War on Poverty Day
- Word Nerd Day

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."
1 Corinthians 13:11

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Thank government for high car prices

Not long after my wife and I learned that we were expecting a child in 2024, it became exceedingly evident that I needed to upgrade my car to something more family-friendly. My nearly 20-year-old, bright red, five-speed Ford Mustang just wouldn't cut it. Mustang back seats just aren't made for convenient baby car-seat usage.

This wasn't exactly a surprising revelation, but car prices since the last time I had purchased one were absolutely eye-opening. After weeks of research and test-drives, my wife and I ultimately settled on a new midsize SUV in 2024. Was it over-priced? Maybe, but prices have continued to surge since then.

The average cost of a new car is now more than \$50,000, but what's behind this trend? While there are a host of factors, it may not surprise readers to learn that the government plays a central role in this phenomenon, from provoking trade disputes to perpetuating restrictive franchise laws, and to promoting lawsuit abuse for far too long.

In an effort to encourage people to buy American and encourage industrial reshoring, the White House has picked trade fights with foreign countries and imposed tariffs on a host of them. Unlike what the pro-tariff crowd says, these are little more than taxes levied at the border, which are then baked into the cost of goods and passed onto consumers. This is especially true for new cars.

"No vehicle made at an assembly plant in the United States is 100% made here," Kelley Blue Book noted. "Even Tesla sources its parts from other countries. This means that with tariffs, car prices will increase for American car buyers. [...] Shoppers can expect the tariffs to increase car prices by as much as \$6,000 on vehicles priced under \$40,000."

That is painful, as is the impact of outdated franchise laws, like we have here in Georgia. Under state law, car manufacturers, like Ford, GM and so forth, are largely barred from selling directly to consumer. Nearly all new vehicles must be purchased from an independent, third-party dealership — essentially a middleman — and this curious policy is found in a number of states and dates to a bygone era.

"From the 1930–1950 period when there were few manufacturers and many dealers, and the dealers felt the terms of their relationship were one-sided, dealers were not guaranteed any inventory, manufacturers could terminate dealers without cause, and dealers could be forced to accept cars

regardless of whether they could sell them," according to the Cato Institute. "Dealers also worried about manufacturers distributing cars directly and competing with franchised dealers."

As a result of these concerns, states rushed to pass auto dealer franchise laws to the detriment of consumers. This adds to the cost of car ownership. A 2009 report from the U.S. Department of Justice estimated that this increased the price of car ownership by 8.6%. If that percentage has remained constant, then that adds more than \$4,000 to the average cost of a car today.

Then there is the legal system that has long burdened car manufacturers, and two Peach State cases epitomize this. "[Ford] was found liable in the deaths of two Georgia couples and ordered to pay \$1.7 billion and \$2.5 billion, respectively, to their families. [...] With these two verdicts, Ford held the dubious honor of having two of the three highest verdicts in the state," the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported.

"Both cases alleged Ford sold more than 5 million Super Duty trucks with weak roofs between the vehicle model years 1999 and 2016. The plaintiffs alleged Ford knew the roofs in those trucks were prone to crushing occupants in rollover situations." Georgia lawmakers have reformed the tort system, but pre-existing cases like these still weigh heavily on auto makers.

Of course, not everything is the government's fault. Safety features, new technologies, an array of sensors and computerized devices are costly and increase automobile price tags. Despite this, the government plays an outsized role in mounting auto costs, and this is leaving many Americans in a lurch.

"Increasingly stretched consumers are starting to draw the line on what they will pay for a new car, according to dealers, analysts and industry data," the Wall Street Journal reports. "Car buyers are downsizing, buying used vehicles, taking on longer car loans and holding out for deals."

These are smarter approaches. Nobody wants a car payment the size of a mortgage, but if Georgians want more affordable vehicles, then it takes the government adopting free-market policies, like reforming franchise laws and adopting more prudent means of securing favorable trade deals. In the absence of that, prices will likely continue to climb. Thankfully, my wife and I already upgraded before the market worsened.



HYDEN

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

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS L. KNAPP

'Peace President's' latest date that will live in infamy

I'm writing this column on the morning of Jan. 3, with initial news trickling in. "The facts" are still thin, and some of them will likely turn out to be either incomplete or not "facts" at all, but a few real facts are foundational and not subject to change. Let's go through them:

First, U.S. president Trump's attack on Venezuela is illegal under U.S. law and should result in his impeachment, conviction, removal from office, and eventually imprisonment. Congress has not declared war on Venezuela; therefore Trump has zero authority to wage said war. But he's been doing so at low intensity for months and just kicked it into high gear with multiple strikes on, and the abduction of the titular "leader" of Venezuela.

Second, Trump's attack on Venezuela is an illegal war of aggression under international law -- and since the Venezuelan regime is a member state of the International Criminal Court, Trump and everyone below him in the chain of command who participates in it are now subject to indictment, arrest and prosecution for all of the crimes the attack entails.

Third, Trump's attack on Venezuela was entirely optional. There was no plausible, let alone imminent, threat against the United States by the Venezuelan regime that could have served as an excuse for "retaliation" or any plea of "necessity." Whatever Trump's reason for ordering the attack (personally, I suspect it's just another attempt to distract from his long, close, personal relationship with

Jeffrey Epstein), those reasons are his own, not "America's."

Fourth, the whole thing is indescribably stupid and evil. U.S. troops' lives are being put at risk. U.S. taxpayers' money is being wasted. And the operation has the makings of extending that risk and increasing that waste by way of reproducing past "regime change"/"nation-building" fiascos such as South Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The very best possible outcome of the attack is that the Venezuelan people rise up, overthrow the current regime, and replace it with something more to their liking -- but probably not to the Washington, D.C., regime's liking. Which they could have done at any time, without Trump's help, had they chosen to.

The more likely outcome is that U.S. forces will install a puppet/quising regime to rule Venezuela to Trump's (and Big Oil's) liking, then spend years bleeding American blood and treasure into the place before an ignominious departure (with or without formal surrender).

What's not likely is that Trump and his accomplices will be removed from office/power, charged under U.S. law, or extradited for trial under international law.

That's a shame. Letting violent criminals get away with violent crimes is an invitation to continue committing those crimes.

So much for a peaceful 2026.



KNAPP

Thomas L. Knapp is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north-central Florida.

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The moral center we stand on

This essay is the first in an eight-week reflection on moral clarity.

Not long ago, a cashier handed me back too much change. It wasn't a dramatic moment. No one else noticed. I could have slipped the bills into my pocket and walked out without consequence.

Most of us know how that moment



HAMBOURGER

feels. Something inside pauses. A voice, quiet but firm, asks what kind of person we are when no one is watching. That voice is conscience. And it matters. But it also raises a deeper question: Why does it matter?

We live in a time when moral language is everywhere. We speak easily about values, justice and compassion. Yet many people feel uncertain about what those words actually require of them, especially when doing the right thing costs something. Cost might mean losing a sale by telling the truth, standing by a neighbor when gossip would be easier, refusing a shortcut at work that everyone else seems to take, or keeping your word when breaking it would never be discovered.

Those moments are rarely public. But they are decisive.

Conscience is a precious human faculty. It alerts us when something feels wrong and nudges us toward what feels right. But conscience alone is fragile. It can be shaped by habit, dulled by convenience, or trained to justify what we already want to do. If feeling strongly were enough to determine right and wrong, then morality would shift with emotion, pressure or circumstance.

We see this every day. One person feels justified in cutting corners because "everyone does it." Another feels morally certain about a position today and equally certain of its opposite a few years later. When moral judgment rests only on feeling, it bends easily to self-interest. What feels right becomes whatever costs the least in the moment.

A moral center is something deeper. It is the conviction that there truly is a way things ought to be, not because we feel it intensely, but because right and wrong are anchored in something steadier than emotion or convenience. They are rooted in memory, in tradition, in truths carried and tested across generations, truths meant to outlast our moods and protect us when pressure rises.

In the Torah's understanding, morality is not a human invention. It flows from a foundational claim: that the world was created by God, and that moral truth reflects His will rather than human preference. Because life has a Creator, life has inherent dignity. Because creation has purpose, right and wrong are not negotiable.

Honesty, restraint, justice and compassion are not cultural fashions; They are obligations woven into the fabric of existence itself.

This understanding is not unique to Judaism. The Torah and the Christian Scriptures share this conviction: that goodness is real because it comes from God, and that human beings are accountable not only to one another but to Him. Across generations of Scripture, morality is presented not as sentiment, but as responsibility.

Most people already sense this. Something in us recoils when the vulnerable are exploited, when strength is used to dominate rather than protect, when promises are broken without remorse. That reaction is more than social conditioning. It is a recognition — sometimes faint, sometimes forceful — that goodness is binding, even when it is inconvenient.

The Torah teaches that the Jewish people were entrusted with a particular responsibility in this moral landscape: not to own truth, but to preserve and transmit it; not to claim superiority, but to testify that moral clarity comes from God and therefore stands above time, culture and power. This calling was never meant to erase differences between faiths, but to remind the world that morality does not begin with us and does not end with us.

A moral center does not suppress individuality. It clarifies it. It shifts the guiding question from "What do I feel like doing?" to "What is the honest and right thing to do here?" It strengthens conscience by anchoring it to something that does not move when convenience whispers or pressure mounts.

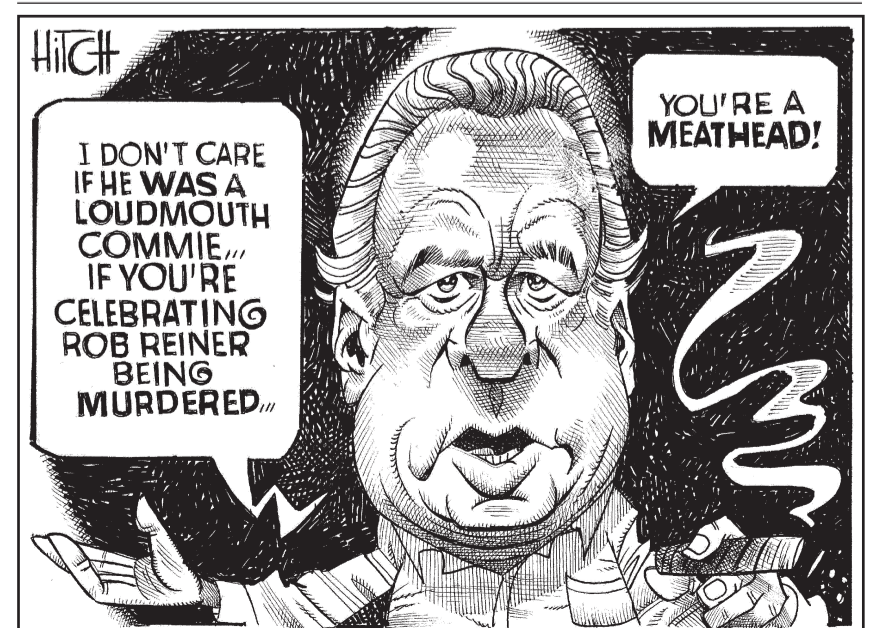
You don't have to have every answer or sign on to every doctrine to begin. The first step is simpler and more demanding: recognizing that goodness is real, that it comes from God, and that our choices matter because of that truth.

Most of us already feel that pull. The question is whether we are willing to stand by it.

Yonatan Hamburger is a rabbi and teacher. He welcomes questions and comments at y@TasteofTorah.org. More of his work can be found at www.TasteofTorah.org.

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What to watch

THURSDAY

January 8, 2026

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

His & Hers

Netflix ■ **New Series**

There are two sides to every story, which means someone is always lying. This twisty, psychological thriller is set in the sweltering heat of Atlanta, where Anna (Tessa Thompson) lives as a recluse, fading away from her friends and career as a news anchor. But when she overhears about a murder in Dahlonga — the sleepy town where she grew up — Anna is snapped back to life, pouncing on the case and searching for answers. Detective Jack Harper (Jon Bernthal) is strangely suspicious of her involvement, chasing her into the crosshairs of his own investigation.

CFP Semifinal: Vrbo Fiesta Bowl

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

A berth in the national championship game is on the line in the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl semifinal matchup at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

9-1-1

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Hen's (Aisha Hinds) attempts at keeping her mysterious health issues private are starting to impact more than just her physical well-being in the midseason premiere "Secrets."

Golden Eve

CBS, 8 p.m.

Sarah Jessica Parker is presented with the Golden Globes' Carol Burnett Award and Dame Helen Mirren receives the Cecil B. DeMille Award in this new hourlong special. *Golden Eve* offers viewers an unprecedented insider's look at the honorees' legacy, personal stories, unforgettable Golden Globes moments and curated career retrospectives.



LINDSAY SIU, NBC

is under siege, and each missed ransom escalates the stakes and descends the city deeper into chaos.

The Valley: Persian Style

Bravo, 9 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This spinoff of *The Valley* follows a tightknit group of Persian friends who have traded Beverly Hills for suburban life in the Valley. As they juggle marriages, parenthood and thriving careers, cracks in their relationships — both between lovers and friends — begin to emerge.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

NBC, 9 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Season 27 resumes with "Purity," in which the hunt for a murder suspect uncovers a crime with shocking legal and ethical implications.

Grey's Anatomy

ABC, 10 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Season 22 of the medical drama continues with the winter premiere "Skyfall."

The Hunting Party

NBC, 10 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

The high-concept crime procedural about a small team of investigators led by former FBI profiler Rebecca "Bex" Henderson (Melissa Roxburgh) assigned to track down some of the most dangerous fugitives is back for Season 2. This season's guest stars include Eric McCormack, Finnigan McCormack, Kelsey Grammer, Niecy Nash-Betts, Elizabeth Gillies and Jefferson White.

Hell's Kitchen

FOX, 8 p.m.

The culinary competition nears the season finale with the new episodes "Queens of the Kitchen" and "Who's the Boss." The final four chefs are given only 10 minutes and \$25 to grocery shop for their first challenge's dish. Later, they're tasked with making an aesthetically pleasing dish for Gordon Ramsay's social media followers who will help decide which chef survives the challenge.

Law & Order

NBC, 8 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

An injured woman's sudden disappearance from the hospital leads to a murder investigation in the midseason premiere "Snowflakes."

9-1-1: Nashville

ABC, 9 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Season 1 of the procedural drama continues with "You've Been Boarded." Nashville

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Jean Arthur

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Turner Classic Movies' Thursday night salute to the froggy-voiced Jean Arthur (pictured) continues tonight. The Academy Award nominee was known for several comedies in the 1930s and 1940s, a few of which start the evening, including 1937's **Easy Living** and the more darker buddy comedy **History is Made at Night**. Immediately following is Arthur's breakthrough role: at age 34, she starred in John Ford's **The Whole Town's Talking** (1935), a gang-



COLUMBIA PICTURES

ster farce where she portrayed a coworker of Edward G. Robinson, who appears in dual roles as a mild-mannered clerk and the gangster he closely resembles. Her film marathon continues late into the evening with **Too Many Husbands** (1940) and **Public Hero No. 1** (1935).

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'My Cousin Vinny'

20TH CENTURY FOX

Bad Boys for Life (2020, Action) Will Smith, Martin Lawrence **FX, 5:30 p.m.**

The Princess Diaries (2001, Children) Julie Andrews, Anne Hathaway **Freeform, 5:50 p.m.**

Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Karen Allen **SHO, 6 p.m.**

Fatherhood (2021, Comedy-drama) Kevin Hart, Alfre Woodard **BET, 7 p.m.**

The Replacements (2000, Comedy) Keanu Reeves, Gene Hackman **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story (2024, Documentary) Billy Mail, Susan Mail **NGC, 7:13 p.m.**

Gone in 60 Seconds (2000, Action) Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie **FX, 8 p.m.**

The Stepdaughter (2024, Suspense) Annie Ilonze, Blue Kimble **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Zero Dark Thirty (2012, Drama) Jessica Chastain, Jason Clarke **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

Rocky V (1990, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire **BBC America, 9:30 p.m.**

My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei **AMC, 9:45 p.m.**

Ford v Ferrari (2019, Historical drama) Matt Damon, Christian Bale **FX, 10:30 p.m.**

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What to watch

FRIDAY

January 9, 2026

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Alpha Males

Netflix ■ **Season Premiere**

Heartwarming, hilarious, ironic and incisive, the ensemble comedy series returns for Season 4 and continues to follow four men in their 40s adjusting to the new world of gender equality.

People We Meet on Vacation

Netflix ■ **Original Film**

Based on Emily Henry's bestselling rom-com novel, the film follows free-spirited Poppy (Emily Bader) and routine-planner Alex (Tom Blyth), who have been unlikely best friends (they live in different cities but spend every summer vacation together) for a decade and are now wondering if they could be a perfect romantic match.

CFP Semifinal: Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl

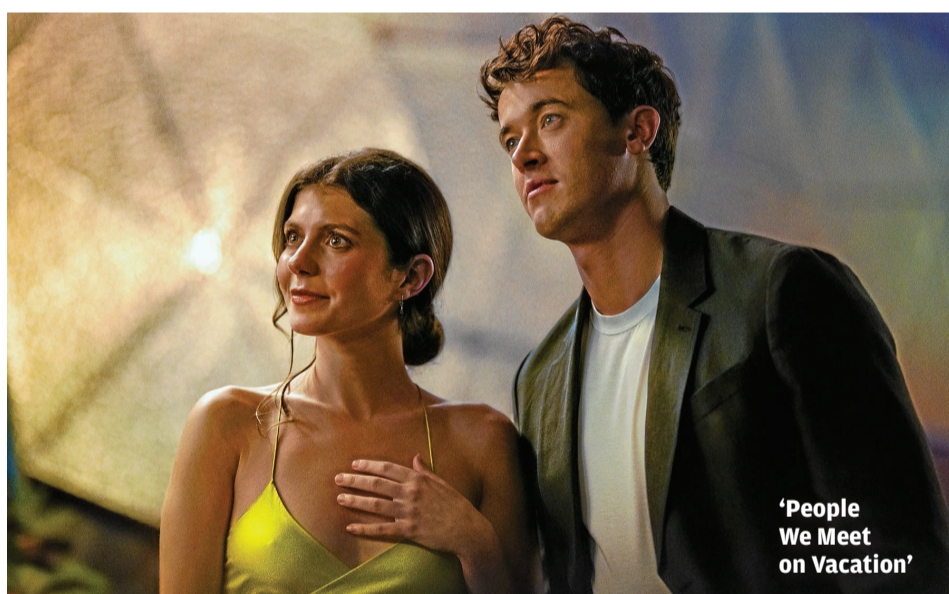
ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

And then there were two. The remaining participants for the Jan. 19 title game is determined at the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl semifinal tilt in Atlanta.

Celebrity Wheel of Fortune

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Max Greenfield, D'Arcy Carden and Timothy Simons are the celebrity contestants spinning the world's most famous wheel to solve puzzles for a chance to win \$1 million for the charity of their choice.



'People We Meet on Vacation'

DANIEL ESCALE, NETFLIX

Figure Skating: Prevagen U.S. Championships

NBC, 8 p.m. Live

Coverage of the Prevagen U.S. Figure Skating Championships from St. Louis continues with the pairs and women's free skates.

Masters of Illusion

The CW, 9 p.m.

Magicians featured in the new episode "Blades, Fire and Random Risks" include Adam Wylie, Ed Alonzo, Scott Pepper, My Uyen, Jeki Yoo, Joel Meyers, Eric Eaton, Ivan Amodei, Trino, David Goldrake, Eric Jones and Jarol Martin.

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Flashback Fridays

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

In this edition of TCM's Flashback Fridays, where the film's stories are told through flashbacks, the network concentrates on some of the best films from the 1940s. Indulge in 1944's **Double Indemnity** (pictured), nominated for seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director for Billy Wilder and Best Actress for Barbara Stanwyck. Stanwyck's performance as a scheming seductress who convinces an insurance salesman (Fred MacMurray) to do away with her husband after the latter signs a double indemnity clause in his life insurance policy is a must-see. Next is **The Killers** (1946), starring Burt Lancaster and



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Ava Gardner in another Oscar-nominated tale, based on an Ernest Hemingway short story, of murder and treachery involving a beautiful woman. Then get lost in 1945's **Mildred Pierce**, starring Joan Crawford in an Oscar-winning performance as a mother who, despite her best efforts to support a spoiled, selfish daughter, eventually gets caught up in a complex web of murder and intrigue. The evening's other "flashback" films are **The Locket** (1946), starring Robert Mitchum, and 1949's **D.O.A.**, with Edmond O'Brien.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'The Hunger Games'

MURRAY CLOSE

Sins of the Father (2025, Suspense) Kirsten Comberford, Kiera Laidman **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Bridesmaids (1997, Comedy-drama) Charlene Gonzales, Ina Raymundo **WE, 6:55 p.m.**

The Hunger Games (2012, Science fiction) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Twister (1996, Action) Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton **IFC, 7:15 p.m.**

The Pastor Who Preys (2026, Suspense) Amanda Nicholas, Daniel Stine **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Vicious (2025, Horror) Dakota Fanning, Kathryn Hunter **SHO, 8 p.m.**

The Social Network (2010, Drama) Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield **VH1, 9 p.m.**

Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright **Paramount, 9:15 p.m.**

A Low Down Dirty Shame (1994, Action) Keenen Ivory Wayans, Charles S. Dutton **BET, 10 p.m.**

Renfield (2023, Horror) Nicholas Hoult, Nicolas Cage **SVFY, 10 p.m.**

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012, Fantasy) Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

The Terminal (2004, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones **MGM, 11:40 p.m.**

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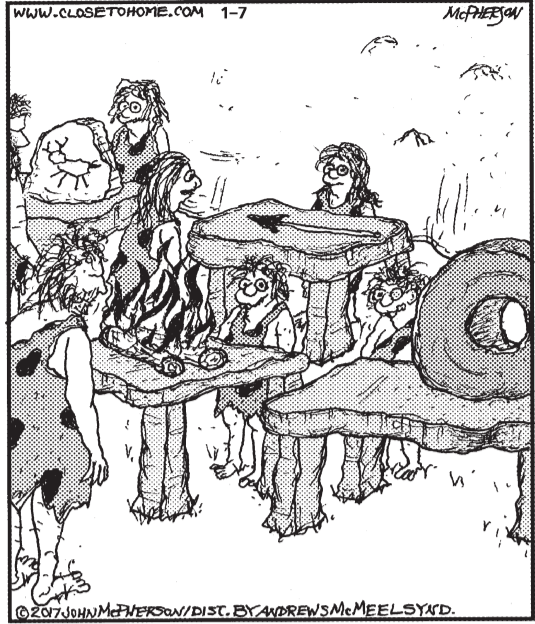
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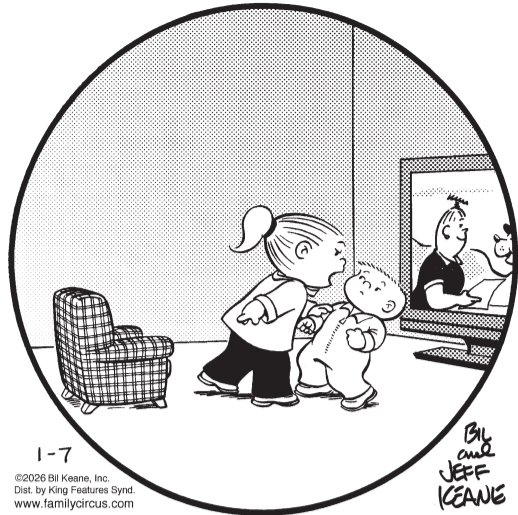
TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



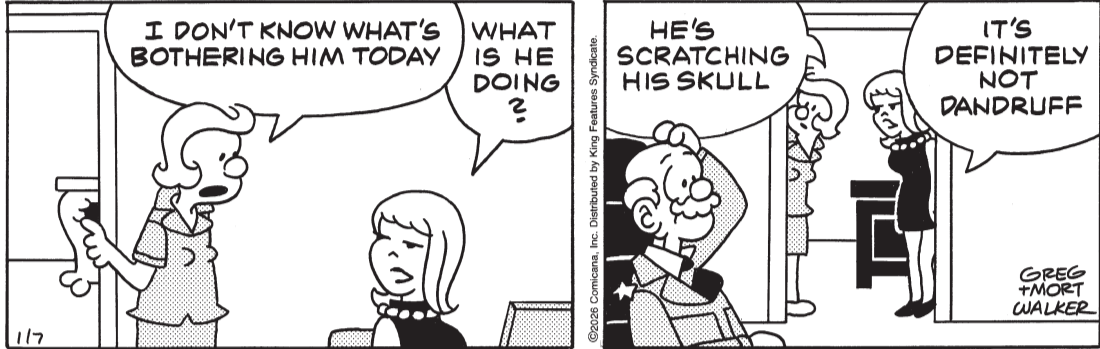
Early science fairs.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"You can't sit there, P.J. That chair is preserved."

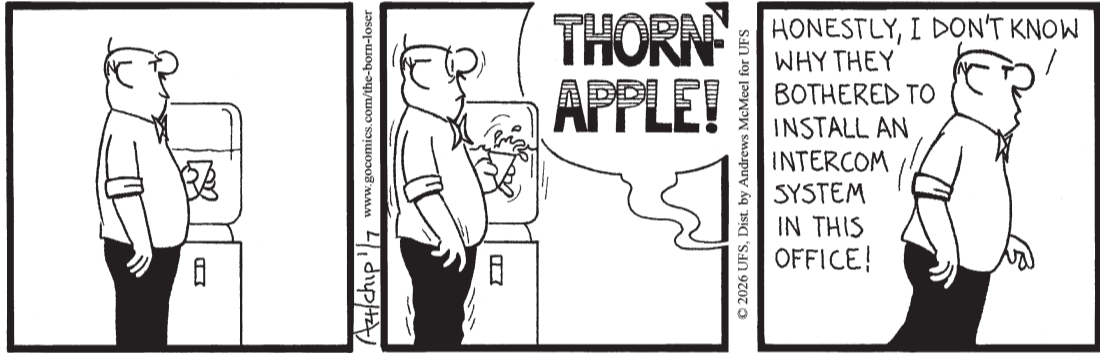
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



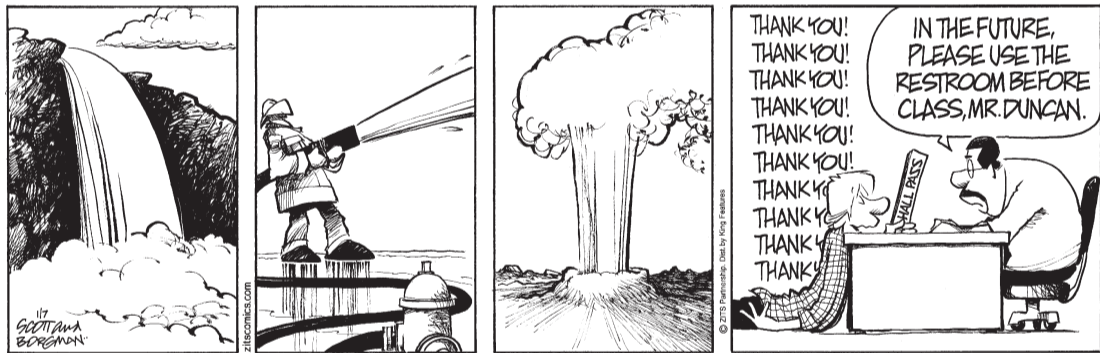
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



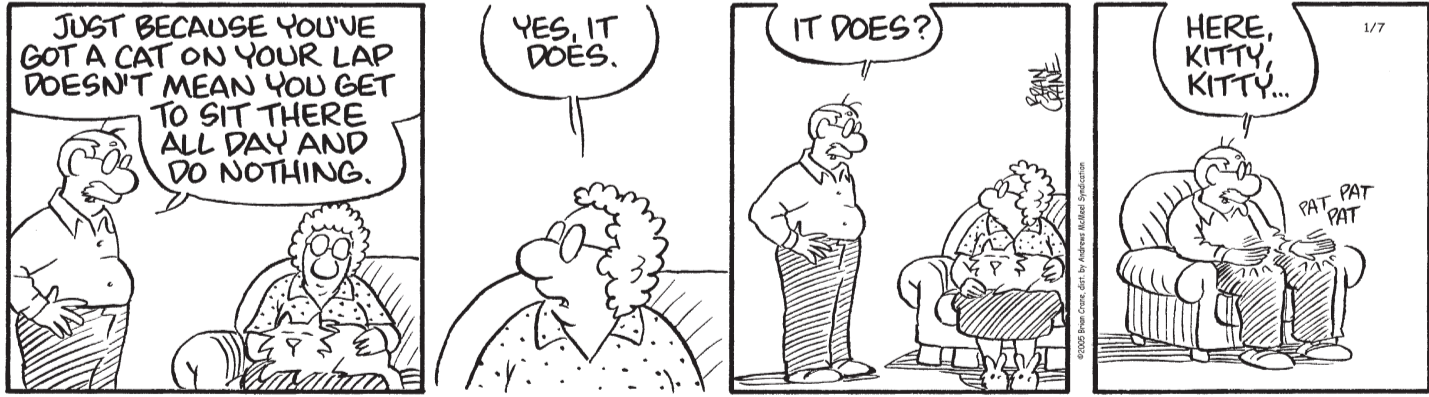
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

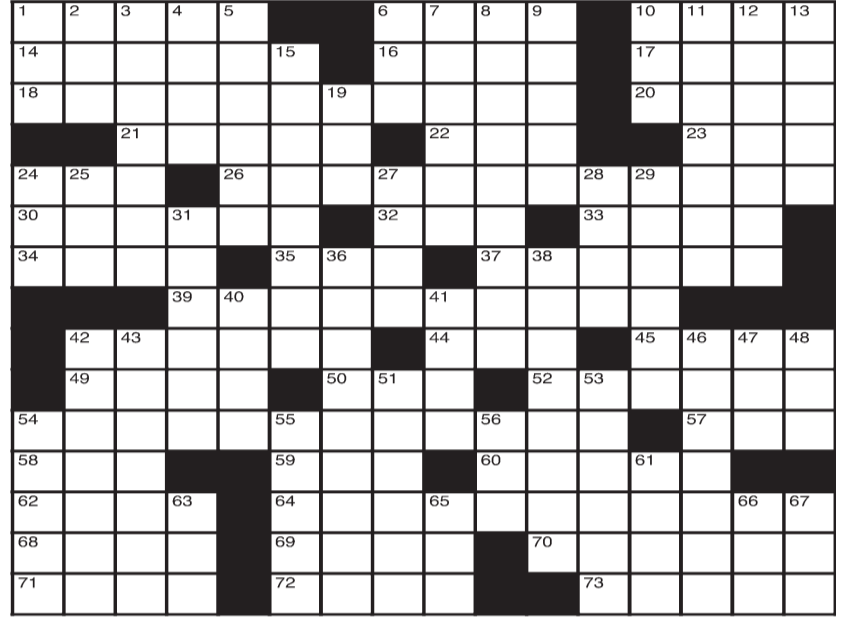
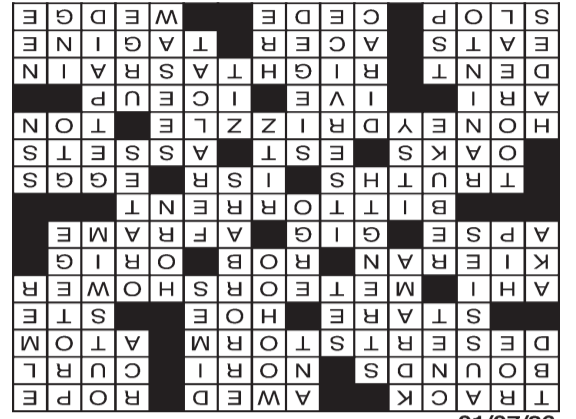


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
 1 Running sport
 6 Thrown for a loop
 10 Lure (in)
 14 Moves like a fleeing deer
 16 Sushi wrapper
 17 Rep on arm day
 18 1991 operation that ended with the liberation of Kuwait
 20 Molecule part
 21 Focus to win a contest?
 22 Flower bed toot
 23 Sault ___ Marie
 24 Sushi option
 26 Celestial event such as the Perseids
 30 "Succession" actor Cukin
 32 Steal from
 33 Prototype: Abbr.
 34 Basilio niche
 35 economy
 37 Structure whose roof begins near its foundation
 39 Communication protocol for peer-to-peer file sharing
 42 Two ___ and a lie: icebreaker game
 44 Leb. neighbor
 45 Frittata need
 49 Lucky acorns, eventually
 50 Superlative suffix
 52 Balance sheet column
 54 Sweet finish for fried chicken
 57 Large load
 58 Cards, in NFL scores
 59 "___ got it!"
 60 Freeze over
 62 Make a bad impression?
 64 Perfectly satisfactory, or an apt description of 18-, 26-, 39-, and 54-Across
 68 Puts away the dishes?
 69 Taiwanese computer company
 70 Stewpot with a conical lid
 71 Chow for a sow
 72 Surrender, as territory
- DOWN**
 1 Up in the air, briefly
 2 Fish-to-be
 3 Down Under denizens
 4 Site with tech reviews
 5 Hwang Dong-hyuk's "Squid Game," e.g.
 6 Hill worker
 7 Happy holler
 8 Representation of uncertainty on a graph
 9 Assists, in hoops lingo
 10 Type of A/V connector
 11 Best in a pool
 12 Mentee
 13 ___ Fudd
 15 Area of expertise
 19 Good to go
 24 Alias lead-in
 25 With it
 27 Conclusion starter
 28 Beeper?
 29 Provides an address
- 31 Chew out
 36 Hardware and software support
 38 Feline in an alley
 40 Wee
 41 Nabisco cracker
 42 Painfully close to home
 43 Met by chance
 46 Make bank
 47 Classic Pontiac
 48 Oft-protected fig.
 51 Completely surrounded
- 53 Move back and forth
 54 God of the underworld
 55 Nobel-winning physicist Paul
 56 Skin blemish
 61 Encourage
 63 Baking meas.
 65 Ancient Eur. realm
 66 Bank corp. with an orange lion logo
 67 Once called

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



By Joe Deeney
 ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

01/07/26

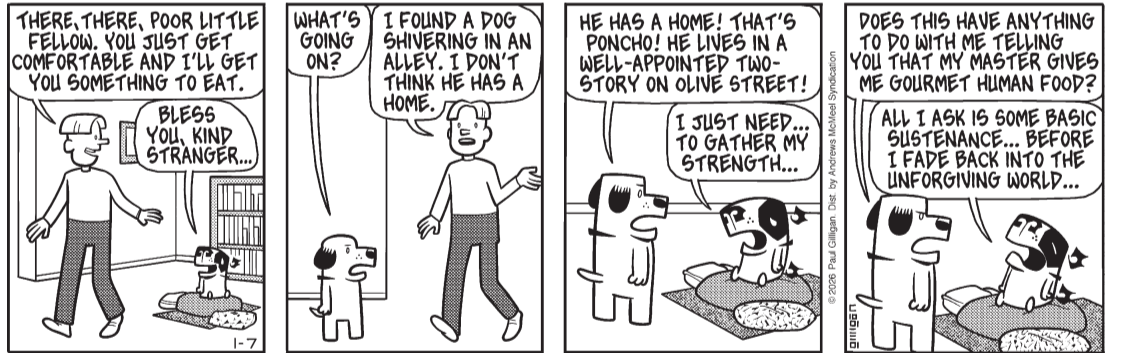
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

GOOD CLASSROOM VIBES

Solution: 7 letters

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

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Adapt, Agenda, Artwork, Belong, Calm, Celebrate, Charts, Cooperative, Educated, Expectations, Flexible, Group Work, Happy, Inclusive, Inspire, Kind, Learn, Library, Motivate, Music, Organized, Participate, Patient, Polite, Positive, Praise, Questions, Recess, Responsible, Routine, Safe, Smile, Social, Support, Teacher, Values

TODAY'S ANSWER: Student

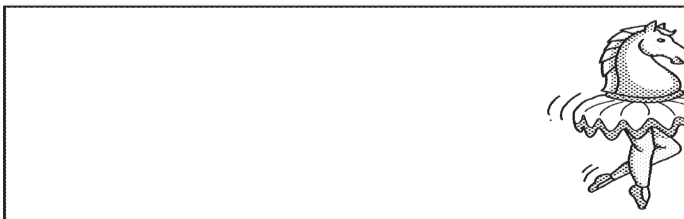
SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

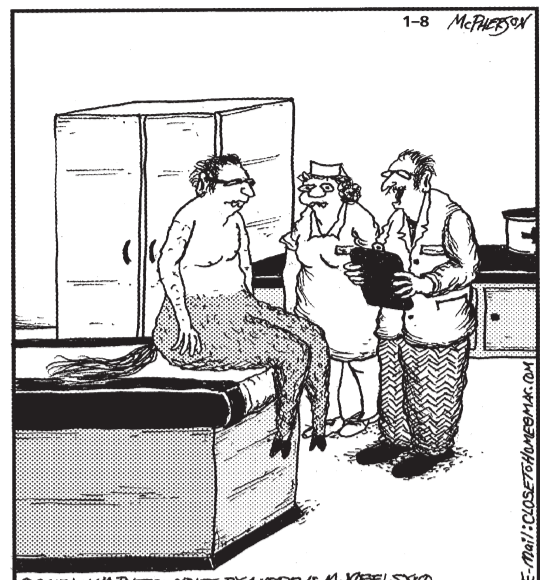
TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

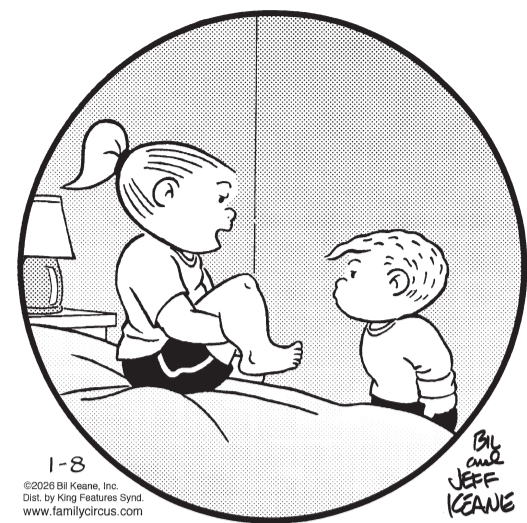
Dance the Night Away

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



©2017, JOHN MCPHERSON/DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATED. "The pills I gave you will clear up your reflux, but for your lower GI problems and your knee pain, you need to see a veterinarian."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



©2026 Bill Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com "The knee is the elbow of the leg."

CROSSWORD

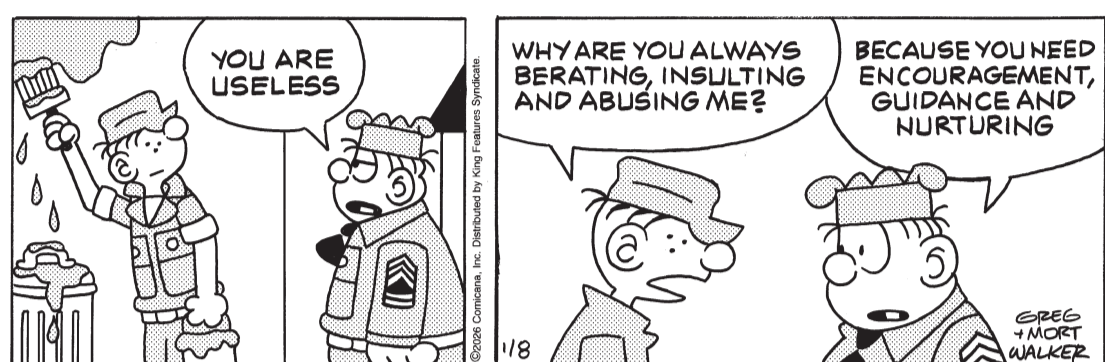
- ACROSS**
- 1 Marshland
 - 4 Wise fellow
 - 8 "— Side Story"
 - 12 Work by Pindar
 - 13 "Is — a fact?"
 - 14 Alaskan island
 - 15 Offspring
 - 16 Too hurried
 - 17 Destroy completely
 - 18 Largest Greek island
 - 20 Monarch's vast domain
 - 22 Uncooked
 - 23 Martial artist Bruce —
 - 24 Red gem
 - 27 Earthen brick
 - 31 Roadster
 - 32 "Goodbye Yellow Brick —"
 - 34 Haul
- DOWN**
- 1 Pear variety
 - 2 Fragrance

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

- 3 Source of electric power
- 4 Scattered
- 5 Cry of discovery
- 6 Petrol
- 7 Lucy's friend
- 8 Twisted
- 9 Small case
- 10 Recipe direction
- 11 Ditty
- 19 Source of poi
- 21 Fermented honey drink
- 24 Spiritual leader
- 25 Goof
- 26 Implement
- 28 Besides (2 wds.)
- 29 Ill-mannered one
- 30 Sheep
- 31 Smartphone download
- 33 In days past
- 36 Prolonged fight
- 37 Portico
- 39 Climbed
- 41 To some extent (2 wds.)
- 43 Father
- 45 Plays a part
- 46 Stir up
- 47 Cipher
- 49 Vagrant
- 50 Drove too fast
- 53 — Jima
- 54 MGM's lion

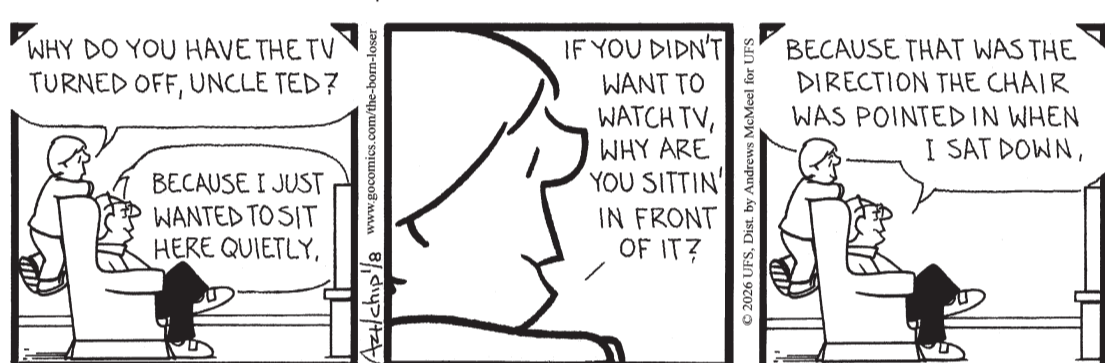
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



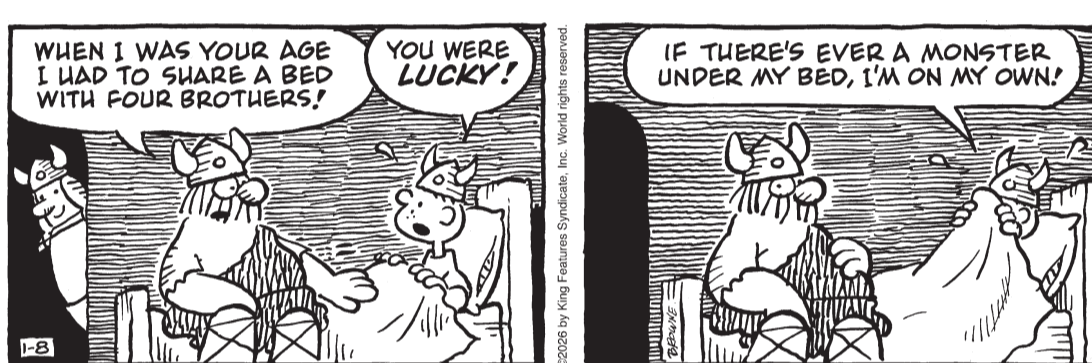
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



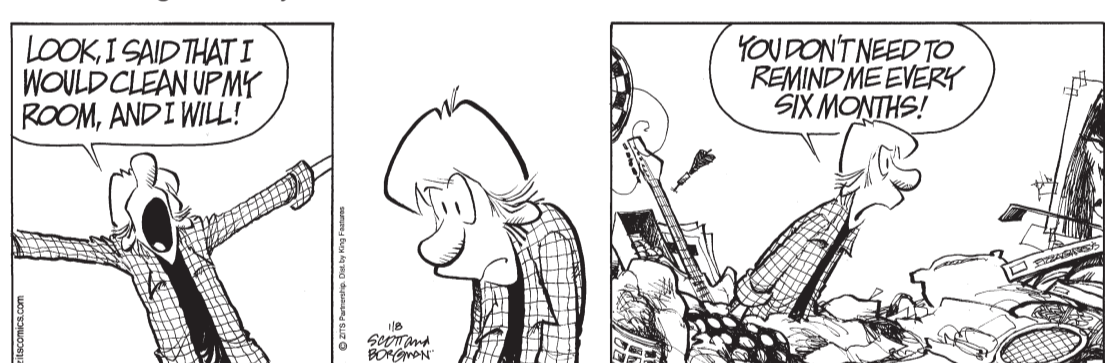
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



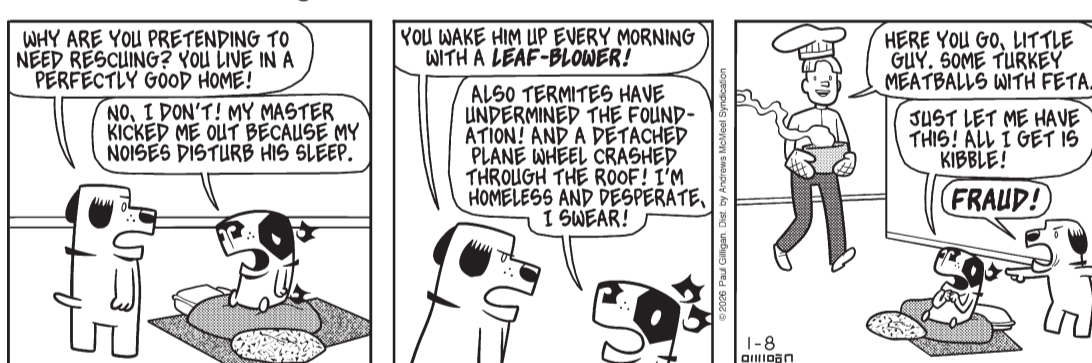
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



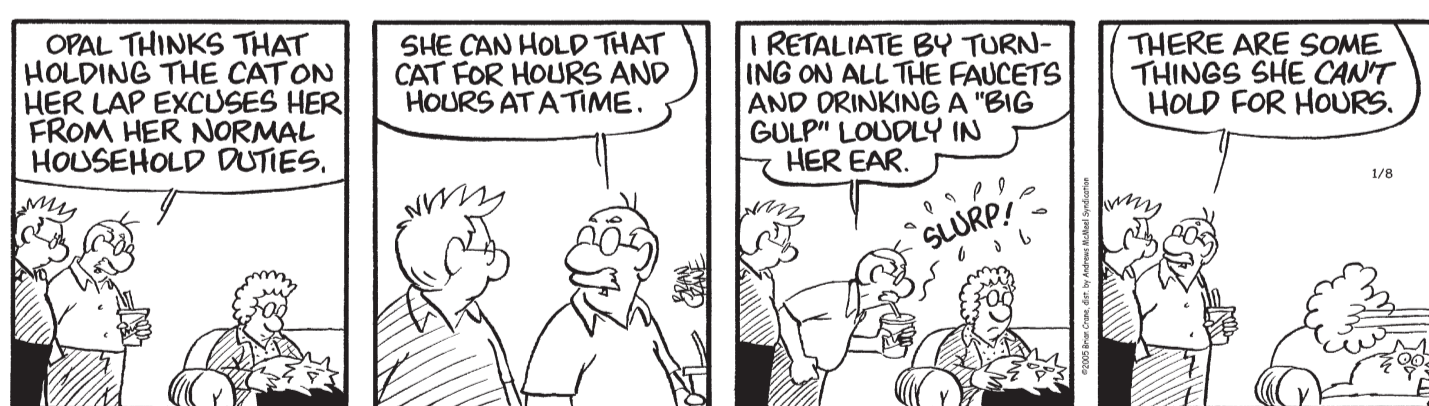
GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



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.

SYDNEY SWEENEY Solution: 10 letters

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

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Actress, Americana, Anyone But You, Cares, Christy Martin, Comedy, Craft, Drama, Eden, Euphoria, Evolving, Family, Ford, Gen Z, Graveyard, HBO, Horde, Iconic, Immaculate, Indie, Intensity, Interviews, Lady, Leading, Madame Web, Media, Netflix, On Screen, Producer, Reality, Roles, Sharp Objects, The White Lotus, Vision

TODAY'S ANSWER: In the Vault

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

BRING BOZOS

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Bring on the clowns

Amazon executive keynote speaker at King Day dinner

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Albany State University and the King Day Celebration Committee, has announced that Terreta Rodgers, head of Community Affairs for Amazon's Georgia Region, will be the keynote speaker for the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner, scheduled Jan. 15 at Albany State University's West Campus Student Center.

Presented by Colony Bank,

the annual MLK Dinner brings together business, civic, and community leaders to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through reflection, dialogue, and celebration of leadership and service. Company tables for the event are filling quickly, and organizations are encouraged to reserve their seats early.

Rodgers is a respected leader in corporate and community engagement, overseeing Amazon's local external affairs strategy across the state, event officials said in a news

release. Her work focuses on strengthening community partnerships, supporting economic development, and advancing initiatives centered on education and workforce opportunity. With more than 20 years of experience in public service, corporate relations, government affairs, and brand marketing, Rodgers began her career in public service, including roles with the office of the mayor of Atlanta and as a press secretary for Vice President Al Gore.

Rodgers holds a bachelor's

degree in Mass Media Arts from Clark Atlanta University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia State University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and serves on several civic and business boards throughout Georgia. Her commitment to leadership and community impact closely aligns with the principles and legacy of King.

In addition to the keynote address, the 2026 MLK Dinner will include the presentation of two educational scholar-

ships to Albany State University and the awarding of a chamber-sponsored membership for a diverse small business in the area.

The event is presented by Colony Bank, whose continued support helps make this community tradition possible.

Businesses and organizations interested in reserving company tables are encouraged to contact Mary Bicklerstaff at the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce at (229) 434-8700.



Terreta Rodgers

Colquitt Regional Health System cancer center receives national accreditation

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE -- Colquitt Regional Health System announced that the Edwards Cancer Center has earned national accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. This recognition affirms the center's commitment to delivering high-quality, evidence-based cancer care and ensures that patients can access nationally aligned standards of treatment close to home, hospital officials said in a news release.

Commission on Cancer accreditation is awarded to cancer programs that meet or exceed rigorous standards across the full continuum of care, from prevention and early detection to treatment, survivorship, and long-term follow-up. As part of this rigorous review, the Edwards Cancer Center demonstrated full compliance with all accreditation requirements.

"This accreditation represents years of hard work and dedication from our oncology team," Colquitt Regional President and CEO Jim Matney said. "Our mission has always been to ensure that patients in our community receive the same level of cancer care they would expect at larger centers across the country without having to leave southwest Georgia."

As a designated community cancer center, the Edwards Cancer Center now joins approximately 1,500 Commission on Cancer-accredited programs nationwide. These centers follow the same evidence-based protocols and national quality benchmarks designed to improve patient outcomes and promote consistency in cancer care.

"Our providers and staff are deeply committed to delivering cancer care that is guided by the latest clinical research and best

practices," Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. Wenhui Zhu said. "This accreditation validates the work we do each day to support patients and families through every stage of their cancer journey."

John Griffin, chairman of the Colquitt County Hospital Authority, noted the importance of this achievement for the region, saying, "Edwards Cancer Center's accreditation reaffirms the expertise and compassion demonstrated by our physicians, nurses, navigators and support staff. The Hospital Authority is incredibly proud of this accomplishment and of Colquitt Regional's continued investment in strengthening comprehensive cancer services for our community."

As part of its accreditation, the Edwards Cancer Center also becomes an American College of Surgeons Surgical Quality Partner, an indicator of its ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement and evaluation of clinical outcomes.

"Quality cancer care is not static,



Special Photo

Colquitt Regional Health System is celebrating the Edwards Cancer Center's accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, underscoring its commitment to evidence-based, nationally aligned cancer care close to home.

it evolves," Radiation Oncologist Dr. Steven Johnson said. "Being recognized by the Commission on Cancer reflects our commitment to stay at the forefront of treatment advancements and to ensure that our patients always receive exceptional, evidence-based care."

"American College of Surgeons quality programs are grounded in more than a century of experience,

and participation is a key indicator of a hospital's commitment to excellence," ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Patricia L. Turner said. "As an ACS Surgical Quality Partner, Colquitt Regional Health System has demonstrated its dedication to providing the best possible patient care and to continually advancing quality across its cancer program."



Aaron Graham

APD makes arrest in aggravated assault case

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Aaron Graham, 45, was interviewed by investigators with the Albany Police Department Monday regarding an incident. After the interview, he was taken to the Dougherty County Jail and charged with four counts of aggravated assault.

Graham was previously posted on APD's social media platforms for an incident that occurred on Dec. 20. He was seen attempting to strike several young people with a vehicle in a parking lot. After being confronted by adults, he fled the scene to avoid identification. The incident was caught on video.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other case is urged to contact CrimeStoppers at (229) 436-TIPS, the Albany Police Department at (229) 431-2100 or on the Albany Police Department App.

Georgia legislative panel recommends ways to increase rural cancer care

By Alander Rocha

Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- A state legislative committee is recommending expanded loan forgiveness for doctors and increased funding for mobile screening units to combat a severe shortage of cancer care providers in rural Georgia.

The House Study Committee on Cancer Care Access released its final report following a series of public meetings across the state held last year. The committee, chaired by Rep. Lee Hawkins, a Gainesville Republican, was tasked with identifying barriers to care as cancer cases in the U.S. are expected to rise.

"The rural oncologist is really a dying breed," Dr. Kristin Higgins, chief clinical officer at City of Hope Cancer Center Atlanta and a member of the study committee, said in an interview. "We don't have very many oncologists who are setting up shop in rural areas, and part of that is related to the fact that oncology in general is having difficulties with workforce sustainability."

Georgia faces a significant disparity in access to care between its metro hubs and rural communities. According to the committee's findings, although one-fifth of Georgians live in rural counties, only as much as 8% of the state's oncologists practice there.

To address a shortage of rural doctors specializing in cancer care, the committee recommended expanding the state's Physician Loan Repayment Program to include specialists practicing in rural areas and increasing the amount of loan forgiveness available. Currently, Georgia offers \$150,000 over four years to physicians practicing in rural counties. The report also suggests encouraging rural rotations for medical students.

The committee found that Georgia's rural counties -- or counties with less than 50,000 residents -- often face higher poverty rates and hospital closures, making travel to urban treatment centers difficult for patients.

"When you are in smaller communities around the state -- I always think about Dublin, which is right in the smack dab center of our state -- you have to go to Macon or to Savannah or to Augusta or to Atlanta," said Lynn Durham, CEO of Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education and a three-time cancer survivor who advocated for the study committee's creation. "There are so many that don't have that access that I have been so fortunate to have."

To improve early detection, the legislative panel's report recommends supporting the use of mobile cancer screening units in rural and underserved areas, such as the Brunswick-based Southeast Georgia Health System Wellness on Wheels.

The committee also proposed increasing the percentage of tobacco settlement funds appropriated for cancer prevention and screening. Georgia has received about \$4 billion from the master settlement agreement with the tobacco industry over the last 27 years, with about \$600 million dedicated to cancer-related activities.

Advocates argue that funding for access to can-



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

A state legislative committee is recommending expanded loan forgiveness for doctors and increased funding for mobile screening units to combat a severe shortage of cancer care providers in rural Georgia.

cer care is crucial as federal funding cuts to Medicaid from H.R.1 passed over the summer, which along with expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies, is set to reduce health care funding by more than \$50 billion by 2034, according to a November 2025 report from the Georgia Health Initiative.

Fabiene Antoine-Nasser, government relations director with American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, urged the state to increase funding for cancer-related programs, particularly the tobacco use prevention program, a state program that was discontinued in May due to federal cuts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antoine-Nasser suggested raising taxes on tobacco, which could generate \$350 million in annual revenue if increased by \$1.50 per pack, would help address federal funding gaps.

"I believe that taking a really staunch look at (raising tobacco taxes) ... would have such a great impact and really help Georgians who are pre-diagnosed and want to be able to get access to prevention measures, or post as well who want to get access to care," Antoine-Nasser said.

While the committee did not recommend full Medicaid expansion, a long-standing goal for some health advocates like Antoine-Nasser, it did recommend simplifying Medicaid access, enrollment and renewal for pediatric patients and addressing reimbursement rates for oncology-related codes.

"Protecting and strengthening Medicaid access and access to care is going to be so imperative," Antoine-Nasser said, pointing to estimated losses of health care coverage due to expiring ACA enhanced tax credits. If these tax credits expire, which the House is set to vote on a three-year extension in January, the GHI report projects that 340,000 Georgians will become uninsured.

Lawmakers can consider the recommendations in the upcoming legislative session, which starts Jan. 12, and Higgins was optimistic they would find bipartisan support.

"(Access to cancer care) is not going to be controversial. It's not going to be a controversial area of funding," Higgins said. "Everybody is affected by cancer."

The celebration of Twelfth Night

By Fran Pappas

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Twelfth Nite and Epiphany Eve represent the last evening of the traditional 12 days of Christmas.

For many Western Christian denominations, the Twelve Days of Christmas, also referred to as Christmastide, are a 12-day festive season that celebrates the birth of Jesus. As much as most people think the three wise men (Magi) traveled to Bethlehem and gave their gifts to Jesus at the time of his birth on Dec. 25, in reality it took them 12 days to reach Bethlehem, which brings us to Jan. 7.

The festival season beginning Christmas Day and ending in 12 days on the evening of Jan. 5 is called Twelfth Night. It's interesting to note that in ancient Celtic tradition, it is also the end of its winter solstice celebration.

In any event, they involve festive celebrations. As a note, according to a 17th-century tradition, it is considered unfavorable to remove Christmas decorations before Epiphany Eve.

As I was baptized in the Greek Eastern Orthodox Church, the celebration is a religious one celebrating the time from Christ's birth to his baptism. Referred to as Epiphany, it commemorates the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John, the Baptist, seen as proof to the world that Jesus was the Son of God, and celebrates it as the Feast of the Epiphany or of the Theophany.

All individuals named John or a derivative thereof celebrate their name on Jan. 7.

In Byzantine times a cross was thrown in the middle of the Jordan River by the West Bank. Today it is referred to as the Blessing of Waters done twice, at the baptismal font inside the church, and again outdoors at a body of water. Following the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and people have a procession with the cross to the nearest body of water, beach, river, lake, etc, and at the end of the ceremony the priest blesses the waters. In the Greek tradition, he casts a cross into the water where any number of volunteers try to recover it.

The person who gets the cross first swims back and returns it to the priest, who delivers a special blessing to the swimmer. The most popular one held annually is at Tarpon Springs, Fla.

The water that is blessed in church is known as "Theophany Water" and is taken home and used with prayer as a blessing. On Theophany the priest begins making the round of all the homes of the parishioners to bless them. As many parishioners live far away from the church, it takes some time to bless each house; however, traditionally the blessings should all be finished before the beginning of Great Lent.

Rivalry night lacks drama as Terrell girls, DW boys cruise

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Rivalry nights are supposed to come with a little edge — tight possessions, anxious coaches, and a crowd waiting for something to tilt.

Tuesday night's game at Deerfield-Windsor had the crowd. It just never quite got the tension.

Instead, Terrell Academy's girls and Deerfield-Windsor's boys took turns turning the doubleheader into something far more comfortable than dramatic, with the Lady Eagles pulling away for a 53-36 win in the opener before the Knights rolled to a 67-26 victory in the nightcap.

The girls' game hinted at a battle early.

Terrell Academy held only a 12-8 lead after one quarter, and Deerfield-Windsor was still within reach when the second period began. That's when the Lady Eagles started finding their rhythm. Sally Masters attacked the lane for eight points in the quarter, Hadley Webb knocked down a pair of shots

from the perimeter, and suddenly the floor began to tilt in Terrell's favor.

Pembroke Daniel tried to keep the Lady Knights connected, scoring six points in the quarter, but each push was met with a steadier one from the Eagles. By halftime, Terrell had built control of the game — and unlike a rivalry that swings back and forth, this one never really did.

Masters finished with 19 points to lead Terrell Academy, Webb added 16, and Natalie Oliver and Lily Addison chipped in eight apiece. Daniel led Deerfield-Windsor with 18 points, while Layah Williams added nine.

If the opener slowly drifted away, the boys game never even teased suspense.

Deerfield-Windsor came out running, and Terrell Academy spent most of the first quarter chasing. David Hutchins scored twice in transition to open the nightcap, Brady Harris followed with a jumper, and Jack Moore buried a three to make it 9-0 — a quick burst that forced Terrell coach Todd Davis

into an early timeout.

The timeout didn't slow the momentum.

Hutchins beat the Eagles down the floor two more times, pushing the lead to 13-0 and prompting another stoppage. Even as Knights coach Randy Foster began to rotate players, the tone stayed the same. Drew Harris drilled a three, Holden Whatley finally put Terrell on the board, and then freshman Jor'dyn Halsley closed the quarter with a deep three at the buzzer to send Deerfield-Windsor into the break up 21-2.

By then, the game had already taken on the feel of a long night.

The Knights kept stretching the lead in the second quarter, and when Lane Sceals knocked down a three to make it 30-6, Foster again turned to his bench. Deerfield-Windsor carried a 39-10 lead into halftime, pushed it to 52-12 after three quarters, and spent the fourth quarter freely substituting.

Tillman Faust hit two three-point-

See RIVALRY, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor senior Brady Harris battles for points underneath the basket during Tuesday night's win over Terrell Academy. The senior post player scored 12 points to help the Knights win big.

Gray reunion starts at FAMU; Bowser era begins in Albany



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Former Albany State quarterback Isaiah Knowles has committed to FAMU and Coach Quinn Gray after entering the transfer portal following the Albany State Golden Rams loss in the NCAA playoffs. Knowles has one year of eligibility remaining.

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The trail was visible the moment Quinn Gray left Albany. It just took a couple of weeks for the footprints to become permanent.

On Monday, former Albany State quarterback Isaiah Knowles made it official, announcing on social media that he has committed to Florida A&M, reuniting with the coach who resurrected both his college career and, in many ways, Albany State football. Knowles won't be alone. Wide receiver Corey "Deuce" Petty and tight end Xavier Herndon also announced they're heading to Tallahassee, turning what had been whispered around HBCU circles into something closer to a migration.

Call it the modern version of loyalty. Or call it what it is: the first visible proof that Gray's return to his alma mater is going to look a lot like a continuation of what he started in Albany.

Knowles, a graduate student, spent the past three seasons with the Golden Rams after transferring from the Naval Academy. He arrived as part of Gray's first recruiting class and left as the face of the program's most successful stretch in school history. Albany State went 12-2 last season, won the SIAC championship and recorded more victories than any team in Golden Rams history. Knowles started the final two seasons and produced numbers that matched the moment: 4,726 passing yards, 50 touchdown passes, 11 rushing scores, and, perhaps just as telling, only 14 interceptions.

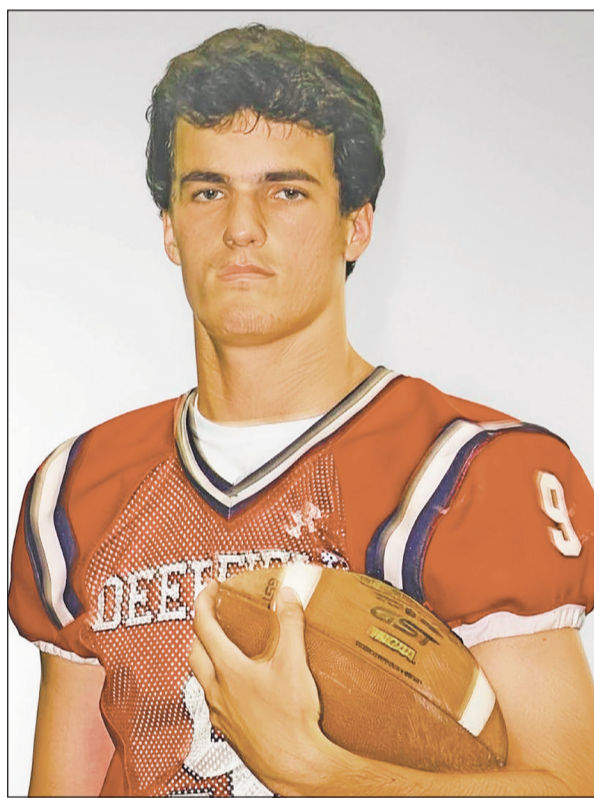
He didn't just run Gray's offense. He embodied it.

Gray, who coached three seasons at Albany State, left for Florida A&M after the Rattlers dismissed James Colzie following a 5-7 season. A FAMU Hall of Famer, Gray recently signed a five-year contract worth about \$1.4 million in base salary that runs through December 2030.

While the Golden Rams are losing familiar faces, they are also turning the page.

Albany State officially began the David Bowser era on Monday, with the former Johnson C. Smith coach taking over a program coming off a championship season. Bowser arrives with a reputation for building and stabilizing Division II programs, improving academics and compliance, and keeping teams in the championship conversation — a profile that fits Albany State's goal of remaining a SIAC power and a national

See REUNION, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor senior Lane Sceals is the Albany Herald Player of the Year after throwing 37 touchdown passes and piling up 3,375 yards in the Knights' 12-1 season.



Special Photo: Emil Madden

Worth County head coach Jeff Hammond's Rams finished 15-0 and claimed the Class A Division I state championship. Hammond is the Albany Herald Coach of the Year.

Albany Herald announces All-Albany football team

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY - Two perfect seasons. One unforgettable fall.

The 2025 high school football season in the Albany area delivered one of the strongest years the region has seen in a long time. Worth County completed a flawless 15-0 run and captured the GHSA Class A Division I state championship. Sherwood Christian Academy went 12-0 and claimed its second straight GIAA 8-man state

title. Deerfield-Windsor finished 12-1 and earned the runner-up trophy in GIAA Class AAA. Lee County reached the Sweet 16 of the Class 5A playoffs and finished the year ranked in the top 10 statewide. Westover added to the region's postseason success with a state playoff berth of its own.

It was a season that showcased the depth, toughness and tradition of football across Southwest Georgia — and one that produced an exceptional group of performers.

Those players and coaches are hon-

ored in the 2025 All-Albany Football Team.

Major Awards

Coach of the Year: Jeff Hammond, Worth County

Player of the Year: Lane Sceals, Deerfield-Windsor

Offensive Player of the Year:

Tripp Roberts, Sherwood Christian

Defensive Player of the Year:

See FOOTBALL, 10A

Hawks, Trae Young mutually exploring trade options



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images
Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young may be on his way out of Atlanta after reports showed both he and the team are actively looking at trade options.

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Hawks and point guard Trae Young are working to find a trade destination for the four-time All-Star, according to multiple media reports.

The Hawks and Young have remained in contact about his future with the organization since Atlanta elected not to offer him a contract extension last offseason when he became eligible, according to ESPN.

ESPN also reported those talks have escalated over the last week. Marc Stein of The Stein Line reported Monday that the Washington Wizards had emerged as a "legitimate potential trade destination" for Young.

Young, 27, has spent his entire career in Atlanta since the Hawks acquired him in a draft-and-trade deal with Dallas in the 2018 NBA Draft as the fifth overall pick. He's the franchise's all-time leader in assists (4,837) and 3-pointers made (1,295).

His career average of 9.8 assists per game is the third highest in NBA history behind only Magic Johnson and

John Stockton.

Young, a third-team All-NBA player for the 2021-22 season, led the Hawks to the Eastern Conference Finals in the 2020-21 campaign. Atlanta failed to make it out of the first round the next two seasons and also couldn't escape the play-in tournament the last two campaigns.

Young has missed 28 of Atlanta's 38 games this season, and he's currently sidelined by a quad contusion. Young is averaging 19.3 points and 8.9 assists per game — both the lowest since his rookie season — in his limited action this campaign.

The Hawks are 2-8 with Young this season and 15-13 in his absence after Monday's 118-100 loss at Toronto.

Jalen Johnson's emergence (career highs of 24 points, 10.2 rebounds and 8.5 assists this season) in his fifth campaign has filled the scoring void with Young sidelined.

Over eight seasons and 493 games (all starts), Young has averaged 25.2 points, 3.5 rebounds and one steal per contest.

Georgia standouts declare for NFL draft

Field Level Media

Georgia gained a better idea of what it will need to replace in 2026 on Monday, as the Bulldogs' top passer Zachariah Branch and top tackler CJ Allen both declared their intentions to enter the 2026 NFL Draft.

They were joined by top receiving tight end Oscar Delp in announcing their moves on social media.

Branch, a 5-foot-10 wideout, transferred to Georgia after two seasons at Southern California and promptly established himself as the Bulldogs' top receiving option. He recorded 81 receptions, 54 more than any other player on the roster last fall, compiling 811 yards and six touchdowns in the process.

He added 385 yards on 25 combined kick and punt returns.

Allen, a 6-foot-1 linebacker, paced Georgia with 88 combined tackles in 2025, a year after he nearly led the team with 76 tackles in 2024.

Over his career, Allen totaled 205 tackles to go along with 4.5 sacks and an interception in 41 career games. He also had 10 passes de-

fended, two fumbles forced and a fumble recovery.

ESPN's Mel Kiper Jr. ranks Branch as his No. 4 wide receiver and Allen as his No. 3 linebacker for the upcoming draft.

The 6-foot-5 Delp recorded 20 receptions for 261 yards last fall, tops among Georgia tight ends. He finished his Bulldogs career with 70 receptions for 854 yards and nine touchdowns.

Those three join defensive lineman Christen Miller, who announced his departure for the NFL on Saturday.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor
Georgia wideout Zachariah Branch, the leading receiver this season for the Bulldogs, is one of four Bulldogs who have announced plans to enter the NFL draft.

Falcons QB Kirk Cousins agrees to modified contract

Field Level Media

Quarterback Kirk Cousins and the Atlanta Falcons agreed to modify the final two seasons of his four-year, \$180 million contract, multiple media outlets reported on Tuesday.

The adjusted deal gives the Falcons salary-cap flexibility and also sets up a decision to be made about Cousins' future in Atlanta by the third day of the 2026 NFL league year on March 13.

Per ESPN, a guarantee of \$67.9 million for the 2027 season vests on March 13. It is unlikely that the Falcons or another NFL team would acquire Cousins prior to that date, and the veteran has a no-trade clause in his contract. Cousins turns 38 on Aug. 19.

ESPN also reported that the modified deal reduces his 2026 base salary from a non-guaranteed \$35 million to just \$2.1 million. The difference of \$32.9 million matches the increase of his 2027 salary.

Cousins still has a guar-



Special Photo: Dale Zanine-Imagn Images
Falcons' quarterback Kirk Cousins has agreed to a modified contract that will reduce his non-guaranteed salary. The move opened up room in the salary-cap for the Falcons.

anteed \$10 million roster bonus for 2026.

Atlanta signed Cousins to a contract with \$100 million guaranteed before the 2024 season, then selected Michael Penix Jr. with the eighth overall pick in that year's draft.

Penix, 25, required season-ending surgery to re-

pair a partially torn ACL in his left knee, prompting the Falcons to start Cousins for the final seven games of the season.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection, Cousins completed 61.7% of his passes for 1,721 yards with 10 touchdowns and five interceptions in 10 games (eight starts).

Basketball shorts: Monroe, Lee County, Westover sweep

By Joe Whiffield Sports Editor

Monroe sweeps Cairo

ALBANY — The Monroe basketball teams kept rolling Tuesday night, with the No. 8-ranked Golden Tornadoes winning their 10th straight game and the No. 3-ranked Lady Tornadoes cruising to another lopsided victory against Cairo.

The Tornadoes had to work for theirs, pulling away late for a 68-60 win over the Syrupmakers. Monroe led just 19-16 after the first quarter before getting a spark from Tristen Terry and Elijah Rivers, who each knocked down three-pointers to help stretch the lead to 37-27 at halftime.

Cairo trimmed the margin in the fourth quarter, but Monroe closed it out at the free-throw line. Rivers sank four free throws in the final minutes, and Brayden Burns hit three of four down the stretch to keep the Tornadoes in control.

Burns led Monroe with 22 points, Rivers added 15, Hiran Holloway scored 11, and Terry finished with nine. Monroe improved to 12-2 on the season.

The Lady Tornadoes, now 12-1, had little trouble in a 61-27 win over the Lady Syrupmakers. Kie'Aundria Acree dominated with 30 points, 10 rebounds, five steals and three blocks. Taylor McKinzy added 14 points, Maleyah Hines finished with nine points and 11 rebounds, and freshman Narija McDowell scored six points with five assists and three steals.

Monroe will travel to Albany's west side Friday night for a key Region matchup with Westover.

Lee County sweeps Northside

LEESBURG — The Lee County Trojans and Lady Trojans picked up a pair of

Region wins Tuesday night, beating Northside of Warner Robins 73-47 in the boys game and 45-33 in the girls contest.

The Trojans used strong defense and rebounding to keep Northside from getting second-chance opportunities. Jaysawn Maddox set the tone defensively with several steals and blocks.

T.J. Williams led Lee County with 14 points, Maddox scored 13, Joasiah Franklin added 10, and TreCori Green finished with nine. The Trojans improved to 8-7.

In the girls' game, Lee County jumped out to a 24-13 halftime lead and never let Northside seriously threaten. Post player Taliyah Porter scored 20 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. Camya Hutcherson added seven points and Jaila Hicks scored six.

The Lady Trojans are now 9-6 and will travel to Veterans High School on Friday for another Region matchup.

Westover sweeps Bainbridge

ALBANY — The No. 7-ranked Westover Patriots won their 10th straight game Tuesday night with a 69-43 victory over Bainbridge at the Boston Garden.

Westover, now 10-1, got a balanced scoring effort led by Gregory Williams with 14 points, T.K. Johnson with 13, Jalen Holmes with 11 and Josiah Daniels with nine.

The Lady Patriots knocked off the Lady Bearcats 45-39 for a big region win. Sydney Donaldson scored 24 points, grabbed five rebounds and stole the ball eight times to lead Westover. Savannah Donaldson added eight points with seven rebounds and freshman Amarise Idlett scored four points with seven assists.

Westover will host Monroe on Friday night. The school plans to honor head coach Dallis Smith before the boys game after he reached the 500-win milestone in December.

From 9A

RIVALRY

ers late and finished with 10 points for Terrell Academy, but the outcome had long since been settled.

Ten different Knights found the scoring column. Hutchins led the way with 15 points, while Brady Harris and Halsley added 12 apiece.

Deerfield-Windsor improved to 10-2, while Terrell Academy fell to 3-12.

The Knights will host Valwood in a region game Friday before welcoming John Milledge for a non-region matchup Saturday. Terrell Academy is scheduled to play Saturday afternoon at Sherwood Christian.

On a night built for rivalry drama, the script never really changed. One team eased away. The other sprinted out of sight.

From 9A

REUNION

D-II contender.

His background also gives him instant credibility in HBCU recruiting circles and in the transfer portal and junior college pipeline, which has become essential in the modern game.

For now, the contrast is stark and fitting. In Tallahassee, Quinn Gray is bringing a piece of Albany with him. In Albany, a new coach is being handed the task of making sure that what was built doesn't leave with him.

Cowboys pull plug on short-lived Matt Eberflus experiment

Field Level Media

Matt Eberflus is out in Dallas, where the former Bears head coach failed to repair a defense that allowed 30.1 points and 377 yards per game in the 2025 season.

Eberflus, a former linebackers coach with the Cowboys, was trumpeted as a home-run hire by franchise owner Jerry Jones last winter.

With the latest change, the Cowboys are set to hire a new defensive coordinator for the fourth time in four years.

Jones hinted Sunday night after a loss to the Giants to end the regular season that a full review of the defensive coaching staff was likely.

"I might not couch it as difficult," Jones said of making

another change at defensive coordinator. "It's certainly something that we have to do. And that is to look at the entire year and look at what our options are, and how to correct it so we're not here at the same time next year. Now, that's not uncommon to evaluate at this time of the year — your entire coaching staff. And, obviously, the target is on him because of our statistical, as well as actual play on the defensive side of the ball, but that goes with it."

Dallas subtracted All-Pro pass rusher Micah Parsons days before the regular season began and the Cowboys scrambled to field a productive defense most of the year.

Dallas was 30th in total defense, 32nd (last) in pass-



Special Photo: Raymond Carlin III-Imagn Images
The Dallas Cowboys will be looking for their fourth defensive coordinator in four years after the organization announced the firing of Matt Eberflus on Tuesday.

ing defense at 251.5 yards per game and last in third-down defense, giving up a

first down on more than 47% of third-down snaps.

The Cowboys allowed a fran-

chise-record 511 points, a total of 59 offensive touchdowns and 11.9 yards per reception.

From 9A

FOOTBALL

Chance Sims, Worth County

Freshman of the Year:

Micah Joyner, Dougherty

Hammond guided Worth County through a perfect season and a state championship. Sceals was the engine for a Deerfield-Windsor team that reached the state final and led the entire state in passing yards with 3,375 yards and 37 touchdowns. Roberts powered Sherwood Christian's unbeaten title run, while Sims anchored one of the most dominant defenses in the state. Joyner made an immediate impact as a freshman against top competition.

First Team Offense

Quarterbacks:
Lyndon Worthy, Worth County

Keyon Thomas, Monroe

Running Backs:

Kaden Chester, Worth County
Jordan Bush, Lee County
Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian

Offensive Line:

Shavezz Dixon, Lee County
Taylor Sumner, Worth County
Cooper Harris, Deerfield-Windsor
Prince Whitfield, Westover
Taririus Jenkins, Monroe

Tight End:

Jayden Farley, Worth County

Wide Receivers:

Jaden Upshaw, Lee County
Gabe Daniel, Deerfield-Windsor

Jordan Joyner, Westover
Jordyn Shorter, Monroe

Athletes:

David Burgess, Dougherty
Qwinton Murray, Sherwood Christian

Kicker:

Brody Hancock, Worth County

First Team Defense

Defensive Line:

Josh McGee, Worth County
King Toomer, Worth County
Rahsheike Molden, Monroe
Khalil Jones, Dougherty
Dallas Williams, Sherwood Christian

Linebackers:

Jace Murray, Lee County
Gregory Batson, Lee County
Jordan Lassiter, Westover
Mangham Pippin, Deerfield-Windsor

Defensive Backs:

Grier Morey, Deerfield-Windsor
Talaun Jones, Monroe
Lasiah Jackson, Lee County
Montravious Clay, Lee County

Punter:

Jackson Knight, Lee County

Second Team Offense

Quarterbacks:

Parnell Yates, Mitchell County
Marcus Snipes, Lee County

Running Backs:

Dominique Ball, Lee County
Malik Young, Westover
Treshaun Jones, Worth County

Offensive Line:

Davis Schnieder, Deerfield-Windsor
Larry Jackson, Lee County

Micah Hall, Sherwood Christian

Braylon Bango, Dougherty

Tight End:

Carter Blackwell, Lee County

Wide Receivers:

David Hutchins, Deerfield-Windsor
Colby Griffis, Worth County
Mykel Hines, Westover
Kell Simmons, Westover

Athletes:

Turner Simmons, Deerfield-Windsor
Jaquaveon Nelson, Worth County

Kicker:

Lawson Brooks, Sherwood Christian

Second Team Defense

Defensive Line:
Kendarvius Jones, Dough-

erty

Luke Ivey, Deerfield-Windsor
Cohen Rumph, Terrell Academy

Dylan Clark, Sherwood Christian

David Albano, Sherwood Christian

Linebackers:

Brady Weaver, Worth County
Cross Mitchell, Deerfield-Windsor

Christian Nix, Westover
Dylan Harden, Terrell Academy

Antonio Hooks, Monroe

Defensive Backs:

Eric Spann, Monroe
Randy McAfee, Westover
Ben Everett, Deerfield-Windsor

Trey Bush, Lee County
Bryce Peachey, Terrell Academy

OBITUARIES

Jo Ann Hagan Bates

Jo Ann Hagan Bates died January 4, 2026 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband William Howard Bates, Jr. of Albany, by her parents Albert Quincy Hagan, Sr. and Dorris Horton Hagan of Tifton, GA and her grandparents Charlie Rawlins Horton and Dora Horne Horton of Herndon, GA and John Sheppard Hagan and Mary Ann Williams Hagan of Screven County, GA. She is survived by her son, William Howard Bates, III and his partner Emerson Moore of New York, New York and her daughter Bronwyn Georgia Bates and son-in-law Burt Sorrells of Albany, GA, her sister Mary Hagan (Diane Fischer) of Sacramento, CA and brother Al Q. Hagan, Jr. (Linda) of Bogart, GA. A native of Ocilla, GA, she attended school in Camilla and graduated from Swainsboro High School. She attended Emory at Oxford and graduated from the University of Georgia with a BS in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Education. She completed graduate work at the University of Georgia obtaining her Masters in Media and her Specialist 6th Year Degree in Instructional Technology. After their marriage in 1963, 2nd Lt. Bates' military assignment took them to Okinawa where she taught 6th grade at Christ the King International School for two years. While there she began organizing the first library for the school. They returned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland for a short tour and then to Osan Air Force Base in Korea for a year. She did volunteer work at the Non-Commissioned Officers Club and taught classes at the University of Maryland branch on base. After Korea, they were stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL where she was the librarian at two elementary schools. One of the libraries was functional, the other was being completely reorganized. In 1969, they were transferred to Pueblo, CO where Bill taught ROTC at Southern Colorado State College and Jo Ann was assistant librarian at South High School. In 1970, while living in Pueblo, their son, William was born. They returned to graduate school in Athens, GA in the fall of 1970 at the end of Bill's military time. Bill received his Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Jo Ann worked toward her Masters Degree in Library Education. In the summer of 1971, they returned to Albany, GA where Jo Ann was a stay at home mom until William was in the second grade when she was hired as Media Specialist at Riverview Academy for several years until their daughter, Bronwyn was born in 1979. In 1981, Jo Ann became Media Specialist at Westover High School until her retirement in 2001. During this time she attended graduate school through a University of Georgia/Valdosta College co-operative program. Through this program she received her Masters of Education in 1974 and her Specialist of Education in 1986 from the University of Georgia. Jo Ann was active in Beta Sigma Phi; Great Books reading group; Serendipity Garden Club; Thronateeska Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Dougherty County Chapter No. 187; Pierre Robert Chapter of Daughters of the American Colonists; and John Sumner Chapter of Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century. She was an active member of First Baptist Church Albany from 1972 until 2022.

leadership, and genuine care for people.

A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Ennis lived out his unwavering faith daily. He loved people and truly enjoyed conversation, never missing an opportunity to connect with others. He was known for his humor and quirky wit, and for always looking for the best in those around him.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; his son, Richard (Emily); and his cherished grandchildren, Corbin, Thomas, Noah, Wyatt, and Riley. He was preceded in death by his son, Stephen (Meghan).

Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 1:30 p.m., on January 18, 2026, at the Church of Christ, 3651 Community Road, Brunswick, GA 31520. Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home of Brunswick, GA have been entrusted with final arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Alzheimer's research or to the charity of one's choice.



Deborah Jeanne Green

Deborah Jeanne Green, 71, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2025, at Willson Hospice House in Albany, Georgia.

Deborah was born on February 1, 1954, in Charleston, South Carolina. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose life revolved around her love for family, friends, and music. Deborah cherished time spent with those she loved and was a proud Alabama football fan who enjoyed cheering on her team.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Agnes Green and Gerald Green; her brothers, Bill Fleming and Ken Green; and her sister, Carol Brown.

Deborah is survived by her son, Jeremy Fabry (Tanya); her daughter, Jennifer Baptista (Brad); her grandson, Tanner Baptista (Taylor); and her granddaughters, Darian O'Lear (Ryan) and Amber Bruner. She also leaves behind her great-granddaughters, Laurel Jade Grant and Ava Bruner; and her great-grandsons, Hudson O'Lear, River O'Lear, Brynton Bruner, and Colsen Stewart, all of whom brought her immense joy.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Teresa's Catholic Church.

Deborah will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

James William Dyer

James William Dyer, 68, died Dec. 15, 2025 in Albany, Ga., following a long illness. He was born April 9, 1957, in Battle Creek, Mi. He attended Fletcher High School in Jacksonville Beach and graduated from Valdosta State University in 1981. He worked for years as an insurance adjuster in northeastern Florida. Preceded in death by his parents, George Coleman and Betty Jean Dyer, and a brother, Jeffrey Lee Dyer, all of Atlantic Beach, Fl. Survived by two sons, Jeremiah Paul Dyer of Jacksonville, Fl., and Nathan Clyde Dyer of Navarre Beach, Fl., and two brothers, Scott Allen Dyer of Atlantic Beach, Fl., and Timothy Wade Dyer of Jacksonville, Fl. Services are pending.

Ennis Lee Ham

Ennis Lee Ham, 78, of St. Simons Island, Georgia, passed away peacefully at his home on December 23, 2025. Born in Waycross, Georgia, Ennis was the son of Emory Lee Ham and Margaret Stephens Ham. He spent most of his childhood in Albany, Georgia, where he formed lifelong values rooted in faith, family, and community.

Ennis dedicated many years of service to Auto-Owners Insurance Company, retiring in May 2003. During his career, he held several positions before becoming Director of Personnel, a role in which he was known for his integrity,

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Yardsale: Jan 10th. 8am. 4104 Radium Springs Road. Furniture, Clothes & more. Beds, love seats, table sets, night stands, end tables.

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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 proprietary product name (5)	_____
2 Vogue, for one (8)	_____
3 zipping along quickly (8)	_____
4 gleaming (8)	_____
5 like a Venetian ball (6)	_____
6 they go 'round on the bus (6)	_____
7 spot for an Alberta stampede (7)	_____

ED	OOT	MAG	BR	INE
AND	LI	CA	ING	MAS
SC	KED	SH	AZ	EE
WH	ARY	LS	LG	PO

Tuesday's Answers: 1. OXYGEN 2. ADMONISHED 3. BITCOIN 4. SILHOUETTE 5. TURTLES 6. HILDERBRAND 7. SAVES 1/7

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 buying and selling (7)	_____
2 clever comment (4)	_____
3 rough calculation (8)	_____
4 Aspen activity (6)	_____
5 New World namesake Vespucci (7)	_____
6 like a warning tale (10)	_____
7 word for a good babysitter (11)	_____

NSI	TR	NG	GO	ATE
ING	TIO	TIM	PO	QU
RES	IP	CAU	ADI	RI
ES	BLE	AME	SKI	NARY

Wednesday's Answers: 1. BRAND 2. MAGAZINE 3. SCOOTING 4. POLISHED 5. MASKED 6. WHEELS 7. CALGARY 1/8

CROSSWORD

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| ACROSS | 1 Some pricey insulated mugs | 6 Juicer byproduct | 10 Keeps posted privately | 14 Buzz word? | 15 Potatoes, in Indian cuisine | 16 "No way, no how!" | 17 Leeway | 19 Title fit for a king | 20 Possible title for a B-school grad | 21 Cam button | 22 Spine-tingling | 23 Hair of the dog? | 24 Hard-to-find opening on street-sweeping days | 27 Ticking targets | 29 Small part of a machine | 30 Grease again | 31 Part of WYSIWYG | 32 Graceful waterbird | 36 Low Earth orbit, for one | 40 With sharp resolution | 41 Seer's gift | 42 Actress Berry | 43 ___ Arbor, Michigan | 44 Troublemaker's opposite | 46 Period of quiet reflection | 51 Western treaty gp. | 52 Project on stage | 53 Alphabet starter | 54 Travel stop | 55 Drive-___ | 56 Gathering place that's neither work nor home, or an apt description of 36-Across in the series that includes 17-, 24-, and 46-Across | 60 Melon covering 61 ___ bene | 62 Wickerwork twig | 63 Altar alcove | 64 Mattress choice | 65 Inferior | | | | |
| | 2 Fond of fine food and drink | 3 Insect with striped wings | 4 Othello's betrayer | 5 "Weekend Update" show, for short | 6 Apple gadgets | 7 Horseshoe-shaped security device | 8 Bathroom, in Bath | 9 Fluffy pup | 10 School fleet | 11 Keyless entry sound | 12 Knickknack | 13 Paper unit | 18 Latin 101 verb | 22 What applesauce may replace in vegan baking | 23 Tehran tongue | 24 Tablet | 25 Frozen treat served with a stroon | 26 Yuletide | 28 Like a calico cat | 31 Fuel additive brand | 32 Whole bunch | 33 Feel euphoric | 34 Close associations | 35 Must-haves | 37 TV host Jay | 38 "That ___ true!" | 39 "Now I understand" | 43 Was full of beans, maybe? | 44 "The Prophet" author Kahlil | 45 Like many audiobooks, once | 46 Colorful aquarium fish | 47 "Got it, dude!" | 48 Daybreaks, poetically | 49 Piano student's assignment | 50 Creole-speaking nation | 54 ___ facto | 56 Demo stuff | 57 "Please explain" | 58 Female pig | 59 Afore |

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

E	S	H	O	M	N	I	M	L	E	S	D	V	
W	E	I	S	O	V	L	O	N	D	N	I	R	
O	V	d	S	D	H	I	H	L	U	R	H	L	
N	N	I	C	B	V	E	L	O	W	E			
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DOWN
1 Swerve off course, as a ship

By Laura Dershwitz ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

01/08/26

Tift Regional operating team performs region's first Altaviva procedure

Staff Reports

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TIFTON – Urogynecologist Dr. Judy Yeh and the Tift Regional Medical Center operating room team conducted the first Altaviva procedure in the region on Dec. 23. Approved by the FDA in September, Medtronic's Altaviva is an implantable tibial neurostimulator device that treats urge urinary incontinence.

"Unlike medications or injections that target bladder muscles, the Altaviva implant is a small device that is placed under the skin near the ankle and sends electrical pulses to the tibial nerve, which helps regulate bladder function," Yeh said.

UUI causes frequent urges to urinate with sudden leaks. In many cases, it is connected

to an overactive bladder. UUI affects millions of all ages and genders but is more common in women.

"The Altaviva procedure offers a simple, hopeful next step for managing UUI," Yeh said. "It's designed to fit easily into daily life, automatically delivering therapy to restore bladder control and allowing patients to stay active and confident. I am pleased we can offer this cutting-edge procedure here in south Georgia, close to home, work, and family for area women."

Yeh, who practices with Southland Uro+Gynecology LLC, is a board-certified subspecialist in urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery. She sees patients at six office locations, including Albany, Americus, Cordele, Thomas-



Special Photo: TRMC

The Tift Regional Medical Center operating room team and Dr. Judy Yeh, third from left, mark the occasion after conducting the first Altaviva bladder control procedure.

ville, Warner Robins and Valdosta. Yeh is an independent member of the TRMC Medical Staff and not an employee of Southwell or Tift Regional

Health System Inc.

For more information, visit www.MySouthwell.com/providers or <https://southlandug.com/altaviva>.



Widespread flu activity moving across Georgia

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Flu activity is widespread and severe in Georgia, and cases are likely to increase following the holidays and as Georgians return to work and school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also projects a severe flu season.

The Department of Public Health strongly urges individuals who have not gotten a flu shot yet and have no medical conditions preventing them from doing so to take advantage of the health benefits the flu vaccine provides as soon as possible.

The CDC recommends that individuals over the age of six months receive a once-yearly flu vaccine – not just for their own protection, but to protect others around them who may be more vulnerable to the flu and its complications, including the elderly and immunocompromised. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against flu to develop in the body, so now is the time to get a flu shot.

Even those who get the flu, the vaccine can help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and, in extreme cases, death, health officials say. Those with questions are urged to consult with a health care professional (such as a licensed medical doctor, nurse, or other practitioner) for questions about the flu shot.

The flu vaccine is widely available at public health departments, doctors' offices, grocery stores, neighborhood clinics and pharmacies. Flu symptoms and their se-

verity can vary from person to person and may include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people are at higher risk of developing serious complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, pregnant women, and children younger than 5 years old, but especially those younger than 2.

In some cases, health care providers may recommend antiviral drugs to treat the flu. Antiviral drugs are prescription medications and are most effective when taken within 48 hours of symptom onset.

There are other tried and true measures individuals can take to help prevent the spread of flu:

Frequent and thorough hand-washing with soap and warm water. Alcohol based gels are the next-best thing for those who don't have access to soap and water.

Avoid touching your face, as flu germs can get into the body through the mucus membranes of the nose, mouth and eyes.

Those who are sick, stay home from school or work. Flu sufferers should be free of a fever, without the use of a fever reducer, for at least 24 hours before returning to school or work.

For more information about flu and how to prevent it, log on to dph.ga.gov/flu. Monitor Georgia's weekly influenza reports at dph.georgia.gov/flu-activity-georgia.



A lightened load

Staff Photo: Tara Fletcher

A tiny truck is strapped in on a trailer outside Academy Sports in Albany Saturday. The little guy most assuredly felt like a big boy riding solo on the lengthy trailer.

FEBRUARY 7, 2026
10AM-4PM



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