



Perspectives
Chad Warbington
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The Albany HERALD



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Rams sweep
ASU baseball now 13-7
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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Lake Park Elementary students take part in an Arbor Day tree-planting Friday at the school.

Lake Park science students plant tree in honor of Arbor Day

By **Carlton Fletcher**
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ALBANY – Some 55 science-minded Lake Park Elementary students gathered Friday morning for an Arbor Day tree-planting on a grassy area in front of the school.

Ili Si Malone, the city of Albany's arborist, talked with students about the importance of trees before the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders went outside to help plant the roughly 9-foot live oak, which was provided by the city. Preparation for planting, including digging of the hole in which the tree was planted, was done by Mark's Green House of Albany.

"We try to do this every year at one of the local elementary schools," Malone said. "This is the first time we've done this at Lake Park. It's always a fun event for the students."

Lake Park Principal Trina Bush said the school's students were excited about the opportunity to celebrate Arbor Day with the tree-planting.

"All of our students take Life Sciences courses that focus on animals, plants and humans," Bush said. "How deeply they go into the subject depends

See **ARBOR**, 2A

Qualifying week brings challengers out for Dougherty County elected offices

By **Alan Mauldin**
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ALBANY – After a week of qualifying for the 2026 election at the local level, several competitive races have emerged, including a Democratic primary contest between incumbent Dougherty County Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard and former Albany City Commissioner Henry Mathis.

The winner in the May 19 general primary contest will earn a

four-year term as chairman as there is no Republican candidate in the race.

Heard was elected to his first term as chairman in 2022.

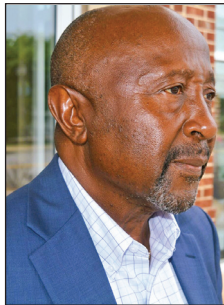
In Commission District 4, two Democrats are vying to be the nominee to face incumbent Republican Russell Gray, who faces no opposition in the primary. The Democratic candidates are Anthony Patterson and Al Wynn.

The winner will face Gray in

the Nov. 3 general election.

District 6 Commissioner Anthony Jones also will have a primary opponent. Former Cuthbert Mayor Willie Martin qualified last week to challenge the incumbent. There is no Republican candidate in the race.

In District 2, incumbent Commissioner Victor Edwards will not face a challenger.



HENRY MATHIS



LORENZO HEARD

Of the three Dougherty County School Board seats up for elec-

See **OFFICES**, 2A

Runners, volunteers turn out for Combos Marathon



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Supporters show their support for the 888 runners who took part in the Combos Marathon and Half-Marathon in Albany Saturday. The race marked the 20th anniversary of the Albany-based marathon, which has become one of the biggest qualifiers for the prestigious Boston Marathon. See story and more photos on Page 9A.

Savoring Georgia: 30 Flavor of Georgia finalists named



Special Photo: UGA/CAES

The Savor the State: A Flavor of Georgia Tasting Experience is once again taking place in Athens, where judges will taste their way through an array of Georgia delicacies.

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS -- The Savor the State: A Flavor of Georgia Tasting Experience is once again taking place in Athens, where judges will taste their way through an array of Georgia delicacies.

Narrowed from a field of more than 180 products submitted by 80 businesses, the finalists will compete on March 27 at The Classic Center in Athens with an award ceremony to follow. Among the finalists in the finalists in the Cakes category is a Limoncello Pound Cake by Sunnyland

Farms of Albany.

The 2026 event, Savor the State, is open to the public from 2-6 p.m. The \$20 public admission includes samples from finalists in attendance, a tote bag and one drink ticket. Attendees will also be able to purchase products from finalists.

Hosted by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the competition shines a light on small businesses in Georgia, and all the tasty food products that contribute to the state's economy.

Laurel Dunn, assistant pro-

fessor and UGA Cooperative Extension coordinator in the Department of Food Science and Technology, said the competition helps small businesses find connection within their communities among food, fellowship and festivities.

Preliminary judging took place on the UGA Griffin campus at the Food Product and Innovation Center, where entries were judged on a multitude of factors, including ingredient profile, consumer appeal, and, of course, flavor. Judges narrowed the appli-

See **FINALIST**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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March is

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

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UGA raises \$52 million for graduate, professional students



Special Photo

The University of Georgia has raised \$52.4 million over the past three years to support graduate and professional students.

By Rachael Andrews
rachael.andrews25@uga.edu

ATHENS – The University of Georgia has raised \$52.4 million over the past three years to support graduate and professional students, reinforcing the university’s ongoing commitment to one of its highest academic priorities.

Here are some quick facts on this total:

Fundraising continues to grow year over year.

In 2025, the university raised \$27.9 million, compared to more than \$9.7 million raised in 2023 and \$14.6 million in 2024.

Over the same three-year

period, the UGA Foundation provided \$8.7 million in graduate-level matching funds.

The total funding includes \$3.6 million in spendable and \$48.8 million in endowed funds, spread over 540 total endowed funds.

These funds help with student recruitment, retention and success while also strengthening academic programs and research initiatives across campus.

“I have been proud to support graduate and profes-

sional students throughout my tenure as president, and I am extremely grateful for all that these talented students do to enrich the UGA community,” UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. “Thanks to the continued generosity of our loyal alumni and friends and the ongoing support of the UGA Foundation, we are educating future scholars and leaders who hold the potential to improve lives and tackle society’s greatest challenges.”



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

The United States lost 92,000 jobs in February, edging unemployment up slightly according to the latest employment figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From 1A OFFICES

tion in 2026, only incumbent Melissa Strother will face a challenger. Adam Inyang qualified to run in the Democratic primary against Strother in District 4.

Demetrius Love filled out paperwork in District 4, but it was later determined that he does not reside in the district.

Strother was first elected to the post in 2014.

School Board members Norma Gaines-Heath in District 2 and Dean Phinazee did not draw challengers. Would-be candidate Vernon Holliday was ruled ineligible to run because he does not reside in the district.

Among the state contests, Senate District 12, currently held by Freddie Powell Sims, looks to promise an active campaign, with three challengers looking to unseat the incumbent, who is seeking re-election.

The Democratic candidates

who qualified to challenge Sims are Edward Brown, Corey Morgan and Tracy Taylor.

The winner in the Democratic race will face Republican candidate Terence Leon Fowler Sr. in November.

Four incumbent state representatives whose districts include a portion of Dougherty County are also seeking re-election in 2026, according to the Georgia Secretary of State’s office. Those are Republicans Mike Cheokas in District 151, Bill Yearta in District 152 and Gerald Greene in District 154. District 153 incumbent David Sampson also qualified to seek another two-year term.

Three Democrats also have qualified for the primary election: James Wolfe in District 151, Mitchell Rosa in District 152 and Harry James in District 154.

Superior Court Judge Joe Dent, who was appointed to the fourth judgeship of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit on Jan. 11, 2024, is seeking election to a full term and drew no opposition.

February job report shows loss of 92,000 positions

By Ashley Murray
Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON – The United States lost 92,000 jobs in February, edging unemployment up slightly according to the latest employment figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The report showed, for the third time in the last five months, losses among non-farm jobs and highlighted a continued “trend down” in the information sector and federal government employment. The federal work force is down by 11% from its peak in October 2024, according to the bureau. The report also noted a decrease in health care jobs, “reflecting strike activity.”

Unemployment ticked up to 4.4% from 4.3% in January, and rates remained higher for women, teenagers and non-white workers.

Administration officials blamed the job losses on winter weather on the East Coast and labor strife among West Coast health care workers.

But Democrats faulted President Trump’s policies, including military action in Iran and reimposing tariffs after the U.S. Supreme Court said many of Trump’s taxes on foreign goods were illegal.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the report is a “blaring alarm that Donald Trump’s economy is deteriorating rapidly,” and speculated the nearly week-old war in Iran will only make things worse.

“Now we’ve seen job losses in two of the last three months and an economy teetering on the edge of recession,” Schumer said in a statement. “Tariffs are increasing costs, gas prices are spiking, and jobs are evaporating: The Trump Republican agenda is failing

From 1A ARBOR

on the grade level. We feel that this event will fit right in with the science classes the students are taking.”

Bush read a proclamation signed by Albany Mayor Bo Dorrough declaring Friday as Arbor Day in the city of Albany, and Malone and fellow city employee Curtis Jackson demonstrated the proper way to fill in the hole around the 25-gallon tree and root ball.

Representatives of each class were the first to take part in the planting, and all students eventually had an opportunity to participate.

“Many years from now, you guys will be able to come back to the school and tell your kids you had a part in planting this tree,” Malone said.

In Georgia, Arbor Day is recognized as the third Friday in February, Malone said. It’s marked earlier in Florida and later in northern states because of the weather.

From 1A FLAVOR

cant pool down to three finalists per category.

The finalists will advance to Savor the State, where they will participate in a full day of judging, including a Shark Tank-style panel of judges who will hear their product pitches.

Judges will announce winners from each category and choose the overall contest winner at Savor the State. Attendees can vote for their favorite finalist in the People’s Choice Awards.

This year’s finalists are listed by product name, company and hometown within the 12 competition categories, with a few companies selected as finalists in multiple categories this year. Each product comes from a company based in Georgia.

Baked Goods

- Garlic and Herb Bread Rolls by Papa Mountain in Augusta
- Pecan Blondies by Peacock Orchards in Woodstock



Special Photo: Dennis McDaniel

Flavor of Georgia: Savor the State is a public tasting event that has drawn food lovers, entrepreneurs and industry leaders together for nearly two decades to celebrate the state’s most innovative flavors.

- Sweet Potato Pecan Red Velvet Cake Cookies by Yams Foods in Marietta
- Barbecue Sauces and Seasonings**
- Georgia Peach Smoke by Russell’s Handcrafted in Newnan
- Crunchy Peanut Seasoning by PODI Life in Cumming
- Sweet Honey BBQ Sauce by Savannah Bee Company in Savannah
- Beverages**
- Blue Harvest Tea by Deer Creek Farm in Covington
- Caribbean Hibiscus by Caribbean Hibiscus in Decatur
- Classic Sweet Tea by Culture Sweet Tea in Atlanta
- Cakes**
- Sweet Potato Cheesecake by Dorothy’s Desserts in Atlanta
- Pumpkin-Pecan Coffee Cake by Flour Lady Bakery in Roswell
- Limoncello Pound Cake by Sunnysland Farms in Albany
- Condiments and Sauces**
- Summertime Blues by Atlanta Burns in Pine

- Lake
- Carmen’s SPICY Cilantro Sauce by Carmen’s Green Sauce in Covington
- Honey Hot Sauce by Savannah Bee Company in Savannah
- Confections**
- The Complete Georgia Collection by Xocolatl Chocolate in Atlanta
- Sweet Tea Candy by Grits Bits in Atlanta
- Bourbon Caramel Turtles by Maybird Confections in Alpharetta
- Dairy Products**
- Honey Peach Pecan Cream Cheese by Now Schmeat This! in Austell
- Sweet Potato Pecan Chocolate Ice Cream Bar by Yams Foods in Marietta
- Honey, Syrups, Jams and Jellies**
- Summer Berries and Wine Spread by Georgia Jams in Williamson
- Whipped Honey with Cinnamon by Savannah Bee Company in Savannah
- Peaches & Cream by Becca’s Jams & Jelly in Carrollton
- Meats and Seafood**

- Aged Pre-Seasoned New York Strip Steak by White Oak Pastures in Bluffton
- Picasso: Chicken, Bacon, and Spinach Pie by Pouch Pies in Norcross
- That’s So Gouda by Nine Twenty Company in Millen
- Miscellaneous**
- Stone-Ground Grits by Artisan Milling Co. in Rome
- Praline Pecan Butter by Peacock Orchards in Woodstock
- Cherry Poppin’ Vinegar by The Tickled Pickler in Powder Springs
- Pickled Vegetables, Relish and Salsas**
- Cukelear Weapons by Point Blank Pepper Company in Marietta
- The Green Tomatoes by [PICKLES] Evergreen and Market in Tucker
- Hot Pickled Okra by Powerful Pepper Co. in Mableton
- Snack Foods**
- Sweet Georgia Peach Grits Bits by Grits Bits in Atlanta
- Sugar Fried Pecans by

Ocmulgee Orchards in Hawkinsville

- Glazed Pecans by River Street Sweets in Savannah

“Everyone who works with Flavor of Georgia agrees that one of the most exciting aspects of this CAES Signature Event is partnering with food business entrepreneurs who are turning bold ideas into market-ready products,” Faith Critzer, professor and interim head of the food science and technology department, said. “Supporting their journey through this event and other outreach opportunities really demonstrates the great things that can happen through strong public-private partnerships.”

Since the first competition in 2007, more than 2,410 products have been entered into the contest. Participating businesses have experienced increased sales, business contacts, publicity and overall interest in their products.

The Flavor of Georgia Food Product Contest is organized by the UGA Department of Food Science and Technology and supported by presenting sponsor Massey Ferguson as well as the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Grown, the CAES Alumni Association, Farm Credit Associations of Georgia, Corteva Agriscience, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, and The Dairy Alliance.

The annual event is among a handful of CAES Signature Events. These special events showcase outstanding faculty contributions, foster community and industry collaboration, and spotlight the college’s impact on a global scale.

To learn more about Savor the State: A Flavor of Georgia Tasting Experience and to buy tickets to attend the March 27 event, visit the Flavor of Georgia website at flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu.

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Back to sunshine at last! At least in the Universal stars. The rest of the month is much more supportive of helpful outcomes. Continue to move past any relational speed bump; put your heart into offering useful intel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If there's a pattern of non-support or spilling the tea, consider if they are a friend worth keeping. Your inner circle should cheerlead, not sabotage. It could still be too foggy for clear financial decisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the absence of a team or allies, carry the flame yourself, you can! In your personal life, a close relationship could find both growth and healing. Temper a desire to fool around and find out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): While some ideas are worthy of adoption, trust yourself as the final word and don't hesitate to share what you know. New innovations could make daily tasks go more easily. Health and stamina could improve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sharing equitably can be tougher than it looks and not everyone upholds that ideal to say the least. Do what you can for justice for all. A lighter spirit than you've had recently could buoy your optimism.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Always decide based on patterns, not words. Everyone has the potential to be unsafe on occasion, that's reality. But a pattern of betrayal, disrespect, abuse or inequality should be noted and dealt with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should have a much better shot at being understood today than you've had recently. Still, remember that their level of evolution and their biases will heavily influence their empathy and actual takeaway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your self-belief can be strong and should be. Who else can have your back, and your faith in your destiny,

more powerfully than you? If you feel emotional, make no decisions with a lasting impact.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): So very much could be coming together for you, let in all the gratitude you can for what is already here, that just magnetizes more abundance. A lack of domestic cooperation could be working itself out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When with others, keep a balance between presentation and observation. Too much focus on how others see you leaves little bandwidth for seeing and registering who you are really dealing with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Connect with a good friend or even a pet for the kind of easy and companionable flow that makes life joyous. A financial matter could clarify once manipulation or the wrong advice is dismissed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Being genuine in what you offer the world is for you. Whether you're appreciated sufficiently or not, giving your best is how you double down on learning, growth, evolution, and self-esteem.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: March could present some challenges, but they are unlikely to last in the face of the good things lining up in 2026 for you. To get through March, lower expectations, use caution, make no big decisions if you're against a wall. Take care of your health and fortify your mindset. You've got this. By about the middle of April a lot turns around. A new beginning in love or family or in career magic barrels in, followed by some hardcore pragmatism, then a financial opportunity, a raise, or a windfall. Some confusion mid-May would be a sign to wait on decisions, then there's a flood of new freedom and new ambition. Push yourself but not at the expense of other parts of your life. A new vision of the future combines with protection and blessings raining down.



1785: Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

1862: The first U.S. government paper money (demand notes) began circulation.

1876: Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful telephone call to his assistant, Thomas Watson, saying, "Mr. Watson—come here—I want to see you".

1888: The "Great Blizzard of 1888" began in the northeastern U.S., paralyzing travel and communication.

1933: The first concentration camp in Nazi Germany opened at Dachau.

1969: James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (he later attempted to recant his plea).

1977: The rings of Uranus were discovered.

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- **Harriet Tubman Day:** A day to honor the life and legacy of the American abolitionist and humanitarian Almanac.com.
- **National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day:** A nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls There is a Day for That.

- **International Day of Women Judges:** A United Nations-recognized day to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary Today.com.
- **CISF Raising Day:** Marks the establishment of India's Central Industrial Security Force in 1969 Vedantu.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sure there are dishonest men in local government. But there are dishonest men in national government, too."

Richard M. Nixon,
U.S. president (1913-1994)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

To the Deerfield-Windsor Toxic Mom Club: Seek therapy or medication because you really need help. DW is a great school, but you and your mini-me kids make it miserable for some. Think your kids are cool? Congrats on raising (expletives). If you think for one second that this may be directed at you then it 100% is. And shame on the good ones for watching it all go down and not having the (guts) to call it out.

Hegseth sickens me when he talks about killing people with such boasting, like the killing is the goal and the measure of success.

It's funny that preacher Lorenzo pulled the agenda about the jail needing \$11 million in new air conditioning. He must not want to talk about that. I bet he has other plans for that money.

Governor Gump has created a lot of jobs in this state, but they are low-wage jobs. So much with being No. 1 in business.

What did Mr. Schumer do before President Trump appeared? How did he justify his salary? Actually, how has he ever justified his salary? Yes, we do need laws cutting politicians' terms of service into shorter segments. Mr. Schumer needs to retire and then find a job he can handle.

I have always loved that Gene Cotton album. Thanks for the reminder.

Lorenzo Heard and Orlando Rambo have proven to be adept at getting their hands on other people's money. Will the city allow them to take more for doing nothing? Time will tell.

I nominate Stephen Miller to become Iran's Supreme Leader.

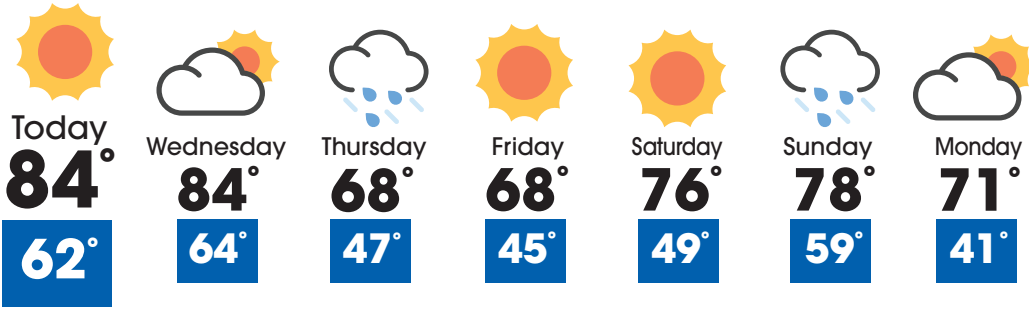
One of the things that would help with crime problems in Albany would be a more visible police presence. Paint all APD police cars the same way. Most people think that the police cars with flakey names contain social workers.

Miss B.J. (All Benny's next mayor), telling it like it is.

The Democrats want to force Trump to end the war with the War Powers Act. They want us to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by picking up and going home. These people are crazy.

If Trump wants boots on the ground in Iran, send the ICE agents. They've spent the last year cosplaying as elite military forces in American neighborhoods; it's time to see how brave they really are. This is their moment to shine. That Man Without a Family

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

‘Always say a prayer’

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Some people have an abundance of patience but seem reluctant to use it.

Against today's four spades,

NORTH			
♠ K J 6			
♥ K 7			
♦ A K J 10			
♣ J 6 4 2			
WEST			
♠ 3			
♥ J 8 5 3 2			
♦ 9 8 5 4			
♣ A 10 8			
EAST			
♠ A 7 5			
♥ A Q 9 6 4			
♦ 6 2			
♣ Q 9 7			
SOUTH			
♠ Q 10 9 8 4 2			
♥ 10			
♦ Q 7 3			
♣ K 5 3			
North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass
Opening lead – ♥ 3			
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Frank Stewart

West led a heart, and East won with the queen and led the ace. South ruffed and led a trump: three, jack, ace.

East feared that dummy's diamonds would give declarer club discards, so he shifted to the seven of clubs. South guessed right: He played the three. West took the ace and returned a club, but South won, drew trumps and ran the diamonds to pitch his last club. Making four.

TRUMP TRICKS

I've noticed when many players are defending, they feel compelled to do something "ASAP" – which can amount to "Always Say a Prayer." Before you defend aggressively, count declarer's tricks.

East can see that South has at most five trump tricks and four

diamonds. He can't succeed without a club trick, so East need not attack the clubs. If East patiently exits with a trump when he takes the ace, South must eventually lead clubs himself. He will lose two more tricks to go down.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A 7 5 H A Q 9 6 4 D 6 2 C Q 9 7. After two passes, you open one heart. Your partner responds one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Since you have a decent opening bid – ample high-card and defensive strength – you might feel obliged to make a second bid. But your partner is a passed hand, and neither a bid of 1NT nor a raise to two spades with your hand is attractive. Pass. You are unlikely to miss a game.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Writer wonders if their stories are worth hearing

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: Over the past two years, I have buried both of my parents. My place in the world going forward feels uncertain and untethered, but in reflecting on their lives and long, long marriage, I now see that everything we are, we have, and we do – to me – really only matters through the lens of story.

From my earliest memory, I wanted to write. By middle school, I lost my way; I lost confidence. I've spent a 20+-year career reading others' writing, both for my own leisure and that of my students. While I regularly encourage my students to write and I champion and believe in their emerging voices and attempts, I can't do the same for myself.

At home, when I have free time, something stops me. I procrastinate, or I let my kids' and my family's obligations take up my entire day.

I know I am a good writer. I know I can tell a good story, spin a good yarn, because I do it daily in my classes and lectures. I have good stories. How do I get started, Eric? How do I know what to tell and whose stories to tell? Just the good ones or the difficult ones, too? Can you help me get some clarity and encouragement to pick a direction and begin? I haven't told anyone else about this deep longing, but I sense that you're trustworthy.

– Seeking

Dear Seeking: I appreciate you putting your trust in me. It can be very difficult to put yourself out there creatively and it can be equally as difficult to maintain the momentum it takes to finish a

project. So, don't be too hard on yourself.

Consider taking a class or a workshop, something that will ask you to show up – in person or online – and will give you deadlines. You might look specifically for a generative workshop, one where the instructor comes with prompts or assignments to get you thinking, so you're not just staring at a blank page.

The group expectations that come with a class can be helpful, but I think what's even more helpful is the expectation that you place on yourself by showing up every week, even if you haven't finished your piece or if you're tired or busy. That's really valuable information for your brain. It says, "this is important to me, even when I'm not totally in love with the process."

Also, I can't say enough about the value of journaling. Even if one doesn't ever want to publish or even have their writing read by someone else, a journal can be a wonderful tool for processing, for putting down thoughts that one doesn't judge, and for remembering. If you don't already have a journaling practice, please start. Even just a couple of lines a day. There was a period where I didn't feel much like journaling, so I committed to just writing down what happened in a day, no commentary. Wouldn't you know it, before long I had to add my two cents and my thoughts to these very dry lists. And from there, stories were born. I wish you luck.

Dear Eric: I have been married for more than 34 years. I keep telling my wife that I got the better part of the deal, but she insists that I am wrong.



Eric Thomas

How do I resolve this conflict?
– Lucky Man

Dear Lucky: I get a wide variety of letters, reflecting a wide variety of situations. But I don't think I've ever received a letter in which the problem was "I'm too happy; help." So, thank you for that! (I hope this doesn't come across as facetious. I really did appreciate this.)

I think you and your wife should agree to disagree. You're both lucky (and, not for nothing, you're both putting in the work it takes to make a three-decade relationship joy-filled and life-giving). I sincerely hope that your biggest conflict is always the question of who feels luckiest.

Dear Eric: I enjoy your column every day. The letter from "Jumbled" was about the puzzles in the paper. The wife does the crossword and the husband does the Jumble. But the wife started doing "his" Jumble.

My husband (of 65 years) and I both like Jumble. I write my answers on a piece of paper, and he writes the answers in the newspaper. Problem solved!

– Happy Jumbled

Dear Happy Jumbled: A beautiful and easy solution. It's also one that a number of couples employ, according to the other responses I received. Others suggested that, in addition to this couple having a chat about what's really going on, they make a copy of the Jumble or print out two copies of the online version, if they have a printer at home. This way everyone is happy!

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 rerictthomas.com.

The Albany Herald

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vocate, 475 L' Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260

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What to watch TUESDAY

March 10, 2026

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

One Piece

Netflix ■ **Season Premiere**

Netflix's epic high-seas pirate adventure returns for Season 2 with eight new episodes that unleash fiercer adversaries and the most perilous quests yet. The series is based on Japan's highest-selling manga series of all time by Eiichiro Oda, with over 100 volumes and 500 million copies sold worldwide. Luffy (Īnaki Godoy) and the Straw Hats set sail for the extraordinary Grand Line — a legendary stretch of sea where danger and wonder await at every turn. As they journey through this unpredictable realm in search of the world's greatest treasure, they'll encounter bizarre islands and a host of formidable new enemies.

NHL Hockey

TNT & truTV, beginning at 7:30 p.m. **Live**

Mathew Barzal and the N.Y. Islanders meet Pavel Buchnevich and the Blues in St. Louis, followed by an epic clash between Connor McDavid's Edmonton Oilers and Nathan MacKinnon's Colorado Avalanche.

Will Trent

ABC, 8 p.m.

When a fraternity golden boy and his friend are found dead, the team works to unravel the case in the new episode "You're Only as Sick as Your Secrets."

Best Medicine

FOX, 8 p.m.

Martin (Josh Charles) treats an elderly woman whose hallucinations lead to dire consequences in the new episode "Port Wenn-ings and a Funeral."

Doc

FOX, 9 p.m.

Joan (Felicity Huffman) treats an old friend who was injured in an accident, which forces Amy (Molly Parker) to confront Joan about her illness in the new episode "Good Hands."



High Potential

ABC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode, Daphne (Javicia Leslie) leads an investigation into the attempted murder of a beloved colleague and mentor, which is further complicated when it intertwines with another case.

RJ Decker

ABC, 10 p.m.

Wish (Kevin Rankin) enlists RJ's (Scott Speedman) help on a bizarre case when his late cellmate's son is wrongly accused of murder in the new episode "Twenty Pounds of Clem in a Ten-Pound Bag."

CATCH A CLASSIC

In Memoriam: Robert Duvall

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

The career of Robert Duvall — one of Hollywood's most respected and versatile character actors, who passed away Feb. 15 — is commemorated tonight on TCM with three of his most acclaimed films. Dubbed the "actor's actor," Duvall proved just as adept in leading roles, as was the case in 1983's **Tender Mercies**, in which he portrayed a washed-up, hard-drinking former country singer fighting to rebuild his life. Duvall's performance as Mac Sledge earned him the Oscar for Best Actor. Up next is 1979's **The Great Santini**, where

Killer Confessions: Case Files of a Texas Ranger

Investigation Discovery, 10 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

This true-crime series telling stories of Texas Ranger James Holland's most difficult cases concludes Season 1 with "A Devil Always Lies." When 28-year-old mother Samantha McNorton vanished without a trace in Wise County, Texas, police hit a dead end. Then, Holland stepped in and launched a 24-hour whirlwind investigation to uncover the truth.



Duvall's portrayal of Lt. Col. Bull Meechum, a domineering Marine who rules his family with the same iron fist he applies to his men, earned him the first of his three Best Actor nominations. The tribute concludes with 1979's **Apocalypse Now (pictured)**, with Duvall as Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore ("I love the smell of napalm in the morning") — whose leadership of an air cavalry unit in Vietnam is representative of the absurdity and madness of war — in another Academy Award-nominated performance.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Jojo Rabbit'
LARRY HORRICKS

Legally Blonde (2001, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

Arthur the King (2024, Drama) Mark Wahlberg, Simu Liu **Encore, 6:05 p.m.**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **SVFY, 6:35 p.m.**

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009, Children) Ben Stiller, Robin Williams **FX, 8 p.m.**

Regretting You (2025, Drama) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace **MGM, 8 p.m.**

The School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Jack Black, Joan Cusack **Paramount, 8 p.m.**

Incredibles 2 (2018, Children) Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter **Freeform, 8:20 p.m.**

The Hunger Games (2012, Science fiction) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson **SVFY, 9:30 p.m.**

John Grisham's The Rainmaker (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Claire Danes **MGM, 10 p.m.**

Jojo Rabbit (2019, Comedy-drama) Roman Griffin Davis, Thomasin McKenzie **FXM, 10:25 p.m.**

Resurrection Road (2025, Action) Michael Madsen, Malcolm Goodwin **Starz, 11 p.m.**

The Painter (2024, Suspense) Charlie Weber, Madison Bailey **SHO, 11 p.m.**

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

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MOVIES TV GRIDS BEST BETS

What to watch WEDNESDAY

March 11, 2026

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

NBA Basketball

ESPN, beginning at 7:30 p.m. **Live**

The Cleveland Cavaliers visit the Orlando Magic and the Houston Rockets are in Denver to take on the Nuggets for ESPN's Wednesday NBA doubleheader.

NHL Hockey: Washington at Philadelphia

TNT & truTV, 7:30 p.m. **Live**

Catch Tom Wilson, Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals skating against the Flyers in Philadelphia.

Scrubs

ABC, 8 p.m.

To relive their glory days, J.D. (Zach Braff) plans a poker night with Turk (Donald Faison) in the new episode "My Poker Face."

The Masked Singer

FOX, 8 p.m.

The Care Bears pay a visit to *The Masked Singer* in the new episode "Care Bears Night," and the costumed celebrities sing their hearts out and share some of their feelings.

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar: Oscar Goes to the Doctor

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

For anyone who has ever faced serious medical odds, it's always comforting to know there are good doctors willing to help. Tonight, you'll be able settle in with some of the best films about doctors and their patients. Two women deal with cancer diagnoses in **No Sad Songs for Me** (1950) and 1939's **Dark Victory**, with Bette Davis;

Abbott Elementary

ABC, 8:30 p.m.

An antidrug campaign visits the school, and Jacob (Chris Perfetti) is outraged by an unfair district election in the new episode "Safety Day."

Dirty Rotten Scandals

E!, 9 p.m.

Tonight's episode unveils the dark underbelly of the TV series "America's Next Top Model" through the untold stories of former contestants. What was presented as a golden opportunity for aspiring models unravels into a harrowing saga of exploitation, shattered dreams and resilience. Firsthand interviews with the contestants cast light on the steep prices they paid for a shot at being "on top."

Chicago Fire

NBC, 9 p.m.

Severide (Taylor Kinney) is on high alert to track down a reckless driver who puts one of their own in harm's way in the new episode "Hit and Run."

America's Culinary Cup

CBS, 9:30 p.m.

The remaining 12 contenders feel the pressure rise in the new episode "Meat the First Commandment." The chefs leave the kitchen and head to the farm, where they must break down a massive hind saddle of beef, then transform their cuts into unforgettable dishes for more than 100 meat-loving guests at the inaugural America's Culinary Cup Carnivore Classic.

Chicago P.D.

NBC, 10 p.m.

Burgess (Marina Squerciati) takes a rookie officer under her wing as the team investigates a volatile drug case in the new episode "Meant to Be."

and the surgical profession is highlighted in Stanley Kramer's **Not as a Stranger** (1955). The highlight of the evening's programming, however, is a pair of films starring Jane Wyman, in separate roles as a deaf and a blind woman. In 1948's **Johnny Belinda (pictured)**, airing in late-night, Wyman plays a young deaf woman with a difficult life that's about to become even more difficult. The one bright spot is a kind doctor who teaches her American Sign Language, affording her an empowerment she didn't know she had. Wyman also stretches her acting boundaries in **Magnificent Obsession** (1954), playing a blind woman wooed by a former medical



'Hollywood Squares'
SONJA FLEMMING, CBS

Hollywood Squares
CBS, 10:30 p.m.

Ariana DeBose, Ron Funches, Tiffany Haddish, Pete Holmes, Jo Koy, Rob Mariano, Niecy Nash-Betts and Ms. Pat are celebrity squares in the new episode "This Isn't Survivor." Nate Burleson hosts with center square Drew Barrymore.



student, now a playboy (Rock Hudson), who was partly responsible for her affliction and who seeks to save her. TCM has just what the doctor ordered tonight.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Flight'
ROBERT ZUCKERMAN

Flight (2012, Drama) Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle **Encore, 6:35 p.m.**

Thor: Love and Thunder (2022, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman **FX, 7 p.m.**

Murder, Lies & Marriage (2025, Suspense) Kelly Sullivan, Alex Trumble **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Obsessed (2009, Suspense) Idris Elba, Beyoncé Knowles **VH1, 8 p.m.**

That Thing You Do! (1996, Comedy-drama) Tom Everett Scott, Liv Tyler **MGM, 8 p.m.**

The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004, Children) Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews **Freeform, 8:30 p.m.**

Ocean's Twelve (2004, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Brad Pitt **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

The Strangers: Chapter 1 (2024, Horror) Madelaine Petsch, Froy Gutierrez **Starz, 9 p.m.**

Match, Meet, Murder (2025, Suspense) Stephanie Sy, Jacob Blair **LMN, 10 p.m.**

The Manchurian Candidate (2004, Suspense) Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep **Encore, 10:40 p.m.**

Angels in the Outfield (1994, Children) Danny Glover, Joseph Gordon-Levitt **TNT, 11 p.m.**

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (2003, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field

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TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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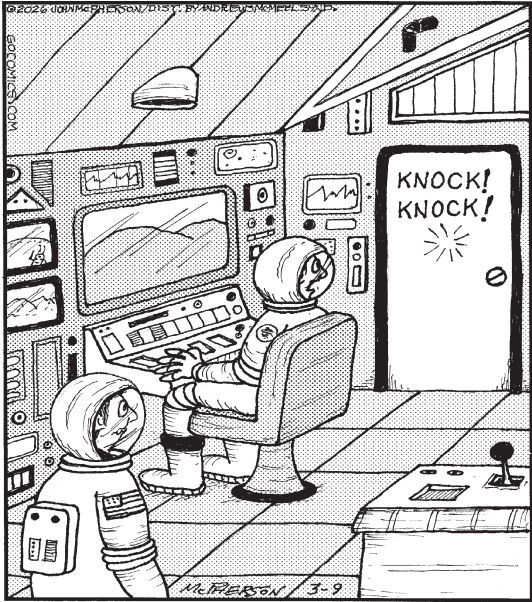
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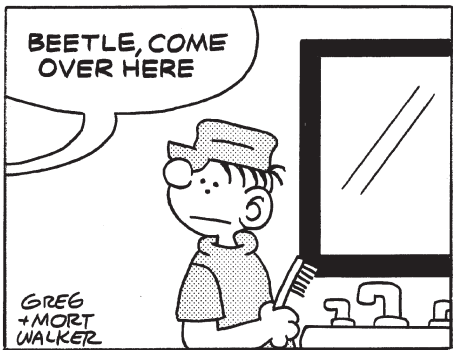
MOVIES TV GRIDS BEST BETS

TV - What to watch

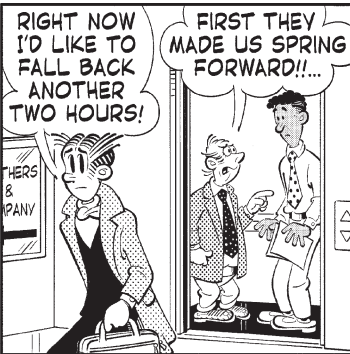
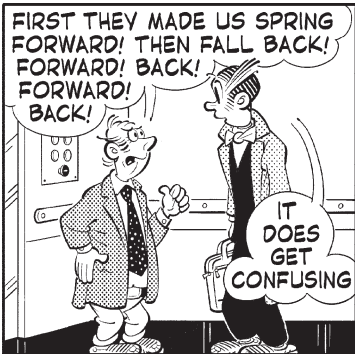
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



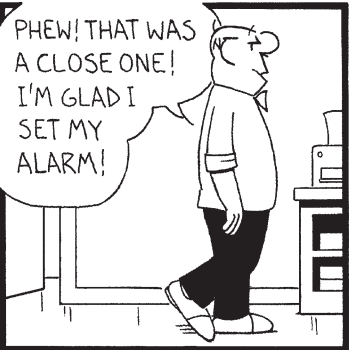
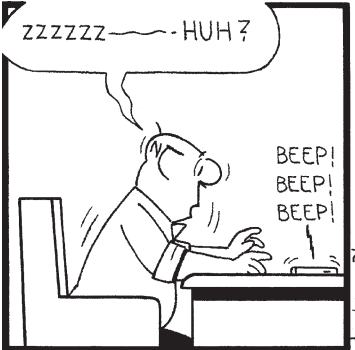
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



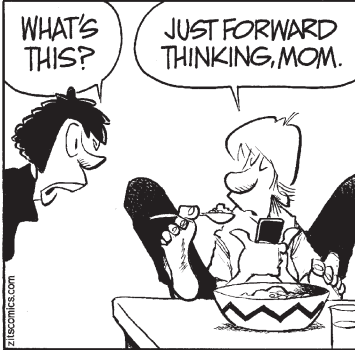
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



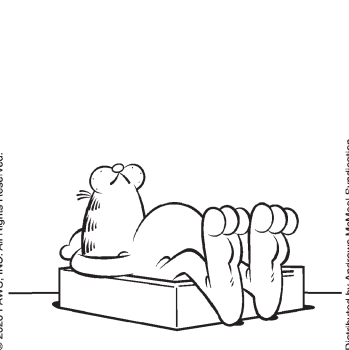
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

RAK00LGE

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Relaxing

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- Treaty between nations
 - Diamond corner
 - Highest point
 - Aroma
 - Soak in the tub
 - Guacamole scoop
 - Last stretch before graduation
 - Increase in altitude
 - North Pole helper
 - Angeles Sparks
 - "Stop talking!"
 - Playground board with two seats
 - "Relax, soldier"
 - Beam of light
 - Make into law
 - U.S. ID issuer
 - Broken mirror, to some
 - Get hitched
 - White-barked trees
 - Go on a tirade
 - Red Monopoly piece
 - Palm with berries
 - Noisy summer insect
 - Meat in a croque monsieur
 - California wine valley
 - Pint night purchase
 - Respected villager
 - Zilch
 - "Door's open"
 - Prepare to skate, or what can be found in 3-, 8-, 10-, and 33-Down?
 - Bold alternative?
 - Fragrant evergreen
 - Org. whose seal depicts an eagle atop a key
 - "You got a deal!"
 - Fruity fall beverage
 - "Riverdale" actress Reinhart
 - Strung along
 - Title for New Zealand golfer Lydia Ko
 - "If all ___ fails ..."
 - Defect
 - Unrefined minerals

- DOWN**
- Prepares for a photograph
 - One-named "Hello" singer
 - Business meetings over the phone
 - The first "T" of TNT
 - Howls at the moon
 - Enjoyed some teekbokki, say
 - Peak in the Cascade Range
 - Stillness before a storm
 - Units of land area
 - Zodiac cycle in which the Rabbit follows the Tiger
 - Catchall category: Abbr.
 - Heaviest fencing sword
 - Body part that can be furrowed
 - CeraVe rival
 - Muscles near delts
 - North Pole VIP
 - "What happened next?"
 - Fair-hiring initials
 - "Just like that" sound

- Iran's continent
- Dolphin with eye patches
- Postal delivery
- Baby humpback
- Become frantic
- Serving of corn
- "The Substance" Oscar nominee
- Moore
- Quash, as a rumor
- DEA agent

- Song from a bygone era
- Property claim
- "I'm at your service"
- Trims (down)
- Part of an archipelago
- Work hard
- ___ state: focused mindset
- Kissing on the kiss cam, say
- Swear words?

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

S	E	H	O		M	V	T	F		E	S	T	E
E	W	V	D		N	O	D	E	T		I	T	I
H	E	D	I	C	E	T	D	V					
V	S	N											
D	N	E	O	V	T		N	I	E	W	O		
V	D	V	N		W	V	H		V	D	V	O	I
I	V	O	V		T	E	L	O	H		I	N	V
S	N	E	D	S	V		D	E	M		N	E	W
V	S	S											
E	S	V	E	L	V								
E	O	N	E	T	I	S							
E	S	I	E										
P	I	H	O										
E	O	M	E										

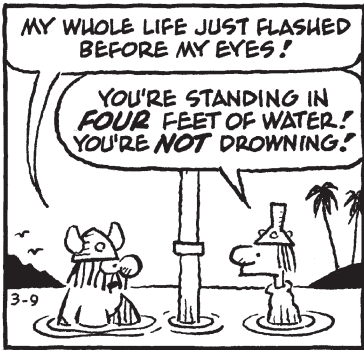
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16					17					18			
19					20			21		22			
23					24			25					
					26			27				28	29
31	32							34		35			
36								38		39			
40					41			42					
44					45			46					
					48	49				50			51
53	54							55				56	
57								58	59			60	
61								62				63	
64								65				66	

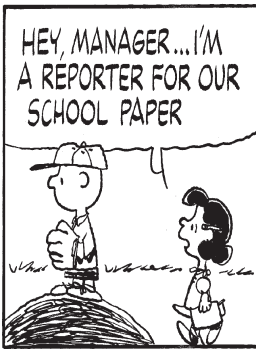
By Zhouqin Burnikel
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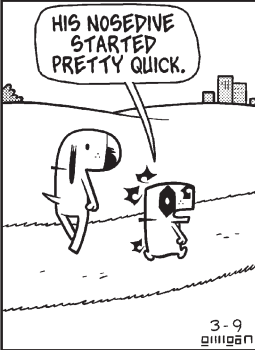
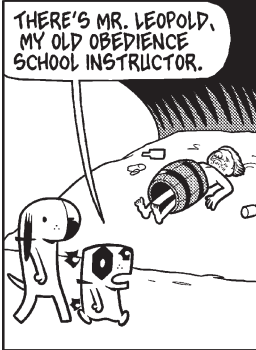
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

SOUNDS OF NATURE

Solution: 8 letters

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

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3/9

Bark, Birds, Buzz, Chirping, Clap, Cry, Drip, Earth, Geophony, Groan, Growl, Grumble, Gush, Hall, Hiss, Horse, Hum, Hush, Loud, Moan, Murmur, Outdoors, Pattering, Plop, Pop, Rain, Rattling, Roar, Rustling, Shriek, Sizzling, Snore, Sound, Splash, Splat, Splutter, Sputter, Squawk, Thunder, Trickling, Water, Whimper, Whine, Whistling, Winds, Wolves, Yelp, Zoo

TODAY'S ANSWER: Relaxing

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



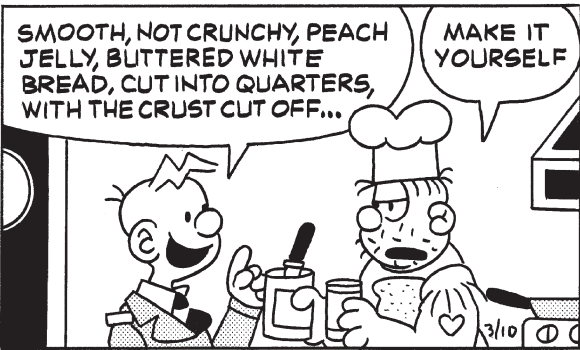
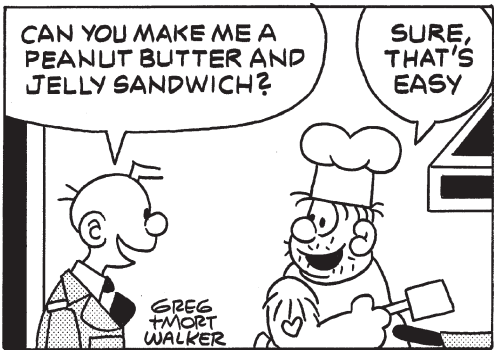
As Custer and Sitting Bull met for the first time since the Little Bighorn, Sue tried to ease the tension by playing a hit song from the '70s.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Would you please order these soldiers to retreat from their position?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



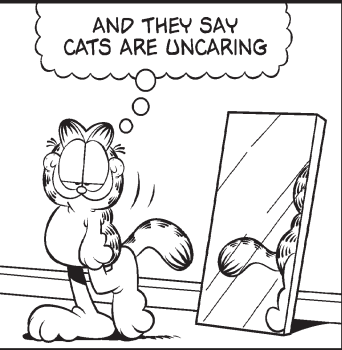
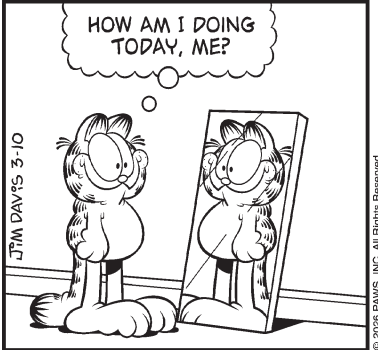
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



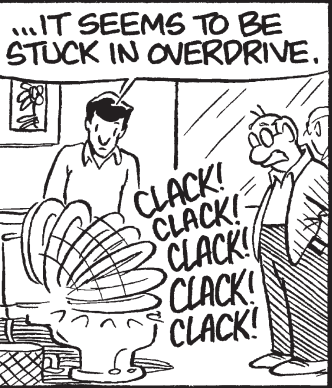
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

R	O		A	D
S	T		E	E
T	R		E	E
A	V		N	
E	L			

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Parting of the ways

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 "Let's Hear It for the —"
- 4 Non-union worker
- 8 Movie excerpt
- 12 Before
- 13 Rajah's wife
- 14 Round dance
- 15 TV spots
- 16 The Beaver State (Abbr.)
- 17 Like a hard black wood
- 18 Collections
- 20 Final performance (2 wds.)
- 22 Special pleasure
- 24 Stone
- 25 Cereal plant
- 26 Fitting
- 27 Spinning toy
- 30 Say further
- 32 Brad
- 34 — Today
- 35 "The Old Man and the —"
- 36 Woody plant
- 38 Fanatic
- 39 Rd.
- 40 Place for pigs
- 41 Health resort
- 43 "Harper Valley —"
- 44 Outmoded
- 47 Succeed (2 wds.)
- 52 Numerical info
- 53 Inter —
- 54 Frozen rain
- 56 Dead lang.
- 57 Dispatched
- 58 Italian noble family
- 59 "— Maria"
- 60 Vacuum cleaner attachment
- 61 Tinted
- 62 — of iniquity
- DOWN
- 1 Brute
- 2 Sequence

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

- 3 "I wasn't born —!"
- 4 B'way sign of yore
- 5 Roadsters
- 6 Freshly
- 7 New York City nickname (2 wds.)
- 8 Thorax
- 9 Gray wolf
- 10 Metallic element
- 11 Twinge
- 19 Utter
- 21 Insect egg
- 23 Half score
- 26 Light and delicate
- 27 Sandwich filler (2 wds.)
- 28 Buckeyes' sch.
- 29 Butter serving
- 30 Residue
- 31 Moisture
- 33 Affixed
- 37 Psychic's gift, for short
- 40 Depot (Abbr.)
- 42 Tablet
- 43 Serving item
- 45 Barrel slat
- 46 Consumed
- 47 Deep cut
- 48 Butter substitute
- 49 Fasteners
- 50 Like child's play
- 51 Locale
- 55 Was ahead

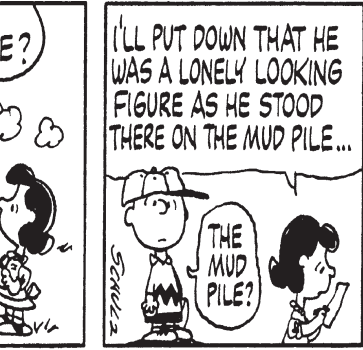
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	25				26				27	28	29	
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35					36				37			
39				40				41	42			
			43					44			45	46
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57					58					59		
60					61					62		

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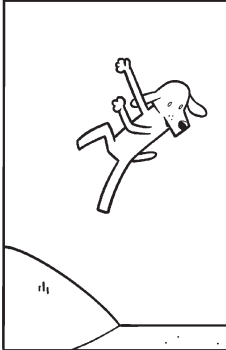
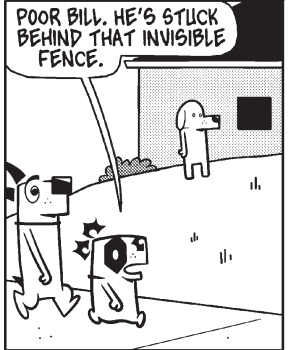
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

TUVALU, SOUTH PACIFIC Solution: 10 letters

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

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3/10 Bananas, Breadfruit, Canoe, Club, Coconut, Coral, Crab, Dive, Ellice, Funafuti, Futuna, Habitat, Heritage, Islands, Jobs, King Tides, Lagoon, Locals, Marine, Music, Nanumanga, Nanumea, Nauru, Niulakita, Niutao, Nui, Nukufetau, Nukulaelae, Oceania, Polynesian, Rain, Samoa, Sand, Scuba, Swim, Tropical, Vaitupu, Village, Water, Waves

TODAY'S ANSWER: Flying Fish

Georgia colleges, universities waive application fees in March

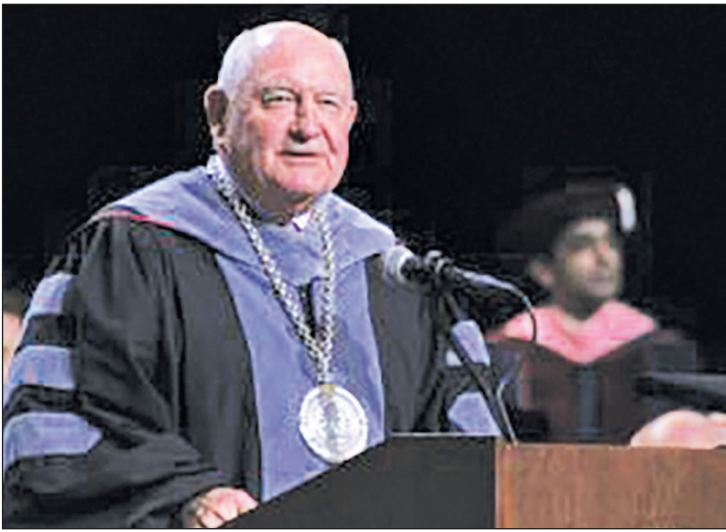
Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Student Finance Commission has partnered with the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia and private institutions to provide application fee waivers to Georgia high school seniors in March to more than 60 Georgia colleges and universities.

“We want every Georgia student to know there is a path to a great future here in their home state,” Gov. Brian Kemp said in a news release. “By giving students the opportunity to apply to

college without paying application fees, we’re making it even easier for students to find their MATCH and launch successful careers in the best state to live, work, and raise a family.”

This is the ninth time the Georgia Student Finance Commission has promoted application fee waivers since the initiative started in 2022. There is no limit on the number of schools a student may apply to using the application fee waivers. While application fees may vary by institution, the cost savings to high school seniors applying to multiple colleges are significant.



Sonny Purdue

Students can apply to state institutions through GEORGIA MATCH on the GAfutures.org portal and directly at the participating independent colleges.

“Georgia high school seniors should go to GAfutures.org and take advantage of having their application fees waived,” Georgia Student Finance Commission President Chris Green said. “This allows families to save money in the college admissions process. Whether it’s free college applications or over \$1 billion in HOPE scholarships and other state financial aid programs, the state’s investment has made Georgia the Top State for Talent.”

Students who claim their spot at a college or university through the GEORGIA MATCH dashboard will au-

tomatically have their application fees waived. The full list of participating schools and information on how to access the application fee waivers may be found at GAfutures.org.

The mission of the Georgia Student Finance Commission is to help students pursue higher education with the least out-of-pocket costs possible. Students interested in learning more about application fee waivers, GEORGIA MATCH, scholarships, and grants may connect with their regional GSFC Outreach Representative by visiting GAfutures.org/Outreach.



Special Photos: SRTC

Congratulated by Southern Regional Technical College President Jim Glass for being named Distinguished Alumni were, from left, Drew Maxwell, Katie Brey and April Bentley.

Southern Regional Tech recognizes distinguished alumni

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

THOMASVILLE — The Southern Regional Technical College Foundation recognized three Distinguished Alumni award winners during the Foundation’s “Comedy for a Cause” event at the Biscuit Company here recently. Those recognized were April Bentley of Moultrie, Katie Brey of Tifton, and Drew Maxwell of Boston.

The Distinguished Alumni each received an award handcrafted by students at SRTC. Each of these distinguished alumni embody excellence in technical education and beyond, SRTC officials said.

Bentley serves as director of Human Resources at SRTC - a role that brought her full-circle after beginning as a student. Following the loss of a seven-year job and as a single mother determined to build a better future, Bentley enrolled at SRTC and earned multiple diplomas and certificates in Computer Information

Systems between 2004 and 2011. She went on to graduate magna cum laude from Liberty University and earned a certified professional designation.

“Don’t underestimate yourself; technical education can be a doorway when life feels uncertain,” the award-winner said. “Sometimes all it takes is one step forward and someone willing to say, ‘You can do this.’”

Brey serves as clinical nurse educator in the Emergency Department at Tift Regional Medical Center. She made the most of every opportunity at SRTC, earning her CNA in 2021, LPN in 2022, and completing the ASN-RN bridge program in 2024. In 2022, she was named SRTC’s GOAL delegate, competing at the regional and state levels and advocating for technical education statewide.

“Technical education bridges classroom learning with real-world skills in ways traditional universities cannot -- come back to it with focus and determination, and the

results will speak for themselves,” Brey said.

Maxwell is the owner and CEO of Maxco Land Management, turning a childhood passion into a thriving business. Raised within the land, forest and wildlife industries, he graduated from SRTC in 2020 with an associate’s degree in Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management, gaining the scientific foundation behind practices he had known instinctively since childhood.

“Just go for it,” Maxwell said. “At the technical college, you get more one-on-one education, and everyone is willing to lend a helping hand to see you succeed.”

For more information on SRTC’s Alumni Association, joining the association free of charge, or nominating a distinguished alumnus, visit the <http://southernregional.edu/alumni-association> website or contact the Institutional Advancement Office at (229) 225-4060.

SRTC summer semester begins May 19.

New state record longnose gar caught on Lake Blackshear

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

CORDELE — Announcing a new freshwater fish state record is a great way to kick off the beginning of March, state DNR officials said in a news release.

Georgia has a new state record longnose gar, caught by angler Silas Turner of Hawkinsville. His catch, caught on March 5 on Lake Blackshear near Cordele, weighed 31 pounds, 14 ounces, and replaces the 2022 record of 31 pounds, 2 ounces, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division.

“Congrats to Silas! It has been almost a year since Georgia has been able to announce a new freshwater fish state record, and we are thrilled to congratulate Mr. Turner on this huge longnose gar catch,” Scott Robinson, chief of fisheries for the Wildlife Resources Division. “We hope that this catch inspires anglers across the state to get outdoors and Go Fish Georgia, because you never know when that next state record might be on the end of your line.”

After a morning of guiding fishing trips, Turner was headed out to check out some more fish for upcoming excursions when he spotted what he thought was a bass. He picked up a bass plug and threw out a cast, and much to his surprise the fish that took the lure turned out to be a huge gar. Silas said he fought with the fish for about 15 minutes before landing it.



Special Photo: Georgia DNR

Silas Turner of Hawkinsville hauled in a state-record longnose gar recently on Lake Blackshear. His catch weighed 31 pounds, 14 ounces, replacing the 2022 record of 31 pounds, 2 ounces.

Knowing he had a big catch, he took it immediately to get weighed and then headed to the Cordele Fish Hatchery to have the catch verified and weighed on an official certified scale. Silas has been fishing for about 23 of his 28 years and primarily targets crappie and bass, often participating in tournaments throughout the year. He said he is looking forward to having the gar mounted so he can tell the story for years to come.

Longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) are members of the gar family and are considered relics from a large group of primitive fishes. Longnose gar have an elongated body, are greenish black on top and yellow toward the belly. They have black spots along their

sides and fins. A long, narrow snout contains many sharp needle-like teeth. They prefer weedy areas of deep or shallow lakes and streams. Gar feed primarily on other fish.

Georgia anglers support fisheries conservation. License purchases allow Georgia WRD to continue to do important research, maintain and operate public fishing areas and more. Purchase a Georgia license at goutdoorsgeorgia.com.

For fishing tips and information, anglers should check out the Angler Resources page at GeorgiaWildlife.com/fishing/angler-resources. Information about state-record fish, including an application and rules, can be found at GeorgiaWildlife.com



Special Photos

Southwell’s hospitals generate more than \$1.23 billion in combined economic impact in Tift and Cook counties, according to the Georgia Hospital Association.

Southwell hospitals generate \$1.2 billion-plus impact in Tift, Cook counties

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — Southwell’s hospitals generate more than \$1.23 billion in combined economic impact in Tift and Cook counties, according to annual data released by the Georgia Hospital Association.

The report shows Tift Regional Medical Center generates \$1.07 billion in economic impact in Tift County, while Southwell Medical contributes \$161.1 million in Cook County. The figures are based on 2023 data using independent economic modeling.

Together, the two hospitals support more than 6,200 jobs locally, including 5,678 jobs in Tift County and 596 jobs in Cook County. TRMC employs 2,863 full- and part-time workers, while Southwell Medical employs 502.

Beyond their local impact, Southwell hospitals generate more than \$1.5 billion in economic impact statewide. TRMC accounts for \$1.34 billion across Georgia, and Southwell Medical contributes \$193.7 million statewide.

The hospitals also generate more than \$534 million in household earnings across Georgia through direct, indirect, and induced economic activity, while producing millions of dollars in local, state and federal tax revenue.

Southwell hospitals also provide significant community benefits, including charity care and uncompensated services. In 2023, TRMC delivered more than \$30 million in community benefits, while Southwell Medical provided nearly \$2 million.

“Our priority is providing high-quality care close to home,” Christopher K. Dorman, president and CEO of Southwell, said. “At the same time, our hospitals are major economic drivers for the communities we serve, supporting jobs and strengthening the regional economy.”

For more information about Southwell’s hospitals and services, visit mysouthwell.com.

Golden Rams sweep Savannah State at home

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — By the time the weekend was over, the pattern was impossible to miss. The Albany State Golden Rams baseball would strike early, deliver a timely hit when it mattered most and let their pitching take care of the rest. That formula carried Albany State to a three-game SIAC sweep of the Savannah State Tigers baseball at Albany State West, with the Golden Rams winning 13-6, 4-3 and 6-1.

The sweep improved Albany

State to 13-7 overall and 10-2 in the conference, while also extending the Golden Rams’ dominance at home. Albany State is now a perfect 11-0 at Albany State West this season. “It was a good weekend as far as winning three games against a very talented ball team,” Albany State head coach Scot Hemmings said. “I was thrilled with the way Sam Crew and Calvin Baker threw this weekend. Our offense is still sputtering a little but we managed to pound out a few big hits and capitalize on their mistakes. Overall I am pleased with the effort but

free passes continue to haunt us and errors that come from a lack of focus, but again we are trending in the right direction. I want us to continue to get better each game as winning will be a byproduct of our commitment to staying with our technique and fundamentals.” Albany State wasted no time setting the tone in the series opener Friday, erupting for six runs in the first inning and never looking back in a 13-6 victory. The Golden Rams capitalized on early walks and timely hits to build the lead. Isaiah

Haygood and Mason Turner each drove in runs during the rally before senior shortstop Emory Stephens added an RBI single. Ty Grover followed with a two-run single and Jaden Camp capped the inning with a sacrifice fly. Albany State finished the opener with 14 hits as the offense continued to apply pressure throughout the afternoon. Turner added an RBI double in the fourth inning, Former Worth County star David Cooper delivered an RBI single in the fifth and



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany State lefty Calvin Baker completed a four-inning save Saturday in game one against Savannah State. The senior lefty from Atlanta gave up three hits and one earned run to earn the save for starter Quindon Wright, who pitched the first five innings of the game.

See **RAMS**, 10A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Laura Donnelly of Bonaire celebrates crossing the finish line in the half-marathon event during the Saturday Combos Marathon and Half-Marathon.

888 runners complete 20th Albany marathon

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — It’s three down and nine more to go for Mickey Moore. The Tallahassee, Fla., resident is shooting to run a marathon each month in 2026, and on Saturday that quest brought him to Albany for the Combos Marathon and Half-Marathon. The 56-year-old finished the full marathon route in three hours and eight minutes on Saturday at what was the 20th annual running of the event held in Albany. Coming in first in the 26.2-mile run were Alex Ekesa with a time of 2:28:47, followed by Zachary Fenton at 2:44 and David Too with a time of 2:41:58. The father-son team of Rich Enners and Keven Enners, competing as a wheelchair duo, finished the marathon with a tie of 2:39:20. In the half-marathon category Joey Hendershot finished first with a time of 1:15:12, followed by Riley Westman at 1:22:20 and Nyah Hernandez at 1:22:55.

The Combos event is one of the top qualifiers for the Boston Marathon. The relative flatness of the course and a cloud cover that held through most of the morning made for a pleasant experience, Moore said. “This is my first time in Albany,” he said. “I live so close. I never tried this race. I said, ‘I have to give it a try.’ We got lucky with the shade today.” After running track in junior high, Moore hung up his running shoes until he was 37, and since then has built up his endurance and competed in Iron Man events. “I did a mile a day, two miles a day, to work to where I am now,” he said. “I did a hundred miles in December. I think I’ve done 100 half-marathons. I think this one puts me at 20 (full marathons).” In addition to the mild weather, Moore said he was impressed by the volunteers and organization. “The volunteers do a lot of cheering on the course,” he said. “It seems like there’s a group around every corner cheering and ringing bells. It gets lonely on a mar-

athon, so that’s good to have.” Harrison Tolley of Atlanta said Saturday was his first trip to Albany as well as his first half-marathon. “I came here with my sister,” he said. “She was, like, ‘Get your ass in the car; we’re going.’ She said that three weeks ago, but that’s what it was like. “We all came down here in our camper and made it a weekend.” Prior to Saturday the 21-year-old had completed shorter runs. “I’ve done a 5, a 10K and now a half-marathon,” Tolley said. “My aunt’s in her 50s, and she still runs half-marathons. It’s really a thing for all ages. Saturday’s running of the marathon was also the first for Albany Convention & Visitors Bureau President Kasey Summerville, who started her new job on Oct. 1 last year. The final runner total was 888 for Saturday, up from 850 last year. “It’s been amazing,” Summerville said of her first time observing the start and finish of

See **MARATHON**, 10A



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Monroe’s Taylor McKinzy dribbles during Saturday’s Final Four game against Sandy Creek in Douglasville. McKinzy scored 20 points but Monroe fell 85-69.

Monroe’s season ends in Final Four loss

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

DOUGLASVILLE — For a while Saturday afternoon, the Monroe Lady Tornadoes had the game exactly where they wanted it. Then the shots started falling for the Sandy Creek Lady Patriots — and they never really stopped. Sandy Creek’s speed and hot shooting eventually overwhelmed Monroe in the second half as the Lady Patriots pulled away for an 85-69 victory in the GHSA Class AAA Final Four at Legacy Arena. For a quarter and a half, however, Monroe looked every bit like a team ready to punch its ticket to Macon. The Lady Nadas handled Sandy Creek’s relentless full-court pressure better than many teams have this season. Monroe broke the press repeatedly, moved the ball with confidence and found scoring opportunities throughout the first half. Taylor McKinzy set the tone early, drilling a three-pointer in the opening minutes to give Monroe the lead. The two teams traded baskets throughout an entertaining first quarter before Maleyah Hines battled inside for a basket just before the buzzer, giving Monroe a 19-16 lead after one.

Monroe continued to build momentum early in the second quarter. McKinzy knocked down two more three-pointers to push the Lady Nadas ahead 30-23, briefly quieting the Sandy Creek crowd and forcing the Patriots to regroup. Then the game turned in a blur. Sandy Creek answered with a three-pointer of its own. Two Monroe turnovers followed under the Patriots’ full-court pressure. Moments later the lead was gone, and the pace of the game had shifted. By halftime, Monroe trailed 48-36. If there was comfort for Monroe fans, it was that this team had made a habit of second-half comebacks throughout the season. The Lady Nadas showed signs of another rally midway through the third quarter when KieAundria Acree drove to the basket for consecutive scores that trimmed the deficit to seven points. But each time Monroe threatened, Sandy Creek responded with another quick basket or timely outside shot. By the end of the third quarter the Patriots had stretched the lead to 69-56, and Monroe never managed to close the gap again.

See **MONROE**, 10A

Holmes, López bring strong starts, relief to beleaguered rotation

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

NORTH PORT, Fla. -- Braves manager Walt Weiss will likely feel really good a few months from now if he’s still able to count both Grant Holmes and Reynaldo López as dependable and valuable members of his rotation. But for now, he’s just happy to say both pitchers have created confidence that they will continue to successfully distance themselves from the season-ending injuries they sustained last year. “It makes me sleep a little easier at night, for sure,” Weiss said. Weiss and other Braves decision-makers had some restless nights at the start of

camp, when they learned that Spencer Schwellenbach and Hurston Waldrep will miss at least two months while recovering from right arthroscopic elbow surgery. There was already some uncertainty about López, who made one start before undergoing season-ending right shoulder surgery last year, and Holmes, who was shut down in August when an MRI exam of his right elbow showed a partially torn flexor tendon and ulnar collateral ligament. And it’s still unknown whether Spencer Strider will ever return to being the dominant frontline starter he was before undergoing a second major elbow surgery two starts into the 2024 season. Accounting for all of this,



Special Photo: Braves.com

Atlanta Braves manager Walt Weiss said he feels better about the team’s starting pitching rotation after Grant Holmes and Reynaldo Lopez both had strong Spring starts this week. Both starting pitchers are returning after season-ending injuries last year.

it’s easy to see why these past few days have made Weiss feel better about his injury-depleted rotation. Strider’s fastball generated a few “97” readings from the CoolToday Park radar gun on Thursday. López’s new changeup grip created some more positive reviews on Friday. And Holmes exited Saturday’s 2 2/3-inning start against the Orioles -- a game that ended in a 2-2 tie -- having still not allowed a run this spring. “I know how important our pitching is, especially with those guys coming off injuries last year,” Weiss said. “There’s been a lot of positives this camp, and that’s right near the top, the way our starting pitchers look. Here’s something to like

about each of these six Braves starters. Six? Well, with Holmes, Bryce Elder and Joey Wentz out of options, each could find themselves on the Opening Day roster. You could call it a six-man rotation, or simply refer to one of them as the swingman. But with Schwellenbach and Waldrep set to miss most or all of the first half, it’s imperative to preserve depth however possible. Chris Sale: He’s 37 and has dealt with his share of injuries during the early years of this decade. But the 2024 NL Cy Young Award winner seems to still have plenty of fuel in his tank. Thirteen of his 63 fastballs this spring

See **HOLMES**, 10A

Georgia heads into SEC tournament after beating Mississippi State

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — The Georgia Bulldogs men’s basketball team is headed to Nashville with its highest seed in nearly a decade.

Georgia earned the No. 7 seed for next week’s SEC Men’s Basketball Tournament and will open tournament play Thursday night at Bridgestone Arena after receiving a first-round bye.

The Bulldogs will tip off at 7 p.m. Thursday against the winner of Wednesday’s opening-round game between No. 10 seed Texas and No. 15 seed Ole Miss.

The No. 7 seed is Georgia’s highest in the SEC Tournament since 2016, when the Bulldogs entered as the No. 6 seed and advanced to the semifinals after beating Mississippi State and South Carolina before falling to Kentucky.

Georgia enters postseason play on the heels of a record-setting regular season that ended Saturday with a 102-96 win over the Mississippi State Bulldogs men’s basketball at Humphrey Coliseum.

The victory lifted the Bulldogs to 22-9 overall and 10-8 in the SEC while establishing the most regular-season wins in program history. The previous mark had stood since both the 1931 and 1997 seasons.

Georgia also finished above .500 in SEC play for the first time since 2016.

Sophomore Kanon Catchings led the Bulldogs in the victory with 23 points, connecting on 5-of-7 shots from three-point range as Georgia pulled away in the second half.

After seven lead changes, Catchings hit back-to-back three-pointers midway through the second half to give Georgia the lead for good. The Bulldogs

later stretched the margin to 15 points with just over five minutes remaining.

Georgia placed five players in double figures in the win. Marcus Millender added 18 points, while Jeremiah Wilkinson and Blue Cain scored 15 points each. Somto Cyril chipped in 10.

Cain also reached a career milestone during the game. A second-chance three-pointer early in the second half gave the junior his 1,000th career point, making him the second Bulldog this season to reach the mark alongside Millender.

Georgia’s offense has been rewriting the program record book throughout the season.

The Bulldogs have now scored 2,802 points in 31 games, surpassing the previous single-season record of 2,764 points set during last year’s run to the NIT semifinals.

Saturday’s performance also



Special Photo: UGAAA

The Georgia men’s basketball team is now preparing for the SEC tournament with hopes of getting an NCAA tournament bid after setting the school record in both regular-season wins and points scored.

marked the eighth time Georgia has scored 100 points this season, breaking the previous school record of five such games

set during the 1990-91 season.

Now the Bulldogs turn their attention to Nashville, where Georgia will look to build on

one of the most productive regular seasons in program history when the SEC Tournament begins later this week.

From 9A

MONROE

Acree led Monroe with 21 points, while McKinzy and Hines each finished with 20.

The loss brings an end to a remarkable season for the Lady Nadas, who finished

From 9A

HOLMES

have clocked 96 mph or faster. What’s the big deal? Remember when he struggled early last season, and his fastball sat in the low 90s? Well, it was never a matter of arm strength. It was all about his mechanics, which have appeared sound since the start of camp.

Strider: Strider touched 96.7 mph twice, and his four-seamer averaged 95 mph during Thursday’s outing against the Blue Jays. The velo isn’t back to where it was during his incredibly dominant days, but even as he enhanced his effort, his fastball still had some late life. Strider’s inverted vertical break was 17 inches. That’s not quite where it was in 2023, when it was 18.4 inches, but it’s better than last year’s number (16.4 inches).

Strider will also rely on the curveball that he successfully added to his repertoire last year, and his slider, which induced a whiff with five of 12 swings on Thursday.

López: The 2024 All-Star has consistently changed speeds with his fastball, showing he

with a 28-5 record and a trip to the state semifinals.

Saturday, though, belonged to Sandy Creek — a team whose speed and shooting proved too much to slow.

For Monroe, the run ended one step short of Macon, but not without proving the Lady Nadas belonged on the state’s biggest stage.

can still throw 96-plus and still pace himself. His slider was spotty on Friday, but he now feels good about going down and in against right-handed hitters. A new grip has helped him get a swing and miss with three of the four swings taken against his changeup during his past two starts.

Holmes: The right-hander believes the UCL tear found last year might have been pre-existing. As he touched 96.1 mph and got a whiff with five of nine swings against his cutter, slider and changeup on Saturday, he looked healthy. Holmes showed his potential when he posted a 2.73 ERA over 11 starts from May 12-July 6 last season.

Elder and Wentz: One of these guys will be the fifth starter, and the other will likely begin the season as either the sixth starter or one of two relievers who have the capability of starting if necessary. Elder has always struggled during Spring Training, so allowing one run through five innings (two starts) is a win. Both of these right-handers will take another step toward the season during Sunday’s game against the Rays.

From 9A

RAMS

the Golden Rams broke the game open again in the seventh with four more runs.

Mylon Uribe led the attack with three hits, while Grover, Cooper, Stephens and Camp all delivered key hits as the Golden Rams controlled the game from the start.

Game two provided the weekend’s biggest moment.

Savannah State carried a 3-0 lead into the bottom of the seventh before Albany State’s offense suddenly came to life.

Senior third baseman Luke Addison, a Terrell Academy grad, ignited the rally with an RBI single and Tyler Turner followed with another run-scoring hit to trim the deficit to one. Moments later, a pair of wild pitches allowed Addison and Jaden Camp to score, completing the dramatic four-run rally and giving Albany State a 4-3 victory.

Andrew Keown, a freshman from Miller County, earned the win in relief after the Golden Rams’ pitching staff kept the game within reach. Worth County alum Jeremiah Reddell started and worked three innings, while Colin Loeffler added two scoreless frames before Keown closed the door.

Albany State closed out the series Sunday with another strong performance in a 6-1 victory.

After Savannah State scored early, the Golden Rams re-

sponded quickly in the second inning when David Kile drove in Emory Stephens with an RBI groundout. Defensive pressure and aggressive baserunning helped Albany State score two more runs in the inning to take control.

The Golden Rams added insurance runs later on an RBI single by Arin Chevers, a run-producing fielder’s choice by Mylon Uribe and an RBI single from Addison.

On the mound, Samuel Crew delivered the most dominant pitching performance of the weekend, throwing seven strong innings while allowing just one run and striking out seven batters. Luke Hayes finished the game with two scoreless innings of relief to secure the sweep.

Stephens and Addison each recorded two hits in the finale while Chevers, Uribe and Kile delivered key RBIs.

When Albany State needed a hit, it found one. When it needed an out, the pitching delivered.

With the sweep, the Golden Rams continued to build momentum in the SIAC race while proving that Albany State West has become a difficult place for visiting teams to survive.

Albany State will return to action Tuesday with a road trip to Milledgeville to face Georgia College before traveling to Jacksonville for a three-game conference series against Edward Waters next weekend.

Georgia Tech fires Damon Stoudamire after 11-20 season

Field Level Media

Damon Stoudamire will not return as basketball coach at Georgia Tech.

The school fired Stoudamire on Sunday, one day after the Yellow Jackets concluded their season with a 79-76 loss at Clemson for their 12th straight defeat.

Georgia Tech posted an 11-20 overall record and was 2-16 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Yellow Jackets finished last in the ACC and didn’t qualify for the conference tournament.

ESPN said Stoudamire has \$2.6 million and two years remaining on his contract.

“On behalf of Georgia Tech, I want to thank Damon for his commitment to the Institute, our men’s basketball program and, most importantly, our student-athletes,” athletic director Ryan Alpert said. “He is highly respected



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Georgia Tech’s basketball program is searching for a new coach after the university fired Damon Stoudamire. The Yellow Jackets ended the season with 12 straight losses and a final record of 11-20. He had led the Yellow Jackets for three years.

and admired throughout the Georgia Tech community and has been a strong representative of the Institute. We wish him the very best.”

Stoudamire, 52, had a 42-55 (19-39 ACC) record in three seasons.

He was a Boston Celtics assistant coach when Georgia Tech hired him before the 2023-24 season. Before that, he compiled a 71-77 record in five seasons (2016-21) at Pacific.

An undersized guard in col-

lege at Arizona, Stoudamire was the No. 7 overall pick of the 1995 NBA Draft and spent 13 seasons in the NBA with the Toronto Raptors, Portland Trail Blazers, Memphis Grizzlies and San Antonio Spurs.

He won NBA Rookie of the Year in 1996.

Per Georgia Tech, Greg Gary will serve as the interim head coach.

“Georgia Tech men’s basketball has a proud history and is an important part of our athletics department and community,” Alpert said. “We are committed to identifying an excellent basketball coach that will build a championship-level program, and fulfill our missions of academic excellence and preparing our student-athletes for life beyond basketball. Georgia Tech’s commitment to men’s basketball is unwavering, and we will invest the resources necessary to compete for championships at the highest levels.”

Johnson scores 35; Hawks sweep Sixers

Field Level Media

Jalen Johnson had 35 points, 10 rebounds, and seven assists as the Atlanta Hawks completed a four-game season series sweep with a 125-116 victory over the visiting Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday.

Nickel Alexander-Walker had four second-half 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and six assists for Atlanta, which won its season-high sixth straight game. The Hawks have won five straight at home. Johnson and Alexander-Walker made back-to-back 3-pointers as part of a 12-2 fourth-quarter run that took a tie game to a 10-point, 114-104 Hawks advantage.

Tyrese Maxey led Philadelphia, which lost for the third time in four games, with 31 points. Quentin Grimes scored 15 of his 26 points in the second half, while Kelly Oubre Jr. returned to the lineup after missing one game and had



Special Photo: Dale Zanine, Imagn Images

Philadelphia’s Quentin Grimes heads toward the basket against Atlanta’s CJ McCollum during Saturday’s game at State Farm Arena in Atlanta.

24 points and five rebounds.

Joel Embiid missed his fourth straight contest with a strained right oblique, while

rookie VJ Edgecombe missed his second straight game with a back contusion.

Maxey had 15 first-quarter points as Philadelphia took a double-digit lead in the first quarter and stayed in front for the rest of the half, despite Johnson’s 13 second-quarter points.

Both teams were hot throughout the first half. The Sixers shot 65.2% (30 for 46) from the field, including 61.5% (8 for 13) from beyond the arc. Atlanta responded by shooting 63.9% from the field (23 of 36) and 50% (5 for 10) from 3-point land. The Hawks were able to stay close at the break thanks to shooting 88% (15 for 17) from the foul line in the half.

Alexander-Walker had three 3-pointers in the third quarter as Atlanta took its first lead since the game’s early minutes. Despite Grimes’ 10

points in the quarter, Philadelphia was outscored, 31-21.

CJ McCollum added 17 points and seven assists for Atlanta, which is two games over .500 for the first time since mid-December. Dyson Daniels contributed 15 points and nine rebounds, and Onyeka Okongwu chipped in with 10 points, six rebounds, and five assists.

The 76ers will no doubt be pleased to know they don’t have to face Johnson anymore this year, at least in the regular season. He scored 35 or more points three times against Philadelphia this season. He posted four double-doubles and one triple-double.

Trendon Watford had 10 points for the Sixers, followed by Jabari Walker with nine points and five rebounds, Andre Drummond with seven rebounds, and Cam Payne with six assists.

From 9A

MARATHON

runners who had completed the course. “What has really been exciting for me as they’re coming across the finish line is hearing them announce where the runners are from. Just hearing those cities and states called out is encouraging.

“Another beautiful thing is seeing the community come together. Hundreds of volunteers have signed up. It takes a lot of volunteers. I have to shout out to my team. We are small, but we’re mighty. That has been encouraging for me.”

Premiere sponsors Combos, Mars Wrigley and the Phoebe Putney Health System have pitched in more than financially, sending in manpower as well, Summerville said.

Cameron native Derrick Nkemzi, 27, who has lived in Albany for four years, said he was inspired by his first half-marathon to consider doubling his distance in 2027. The Procter & Gamble employee finished in 2 hours and 25 minutes.

“The most I ran before this was 6.5 miles,” he said. “I did pretty good. My only goal was to not stop, and I didn’t. I think I’ll take a year to train; maybe I’ll do a full marathon next year.”

Five Republicans, four Democrats qualify for PSC elections

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist

ATLANTA -- Three Democrats and three Republicans are vying for the Public Service Commission seat that Commissioner Tricia Pridemore plans to leave at the end of her term. Two Republicans are also competing to face incumbent Democratic Commissioner Peter Hubbard in the race for the other seat on this year's ballot.

The commission oversees utilities in Georgia, including electricity, telecommunications and natural gas. It holds sway over Georgia Power, the state's largest electric utility, and the commission has final approval over the utility's rates and plans. It has drawn substantial criticism in recent years due to a series of rate increases and the recent approval of a natural gas-fueled expansion.

Republicans Bobby Mehan, Carolyn Roddy and Joshua Tolbert

qualified to run for the District 5 seat currently held by Pridemore, who's also a Republican. She has announced she won't seek re-election and is instead running for Congress. On the Democrats' side, the candidates



Peter Hubbard

are Craig Cupid, Shelia Edwards and Angelia Pressley.

District 5 covers a stretch of west Georgia from the Tennessee border to LaGrange, including Cobb County. The candidates are required to live in the district, but are elected statewide.

In District 3, which includes Clayton, DeKalb and Fulton counties, former Commissioner Fitz Johnson is running against fellow Republican Brandon Martin in the primary. The winner will face incumbent Commissioner Peter Hubbard, a Democrat.

Hubbard unseated Johnson in last year's special election. He and fellow Democrat Alicia Johnson scored historic victories

over the Republican incumbents to win their party representation on the commission for the first time since 2006, in an election that became a referendum on rising power bills.

The election last year was the first since 2020, after the 2022 commission elections were canceled due to a lawsuit challenging the PSC election system. That challenge ultimately ended when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up the issue. The state legislature laid out a new schedule for resuming elections, beginning with last year's races.

Because Johnson was originally appointed, in 2021, to the District 3 seat to serve out the remainder of the prior commissioner's term, last year's election for that position was for a one-year term only. Both of this year's races are for full six-year terms.

The primary is May 19. *This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.*

Rose Sunday a time for celebration

By Fran Pappas
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Historically, there was a Sunday at a crucial half-way point in the Lenten season when fasts were reduced, flowers were returned to the altar, and music brightened. This special Sunday has become known as Rose Sunday, when the church literally lightens up ... even the clergy wear rose vestments, as opposed to the traditional Lenten color of deep violet/purple.

The colored vestments usually show up in parishes where vestments are used by the clergy, which is why it isn't known by many Christian denominations. Color and rhythm signify embracing the blending of the pastoral and the poetic liturgical year. Used only twice a year on special Sundays like this one coming up on March 15, and on a special Sunday in Advent, each is a day for celebration and rejoicing.

Reference to the color pink of the rose is a symbolic one of love, as pink was the original color of the rose. Mythology tells us that when Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was looking for her lover, Adonis, she pricked herself on a pink rose bush, and the drops of blood turned the roses red, which is why the red rose is known as the flower of love and passion.

Easter waiting to bloom reminds us of the commitment and spiritual stability required for personal growth ... one that is full of reflection, atonement and preparation. God doesn't only meet us in the wilderness, but also in the flowers that bloom there, and the rose is that bloom; that first pink blush of the garden of Easter, reminding us that resurrection is coming, and joy permeates throughout the congregation.

Lent isn't just about what we give up; it's about what's being born in us. So on this Rose Sunday, consider wearing a shade of pink: hot pink, pastel sneakers, flamingo ties; it doesn't have to match the exact liturgical rose. What a great way to rejoice, even during Lent, and celebrate the coming of Easter.

I recall girls and boys boldly wearing pink in high school, and looking back, I can see that it playfully brought joy and happiness.

On this Rose Sunday, think of the following description in Romans 12 describing the mercy of God moving from doctrine into daily life, forming a community whose thinking, relationships and responses are fundamentally reshaped. Transformation begins in the mind, and love becomes sincere and active.

Be joyous. Celebrate. Wear pink!

Senate votes to require candidates to raise at least half their money within state

By Mark Niesse
Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Republicans in the Georgia Senate have passed a bill that bans candidates from raising more than half of their campaign money from outside the state, a limitation that Democrats said inhibits their fundraising in nationalized elections. Sen. Timothy Bearden, R-Carrollton, said the bill is about preventing non-Georgians from influencing Georgia elections, not about targeting Democrats.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted 33-21 to pass Senate Bill 423, sending it to the state House.

"This legislation promotes greater transparency in campaign finance, curbs the influence of dark money and ensures Georgia elections are driven by Georgians, not by outside forces," Bearden said. "This measure promotes transparency without prohibiting speech."

Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, said Republicans are using their political power to change campaign finance rules for their benefit.

"This is a bald attempt to say that if any Democratic candidate has national support, they need to cut it out," McLaurin said. "Money is money y'all, and big money distorts politics, and this bill does nothing about that."

Democratic candidates in high-profile Georgia races have often received more money than Republican candidates in recent years, according to campaign finance records.

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Estatesales.net for photographs

Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids

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The Pelham Housing Authority is requesting bids from qualified firms for Interior Renovations at GA98-3B Cemetery Road Apartments (18 units) located in Pelham, GA. Invitation for Bids documents may be obtained from the Authority's Contact as follows:

W. Sawyer Shirley
President
National Facility Consultants, Inc.
1225 Johnson Ferry Road,
Suite 460
Marietta, Georgia 30068
Tel: 770-977-4134
wsshirley@icloud.com

Any firms interested in responding should attend a pre-proposal conference at 10:30 a.m. on **March 17, 2026** at the Authority's main office located at 548 Palmer Street, SW, Pelham, Georgia 31779.

To receive a full Invitation for Bids contact the Authority's Contact listed above. Bids are due to the Authority no later than 1:30 p.m. on March 31, 2026 at the Authority's offices. Bid opening will be immediately thereafter.

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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.

“ D F G T U J X U M E O G T L J U O J F M N W X .
V B U D O G Y J A M B T X U O G U U O J
M T W P U O D T L M T J E G T V J R B N J
M A E O G T L D T L D R M T J R J W A . ”
— G W X M B R O B H W J P

Previous Solution: "When my time comes, just skin me and put me up there on Trigger, just as though nothing had ever changed." — Roy Rogers
TODAY'S CLUE: A sɪnəʁ ɪ
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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.

“ M J N H Y N G N V K P M K Z J O I Y C D N
C X W U K M J Y N U X : W Y R Y B P N K V Z
N W O K Z M W U I K F G M H Y B K Z N W O X F . M K ' I
Z Y C G Y H J Y N C X K . ” — T Y K K Y J M H C Y B

Previous Solution: "I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself." — Aldous Huxley
TODAY'S CLUE: A sɪnəʁ ɪ
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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 most free from peril (6)	_____
2 reacting to a bad pun (8)	_____
3 lose, in other words (8)	_____
4 what a photographer wants (6)	_____
5 Kenai and Yucatán (10)	_____
6 not at any future time (9)	_____
7 vacillated wildly (8)	_____

EST SAF OAN ACE MIS
ING SMI NEV ORE NIN
ESA SE GR LES SU
WED LAS ERM PE PL

Saturday's Answers: 1. HIGHLIGHTER 2. SHARDS 3. WARMER 4. UNPUNISHED 5. ABSCONDS 6. ROSSELLINI 7. TUATARA 3/9

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 common pet rodent (6)	_____
2 thinking ahead (8)	_____
3 Nabisco's fig cookies (7)	_____
4 Puerto Rico's currency (6)	_____
5 Oscar nominee Kathleen (6)	_____
6 spy's cover (5)	_____
7 Orville and Wilbur (8)	_____

IAS NG GER ONS PLA
NNI ER NE LL RN
WT AV AR BIL TO
IA RS AL TU DO

Monday's Answers: 1. SAFEST 2. GROANING 3. MISPLACE 4. SMILES 5. PENINSULAS 6. NEVERMORE 7. SEESAWED 3/10

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Sleight of hand
6 Film trivia site
10 __ golf
14 Best Picture Oscar winner starring Mikey Madison
15 Nurture
16 Machu Picchu builder
17 Played on TV again
18 Years, in Latin
19 Aussie greeting
20 Road trip activity with yes or no answers
23 Fashion designer Anna
24 Low-carb diet
25 Bona fide
29 On a cruise ship, maybe
31 Glamping options, for short
34 Uno's predecessor
36 Butter unit
37 Saintry ring of light
38 "Hamilton" actress Phillipa
39 The Big Easy, for short
40 Mother of 41-Down
41 Hasbro product with yellow and red checkers
45 Lair
46 Like some limited-release films
47 Hoot and __
48 Bed size
50 Buddy
51 "You must consider the odds," and what can be said about 20-, 34-, or 41-Across?
59 __ scale: measure of mineral hardness
60 Beat handily
61 Language of Sri Lanka
62 Item on a stage manager's checklist
63 Ilk
64 Pizzeria appliances
65 Participates in a bee

66 Tense and irritable
67 Gossipy person

DOWN

1 Bodega
2 From the top
3 1990s vice president
4 Tehran's country
5 "Who knows"
6 Baghdad citizen
7 Array of course offerings?
8 Great __: big dog
9 Staple of Texas barbecue
10 Finger or toe
11 Splashy hotel amenity?
12 Read a barcode
13 Tropical islets
21 Christmas season
22 Brews enjoyed with scones
25 Felt a workout
26 Hunger for
27 Amateur production
28 "The Residence" star Aduba
29 Torment
30 "If the __ fits ..."

32 Regard highly
33 Ringo of the Beatles
35 "This __ about you"
39 Gp. that sets a zebra among the Lions?
41 Genesis brother
42 Surgical asst.
43 Blacken, as a steak
44 "Anna Karenina" novelist

49 Builders of papery nests
50 Like one who holds grudges
51 Rascals
52 Ripped
53 Word before ring or swing
54 Town
55 Donated
56 Blessing ender
57 Julep herb
58 Disney princess with icy powers

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

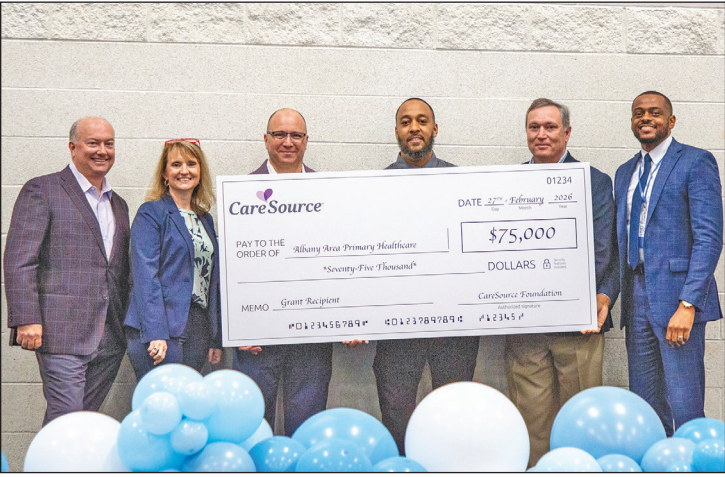
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H E T T O H A L B W N E D
H N O J L O E N N O O E A E
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A V O G I N N V N V H E L
V O N I H V E H V R O N V
O S I O B O W I O I G V W

03/10/26

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By Geoffrey Schorkopf & Matthew Luter
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03/10/26



Special Photos

Officials with Albany Area Primary Health Care Inc., left, and the Sowega Council on Aging have each been awarded \$75,000 as part of the 2025 CareSource Foundation Grant Challenge.

CareSource Foundation awards \$150,000 to strengthen health care access in southwest Georgia

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany Area Primary Health Care Inc. and the Sowega Council on Aging have each been awarded \$75,000 as part of the 2025 CareSource Foundation Grant Challenge.

CareSource is a nonprofit managed care organization serving more than 430,000 Georgians. The CareSource Foundation has awarded these grants as part of its commitment to investing in programs that strengthen access to health care. This grant challenge specifically focused on addressing social drivers of health, strengthening maternal and integrated care, and improving quality of life for people who are aged, blind or disabled.

“Both AAPHC and SCOA align closely with our mission of whole-person care,” David Donohue, president of

CareSource Georgia, said in a news release. “Each organization’s work, respectively, demonstrates how community partnerships can create lasting health improvements at all stages of life.”

AAPHC will use this investment to continue and expand social work engagement, patient navigation, and access to maternal health education and group resources. Their work provides vital support for pregnant women living in rural and/or economically distressed communities, helping reduce barriers to care.

“This grant will enable us to expand programs that connect expecting mothers to critical health and support services,” Clifton Bush, the COO of Albany Area Primary Health Care, said. “This is so critical because it comes at a time when the medical community desperately wants to avoid maternity care deserts forming here in southwest

Georgia. This investment will allow us to continue to further expand the care that we provide for the women and families we serve.”

Grant funding for SCOA, which is dedicated to helping older adults stay active, connected and supported, will help sustain and expand delivery of targeted programs that reduce social isolation, improve mobility and accessibility, and empower older adults to remain engaged in their communities.

“Through this grant, SCOA will be able to expand opportunities and continue coordinating services that promote the well-being and independence of older adults,” Izzie Sadler, the executive director of Sowega Council on Aging, said. “We’re thrilled to work with CareSource to create environments where everyone in our community is embraced and supported.”

Since 2006, the CareSource

Foundation has awarded more than \$35.5 million to nonprofits working to eliminate poverty, deliver essential services to low- and moderate-income families, promote healthy communities and develop innovative solutions for critical health issues to enhance the lives of children, adults and families.

CareSource is a nonprofit, managed-care organization making health care accessible to 430,000 Georgians. The organization offers comprehensive health insurance plans including Medicaid, Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicare to improve its members’ health and well-being. As a mission-driven organization, CareSource is transforming health care with innovative programs that address social drivers of health, prevention and access to care.

For more information, visit www.caresource.com/ga/plans.



Special Logo

Lee County Schools maintain 100% CTAE pathway grad rate

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG — The Georgia Department of Education recently released the 2025 graduation rates for pathway completers, which applies to students who successfully complete all three courses in a career pathway and the associated End of Pathway assessment. Not only did Lee County surpass the state rates in every area, but students maintained a 100% graduation rate for all pathway completers in the Class of 2025.

“I am so proud of our students,” Lee County Board of Education member Trey Newell said. “Lee County High School students participating in Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) courses maintained a 100% graduation rate for career pathway completers.”

The Lee County scores in the Advanced Academic Pathway, World Language Pathway, Fine Arts Pathway and CTAE Pathway came in at 100% across the board. State graduation rates for the pathways were 99.7%, 99.39%, 98.29% and 98.45%, respectively.

Every student in Lee County who completed a pathway also graduated, which exceeds the overall state graduation rate in every area by 12.8 percentage points. This specifically underscores the relevance and impact of Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education opportunities for students, school officials said.

Georgia’s CTAE programs provide a high school experience designed to prepare students for life beyond graduation. Through career pathways, students gain real-world, career-ready skills while earning industry-recognized credentials and participating in work-based

learning and apprenticeship opportunities.

These pathways equip students for a wide range of post-secondary options — whether they choose to continue their education, serve in the military, pursue an apprenticeship, or enter the work force immediately after high school.

In addition to an overall graduation rate for each graduating class, graduation rates are computed annually for career pathway completers in CTAE, advanced academics, world language, and fine arts.

“This news is absolutely a reflection of the continued dedication to academic excellence demonstrated by our teachers, families, leaders, and community as a whole,” Kathleen E.K. Truitt, the superintendent of Lee County Schools, said.

Board of Education member, Fran Walls applauds the Lee County community for being so supportive of students in the system.

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

“Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education programs are a vital part of our school’s

success and our students’ futures,” Kelli Duke, senior director of the system’s Leadership and Learning, 6-12 initiative, said.. “The opportunities they provide for students to have hands-on experiences, acquire real-world skills, and learn about clear pathways to high-demand careers is so important. Seeing our graduates succeed across so many career pathways is a point of pride for our entire school community.”

Holmes issues statement about Labor Commission post

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — With the close of Georgia’s 2026 candidate qualifying period, Labor Commissioner Bárbara Rivera Holmes is now the presumptive Republican nominee for a full term as Georgia Commissioner of Labor. As the sole Republican to qualify ahead of the May 19 primary, Holmes, who advances directly to the general election, issued the following statement:

“Qualifying has officially closed, and I am proud to be the only Republican candidate for Georgia Commissioner of Labor.

“For the past year, I have had the honor of serving Georgians after being appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp. In that time, we have driven historic employment, cut through outdated bureaucracy, and begun transforming the Georgia Department of Labor into a modern,

responsive, 21st-century agency.

“This isn’t about politics; it’s about results. Georgia’s work force is stronger, our employers are growing, and we are building a department that moves at the speed of business and expands opportunities for every Georgian, regardless of zip code.”

Holmes has served since 2025, and last fall released the agency’s comprehensive strategic plan. She now brings her record of active leadership and her strategic vision for Georgia’s future directly to voters as the campaign moves toward the general election.

“Our strategic plan is clear and focused: Unleashing economic power by empowering small businesses and communities as engines of growth; restoring accountability by eliminating delays and rooting out fraud to ensure fairness for workers and employers; and modernizing government by replacing



Barbara Rivera Holmes

outdated systems with high-speed technology that delivers efficient, reliable service,” she said.

“The work continues, and I am ready for what is ahead. Onward.”

For more information about Holmes, visit www.BarbaraforGeorgia.com.



University of Georgia admits Class of 2030

By Wes Mayer

wesmayer@uga.edu

ATHENS — The University of Georgia’s Office of Admissions has admitted more than 15,400 students to the Class of 2030, out of a record 51,600 applications.

Key facts on the Class of 2030:

This admitted class includes students from 156 of Georgia’s 159 counties.

The admitted class includes students from more than 2,800 high schools, representing all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C.

Admitted students have an average ACT score of 32.47 and an average SAT score of 1,421.

On average, 93% of admitted students’ grades were A’s, and 77.5% completed the most rigorous curriculum available at their high school, including Advanced Placement or dual enrollment courses.

“The University of Georgia exists to educate future generations and serve the people of our state,” UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. “The outstanding students admitted to the Class of 2030 represent the next chapter in our institution’s storied history, and I am excited to see all they will accomplish after they arrive on our campus.”

UGA has a target to enroll about 6,250 students this fall.

Senators vote to expand Georgia’s ‘stand your ground’ laws

By Mark Niesse

Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia Senate has approved a bill that broadens “stand your ground” self-defense protections, a proposal that critics said would help protect defendants such as those who murdered Ahmaud Arbery.

The 30-23 vote fell along party lines, with Republicans supporting the rights of Georgians to use force when needed during confrontations.

The legislation, Senate Bill 572, would allow people to claim immunity from prosecution soon after they’re charged, and cases involving claims of self-defense would only continue if there’s clear and convincing evidence of a crime.

Democrats opposed the bill, saying it would further em-

power those accused of wrongdoing during shootings.

They cited the case of Arbery, a black man who was killed while jogging in Brunswick in 2020 by three white men, one of whom was a former police officer.

“If this bill had been law, it would have made it very difficult to prosecute those who are the murderers of Ahmaud Arbery,” state Sen. Kim Jackson, D-Stone Mountain, said.

State Sen. Brian Strickland, R-McDonough, said the bill is needed to ensure that those accused of crimes are presumed innocent until found guilty.

“Those that murdered Ahmaud Arbery were found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt,” he said. “Even though they tried to raise this defense, the jury still said they were guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.”

The legislation next advances to the state House.

House votes down gambling bill

By Ross Williams

Georgia Recorder

If you want to put your money down on your favorite sports team, you’re going to have to break state law.

Sports betting is illegal in Georgia, and it’s likely to stay that way after a bill to legalize the practice went down in flames Friday in the state House, falling short ahead of a key legislative deadline.

The measure needed 120 votes to pass but only received 63. The no votes were 98.

Sports betting is a perennial issue at the state Capitol, and it doesn’t fall neatly along party lines. Some conservatives support it because they say it will be a boon to the state’s economy, while others oppose it because of moral or religious reasons. Some representatives from both parties say that online gambling sites exploit addiction for profit, while others argue that bringing what is currently an under-the-table practice into the light will allow for regulation and help for people dealing with addiction.

The bill, House Resolution 450, would have sent proceeds to a special fund to be spent on pre-K and other educational programs with a portion set aside to benefit programs that seek to prevent and treat addiction.

Dunwoody Democratic Rep. Long Tran cast the issue as a matter of national security.

Friday was Crossover Day, the final day for a bill to pass from one chamber to the other for it to have a smooth path toward becoming law. The legislative session is set to end April 2.