

Perspectives
Gerald Greene
• Page 4A

The Albany HERALD

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David Phelps
Speak of Love Tour
• Page 12A

$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIIII, No. 27 ALBANYHERALD.COM THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

Combos Marathon and Half-Marathon set for Saturday in Albany

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – The 20th big race in Albany will kick off on Saturday morning, and area residents who are not into running can come downtown to watch or just stand outside to cheer on the participants if the course takes the pack through their neighborhood.

Since its inception, the Combos Marathon and Half-Marathon has brought more than 30,000 runners from all 50 states, plus international contestants from all over the world, to southwest Georgia.

The annual race is hosted by the Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The race, originally the Snickers Marathon and Half-Marathon, was rebranded with the Combos moniker in 2022. The 26.1-mile run has made a name for itself as a Top 10 qualifier for the prestigious Boston Marathon.

As of Tuesday, 333 runners had signed up for the marathon and another 481 were set to take part in the half-marathon event. That 814 figure was expected to grow as more participants were signing up as the countdown to the race drew closer.

Registrations have come from 29 states outside of Georgia and two countries, including Bolivia and Mexico, race organizers said.

"This community event is made possible with over 1,000 volunteers," the CVB said in a news release. "We could not have a successful and safe event without our local law enforcement and community volunteers."

As part of the race, area drivers can expect to see occasional partial lane closures along the route. The marathon route, described as fast and flat,

See **MARATHON**, 2A

Sallay Jusu sworn in as Dougherty County Magistrate Court judge

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – It's not every day that a father travels more than 4,000 miles to see his daughter take her place on her first day on the job, but for Michael Jusu such a journey was important.

Jusu's daughter, Sallay Jusu, was sworn in on Monday as the newest Dougherty County Magistrate Court judge, replacing retiring Judge Michael Meyer von Bremen.

"I would not miss this," the proud father, who lives in Sierra Leone, said. "That's my daughter, my only daughter."

To arrive as a surprise for Sallay Jusu, who broke down in tears when her father walked into a courtroom at the Dougherty County Judicial Building, Michael Jusu flew to Washington's Dulles International Airport and then to Atlanta. He drove to Albany. In all the trip took more than 24 hours.

"For her to get a recognition like this, I can only support her," he said. "I cannot afford to miss that. For a loving, hard-working daughter, believe me, you do everything you can."

The new judge's mother, Emma Williams, was also in attendance, with a number of other family members, friends and colleagues in the Dougherty County legal community.

Sallay Jusu is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and from the Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, Fla. She obtained her J.D. degree in 2012.

State Court Judge John Stephenson selected Jusu from a pool of applicants.

Prior to her appointment, she served as chief deputy district attorney in the Dougherty County District Attorney's office. She initially worked in the State Court Division and later in the Felony Division.

Jusu said she had originally thought she would work in family law, but through what she described as "divine intervention" she ended up on

See **JUSU**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Sallay Jusu, left, takes the oath of office on Monday from Dougherty County Superior Court Judge Victoria Darrisaw. Jusu was selected to serve as Magistrate Court judge, replacing the retiring Michael Meyer von Bremen.

Periodical — Mail Label

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Dougherty County Commission chairman delays discussion of jail renovations

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – There was some confusion for Dougherty County Commissioners when a recommendation from the county's Public Works Committee to move forward with replacing aging jail equipment was removed from the commission's agenda Monday.

The unanimous recommendation from the committee to proceed with ordering HVAC equipment and establishing a line of credit to pay for the order initially was on a version of the Monday agenda distributed by email on Thursday, commissioners said. However, a revised agenda sent later in the day did not include that item.

An effort to place the item

See **DELAY**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

A Dougherty County Sheriff's Office jailer escorts an inmate in the facility. The jail needs $11 million in a first phase to replace aging equipment at the facility, according to an employee hired by the county.

Wiregrass Quilters Guild to host annual American Legacy Quilt Show

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG -- Members of the Wiregrass Quilters Guild are busy preparing for their annual American Legacy Quilt Show to be held April 3-4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Georgia Museum or Agriculture in Tifton.

Visitors to the show will be able to wander through a display of approximately 50 quilts made by guild members and other area quilters and vote for their favorites. In addition to these competition quilts, there will be a display of patriotic quilts in honor of our country's 250th anniversary.

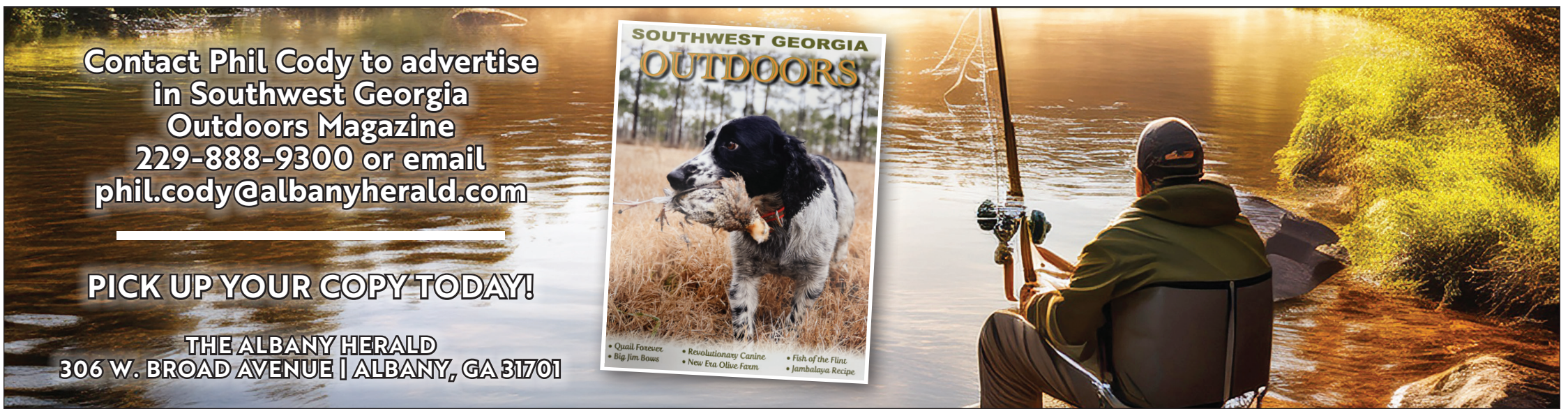
While at the show, visitors also will be able to get tickets for several give-aways that will



Special Photo: Wiregrass Quilters Guild

The Wiregrass Quilters Guild's 2026 raffle quilt, "Blooming Bouquet," will be given away at 2:30 p.m. on April 4. The quilt was designed by famed quilt artist Tula Pink and made by members of the Wiregrass Quilters Guild.

See **QUILT**, 2A



Albany Chorale concert scheduled Thursday

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- "Pop & Funfare, Music to Make You Smile" will be the next concert offered by the Albany Chorale. The public is invited to join in at 7 p.m. on Thursday for a fun evening of music at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2126 E. Edgewater Drive, in Albany.

Chorale officials say his concert is certain to stir memories as it includes a wide variety of selections of popular music from the 20th to the 21st century.

"Come out and join us, as you are sure to hear a favorite showtime or pop song," Chorale board member Alicia Jackson said. "There's something for everyone. We are singing songs from as far back as the 1930s to the 2000s, but all have remained beloved through the years."

Pieces from Broadway, movies, and television are represented, as well as a variety of musical groups and singers, including the Beatles, Cindi Lauper, Frank Sinatra and more.

"This is a bit of a unique concert for the Albany Chorale with its popular music emphasis," Chorale accompanist, Meri Beth Hillard said. "It will showcase the vocal versatility of the ensemble and should be an enjoyable evening for the audience."

Added chorale member Marilyn DeLong: "I'm excited about this upcoming concert as it has so many different pop songs from different decades. It will be fun for everyone."

Whether you are transported back to a theater or to a time just hanging out with friends, this program is practically guaranteed to stir up happy memories, Chorale officials said.

Albany Chorale is a nonprofit organization, and concerts are free to the community, but, donations are happily accepted. The Chorale is always looking for new members. Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join in; rehearsals are Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Covenant.

Rehearsals for the chorale's May season finale concert will begin March 9. For more information, visit the www.albanychorale.org website.

Special Logo

From 1A

QUILT

take place at 2:30 p.m. April 4. These include a beautiful "Blooming Bouquet" quilt designed by famed quilt artist Tula Pink and made by Wiregrass Quilters Guild members.

Other drawings will be held for a tool cabinet from Harbor Freight and a number of baskets filled with fun goodies.

Admission to the quilt show is included with purchase of admission to the museum. On April 4, visitors also can enjoy the museum's annual Folklife Festival. The Georgia Museum of Agriculture is located on Whiddon Mill Road at Interstate 75, Exit 63B in Tifton.

Dougherty 4-H students take top honors at competition

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

EATONTON — Dougherty County 4-H students earned top honors and recognition at the Georgia Southwest District Junior/Senior 4-H Project Achievement contest,held recently at Rock Eagle 4-H Center here.

This year's theme was "Saddle Up Southwest: Riding the Trail to Achievement." Project achievement is a public speaking and leadership competition at which students in grades 7-12 present a 12-minute speech in their selected project area. In addition to their demonstrations, participants submit portfolios highlighting a year-long commitment to their projects, leadership development, community service, and involvement in 4-H and community activities.

This year, more than 342 students representing 41 counties across the Southwest District competed in more than 60 subject areas. Twenty-eight participants also campaigned for one of 16 leadership positions on the Southwest District 4-H Junior and Senior Board of Directors.

Dougherty County was represented by seven 4-Hers, several of whom earned top placements and special recognition. Jazzanae Holmes, a junior at Monroe Comprehensive High School, was elected to serve on the Southwest District Senior 4-H Board of Directors, demonstrating exceptional leadership and communication skills.

Delilah Mann, a senior at Westover High School, earned second place in the Health category with her presentation titled "Mental Health and the World of Sports," created in memory of her friend and fellow athlete, Langston Bradley. As a Sweepstakes winner, Mann will advance to compete at the state level in July.

"Being part of DPA taught me how to confidently speak in front of others and truly step outside my comfort zone," Mann said. "It pushed me to grow not just as a speaker, but as a person."



Special Photo

Dougherty County 4-H students earned top honors and recognition at the Georgia Southwest District Junior/Senior 4-H Project Achievement contest,held recently at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton.

Additional Dougherty County competitors also achieved strong results:

-- Timothy Anderson, 8th grade, Emanuel Seventh Day Adventist Junior Academy: first place, Photography and Videography

-- Darius Greene, 9th grade, Byne Christian School: third place, Sports

-- Makai Haskins-Lett, 11th grade, Monroe High School/4C Academy: second place, Photography and Videography

-- Jazzanae Holmes, 11th grade, Monroe High School: Communications; elected to Senior Board of Directors

-- Delilah Mann, 11th grade, Westover High School: second place, Health; Sweepstakes winner, advancing to state competition

-- C'Niya Walker, 9th grade, Doxa Home School: second place, History.

Dougherty County 4-H Agent Jennifer Edwards and Educator Asha Cannon assisted students in organizing portfolios, PowerPoint presentations, and speeches in preparation for the competition. Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent Vivek Bist and Rebecca Mansville served as chaperones and judges during the event.

"This competition comes with a lot of responsibility, hard work, and preparation," Edwards said. "We are very proud of our outstanding Dougherty County students and the work they have put forth in competing against their regional peers. We rode home in a van full of winners."

In addition to individual achievements, the Dougherty County 4-H Program received district recognition for two outstanding programs: Most Outstanding Senior County 4- H Activity for The Youthpreneur Series and Most Outstanding Junior County 4-H Activity for The Ag Adventures Club.

Students interested in joining the Dougherty County 4-H Program may contact Edwards or Cannon with the UGA Extension Services in Dougherty County at (229) 436-7216. More information is available at extension.uga.edu/Dougherty or on the Dougherty County Extension/4-H Facebook page.

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.

"MCB MWDZWXFD UWZ DWUXWUJZWT OFZY J UWFXW OF CYVVBMYYT, O TYF'Z EFYM ... OZ'D IADZ UYYT WFZWXZJOFRWFZ." — ZYR DWVVWKE

Previous Solution: "If you consider film an art form, as some people do, then the Western would be a truly American art form." — Clint Eastwood

TODAY'S CLUE: I equals L

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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.

"B XVTXFJ TXGKZC KA UZ X LATUAF, XGC RZCB PGBSNKJ XDZ UXJBLXVVF LATUAFJ BG JWXLZ, DBSNK?" — VBXY GZZJAG

Previous Solution: "Why Westerns get segregated into a genre in Hollywood, I don't know ... it's just good entertainment." — Tom Selleck

TODAY'S CLUE: K equals P

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From 1A

DELAY

on the March 9 agenda for discussion and a vote was rejected on Monday by a 5-2 vote.

During the February Public Works Committee meeting, consultant James Andrews Jr. with Macon-based AH&P Consulting Engineers told commissioners on the committee -- Victor Edwards and Russell Gray and Chairman Ed Newsome -- that cooling equipment is reaching the end of its serviceable life and that parts are becoming difficult to come by. Commissioners Gloria Gaines and Anthony Jones also attended the committee meeting.

The equipment, installed during the construction of the jail facility that opened in 1994, is more than 30 years old, and a failure could force the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office to house inmates in other facilities or rent portable chillers.

Both of those options would come at great expense to the county.

Some of the equipment has a year's lead time in ordering, and it needs to be installed during the fall and winter months while cooling needs are reduced so that the chillers can be replaced one at the time, Andrews said.

On Friday, Gray said that the delay could be expensive.

A failure of cooling equipment at the jail "could bankrupt the county" in the event it had to house inmates at other jails for an extended period, Gray said.

"We've (already) kicked the can down the road for a year or two, and now have gotten what I consider a clear feel on this and how we're going to fund it," he said. "It's a violation of our oath to the Constitution to neglect these priorities."

Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard is the person who has the power to remove an agenda item, Edwards and Gray said.

"We don't have that authority," Edwards said on Tuesday. "The chairman has that authority."

Both Jones and Newsome said they were puzzled and had not received an explanation.

"I don't know the particulars," Newsome said. "I was told the chairman pulled it."

The jail repairs are vital needs that need to be addressed, he said.

A review identified $24 million in needs for the jail facility, which has been in continuous use for 32 years. The first phase, which includes the aging heating and cooling equipment, has an estimated cost of $11 million.

"This has to be done," Newsome said. "We don't have any other choice. It's a constitutional obligation."

Heard did not respond to a text message seeking comment on the removal of the jail agenda item.

Gray and Newsome were the only two commissioners who voted to place the agenda item on the March 9 agenda.

From 1A

JUSU

the prosecutorial side in Albany, Georgia.

"I was in the DA's office, March 6 would have been 9 years, (so) about nine years,," Jusu said following the swearing-in ceremony and after donning her new black robe. "I'm lost for words.

"I want to be a God-fearing judge, a fair judge, an impartial judge, a judge of service."

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

SafeAire Heating & Cooling Co., Inc



SafeAire Heating & Cooling Co., Inc

3199 Palmyra Rd
Albany, Ga 31707

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes SafeAire Heating & Cooling Co., Inc as this week's Star Business of the Week.

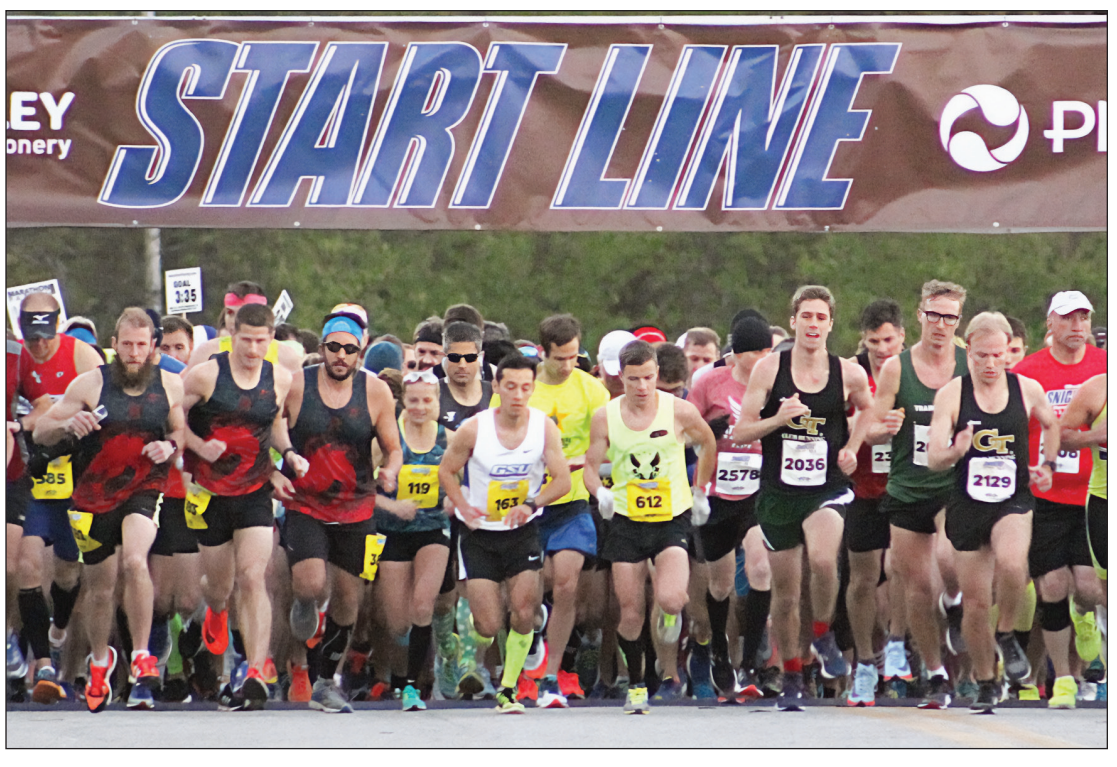
Serving our community since 1964, Safe Aire has built a legacy of reliability, expertise, and exceptional service. With a dedicated team of 107 employees, including a strong support staff, SafeAire is equipped to handle both residential and commercial heating and cooling needs with professionalism and care.

From maintaining a robust inventory to ensuring customers receive prompt, knowledgeable service, SafeAire continues to set the standard in the HVAC industry. Their long-standing commitment to quality and community has made them a trusted name for generations across Southwest Georgia.

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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Sugar Mama's
FOX31 WFXL
WSWG Southwest Georgia



File Photo

Hundreds of runners take off at the start of the 2024 Snickers Marathon in Albany, which last year became the Combos Marathon. This year's race, which will be held Saturday, is the 20th edition of the 26.1-mile race.

From 1A

MARATHON

includes a scenic tour of Albany and starts on Front Street next to Veterans Park.

The route includes portions along Oglethorpe Boulevard toward the Albany State University West Campus, along Gillionville Road, Doublegate Drive, and through Rawson Circle, with runners traveling through Hilsman Park, the Thronateeksa Heritage Museum and the old train depot before arriving at the finish line at RiverFront Park behind the Albany Welcome Center.

The Albany Marathon Inc. donates race proceeds to the Willson Hospice House every year. To date, the Marathon has donated more than $365,000 to hospice care.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today's underwater day score makes this a day to sit out for anything important. Even tomorrow gives you slightly better odds, but the real shift into positive daylight comes March 10 and after.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Reconsider any ideas that spool up under today's negative Universal stars. By all means work on projects when stars are negative, just revisit your work and wait to launch once day scores get above zero.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Improvements at work could start to show up once stars change back to the positive next week, some potholes could get filled in, making it easier all around. Wait to run with a creative solution until then, too.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Culture is oriented toward 'now' yet nature takes her own time. Spring doesn't arrive until winter is past. Flow with the stars like seasons, wait for the return of springtime stars next week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Many personal money blocks are ending but wait until March 10 or later to make any moves or changes, Universal blocks remain until then. Hang on to that great idea for now, wait for better stars for this too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might see a new way to improve finances, but as with Leo above, wait for better stars to bring you better odds before you take action. If a conversation is going south, table it until next week.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your ability to analyze your feelings for greater understanding could be especially on point now, though any conclusions you reach should be revisited. Today's negative stars could skew you toward a more cynical viewpoint.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some genuine inner peace could be yours for part of today despite the dragging-down effect of below-zero Universal stars. Solutions could appear to a problem, you'll soon be in a better position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Manage your expectations of others, someone could be a disappointment, today's domestic stars are a double-whammy for you. Far better to respond after stars clear March 10 or beyond.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Navigate carefully, sidestep anything that could smack of disloyalty and instead lean into good ideas for the future. While you might want to impress the boss, today's not a good day to stand out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't commit your heart or your wallet to a new mentor or concept, anything begun under today's dark stars won't likely work out well. If you're still enamored next week, give it further consideration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may not see you clearly if they're projecting themselves onto you. One problem with projection is that it prevents a clear assessment of what or who you are dealing with. Stay neutral and observant.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Roll past anyone who doesn't have your back, leave them behind as you roll toward great ideas, effective communication, enhanced creativity, and long-term financial stability. The second part of the month concentrates most of your challenges for the remainder of the year into just a couple of weeks. You'll need all your self-help tools to avoid discouragement and a temporary loss of hope. But as soon as the beginning of April, things turn around and begin to move upward again. Love and family are highlighted, new beginnings could feel seminal of a whole new life. Focused efforts bring increase in your financial life. Avoid a head-butting contest in May, then move into fame or media exposure and never-say-die dedication. From there, find your truest path, enjoy protection from the Universe.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1853: The piano company Steinway & Sons is founded in New York City.

1933: In Germany, the Nazi Party receives 44% of the vote in the last free elections held until after World War II.

1946: Winston Churchill delivers his "Iron Curtain" speech in Missouri, signaling the start of the Cold War.

1953: Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin dies after 29 years in power.

1960: Elvis Presley ends his two years of service in the U.S. Army.

1963: Country music stars Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Hawkshaw Hawkins are killed in a plane crash.

1985: The U.S. government approves the first blood screening test for AIDS.

1997: North and South Korean representatives meet for the first time in 25 years for peace talks.

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- **Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)**
- **International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness**
- **National Cheese Doodle Day**
- **National Absinthe Day**
- **Reel Film Day**
- **National Potty Dance Day**
- **Dissociative Identity Disorder Awareness Day (formerly Multiple Personality Day)**
- **Cinco de Marcho**
- **St. Piran's Day**
- **Stop Bad Service Day**
- **Discover What Your Name Means Day**
- **National Poutine Day**

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire. The other is to get it."

George Bernard Shaw, *playwright (1856-1950)*

CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
80°	82°	83°	83°	81°	84°	80°
60°	62°	62°	62°	61°	61°	63°

Daily Bridge Club

How many winners?

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

If you aim at nothing, you rate to hit your target. When a good declarer plans his play, he may start by counting winners; a good defender does likewise.

NORTH ♠ K 10 4 3 ♡ 5 ◇ A Q 3 ♣ 9 8 7 4 2	
WEST ♠ 8 7 5 2 ♡ 8 7 ◇ K 10 6 5 ♣ 6 5 3	EAST ♠ A Q 9 ♡ 10 3 2 ◇ 9 8 7 ♣ A K J 10
SOUTH ♠ J 6 ♡ A K Q J 9 6 4 ◇ J 4 2 ♣ Q	

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 ♣	4 ♡	All Pass

Opening lead – ♣ 3

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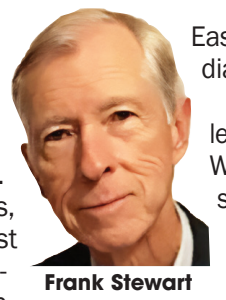
Against four hearts, West led a club. East took the king, dropping South's queen, and shifted to a trump. Declarer drew trumps and next let the jack of spades ride. East took the queen and led a high club.

South ruffed, led a second spade to dummy's ten and East's ace, and ruffed the next club. When a diamond finesse with the queen won, South had 10 tricks.

TARGET

I takes four tricks to beat a major-suit game, but East lost sight of that target. He can see a club and two spades, but unless West has a trump trick, the defense needs a diamond. Moreover, since dummy's spade holding may provide South with a trick, East may need to set up a diamond trick promptly.

At Trick Two, East must lead the nine of diamonds. When in with the queen of spades, he leads a second diamond, establishing the setting trick in time.



Frank Stewart

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A Q 9 H 10 3 2 D 9 8 7 C A K J 10. Your partner opens one heart, you respond two clubs and he bids two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: You would seldom suppress support for partner's major suit, but here you have balanced pattern with concentrated values in the black suits, and you lack a high heart honor. Bid 3NT. A style in which your two clubs was game-forcing might gain; you could bid 2NT, forcing. That style has plusses and minuses.

North dealer
E-W vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Parents worry about college-age son's 'junk' diet

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency



Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: Our son, who is in college, began losing his hair in high school. It could be genetic, but this does not run in the family. Although he is skinny, he eats terribly. He fills up on junk food, juice and soda. Sometimes he eats nothing.

When he lived at home, I could influence at least some of what he ate, but he always denied there was anything wrong. His pediatrician (male, for what it's worth) always dismissed my concerns. I helped him find a new doctor when he turned 18 but now that he's an adult, there is even less I can do.

We know that he is unhappy with how he looks. My husband has tried to talk to him gently about speaking with his doctor specifically about his hair and its connection to his diet and potentially an underlying health problem. On a side note, our son has occasionally seen a counselor at school about unrelated issues, when we suggested it, so he does not always reject our advice out of hand, like he does with this.

If he liked the way he looks, and if it were totally clear that this isn't a health issue, we would leave it alone. But given the circumstances, do we need to leave it alone anyway?

– Concerned Mother

Dear Mother: Right now, the most supportive thing you can do for your son is continuing to listen to him and provide help when asked for. He's on a journey with his body – as we all are. And while there are a variety of hair treatments available and many different resources for getting help with one's diet, he has to learn to be proactive about them if he wants something to change. While it's hard for parents to watch their children feel around in the dark, this kind of independent decision-making is an important part of development.

Lead with curiosity instead of concern as much as possible here. You can ask him about his feelings about himself or his eating habits but try to focus more on asking him about who he is, what he wants and what's going on in his life. As he spreads his wings in college, it will help him to understand how an adult solves a problem. That problem could be as complex as addressing hair loss with a professional, or as simple as "how do I make dinner for myself?"

Dear Eric: I was surprised by your response to "Not the Girlfriend" who wanted the man she described as her boyfriend to, in words, ask her to be his girlfriend (assuming that represents exclusivity). They've been dating for six weeks, and he has told her he loves her.

I'm quite old, but don't think I'm so old-fashioned in thinking that six weeks into a relationship is a bit too soon to be trying to nail things down. She didn't mention how often they see each other but at six weeks you're really just getting to know someone. Good relationships take time. And she's already frustrated by the situation. I know there have been successful relationships that worked right from the get-go, but they're rare.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with wanting to know a dating partner's level of interest/seriousness. But I wonder what her rush is.

Maybe the guy thinks of her as his girlfriend without explicitly saying so. After all, he's already said he loves her.

By the way, at six weeks, even sooner, you can certainly feel "in love" but at that stage you're filling in the aspects that you still don't know about your love interest with qualities you imagine are true.

– Reader

Dear Reader: I'm very grateful for this letter. It made me think about the original letter in a new way – and, not for nothing, made me ruminate for a while on the nature of love, which is always a very nice way to spend one's time. I agree with you.

I was thinking about the communication challenges that many couples have and how so often we don't ask for what we want. Or – one of the more dreaded roadblocks in a relationship – we want our partner to read our minds.

But I didn't think enough about where this relationship was in its life cycle and how its relative newness probably adds to the issues of miscommunication.

Relationships at any stage can provoke insecurity or simply a desire to know that we're loved in the way we want to be loved. That voice inside asking for assurance is natural and there's nothing wrong with it, but it's not always asking for something external. Sometimes it's asking for internal work – in self-esteem, in being clear about one's own desires, in being happy with oneself. That internal work will only strengthen other relationships.

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Dateline exposed the incompetence of the entire Dougherty County Judicial System. From the Dougherty County police, the Dougherty County coroner to the Dougherty County District Attorney. The combination of these three agencies almost allowed a cold blooded murderer to walk free. I am totally embarrassed that the whole country was able to see our incompetent system.

Congratulations to all the Phoebe graduates of the Health Equity Initiative Liasons. This program is a huge step in dealing with the root causes of disease and preventing it.

OK, I'm in on the Chad Warbington columns. What better insight than to have one of the members of the commission try and explain their reasoning?

"Trump's doing what we voted for him to do ..." Like getting American military needlessly killed, forcing gas prices up astronomically by starting a needless war based on lies, doing anything possible to distract from his involvement with Epstein and reports of his interactions with children, making the U.S. the laughingstock of the civilized world, driving huge wedges between our once allies ... Need I go on? 'Cause there's several Squawkboxes worth of this.

Old Bone Spurs needs to send his own children into a war that he had no legal authority to initiate.

So far, I'm seeing Chad Warbington using the space allotted in The Albany Herald to try and steer all blame away from himself. It will be interesting to see how his colleagues react to his public grandstanding at their expense.

Trump's latest distraction has now cost four American families their loved ones. There is/was no imminent threat to the U.S. The Iranians don't have missile capabilities to strike U.S. soil. Both are documented testimony of Pentagon officials just last month.

So the mayor and others think Tripp Morgan should be allowed to re-open the downtown brewery? I'm fine with that ... as soon as he pays back the $2 million-plus of taxpayer money he fleeced the city out of.

Fletcher, it's easy to cast aspersions at a group that you know you'll never be a part of. Maybe you should play the lottery ... get a chance to see how the other half lives.

Thank you, Commissioner Warbington, for clearing up some of the questions we taxpayers have. Please continue to publish your columns.

At least Bush sought Congressional authorization before taking us into war with iraq. But Trump, who has no respect for either of the other two branches of government or the Constitution, did not. I wonder when he'll declare himself "the president of Iran." That Man Without a Family

Maybe Trump will send his snot-nosed, worthless, entitled kids to fight in the Middle East. Don't bet on it.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."
Isaiah 41:13

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ GERALD GREENE

House passes major legislation

Last week, my House colleagues and I returned to the Georgia State Capitol for Week 7 of the 2026 legislative session. We have now reached Legislative Day 25 and are just two days away from Crossover Day, which is the deadline for bills to pass out of their chamber of origin before we adjourn on April 2.


GREENE

One of our most significant actions was final passage of House Bill 973, the Amended Fiscal Year 2026 budget. This balanced budget is based on a revised revenue estimate of $43.6 billion and includes nearly $6 billion in additional funds. Key priorities include:

$850 million for homeowner tax relief;

Over $400 million for a new state mental health hospital;

More than $2 billion for transportation improvements;

$600 million-plus for a $2,000 one-time supplement for state employees and educators;

Funding for a new College of Optometry at Georgia Southern;

Investments in foster care, homelessness prevention, veterans services and pension stability.

The House also advanced several major education initiatives:

-- House Bill 1193, the Georgia Early Literacy Act, would fund literacy coaches in K–3 schools, strengthen science-of-reading instruction and require full-day kindergarten. With many third-graders not reading on grade level, this is a critical step forward.

-- House Bill 1030, the Math Matters Act, expands advanced math opportunities, guarantees 60 minutes of daily math instruction in grades 4–5 and strengthens teacher preparation standards.

-- House Bill 1009 would extend Georgia's classroom cellphone restrictions to high schools beginning in 2027, building on prior legislation for K–8 students.

-- House Bill 1023 would require weapon detection systems at main entrances of public school buildings by 2027.

We also passed legislation expanding after-school care access, strengthening the Special Needs Scholarship program, supporting student teachers, expanding college and career academies and enhancing homelessness prevention efforts.

To address rising insurance costs, the House passed House Bill 1344, the Georgia Insurance Affordability and Claims Integrity Act, which strengthens fraud penalties, enhances consumer protections following disasters and establishes a storm damage mitigation grant program for homeowners.

We return to the Capitol this week for Crossover Day, when we expect to work late into the evening advancing legislation important to Georgia families.

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving as your State Representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my Capitol office with any questions or concerns at (404) 656-9210 or gerald.greene@house.ga.gov.

COLUMNIST ■ REP. BILL YEARTA

House vets potential legislation leading to Crossover Day

My House colleagues and I returned to the Georgia State Capitol last week to begin the seventh week of the 2026 legislative session. Monday was dedicated to our first committee workday of the session, where many hours were spent in committee and subcommittee meetings reviewing, debating and advancing legislation so that eligible bills can be placed on a Rules Calendar and considered by the full House. These workdays are critical to ensuring proposed legislation is thoroughly vetted before reaching the House floor.


YEARTA

By the end of the week, we reached Legislative Day 25 and are now just two legislative days away from Crossover Day, the key deadline for bills and resolutions to pass out of their chamber of origin in order to remain eligible for final passage before the General Assembly adjourns on April 2.

This past week, we passed the Amended FY 2026 budget and sent it to Go. Kemp's desk to be signed. The rising cost of living was of utmost concern when developing the amended budget. HB 973 is set by a revised revenue estimate of $43.6 billion and includes $4.5 billion in unrestricted surplus funds, along with $145 million in lottery surplus funds, for a total infusion of $5.9 billion, representing a 15.6% increase over the original Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

The AFY 2026 budget seeks to prioritize taxpayer relief, major investments in the state's prison system, expanded mental health services and transportation infrastructure improvements. With this budget, more than $2 billion will be returned to Georgia

taxpayers. We are also accelerating the reduction of the state income tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99%.

These are just some of the ways the Georgia House is working to deliver meaningful tax relief to Georgia families and keeping more money in their pockets.

In addition to tax relief, the Amended FY '26 budget includes $409 million for a new mental health hospital to be constructed, $325 million for the new DREAMS need-based scholarship program, and $150 million to add to the bed space at Georgia prisons.

House education priorities include House Bill 1193, the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026, which passed the House overwhelmingly with bipartisan support. HB 1193 would promote and advance comprehensive early literacy and reading education efforts across grades K-3. This legislation would provide funding for school-based literacy coaches in all Georgia public schools that serve students in kindergarten through third grade, impacting more than 1,000 schools statewide.

Under this legislation, each district will be required to offer kindergarten, and students are required to attend, unless they can pass an assessment.

In addition to prioritizing literacy, the House also focused on strengthening mathematics education in Georgia with the unanimous passagef House Bill 1030, the Math Matters Act. The bill would expand advanced learning opportunities, increase core instructional time and improve teacher preparation by guaranteeing access to advanced math for students who are ready.

The Georgia House also passed legislation banning cellphones in public high school classrooms. We already passed legislation banning phones in lower grades and this expands that legislation.

To end the week, we passed legislation to address insurance affordability in our state.

Following last year's passage of SB 68 and SB 69 – Georgia's landmark lawsuit reform legislation, House Bill 1344, or the Georgia Insurance Affordability and Claims Integrity Act, aims to drive down the costs of insurance and strengthen transparency for Georgia policyholders.

H.B. 1344 would increase nearly 40 fines within Georgia's insurance code, strengthen the authority of the Georgia Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner to levy penalties, enhance enforcement of the state's uninsured motorist laws, impose tougher consequences for insurance fraud and clarify claims-processing requirements following storms and other catastrophic events. The bill would establish a felony offense for individuals who financially benefit from directing motor vehicle accident victims to specific attorneys or medical providers to generate insurance claims.

HB 1344 also would create the Georgia Storm Damage Mitigation Program Act, which would establish a state-administered grant program to help eligible homeowners and certain local governments strengthen residential properties against storm damage.

HB 1344 seeks to provide stronger consumer protections, increase accountability in the insurance industry and support Georgians recovering from catastrophic events.

This week will be a busy week of reviewing and advancing legislation, with Crossover

Day happening on Friday.. As always, I encourage you to reach out with any questions

or concerns about legislation being considered this year. Your input is invaluable, and I welcome the chance to connect, whether by phone or during a visit to the Capitol, to discuss the issues that matter most to you and your family.

FINE PRINT
STACEY ABRAMS



GUEST COLUMNIST ■ STACEY ABRAMS

The machinery of voter suppression

Mass voter purges and voter challenges are often falsely described as "election security" or "maintenance" — familiar language with problematic intent.

In reality, these actions against electors are about control. These efforts are meant to target voters that certain politicians don't like, forcing citizens to repeatedly prove their right to vote and making participation in democracy a calculated risk. Add restrictive ID rules, especially for young voters and people of color, and the pattern is clear: discourage participation and shave the margins before Election Day ever arrives.

Here in Georgia, we have seen this play out before with purges that kicked thousands of lawful voters from the rolls, the closure of polling places in rural communities that make it harder to cast a ballot, and stricter rules on absentee voting that affect the elderly, the disabled and student voting. That context matters when we look at what just happened in Georgia.

On Jan. 28, the FBI raided the Fulton County elections office, seizing hundreds of boxes of election materials from the 2020 cycle. Later, Trump started calls to "nationalize" elections, which would defy Article I of the Constitution by shifting control of elections from states and localities to the federal government. The timing of his demands should alarm anyone who cares about democracy. These actions come as the Republican administration faces growing backlash — from aggressive immigration raids to economic instability.

For months, officials aligned with this administration have pressured states to hand over voter data. States as varied as New Hampshire and California, among 18 others, have refused. Georgia did, too, because election law clearly limits who can access these records and how they're protected. Those safeguards exist to prevent intimidation, manipulation and abuse.

Fulton County matters because of who lives there. Nearly 1 million people — predominantly Black, Latino, Asian and immigrant — call it home. Georgians know Fulton County is also the backbone of Democratic participation in Georgia. If someone wanted to challenge voters at scale or quietly disqualify people before an election, this is exactly the kind of data they would want. And this seizure was the best way to get it.

Now place this alongside an increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement regime, including the proposed ICE warehouse in Social Circle. In mixed-status families, voter registration by naturalized citizens can unintentionally put loved ones at risk. Expanded enforcement discretion — often based on language, accent or appearance — turns ordinary civic participation into something that feels dangerous.

In the South, that discretion maps directly onto race. In Georgia, the state with one of the nation's largest immigrant and refugee populations, we become a crucible for how to steal elections and futures.

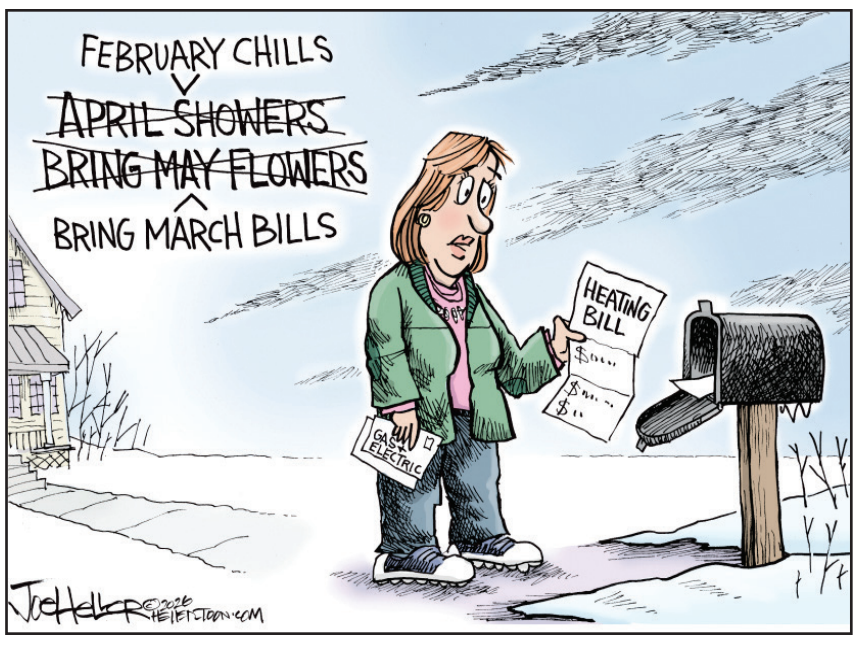
This is how a democracy is hollowed out.

In the "10 Steps to Autocracy and Authoritarianism" framework, people may still be allowed to vote, but the outcome is shaped in advance — by deciding who stays registered, whose eligibility is challenged and whose vote is quietly discarded. That's the difference between the right to vote and the ability to vote.

Our response must be simple and urgent. Check your voter registration regularly. Help others do the same. Treat talk of "voter maintenance" not as routine paperwork but as a warning sign that demands immediate collective action. Volunteer as a poll worker and start conversations about the importance of elections today.

In Georgia, we have been shown again and again that voter suppression starts here. For once, let's get ahead of the assault and prove that Georgia is also where it ends.

Stacey Abrams is a bestselling author, entrepreneur and host of the podcast "Assembly Required." She previously served as minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives.



What to watch

THURSDAY

March 5, 2026

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

World Baseball Classic

FS1, beginning at 5 a.m. Live

The World Baseball Classic international tournament features two Pool C games today in Tokyo with Czechia vs. Korea early in the morning and Australia vs. Czechia tonight.

Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage

CBS, 8 p.m.

Mandy (Emily Osment) makes a controversial remark on live TV that puts her job and the family's reputation at risk. Zoe Perry, Matt Hobby and Christopher Gorham guest-star in the new episode "The G Word and a Blaspheming Bimbo."

Scrabble

The CW, 8 p.m.

Players from rival cities try to hit the best bonus squares in an effort to win $10,000 in the new episode "World Series of Words." Craig Ferguson hosts.



RUTH ROSE, BRAVO

Law & Order

NBC, 8 p.m.

The murder of a popular wellness personality results in the arrest of an unlikely suspect in the new episode "Remedies."

Ghosts

CBS, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode "The List," Sam and Jay (Rose McIver and Utkarsh Ambudkar) work to secure Woodstone B&B a coveted spot on a prestigious luxury hotel list, only to face unexpected chaos when a vengeful, newly discovered bunker ghost disrupts a crucial visit.

Ladies of London: The New Reign

Bravo, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

High society is back in session with the debut of *Ladies of London: The New Reign*, launching in grand fashion with a special two-hour premiere event. A new wave of British blue bloods, ambitious American expats and glamorous international socialites — Lady Emma Thynn, Martha Sitwell, Mark-Francis Vandelli, Lottie Kane, Missé Beqiri, Kimi Murdoch, Myka Meier and Margo Stilley — light up London's elite social scene. As tradition collides with the fast-paced, globalized world, these power players redefine what it means to belong to high society in one of the most iconic cities in the world. Here, connections are currency, and the crown isn't the only thing up for grabs.

Matlock

CBS, 9 p.m.

Matty and Olympia (Kathy Bates and Skye P. Marshall) navigate a new trust dynamic with Julian (Jason Ritter) as he accompanies Matty to surveil the ex-wife of a Wellbrexa exec in the new episode "The Greater Good."

Trivial Pursuit

The CW, 9 p.m.

A former high school quiz bowl coach sees if he can ace the test and win $20,000 in the new episode "Pop Quiz." LeVar Burton hosts.

Mysteries Unearthed With Danny Trejo

History, 9 p.m.

Some discoveries come with consequences. Gold that ruins lives, a cursed wreck beneath the sea, and a hidden safe linked to a famous burglar show how the past can be as dangerous as it is tempting.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

NBC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Frequency," a family discovers a young boy in grave danger when their baby monitor picks up a rogue signal.

Grey's Anatomy

ABC, 10 p.m.

Tensions rise as Teddy and Winston (Kim Raver and Anthony Hill) take on a complex procedure in the new episode "Get Lucky."

Elsbeth

CBS, 10 p.m.

When a celebrity wigmaker is murdered, Elsbeth (Carrie Preston) must comb through a tangled mess of suspects in the new episode "All's Hair."

The Hunting Party

NBC, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Lou Kaplan," a serial killer (guest star Jefferson White) who once targeted social media influencers resurfaces and is now collaborating with them.

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar: Oscar Goes to Book Club

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Turner Classic Movies presents literary adaptations that tackle the brutal realities of their source material with unflinching honesty. 1932's **A Farewell to Arms (pictured),** adapted from Ernest Hemingway's masterpiece, stars Gary Cooper as Frederic Henry, an American ambulance driver in World War I Italy who falls for nurse Catherine Barkley (Helen Hayes). Next comes **Of Mice and Men** (1939), John Steinbeck's Depression-era tragedy featuring Lon Chaney Jr. in his most poignant role as Lennie Small, the gentle giant whose strength becomes his curse. Burgess Meredith plays his protective friend George Milton in this four-time Oscar-nominated film.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



LIONSGATE

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **USA, 6 p.m.**

Misery (1990, Horror) James Caan, Kathy Bates **MGM, 6:10 p.m.**

Galaxy Quest (1999, Comedy) Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver **BBC America, 6:45 p.m.**

The Godfather (1972, Crime drama) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino **SHO, 7 p.m.**

A Stranger's Child (2024, Suspense) Jessica Lowndes, Zibby Allen **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Fatal Attraction (1987, Suspense) Michael Douglas, Glenn Close **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Killers (2010, Action) Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Troy (2004, Adventure) Brad Pitt, Eric Bana **SYFY, 8:30 p.m.**

Selena (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez, Edward James Olmos **E!, 9 p.m.**

Spaceballs (1987, Comedy) Mel Brooks, John Candy **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

One Battle After Another (2025, Suspense) Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn **HBO, 9:50 p.m.**

Basic Instinct (1992, Suspense) Michael Douglas, Sharon Stone **MGM, 10 p.m.**

Gemini Man (2019, Action) Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead **TBS, 11:30 p.m.**

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What to watch

FRIDAY

March 6, 2026

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

World Baseball Classic

FOX & FS1, beginning at 5 a.m. Live

The international baseball tournament continues with pool play early this morning from Tokyo with Japan vs. Chinese Taipei (FS1). Other matchups are Mexico vs. Great Britain (FS1), Puerto Rico vs. Colombia (FS1) and USA vs. Brazil (FOX).

Sheriff Country

CBS, 8 p.m.

When a courthouse security test ends in a shocking murder, Mickey (Morena Baccarin) uncovers a dangerous conspiracy reaching deep into Edgewater's justice system in the new episode "The Aftermath."

Happy's Place

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Dart to the Heart," Bobbie (Reba McEntire) tries to help Emmett and Isabella (Rex Linn and Belissa Escobedo) reconnect by forcing them into a darts tournament.



JAMES MINCHIN, STARZ

Outlander

Starz, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The eighth and final season of the timeless romantic drama teases that "nothing can prepare you for how it ends," and our hearts are already aching for Claire (Caitríona Balfe) and Jamie's (Sam Heughan) love story. As Season 8 begins, Jamie and Claire soon find the war has followed them home to Fraser's Ridge, now a thriving settlement that has grown and flourished in their absence. With new arrivals and changes made during their years away, the Frasers are confronted with the question of what they are willing to sacrifice for the place they call home and, more importantly, what they would sacrifice to stay together. Jamie learns from a book written in the future that war is coming to the backcountry and it will ultimately claim his life.

Stumble

NBC, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode "Making Mat," Courteney (Jenn Lyon) must make a heartbreaking decision and cut one of her team members from the Daytona competition.

Fire Country

CBS, 9 p.m.

A shocking leak about the Zabel Ridge arsonist ignites turmoil across Edgewater in the new episode "Elite of the Elite."

Love During Lockup

We TV, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Season 6 of this reality series following romances in which one person is incarcerated concludes with "Hello & Goodbye."

Boston Blue

CBS, 10 p.m.

Danny and Lena (Donnie Wahlberg and Sonequa Martin-Green) race to stop a string of violent crimes before the situation spirals out of control in the new episode "Family Secrets."

The Proof Is Out There

History, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Host Tony Harris is back for a new season of the nonfiction series taking an in-depth look at some of the most incredible and thought-provoking videos of unexplained phenomena and mysterious must-see moments.

CATCH A CLASSIC

The 400 Blows

TCM, 6 p.m.

Based on the real-life childhood experiences of director François Truffaut, this semiautobiographical 1959 coming-of-age drama is about 14-year-old Antoine Doinel, who has a troublesome family life full of neglect, arguing parents and money troubles. He and his best friend, René, travel down a spiral of bad behavior, leading to Antoine spending time in a juvenile detention facility, where his struggles are far from over. The film was nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the 1960 Oscars.



EVERETT COLLECTION

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



ALEX BAILEY

Spider-Man (2002, Action) Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe **HBO, 6:55 p.m.**

Salt (2010, Action) Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

A Mother-in-Law's Obsession (2025, Suspense) Christa Rose, Colleen Elizabeth Miller **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Big City Greens the Movie: Spacecation (2024, Comedy) Renee Elise Goldsberry, Wendi McLendon-Covey **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow **FX, 8 p.m.**

The Heartbreak Kid (2007, Comedy) Ben Stiller, Michelle Monaghan **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis **Paramount, 8:30 p.m.**

The Long Walk (2025, Suspense) Cooper Hoffman, Mark Hamill **Encore, 9 p.m.**

M3GAN (2022, Horror) Allison Williams, Violet McGraw **SYFY, 9:35 p.m.**

B.A.P.S (1997, Comedy) Halle Berry, Martin Landau **BET, 10 p.m.**

Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans **TBS, 10:45 p.m.**

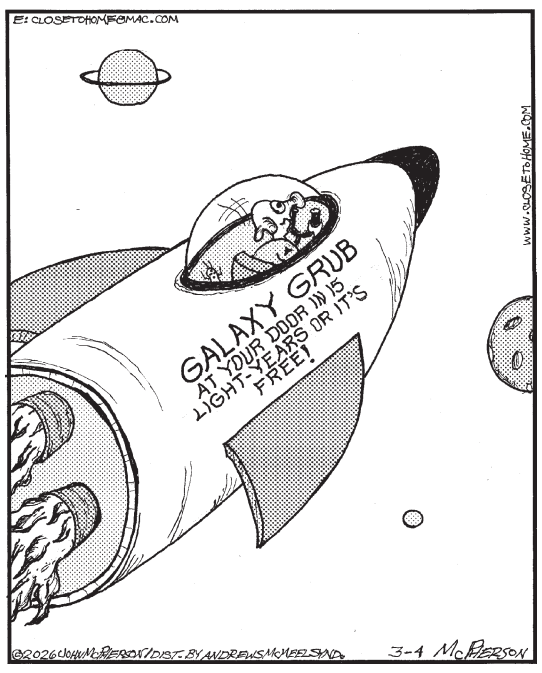
Bohemian Rhapsody (2018, Biography) Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton **FXM, 11:05 p.m.**

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CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson

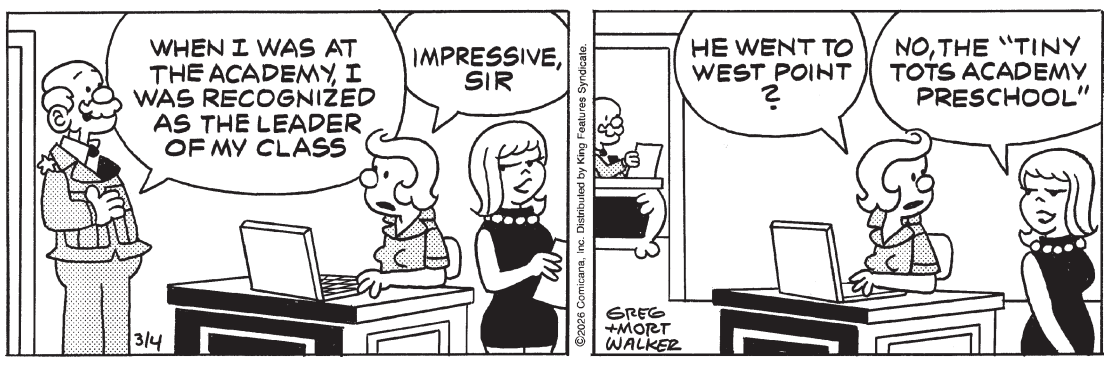


THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"What nationality is Barfy?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



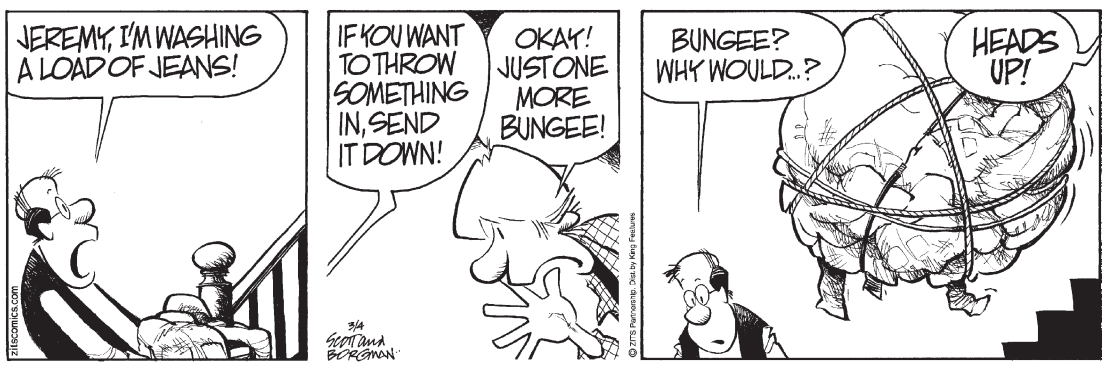
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



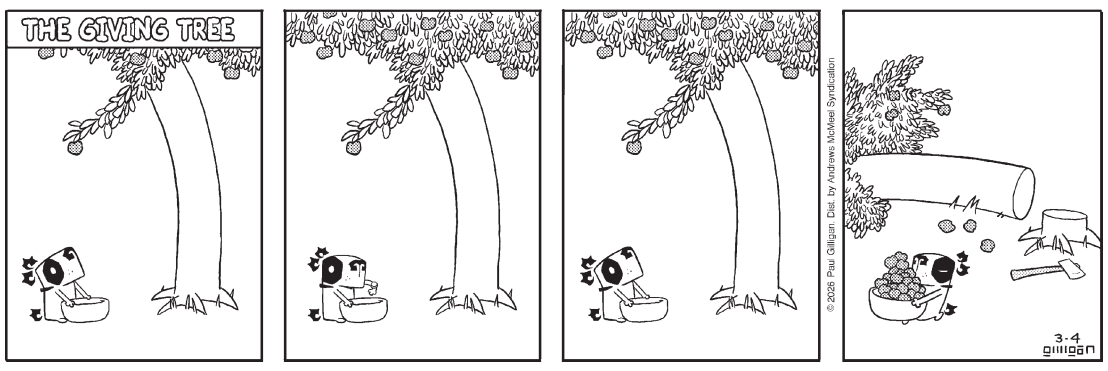
PICKLES Brian Crane



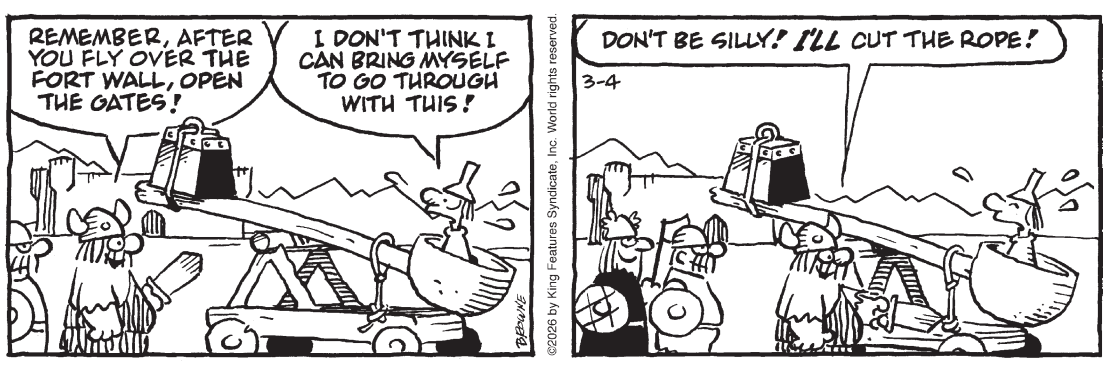
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Dept. of Labor div.
5 Clinks with drinks
11 Loop in on the DL
14 Tangible
15 The great outdoors
16 WC
17 Like many theme park puppets
19 School URL ending
20 Off
21 Award season oversight
22 Barter
23 Dating app that went public in 2022
25 Apple Store purchase
27 Coat with, as melted chocolate
29 Dining table extender
30 __ and cheese
33 Running jokes
35 Hurled
38 Not for
41 Pays to play
43 World Heritage Site in Jordan
44 Huge production
46 "Wheels down" hr.
47 Shoe brand known for a checkerboard design
49 Butch Cassidy or the Sundance Kid
52 Rum cocktail
55 Sundial need
59 Grocery chain that requires a deposit for a shopping cart
60 Darn
62 Upscale Honda
63 "Emilia Pérez" Oscar winner Saldaña
64 Midmorning respite, or what can be found four times in this puzzle
66 Musician Brian who co-developed the Oblique Strategies creative process
67 Like disposable products
68 Diminutive suffix
69 __ Moines, Iowa
70 Camelot figure
71 Female deer

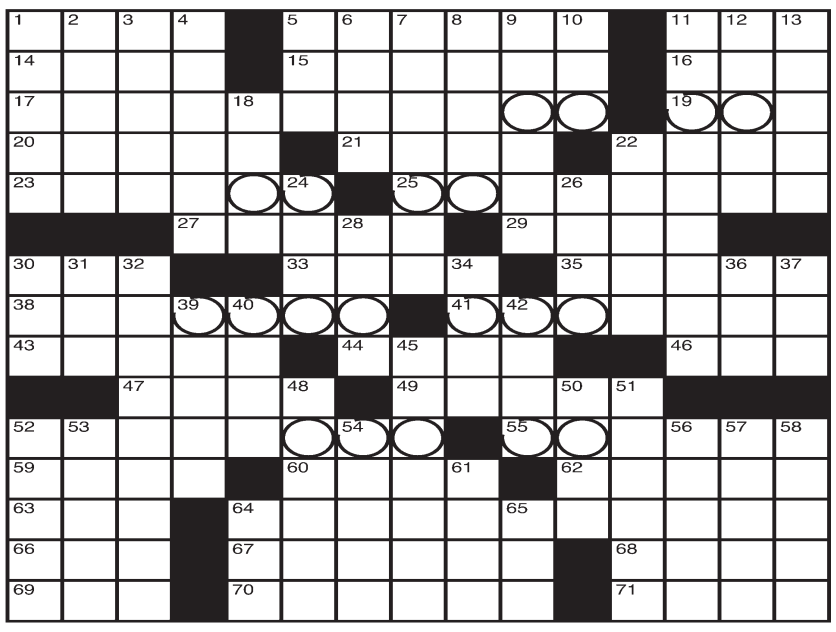
DOWN

1 Chimp kin
2 Man of La Mancha
3 Wyclef Jean's birth country
4 Amaretto flavor
5 Letters on red Minecraft blocks
6 Rower's pair
7 Performing acts of contrition
8 Vampire's bedtime
9 Of a clan
10 Jiffy
11 Flew off the handle
12 Musical finales
13 Sedan alternative
18 "__ Mack": Disney Channel series featuring seventh graders
22 Beaufort __
24 D&D et al.
26 Artful
28 "Already had a bite"
30 World view?
31 Information conveyed by tree rings
32 Social media posts by some pet owners
34 Breeze (by)
36 Trail mix morsel
37 Dean's list fig.
39 Mosul resident
40 Half of Mork's farewell
42 Procedural that spun off from "JAG"
45 Throbbing
48 Olympian Biles who wears a goat necklace
50 Starbuck's boss
51 Revered
52 Seeing stars
53 Without help
54 Send to a specialist
56 Because of
57 Go on the stump
58 Rouses from sleep
61 Lydic of "The Daily Show"
64 Rom follower
65 Velvet finish?

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

03/04/26



By Jacob Reed
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03/04/26

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

3/4

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

WHATZIT?™

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

GOLDEN GATE
TAIWAN STRAIT

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:
Bridge Over Troubled Water

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.**

CATHERINE O'HARA (1954-2026) — **Solution: 9 letters**

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

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3/4

Addams, Argylle, Beetlejuice, Beloved, Best, Bo Welch, Brentwood, Candy, Class, Comedy, Dear, Delia, Dream On, Elemental, Emmy, Eugene, Funny, Home Alone, John, Kate, Kevin, Last, Levy, Luke, Marc, Mary, Matthew, McCallister, Moira, Ontario, Paper, Penelope, Play, Robot, Rose, Schitt's Creek, SCTV, Show, Sketch, Studio, Tall Tale, Toronto, Voice, Wild

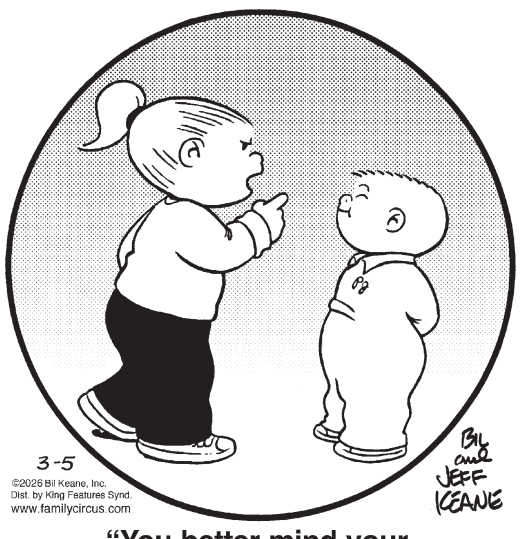
TODAY'S ANSWER: Heartburn

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



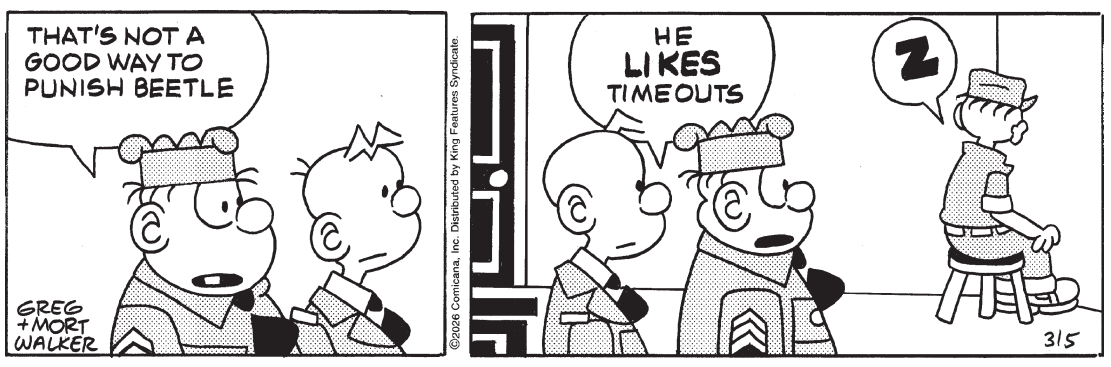
The latest in bandage technology.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

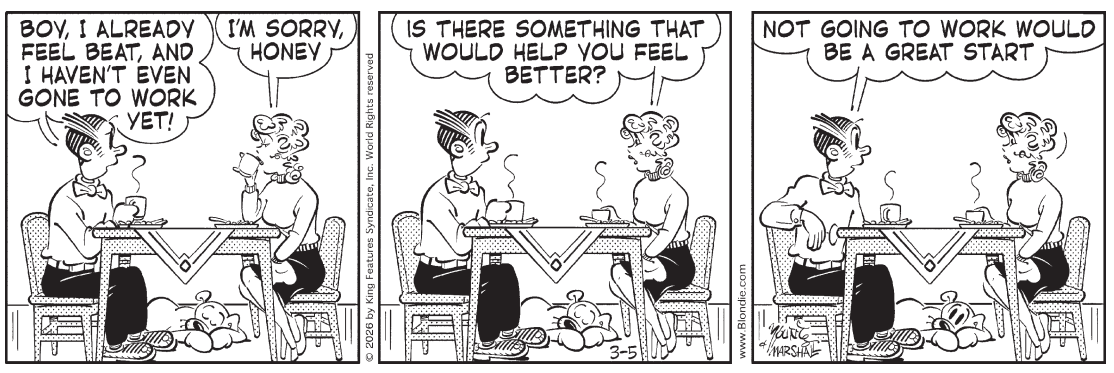


"You better mind your P's and cutes."

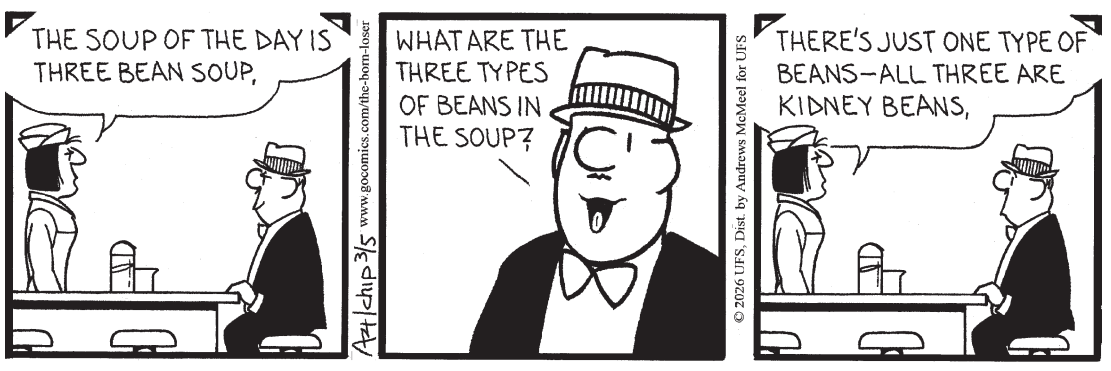
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



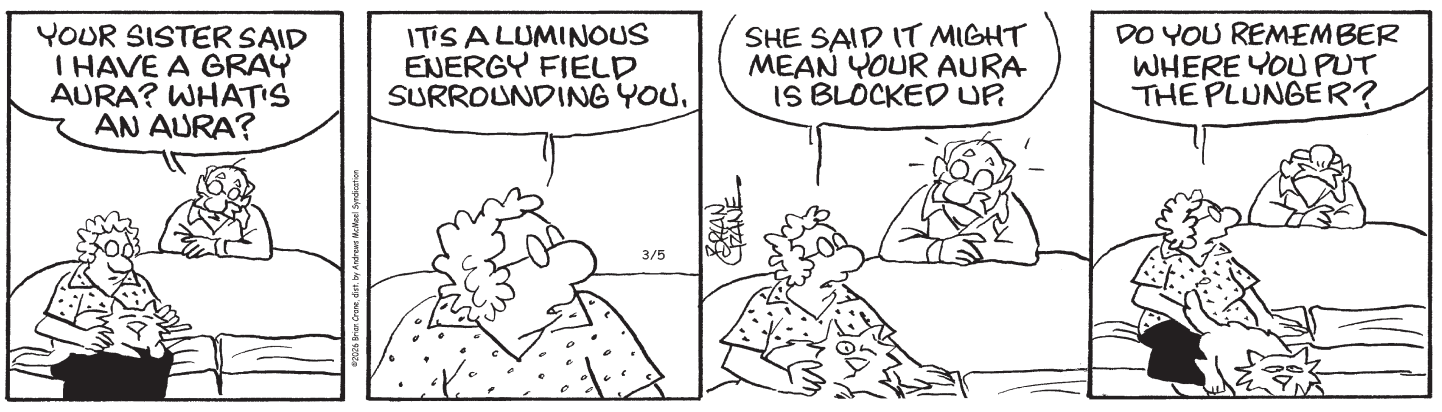
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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

3/5 © 2026 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

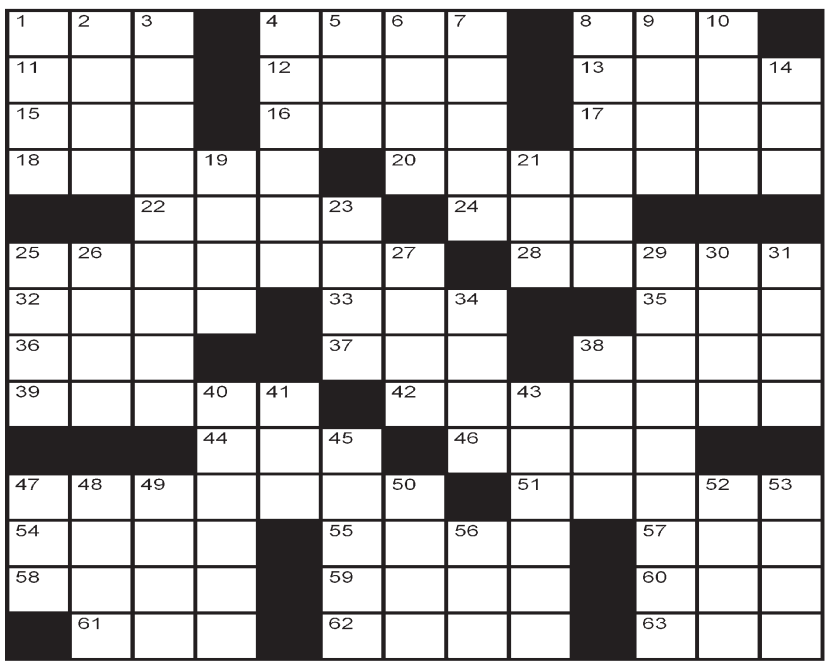
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "Arabian Nights" bird
4 Appraise
8 Quick swim
11 Term in Freudian psychology
12 Divisible by two
13 — Minor
15 Sea eagle (Var.)
16 Bulletproof garment
17 Hammer end
18 Not too bright
20 Paint type
22 Panache
24 — anemone
25 Pastoral
28 Take hold of
32 Punta del —
33 Car with a meter
35 Snake
36 Pipe fitting
37 Old English length
38 "— Weddings and a Funeral"
39 Passion
42 Defeat
44 Ill-behaved fellow
46 Fiber source
47 Scattered
51 Town in Utah
54 Domain
55 Chess piece
57 — -de-France
58 Complain
59 "A — Grows in Brooklyn"
60 Veto
61 Dentist's deg.
62 Attention
63 Understand

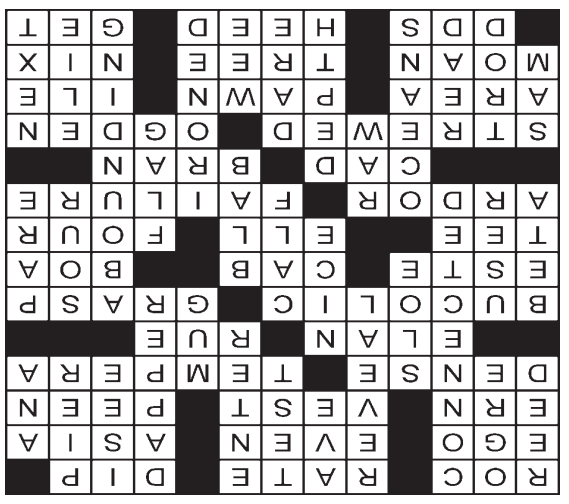
DOWN

1 Wetlands plant
2 Frightful one
3 Linked
4 Expose
5 "— Maria"
6 Classroom event
7 Make ingress
8 Stylish
9 "— — what you mean"
10 Landing place
14 Santa —, California
19 Wild plum
21 Make faces
23 Agreeable
25 Prerelease version
26 Consumer
27 Farm baby
29 Teeming
30 — grapes
31 Reduce
34 Spill the beans
38 Pennant
40 "— Eleven"
41 Unrefined
43 Removed wrinkles
45 Profundity
47 Actor — Rockwell
48 Walked on
49 Peruse
50 Challenge
52 Designer — Tahari
53 "The — thing I knew ..."
56 Tiny

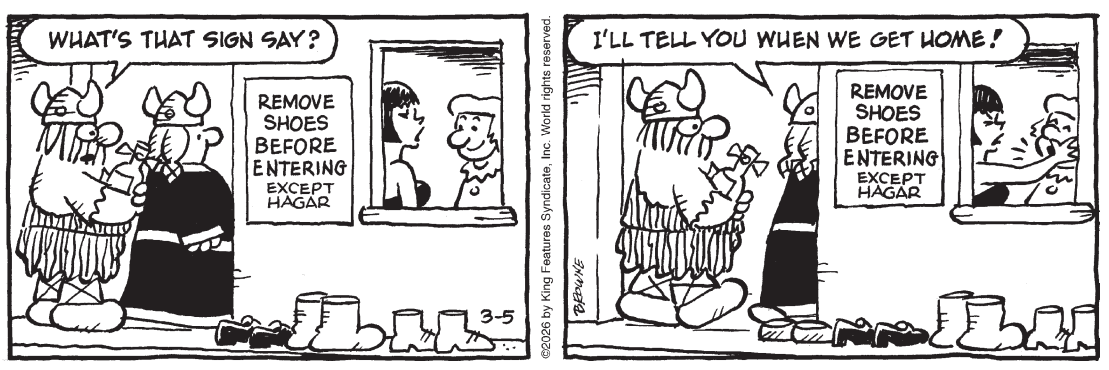


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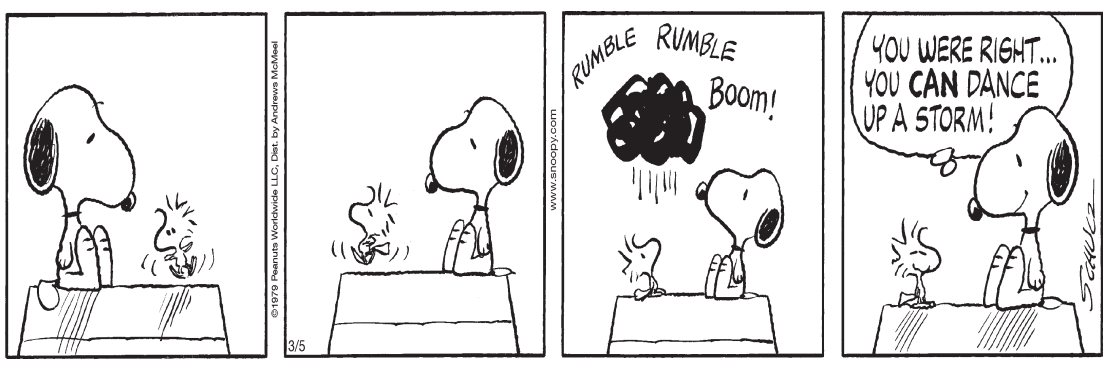
TODAY'S SOLUTION:



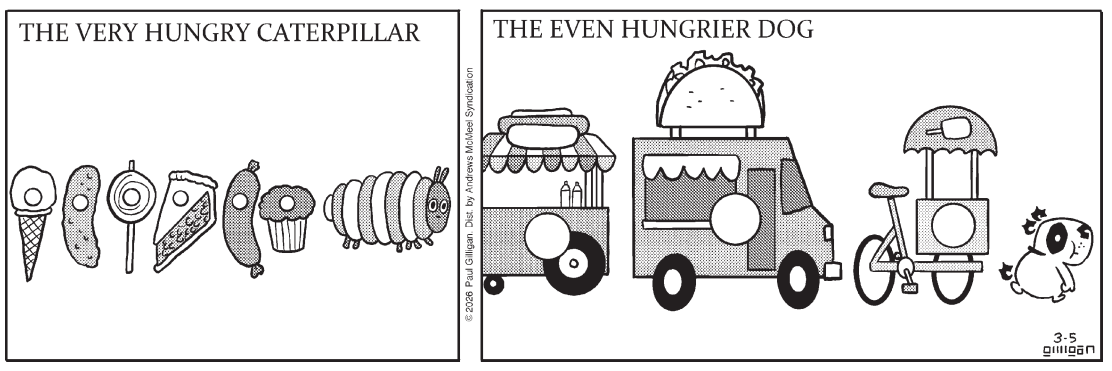
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

A PRECATORY MEMORANDUM — **Solution: 4 letters**

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

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Account, Adjust, Advice, Agreement, Belongings, Beneficiary, Business, Change, Consult, Decision, Donations, Draft, Estate, Executor, Goals, Honor, Land, Laws, Lawyer, Letter, Mediator, Money, Name, Nonbinding, Outcome, Paper, Partner, Personal, Possessions, Property, Read, Share, Signature, Summary, Terms, Testament, Trusts, Type, Will, Wish

TODAY'S ANSWER: Hope

WHATZIT?™

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



Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Ring of confidence

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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







Special Photo

Nine Dougherty County 4-Hers were among more than 700 Georgia students who visited the state Capitol last week for 4-H Day.

4-H Day at the Capitol connects Dougherty students with elected officials

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – A decades-long tradition continued last week in the state capital as Georgia 4-Hers turned the halls of the Capitol green and experienced the state government process in real time.

Elected officials joined more than 700 students, staff, volunteers and supporters to celebrate the widespread positive impact of the 4-H program. Nine Dougherty County students participated in this event: Timothy Anderson, Darius Greene, Makai Haskins-Lett, Jazzanae Holmes, Amelia Kelly, Delilah Mann, Joshua Smith, Naomi Smith, C'Niya Walker; along with Dougherty County Extension Agents Vivek Bist and Jennifer Edwards, and one 4-H volunteer, Jackie Smith.

Dougherty and Terrell county Extension Coordinator Margaret Halbrook also attended the event.

State Sen. Larry Walker and Georgia Rep. Rick Jasperse served as legislative hosts for the 4-H delegation. County 4-H groups explored and toured the Capitol building, and many 4-H leaders arranged direct meetings with senators and representatives from their districts.

Georgia's current slate of elected officials includes many 4-H alumni, parents and supporters who welcomed students to the place where government comes to life.

Civic engagement and leadership make up one of three Georgia 4-H focus areas for programming, empowering 4-Hers to become engaged citizens and develop life skills, positive relationships and community awareness.

A partnership with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and the Georgia 4-H Foundation provided support for this event.

Georgia 4-H Day at the Capitol culminated with a luncheon in the Georgia Freight Depot that celebrated 4-H and expressed appreciation to lawmakers and supporters. Sen. Russ Goodman provided 4-Hers with encouragement and motivation to become the next generation of leaders. Jasperse acknowledged a group of 4-H honorees who have received state and national recognition for accomplishments over the past year.

Georgia 4-H President Robert Thomas addressed those in attendance on behalf of 201,000 4-Hers currently enrolled in Georgia 4-H.

"Through my 4-H project, I discovered my spark," Thomas said. "I found a passion for healthy living, for the science behind food sustainability, and for the connections built through events where I could truly engage with my peers. On behalf of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Extension, and 4-Hers across our state, thank you for believing in us. Thank you for investing in us."

Nick T. Place, dean of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and state 4-H leader Melanie Biersmith provided remarks to thank legislators and recognize the importance of 4-H for youths in Georgia.

The event, which is often the first visit to Atlanta for many students, makes an indelible mark on those who attend. Students are empowered to become leaders of the future when they are given the opportunity to engage with present leaders.

As the premier youth leadership organization in the state, 4-H reaches hundreds of thousands of people annually through UGA Extension offices and 4-H facilities.

For more information about how to get involved with 4-H, contact the local UGA Dougherty County Extension office at (229) 436-7216 or visit georgia4h.org.

ALBANY AREA ARTS COUNCIL

Special Logo

Albany Area Arts Council celebrates Women's History Month with exhibit

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany Area Arts Council will present "A Room of Her Own," an annual invitational exhibition celebrating Women's History Month through the work of female artists from Albany and the surrounding region.

The exhibition will be on view from March 19 through April 30, with an opening reception on March 19.

Inspired by Virginia Woolf's seminal essay, "A Room of One's Own," the exhibition centers on the idea of creative autonomy — the necessity of space, both physical and conceptual, for women artists to tell their stories fully and on their own terms.

For "A Room of Her Own," each invited artist is given a discrete gallery space within the Arts Council, transforming it into a personal "room" shaped by her artistic voice, lived experience, and creative process.

This year's exhibition will feature the work of Maya Johnson, Tram Vi Nguyen, Madye Carter, Britny Wray, and Nia Hawkins, five artists whose practices span a range of materials, approaches and perspectives. While there is no singular theme imposed on the exhibition, the work collectively reflects facets of womanhood such as identity, memory, resilience, care and self-definition.

"A Room of Her Own" is intentionally artist-driven. Participating artists collaborate in the curation and installation of their individual spaces, allowing each gallery to function as a deeply personal environment rather than a traditional group show.

An opening reception will be held on March 19 from 6-8 p.m., offering the public an opportunity to meet the artists and engage with them directly through informal conversation and a short Q&A.

For more information about "A Room of Her Own" or upcoming programs at the Albany Area Arts Council, visit www.albanyartscouncil.org or contact nicole@albanyartscouncil.org.

Founded in 1976, the Albany Area Arts Council supports, promotes, and advocates for the arts in Albany and the surrounding region while stewarding the historic Carnegie Library for the public's benefit.

For additional information, contact Executive Director Nicole Willis at (229) 439.2787, (229) 296.7827 or nicole@albanyartscouncil.org.

Attorneys launch campaigns challenging GOP-appointed justices on state's highest court

By Jill Nolin
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- Two prominent attorneys have launched campaigns for the Georgia Supreme Court, challenging two sitting justices who were originally appointed by former Republican Gov. Nathan Deal.

Former Democratic state Sen. Jen Jordan and Miracle Rankin, a personal injury attorney and former president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, stood together Tuesday at Liberty Plaza outside the state Capitol. The two left-leaning candidates pledged to protect basic rights that they argued are under attack.

Jordan is challenging Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, and Rankin will take on Justice Charlie Bethel. Warren and Bethel were both appointed to the court in 2018 and then re-elected to six-year terms in 2020. Bethel served as a GOP state senator from north Georgia before joining the bench.

"I'm not just going to sit down and do nothing because someone has to stand up for Georgia's civil liberties that are being stripped away," Rankin said.

The candidates were introduced Tuesday by reproductive and voting rights advocates, but they framed the election as a referendum on all basic rights granted by the state constitution.

"If that's what's at stake and that court is supposed to be the last line of defense, then, my goodness, you better make sure that the people on that court have your back," Jordan, who stepped down from her Senate seat to run for attorney general in 2022, said. "That's why we're running."

In recent years, the state's highest court has been asked to weigh in on Georgia's six-week abortion ban and the powers of the State Election Board, which had attempted to pass controversial new voting rules shortly before the 2024 election.

Unlike the partisan races on the ballot this year, where nominees are chosen in May to compete in the fall, these statewide Supreme Court races are nonpartisan and will be settled through the May 19 election. That gives Jordan and Rankin just three months to mount their challenge.



Special Photo: Alander Rocha/Georgia Recorder

Former Democratic state Sen. Jen Jordan and Miracle Rankin, a trial lawyer and former president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, announce their candidacy for Georgia Supreme Court in a joint press conference.

They are also up against the power of incumbency on a nine-member bench where nearly all the justices originally landed there through an appointment by a governor.

In an interview Tuesday, the candidates acknowledged the challenge that awaits them and said they plan to focus on making sure voters know this is an elected position and that they have a choice.

"We do understand that we're doing something that people don't frequently do, but we're living in a time where we have to have leaders who are willing to step up and do things that are uncommon to get uncommon results for our state," Rankin said.

Jordan said the unusual timing of the election also favors the incumbents, which she argued is by design.

"We're going to have to do a lot of voter education to tell folks about what is the role of the Supreme Court, why is it important to you and why you need to vote," she said.

Bethel last won re-election in 2020 with 52% of the vote, defending the seat against a former Republican lawmaker. In the same election, Warren won in a landslide against a lesser-known candidate.

In an interview, Bethel said Wednesday that he looks forward to a campaign that is "focused on ensuring Georgians have a judiciary governed by the rule of law."

He argued it is the court's job to merely apply existing law to the case before the justices, although he did say he and other members of the court will sometimes flag for lawmakers when the law is unclear.

For example, Bethel wrote in a dissenting opinion in 2021 that Georgia's strict rules for proving someone facing the death penalty has an intellectual disability "significantly increases" the risk that Georgia could execute someone with disabilities. A lawmaker used Bethel's words to successfully convince his colleagues last year to change Georgia law.

"When we talk about being governed by the rule of law, that implies that branches all follow their own assigned tasks and it's not for the judicial branch to correct or fill in. It is to apply the law that exists," Bethel said.

Warren said in a statement that she looks forward to "earning the votes of hard-working Georgians in this May's election."

"Georgians deserve independent, nonpartisan Supreme Court Justices who honor their oaths to uphold the Georgia Constitution and the United States Constitution," Warren said. "That's what I have done during my more than seven years of service on the Supreme Court, and that's what I will continue to do in this role."

Braves' Jurickson Profar banned 162 games

Field Level Media

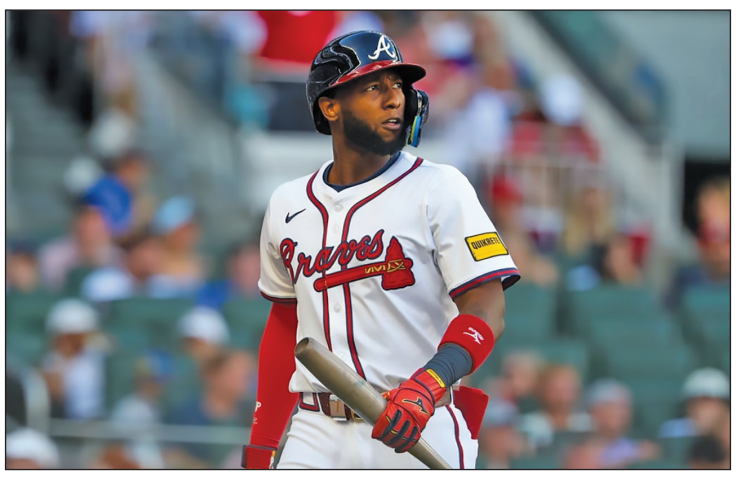
Atlanta Braves outfielder/designated hitter Jurickson Profar faces a 162-game suspension after a second positive test for performance-enhancing drugs, MLB confirmed Tuesday night.

Profar, 33, will forfeit his entire $15 million salary for the 2026 season and will be ineligible for the postseason and for this month's World Baseball Classic, where the Curacao native was set to play for the Netherlands.

The league said Profar tested positive for Exogenous Testosterone and its metabolites, which are banned under MLB's joint drug prevention and treatment program. The Major League Baseball Players Association plans to challenge the suspension, The Athletic reported.

Profar becomes the sixth player to receive a full-season PED ban since Major League Baseball increased the penalty for two-time offenders in 2014, per ESPN.

A first-time All-Star with the San Diego Padres in 2024,



Special Photo:Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Atlanta Braves outfielder Jurickson Profar will miss the entire 2026 season after testing positive for a banned performance-enhancing drug again. He missed half the season last year for the same offense.

Profar signed a three-year, $42 million contract with Atlanta in January 2025. He batted .245 with 14 homers and 43 RBIs in 80 games in his first season with the Braves after serving an 80-game suspension from March 31 to July 1.

Profar's initial suspension came after testing positive for human chorionic gonadotropin, a hormone produced during pregnancy that can boost testosterone production.

Profar underwent sports hernia surgery in the offseason and was expected to move from left field to DH this season.

Profar was the No. 1 prospect in baseball when he debuted with the Texas Rangers at age 19 in 2012. He is a career .245 hitter with 125 homers and 487 RBIs in 1,199 games with the Rangers (2012-13, 2016-18), then-Oakland A's (2019), Padres (2020-24), Colorado Rockies (2023) and Braves.

The oft-injured Profar has played more than 150 games in a season only twice, missing the entire 2014 and 2015 campaigns because of a shoulder injury.

Golden Rams rally late but fall to Middle Georgia, 9-6

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

COCHRAN — Albany State dug itself an early hole Monday afternoon and could never quite climb out.

Middle Georgia State scored five runs in the first two innings and held off a late Golden Rams rally to claim a 9-6 win at Stuckey Field.

Albany State (10-6) trimmed the deficit late with three runs in the eighth inning and another in the ninth, but left several opportunities on the bases throughout the afternoon.

"We did not get off to a good start and found ourselves down 5-1 due to free passes," Albany State head coach Scot Hemmings said. "We had several chances to get back in it but left the bases loaded twice. Our pitching settled down and we had chances in the eighth and ninth innings to tie it but did not get the big hit."

The Golden Rams struck first in the opening inning when Isaiah Haygood drew a bases-loaded walk to bring home Aiden Payne.

But Middle Georgia State (5-14) responded immediately. Patrick Crosby delivered a two-run single in the bottom of the first and another run scored on a defensive miscue to give the Knights a 3-1 lead.

The Knights extended the advantage in the second when Mikal Ashley ripped a two-run double, pushing the margin to 5-1.

Albany State answered in the third when Luke Addison blasted a solo home run to left field, but Middle Georgia State added runs in the fifth and sixth innings to build an 8-2 lead.

See **RAMS**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

The Albany State Golden Rams will host Savannah State this weekend in Albany. Two games on Friday will begin at 3 p.m. and Saturday's game will begin at noon.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Monroe's Maleyah Hines and KieAundria Acree share an embrace after the Lady Nadas of Monroe secured a Final Four berth with a 62-61 come-from-behind win over Cherokee Bluff Tuesday night in Albany.

Chaos at the buzzer sends Monroe to the Final Four

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — For a few dizzying seconds Tuesday night, nobody inside Monroe High School's packed gym seemed to know exactly what had happened.

The ball bounced from one set of hands to another — a missed free throw, a rebound, another miss, a blocked shot, another rebound — before finally landing with Taylor McKinzy.

She put it in the basket.

The clock hadn't even started.

But when the chaos finally settled, Monroe had done something remarkable.

The Lady Nadas had knocked off the defending state champions.

Monroe survived Cherokee Bluff 62-61 in a wild Class AAA Elite Eight finish Tuesday night, sending the Albany school to the Final Four and setting off a celebration that spilled across the floor as players, students and fans tried to process what they had just witnessed.

For a half, it didn't look like Monroe would get the chance.

Cherokee Bluff, the defending state champion that eliminated Monroe in this same round a year ago on its way to the title, looked every bit the part early. The Lady Bears' quick hands, sharp passing and confident shooting built a 34-24 halftime lead and quieted the home crowd.

But Monroe came out of the locker room looking like a different team.

McKinzy, the Lady Nadas' three-point specialist, opened the third quarter with a three-pointer. Moments later, Mariah Toye buried another from beyond the arc.

Just like that, the game was tied 36-36.

The Lady Nadas had stormed out of halftime on a 12-2 run, fueled by aggressive defense and the kind of energy that turns postseason games.

"I am happy we came out of the locker room ready to play in the second half," Monroe coach Jennifer Acree said. "It's one game at a time. We've got to stay focused and get ready for Sandy Creek on Saturday."

From there, the game turned into a fight.

Cherokee Bluff answered with a pair of three-pointers to reclaim the lead, but Monroe refused to fade. McKinzy drilled another three from the corner to tie the game 51-51 with 4:19 remaining.

Then came the frantic final minute.

McKinzy struck again, knocking down another three-pointer with 43 seconds left to give Monroe a 60-59 lead and bring the crowd to its feet.

But Cherokee Bluff had one more answer. Kersh drove the lane and scored, putting the Lady Bears back in front 61-60 and setting up the madness that followed.

With 6.7 seconds remaining, Monroe junior Glendlys Harvey went up for two underneath the basket and was fouled.

Two free throws. One possession. A season hanging in the balance.

Harvey missed both.

But the play wasn't finished.

Maleyah Hines grabbed the rebound and went back up — missed.

KieAundria Acree grabbed the next rebound — blocked.

Then McKinzy came flying into the play.

She secured the loose ball and pushed it through the net.

The gym erupted — and then paused.

The clock had not started when the ball was put back in play, meaning it never ran during the scramble under the basket.

After a brief discussion between officials and both coaching staffs, 4.7 seconds were placed back on the clock and Cherokee Bluff was given the ball for one final possession.

The defending champions had one last shot.

Their senior leading scorer, Bristol Kersh, raced the length of the court and drove toward the basket as the horn approached.

But waiting there was KieAundria Acree, who knocked the shot away and ended the game.

Pandemonium followed.

Monroe's players sprinted across the court, fans spilled

See **MONROE**, 10A

Catchings scores 32 as Georgia downs No. 16 Alabama

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — On a night when the stakes were high and the building was packed, Kanon Catchings delivered the kind of performance that made Stegeman Coliseum roar.

The sophomore forward poured in a career-high 32 points Tuesday night to lead Georgia past No. 16 Alabama 98-88 before a sellout crowd, giving the Bulldogs one of their biggest wins of the season.

Georgia (21-9, 9-8 SEC) controlled the paint, dominated the glass and played with an urgency that matched the importance of the moment.

Head coach Mike White said Catchings' confidence was obvious from the opening tip.

"Just a high level of confidence," White said. "His body language exuded confidence. He wasn't second-guessing himself. He didn't have any of those delayed decisions. Our shot selection was better — so much better than it was a couple months ago. We're passing it well, and we're spacing it well. Guys are executing what we do as opposed to 'let me go get one up.' Getting better this time of year is fun to watch."

Catchings set career highs in field goals, attempts and three-pointers as Georgia earned its third straight 20-win season. The Bulldogs have now won two of their last three home meetings with Alabama.

Blue Cain added 16 points for Georgia, while Smurf Millender scored 12 and Kareem Stagg chipped in 10. Justin Abson contributed seven points on a perfect 3-for-3 shooting night.

The Bulldogs also won the battle inside, outscoring Alabama 40-18 in the paint, while dominating the glass 40-30 and holding a 25-9 advantage in second-chance points.

White said Georgia's physical play inside was a key factor.

"Our paint discipline, defensively, was significantly better than it's been in the last four or five," White said. "Being able to shot fake and create angles in isolation situations at a number of different spots — we were good there. We were pretty disciplined at the rim. We did enough."

The game featured eight lead changes early, but Georgia seized control in the second half and never trailed again.

Alabama (22-8, 12-5) trimmed the lead to five with 9:38 remaining, just before a 20-minute delay caused by a shot clock malfunction halted play.

When the game resumed, Georgia responded.

The Bulldogs put together a 9-5 run over the next four and a half minutes, stretching the lead to nine and maintaining

See **GEORGIA**, 10A



Special Photo: UGAAA

Georgia's Kanon Catchings poured in a career-high 32 points Tuesday night to lead Georgia past No. 16 Alabama 98-88 before a sellout crowd



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Monroe's Taylor Mckinzy hit three crucial three-pointers in the second half and scored the game-winning basket at the end of the game to give Monroe a 62-61 win Tuesday night over Cherokee Bluff.

From 9A

MONROE

toward the baseline and the Lady Nadas celebrated one of the biggest wins in program history.

Asked afterward about the unusual ending, Jennifer Acree kept the focus on her team.

"I'm proud of my girls," she said.

Monroe's stars carried the night.

KieAundria Acree finished with 21 points and 14 rebounds, while Maleyah Hines added 18 points and 17 rebounds. McKinzy scored 14 points, including four three-pointers, and Harvey controlled the glass with 15 rebounds.

Now the Lady Nadas are headed to the Final Four.

Monroe will face Sandy Creek (25-6) on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Legacy Arena in Douglasville, with a trip to the state championship game on the line.

But if Tuesday night proved anything, it's that March basketball has a way of turning the ordinary into the unforgettable.

And Monroe is still standing.

From 9A

ASU

The Golden Rams began to chip away in the eighth. With the bases loaded, David Kile drew a walk to force in a run, and Perry Usher followed with an RBI fielder's choice before Ryan Brown grounded out to bring home another run, cutting the deficit to 8-5.

Middle Georgia State added an insurance run in the bottom half of the inning before Albany State pushed across one more in the ninth on a balk.

Despite the loss, several Golden Rams turned in strong performances at the plate. Tyler Turner led Albany State with three hits, while Addison homered and drove in a run. Kile added a hit and two RBIs.

On the mound, Armando Nunez (0-1) took the loss after allowing five runs in three innings. The Albany State bullpen settled things down afterward, with Sebastian Griffeth, Will Pridgen and Riley Barker combining to finish the game.

Middle Georgia State collected eight hits, led by Ashley, who had two doubles and three RBIs.

Albany State will look to bounce back this weekend when the Golden Rams host Savannah State in a three-game series at Albany State West. The series begins with a doubleheader Friday at 3 p.m., followed by a Saturday game at noon.

"We need to bounce back quickly with a good Savannah State team coming to Albany this weekend," Hemmings said.

From 9A

GEORGIA

control down the stretch for the 10-point victory.

Millender said White's message during the delay helped keep the Bulldogs focused.

"Coach White was just telling us to stay locked in, giving us the game plan and how to handle our business," Millender said. "He just gave us juice on the defensive side. The crowd played a big part, as well."

The win carried extra meaning for Catchings, who remembered Alabama eliminating Georgia in last year's NCAA Tournament.

"I got in there late because I had to do media, but everybody was just excited," Catchings said of the postgame locker room. "Alabama is a great team. They got me out last year in the Sweet Sixteen, so I feel like that's a great team. They've got great players, and they've beat great teams, and we beat them."

Alabama head coach Nate Oats credited Georgia's effort and physical play.

"I've got to give Georgia a lot of credit," Oats said. "They needed the win. It looked like they needed it. They came out and played harder than us, turned us over, had 21 points off turnovers, destroyed us on second-chance points. When you lose that by 22 points, it's going to be really hard to win the game."

The victory provides momentum for Georgia as the regular season winds down.

"This win really gives us momentum," Millender said. "We've got another one Saturday against Mississippi State to finish out the regular season, but going into Sunday this is huge for our resume."

Georgia will close the regular season Saturday on the road at Mississippi State, with tipoff scheduled for 3:30 p.m. ET in Starkville before the Bulldogs await their seeding in next week's SEC Tournament in Metter.

Terrell County's playoff run ends in Elite Eight

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

METTER — The Terrell County Lady Greenwave's strong season came to a close Tuesday night after a hard-fought battle in the Class A Division II Elite Eight.

Metter held off Terrell County 50-46 in a tightly contested game that swung back and forth throughout the night, ending the Greenwave's playoff run and finishing their season at 24-5.

Terrell County struck first. Britney Hill and Ceailaja Samuel scored the game's opening baskets to give the Greenwave an early lead, but Metter answered quickly with a 15-4 run to close the first quarter and take a 15-8 advantage.

The Greenwave regrouped in the second quarter and battled their way back. Khloe Brown's two free throws tied the game at 21-21, and moments later Jada Rushing drilled a three-pointer to put Terrell County ahead 24-21. The Greenwave carried that momentum into halftime, holding a 25-21 lead at the break.

Terrell County continued its strong play after halftime. When Hill knocked down a jump shot midway through the third quarter, the Greenwave extended their lead to 32-25 — their largest advantage of the night.

But Metter refused to go away.

The Lady Tigers slowly chipped away at the deficit and trimmed the margin to 36-32 entering the fourth quarter. In the final period, Metter's Keymara Johnson delivered the biggest shots of the night, knocking down two three-pointers that pushed the Lady Tigers in front 40-38.

Terrell County kept fighting. Samuel tied the game for the final time at 45-45, but Metter answered with a basket on its next possession to take the lead for good. The Lady Tigers then sealed the win at the free-throw line as the Greenwave fouled in the closing seconds in an attempt to regain possession.

Rushing led Terrell County with 17 points, while Hill added 12 and Samuel finished with 10. Chassidy Franklin chipped in eight points for the Greenwave.

Despite the loss, Terrell County completed an impressive season under head coach Tammye Jenkins-Ware. The Greenwave captured the region championship and finished with a 24-5 record while advancing deep into the state playoffs.

The narrow defeat ended the Greenwave's postseason run, but not a season that produced another strong chapter for the program.

Baseball Round Up: Sherwood surges with walk-off win as area teams split

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor



Special Photo: Submitted

The Sherwood Christian Eagles are now 4-1 on the season after winning Monday over Westwood and Tuesday over Highland Christian.

ALBANY — Aaron Mackey delivered the kind of moment every baseball player imagines growing up.

With the game tied in the bottom of the seventh Monday night at Legacy Park, the Sherwood Christian senior lined a single over the first baseman's head to score the winning run and give the Eagles a dramatic 7-6 walk-off victory over Westwood.

Sherwood had rallied from a late deficit to set up the final at-bat. With two runners on and one out, Mackey stepped to the plate and delivered the game-winner as teammates rushed the field to celebrate.

"All glory to God for giving us the ability to play baseball," Mackey said after the win. "The main thing I was thinking was don't strike out. I figured with two strikes it was going to be something off speed, so I told myself to sit back and drive it the other way. I hit the ball and my mind just went blank. The next thing I know the whole team was running on the field. It was a surreal feeling and I'm just proud of our team for fighting after getting down in the fifth."

Sherwood jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, but Westwood battled back to tie the game before eventually taking a 6-4 advantage in the sixth inning.

The Eagles answered in the seventh to tie the game before Mackey's decisive hit ended it.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group and their willingness to compete," Sherwood athletic director Jay Flynt said. "They show up every single day ready to battle. They're a scrappy team, and this isn't the first time this season they've had their backs against the wall and responded with tremendous fight."

Sherwood's pitching staff kept the Eagles within striking distance. Braiden Parrish earned the win with six strikeouts, while Michael Merritt and Lawson Brooks contributed key relief innings.

The Eagles didn't slow down Tuesday.

Sherwood erupted for nine runs in the first inning and rolled past Highland Christian 17-0. Qwinton Murray highlighted the opening frame with a two-run triple, while Michael Merritt, Hunter Gregg and John Butler all drove in runs during the early barrage.

Sherwood added eight more runs in the second inning to put the game out of reach.

Butler earned the win on the mound, pitching 2⅓ hitless innings while striking out three. Sherwood collected 10 hits in the game, with Butler and Merritt recording two apiece. Butler, Murray and Merritt each drove in three runs.

The Eagles improved to 4-1 and will face Grace Christian on Friday as part of the annual Eagle Classic at Legacy Park.

Baconton Charter powers past STEM

Baconton Charter bounced back with a strong offensive performance Tuesday, defeating Southwest Georgia STEM Charter 13-3.

Preston Hurst led the Blazers at the plate, going 3-for-3 and driving in an early run with a first-inning double.

Southwest Georgia STEM briefly grabbed the lead in the second inning, but Baconton responded in the fourth with a five-run rally, highlighted by a two-run double from Kayden Logue.

Victor Esquivel was dominant in relief, pitching 4⅔ scoreless innings while striking out seven.

Baconton collected 12 hits in the game, with Corbin Suggs adding two hits and John Hill swiping two bases. The Blazers also showed patience at the plate, drawing six walks.

Baconton will host Valwood on Thursday.

Coffee tops Lee County

Lee County fell to Coffee 9-4 Tuesday despite drawing six walks and collecting several timely hits.

Coffee opened the scoring in the first inning and then broke the game open in the fourth with five runs on five hits.

Nathan Taczy led Lee County at the plate with two hits, while Griffin Louthan, Knox Hillhouse, Cole Lindsey and Seth Franklin each drove in a run.

Graysen Spears took the loss after striking out six batters in 3⅓ innings.

Coffee piled up 13 hits, with Ben Fussell and Jimmy Timothy each collecting three.

Lee County will travel to Coffee for two games Friday.

Worth County rolls past Bacon County

Worth County used a balanced offensive attack Tuesday to defeat Bacon County 10-3.

The Rams jumped out early and added four runs in the second inning behind RBI singles from Brodey Hancock, Avery Kilcrease and Luke Rogers.

Kilcrease earned the win on the mound, allowing just one run over five innings while striking out seven.

Worth County totaled 11 hits, with Lyndon Worthy, Rogers, Kilcrease and Caleb Parten each collecting two. Rogers and Kilcrease drove in two runs apiece.

The Rams were aggressive on the bases, stealing eight bases, while Brady Weaver drew three walks to help fuel the offense.

Worth County will host Bacon County in a double header Friday.

Colorado QB Dominiq Ponder, 23, dies in car accident

Field Level Media



Special Photo: Imagn Images

Colorado quarterback Dominiq Ponder was killed in a single-car accident around 3 a.m. Sunday morning.

Colorado quarterback Dominiq Ponder died Sunday, head coach Deion Sanders said in a social media post. Ponder was 23.

Per reports from DNVR Buffs and FOX 31, Ponder was confirmed to be the driver of a 2023 Tesla that was involved in a single-car crash around 3 a.m. Sunday in Boulder County.

"God please comfort the Ponder family, friends & Loved ones," Sanders wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "Dom was one of my favorites! He was Loved, Respected & a Born Leader. Let's pray for all that knew him & had the opportunity to be in his presence. Lord you're receiving a good 1. Comfort us Lord Comfort us."

One of Ponder's teammates in the quarterback room, Colton Allen, also responded to the news in a social media post.

"Dom, you were a blessing to so many people," Allen wrote on Instagram. "You had a presence about you that just made everything better. You brought so much joy to me and everyone around you. I'm grateful for every lift, every practice, every rep, every conversation we got to share. I'll carry those with me for the rest of my life. What happened feels so final. It feels heavy. It hurts."

Ponder was entering his third year in Boulder after redshirting at Bethune-Cookman in 2023 and transferring to Colorado. He saw his first game action in 2025, getting into two games as a reserve with one pass attempt and two carries.

The native of Opa Locka, Fla., would have been a candidate to move up Colorado's depth chart in 2026. His death comes the day before Colorado was scheduled to start spring football practices.

Red Cross of Georgia to install free smoke alarms

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

American Red Cross

Special Logo

ATLANTA -- The American Red Cross of Georgia is "Sounding the Alarm" once again on fire safety. This March, volunteers, staff and community partners will work together to educate residents on how to stay safe from fires with a goal of installing around 3,800 free smoke alarms across the state.

Since the start of the Home Fire Campaign in 2014, the Red Cross has installed more than 3.2 million free smoke alarms nationwide and made more than 1.3 million households safer across the country.

The Red Cross is working in partnership with volunteers and fire departments across the state to ensure Georgia residents are ready to respond to a fire if one should happen in their home. Going door-to-door, the goal is to educate residents on what to do if there is a fire, install smoke alarms as needed, ensure all warning systems are working, and help residents develop an effective plan in case of an emergency.

This year's Sound the Alarm campaign in Georgia is taking place March 7-28 in chapters across the state. The first events will be held on Saturday in Cartersville, Milledgeville and Riverdale.

The Red Cross responds to around 60,000 disasters annually, the majority of which are home fires. In 2025, Red Cross volunteers in Georgia responded to more than 2,500 single- and multi-family home fires across the state. Additionally, more than 10,300 people were assisted because of those disasters.

On average, seven people die every day as a result of home fires, and often these tragedies occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Data have shown that one of the most effective ways to combat these statistics is with a working smoke alarm; in fact, smoke alarms can cut the risk of death by half. Since launching in October 2014, the Home Fire Campaign has saved at least 2,552 lives, including 255 in Georgia.

Visit redcross.org/homefires for fire safety tips and free resources:

-- Check the manufacturer's date on the back of your smoke alarm and follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacing the alarm and its batteries.

-- Test your smoke alarms monthly. Change the batteries at least once a year if your model requires it.

-- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.

-- Practice your home fire escape plan until everyone in your household can escape in two minutes or less. Include at least two ways to escape from every room in your home and select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone knows to meet.

Upcoming Georgia Sound the Alarm installation and fire safety education opportunities March 1-28:

Bartow County, March 7, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Cartersville; Baldwin County, March 7, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Milledgeville; Clayton County, March 7, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Riverdale; Bartow County, March 14, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cartersville; Muscogee County, March 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Columbus; Liberty County, March 14, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Hinesville; Rockdale County, March 21, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Conyers; Tift County, March 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tifton; Walton County, March 21: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Loganville; Lanier County, March 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Lakeland; Troup County, March 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., LaGrange.

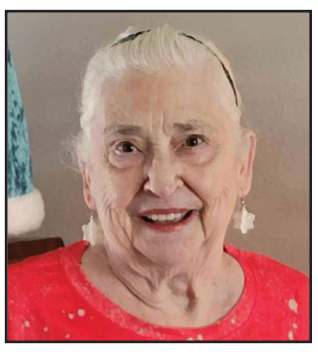
Interested persons can sign up at Georgia Sound the Alarm Events.

This work is made possible thanks to financial donations from the community, including Georgia Sound the Alarm sponsors State Farm, FEMA, Georgia Power, Northside Hospital, Primerica, Veritiv, Southwire, Navicent Health Foundation and Walton EMC.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

For more information, visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow on social media.

OBITUARIES



Dorothy Virginia Hill (Edwards)

Dorothy Virginia Edwards Hill, age 86 passed away peacefully in Fort Myers, Florida on March 1, 2026. She was born on July 22, 1939 in Baker County, Georgia to Lura Mae and Clark Edwards. She lived and worked most of her life in Albany, Georgia, building a life centered on love, devotion, and family.

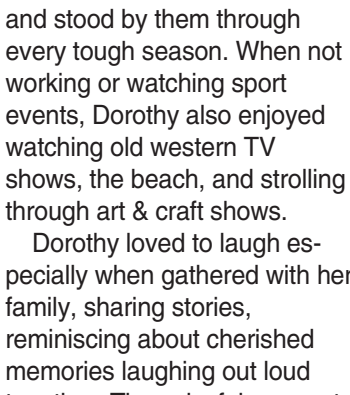
Dorothy truly loved her family, and her three children were her greatest pride and joy, and that love extended to the grand-fur-babies she adored so much. She found happiness in the simple moments spent with those she loved, and her presence brought strength and steadiness to her family. A devoted Christian, Dorothy's faith was the foundation of her life. She read her bible daily and found strength, guidance, and peace in God's word. Her faith shaped the way she loved others-with patience, kindness, and grace.

Dorothy had a successful 34-year career in retail at JC Penney in Albany, Georgia. She took great pride in her work, genuinely loved her colleagues, and found joy in serving her customers. Her warmth and kindness made a lasting impression on those she worked with and those she helped daily. She was also a passionate sports fan rarely missing a chance to cheer on her favorite teams. She proudly cheered for the Dallas Cowboys, Kansas City Chiefs and Atlanta Braves, taking every win and loss personally for her sport heroes which included Roger Staubach, Archie & Peyton Manning, Fran Tarkenton, Pat Mahomes, and the big three: Glavine, Smoltz & Avery. She celebrated their victories and stood by them through every tough season. When not working or watching sport events, Dorothy also enjoyed watching old western TV shows, the beach, and strolling through art & craft shows.

Dorothy loved to laugh especially when gathered with her family, sharing stories, reminiscing about cherished memories laughing out loud together. Those joyful moments will remain treasured in the hearts of all who knew her.

Dorothy is survived by her three children: daughter, Teresa Jean Sims (Lehigh Acres, FL), daughter Dorothy Susan Brooks and son-in-law, James Michael Brooks (Albany, GA.), and son David Edward Hill (Auburn, CA.). Dorothy also leaves behind extended family and dear friends who will forever cherish her memory. Dorothy's life reflected unwavering love, faith, loyalty, and joy, Her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family and in the many memories they will hold close.

Family will host a celebration and remembrance of life at a future date.



Josephine Norton Stripling

Josephine Norton Stripling, 78, of Leary, GA passed away Sunday, March 1, 2026. Graveside funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Leary City Cemetery. Rev. Allen Norton officiated.

Born July 13, 1947 in Cuthbert, GA, Josephine Stripling worked as a secretary for the Department of Transportation after graduating from technical college, where she met her husband of 59 years, Charles Stripling, who passed away in November of last year. She started working as the city clerk of Leary in 1971 and served the town for 38 years before retiring in August of 2009.

Josephine enjoyed cooking and baking and was known for her delicious desserts. She was a member of Leary Baptist Church and enjoyed weekly Bible study classes, sewing club, and spending time with family and friends.

Josephine was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey and Beatrice Norton; her husband, Charles Lamar Stripling Sr.; brothers-in-law David Stripling, Bobby Stripling and William Stripling; sisters-in-law Doris Tillman, Judy Dunn, Faye Wingate and Mildred Stripling; nephews Charlie Phillips, Andy Stripling and Lynn Tillman; and her niece Cornelia Kent.

Survivors include her daughter, Sonja Stripling Stroyls of Leary, and her son, Charles "Chuck" Lamar Stripling Jr. (Edie) of Edison; brothers Buford Norton (Marilyn) of Albany, GA and Bobby Norton (Astrid) of Leary, GA sister-in-law Ann Stripling of Moultrie, GA; brother-in-law, Dr. Banks Wingate; nieces and nephews Alan Norton (Devonna), Lori Stripling (Eric), Karen Sanderson (Tommy), Joy Phillips, Gina Dismuke (Marty), Cyndi Grimard, James Dunn, Melissa Martinez (Jimmy), Carol James (Gene) and Terrell Stripling (Julie).

"I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

Psalms 16:8 (KJV)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices

Dougherty County Democratic Candidates Qualifying for 2026 Primary

The Dougherty County Democratic Committee will qualify Democratic Candidates for the upcoming Primary of the 2026 Election Cycle. Qualifying starts on March 2, 2026 and ends on March 6, 2026 at 12 Noon.

Qualifying will be held at 1347 Silas Lane, Albany, GA
Qualifying date and times: **By Appointment only.** Contact Benny Hand at 229- 291-2888.

Qualifying fees should be paid with a postal money order, a bank issued cashier's check,or personal check.

In notification,
Chair Barlow
Joyce Barlow

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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 having a snuggle (8)	
2 dash someone's hopes (10)	
3 showing boredom (7)	
4 like Nicole Kidman (10)	
5 nuptials (8)	
6 snappy comebacks (7)	
7 go back to the guac, perhaps (5)	

WE	HING	DISA	CUDD	OINT
LING	RAL	RS	AU	DD
SIG	IN	IAN	PP	ZI
GS	DIP	NGE	RE	ST

Tuesday's Answers: 1. STEAK 2. TUBAS 3. TOGGLING 4. SUGAR 5. MONOTONY 6. DIANA 7. EVAPORATE 3/4

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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 carrying a tune (7)	
2 croquet implements (7)	
3 young Yorkies (7)	
4 arboreal hideout (9)	
5 grinds teeth (7)	
6 thankless individual (7)	
7 like Shakespeare's Iago (7)	

NIC	SING	MA	SH	ES
EHO	IN	PI	CY	LLE
ATE	TS	ES	ING	GNA
PUP	AL	USE	TRE	GR

Wednesday's Answers: 1. CUDDLING 2. DISAPPOINT 3. SIGHING 4. AUSTRALIAN 5. WEDDINGS 6. ZINGERS 7. REDIP 3/5

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CROSSWORD

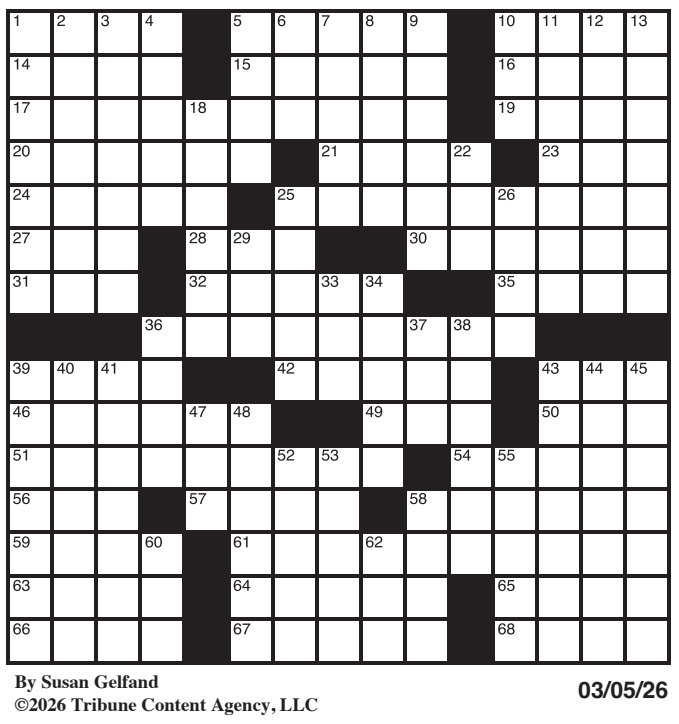
ACROSS
1 Rx orders
5 Accumulate
10 Jacksonville team, familiarly
14 Farmland unit
15 Valletta's island
16 HarperCollins romance imprint
17 Electrician's favorite method of payment?
19 Was dressed in
20 Vicinity
21 "You __ my day!"
23 Chef-training sch. in Hyde Park
24 Floating
25 Electrician's favorite exercise?
27 "Au contraire, __ frère"
28 The WNBA's Sky, on scoreboards
30 Tease
31 Nav. rank
32 Shucks
35 Fly like an eagle
36 Like an electrician's favorite sweater?
39 California valley that was one of the first American Viticultural Areas
42 Flight part
43 Craze
46 Make true
49 Chinese philosophical concept
50 "Is that __?"
51 Like an electrician's favorite eyeglasses?
54 Game with a caller
56 Game with a chaser
57 Move like molasses
58 Lounged around
59 Perched on
61 Electrician's favorite shopping venue?
63 Caffeine-rich nut
64 Trademarked refrigerant
65 French cheese with a rind
66 Notable periods
67 Some Slavs
68 Min. divisions

DOWN
1 Knotty craft
2 Level
3 Creatures on the flags of Wales and Bhutan
4 Calligraphy stroke
5 "Could not agree more"
6 Big name in laptops and lipstick
7 San Antonio field trip destination
8 Scarecrow contents
9 Make melancholy
10 Mandible
11 Toast spread
12 Silverback, for one
13 Puma, for one
18 "Heard"
22 Quaint preposition
25 Contents of some weekly organizers
26 Dominic of "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"
29 Center of activity
33 Lead-in to "It Go" and "It Be," in song titles
34 Manta ray kin
36 Sugar stalk
37 "Hedda" writer/director DaCosta
38 Asimov collection first published in 1950
39 Fresh perspective
40 Cockpit occupant
41 Covered walkway
43 Fuss and feathers
44 Sporting a halo
45 Absent-minded scribbles
47 Strange sight in the night sky
48 Reads for errors
52 Sky blue
53 Olympic track unit
55 Sonnet line quintet
58 Binoculars part
60 Faux __
62 Arcing throw

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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By Susan Gelfand
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10 Questions with singer David Phelps

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY – David Phelps has performed at all the world's great venues: the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the O2 Arena in Great Britain, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Grand Ole Opry in this country.

But the renowned performer says he's just as psyched to play smaller venues during his "Speak of Love Tour," which will bring him to First Free Will Baptist Church in Albany Friday evening.

"There's an intimacy in smaller venues that you don't get in large arenas," Phelps said during a conversation with The Albany Herald. "There are things – mostly technical things – that you might do in a larger venue that you can't do in a more intimate setting, but what's important to me is the song."

The Grammy and Dove award winner, whose rare three-octave-plus voice – the kind of voice only artists like Roy Orbison and Freddie Mercury possess – will be on display at the 420 N. Westover Blvd. church, took a few minutes from his hectic touring schedule to talk with the Herald about his career and his show in Albany.

Here, then, are 10 Questions with David Phelps:

ALBANY HERALD: Your musical style and taste touches so many genres. Do you plan each show on the tour to fit a specific venue or is your show basically the same at each stop?

DAVID PHELPS: Every night is different for me. The band and I generally go on stage with a "skeleton" set list, but that can change according to the reaction of the audience. Sometimes, production forces you to do some of the same things, but we tend to gauge what our audience is in the mood for and react to them. That's what we're there for, to share with the audience.

AH: Very few artists can do what you do vocally. Does it maybe eat at you that some singers reach that "mega star" level when they can't come close to what you do musically?

DP: I think ... well, no, that doesn't bug me. I feel blessed to be making music; that's what I grew up wanting to do. I don't begrudge anyone the opportunity to do that.

AH: You can do any kind of music. Is it a "mood" or some other factor that determines what you sing on a given night?

DP: It's a little about how the band and I feel on a given night, but I can't say enough about how the audience affects what we do. If they're with us, they can pull things out of us. And,conversely, if they're not into it, we try to sense the temperature and respond to it.

AH: Music, to me, brings joy to a listener. Are there particular songs you perform that bring you joy?

DP: There's a song I've done for years – "No More Night" – a song that's full of hope. People have latched onto it, and I find great joy in that song. There's another, "Trouble," that has a great brass part. Songs like that are joyful.

AH: When it comes to performing, do you get more out of performing songs you've written, or is that a factor?

DP: There definitely is more of a depth of connection with a song I've written, because I know the place it came from. I love performing great songs, but there's more of a connection with the ones I've written.

AH: Musically, who inspires you and who inspired you early in your career?

DP: Initially, it was singing with my family that inspired me. Music was always very important in my family. I've also had some great mentors that helped me along the way. As for other artists, I'm eclectic. I grew up in a house listening to all kinds of music. I like everything: Christian music, rock, opera, some country, artists like Queen and Journey. I find myself drawn to great vocals, from Pavarotti to Freddie Mercury, Celine Dionne, Tina Turner, Tony Bennett, Whitney Houston ...



Special Illustration


David Phelps

AH: You've accomplished a lot in your career, won just about every award you can win. What career highlights stand out?

DP: Really, it's the amazing places around the world that stand out, the stages where I've been allowed to sing. I grew up in a little town in Texas at a time when there was no internet. To reach a point where I'm performing in Germany, Australia, Brazil ... that's just amazing.

AH: Was there a specific time in your life growing up when you realized your gift was something special?

DP: My singing voice came to me early in life, and I started singing with my family when I was very young. But I remember singing a solo in ninth grade – what is that, 14 or 15? – and when I finished I got a standing ovation. I told my dad on the way home, "I want to do that for the rest of my life."

AH: When you prepare for a specific show like the one here in Albany Friday, are there goals you and the band try to reach or is it just a matter of performing?

DP: We try to stay aware of the audience. For some of them, we've been told over the years, coming to a show like this is a bucket-list item. This is their moment. So we try to look at every performance with fresh eyes and deliver something that is special to them.

AH: You've performed in the world's greatest venues. What's it like to play a smaller venue like First Free Will Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.?

DP: We love the intimacy of smaller venues. Sure, there are things you can't do that you could in a larger venue, but there is an opportunity to interact more intimately with the audience. But, bottom line, no matter where we perform, the most important thing is to perform as great a song as possible.

Phelps' performance at First Free Will Friday starts at 7 p.m.

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Continuance granted for Camilla mayor accused of interfering in 2024 election

By Alan Mauldin
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CAMILLA – Camilla's suspended mayor has requested, and received, a continuance in a legal case in which he is accused of attempting to interfere with a November 2024 election. Mayor Kelvin Owens, along with City Clerk Cheryl Ford and Election Supervisor Rhunette Williford, were indicted in May 2025 and accused of interference in a Nov. 4, 2024, special election for an unexpired Camilla City Council seat.

The special election initially was cancelled following the resignations of Ford and Williford on the day prior to the election, leaving no one to open the polling place in downtown Camilla. However, a judge appointed new election workers on Election Day, and the polls opened shortly before 4 p.m., remaining open for the required 12 hours.

In the first count of the indictment, Owens is charged with interference with elections. The mayor is accused of "willfully (attempting) to prevent a polling officer from holding an election" by instructing the city's police chief to post officers outside the polling place to prevent poll officers and voters from entering the building, according to the indictment.

Owens also is charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit election fraud. In those indictments, he is accused of conspiring with Ford and Williford. In furthering this conspiracy, the indictment said, Owens canceled the election during a Nov. 4 meeting, instructed employees to remove election signage indicating where polls were located and personally placed a sign at the polling place announcing the cancellation.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
No date has been set for a potential trial for suspended Camilla Mayor Kelvin Owens, who along with two other city employees faces charges of interfering with a Nov. 4, 2025, special election for a Camilla City Council seat.

Ford was indicted on three counts of interference with elections, conspiracy to commit election fraud and two counts of failure of a public officer to perform their duty.

She is accused of resigning her position the day prior to the election in order to prevent voting from occurring, attempting to prevent a poll officer from holding an election and of failing to post signage stating that any ballots cast for Ventarra Pollard would not be counted due to his ineligibility to run for office in the city.

A senior judge was initially appointed to oversee the case after the judges in the South Georgia Judicial Circuit recused themselves from hearing the case. Senior Judge Howard E. McClain recused himself in July 2025 and has been replaced by Senior Judge C. Dane Perkins.

No trial date had been set for the case, but it could have been scheduled for the March calendar. That will not happen with the postponement being granted.