



Perspectives
Wayne Fowler
• **Page 4A**

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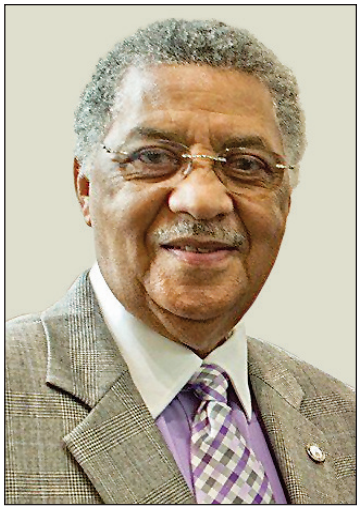
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• **Page 8A**



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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026



JOHN WHITE

John White: A voice that moved from the anchor's desk to the state Capitol

By Michael Ferguson II
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ALBANY -- Southwest Georgia has lost one of its true originals in former Georgia state Rep. John White, a man whose life cannot be measured by one title alone.

White was a broadcaster,

legislator, civil rights leader, public servant, mentor, and one of Albany's most consequential political figures. Before he carried Albany's concerns into the halls of the Georgia Capitol, White first made history in front of the camera. He became local television station WALB's first black male

anchor, opening a door at a time when even visibility on television carried the weight of struggle, resistance and representation.

But John White did not stop at being seen. He insisted on being heard.

As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives,

White served for more than two decades and helped shape conversations far beyond Albany. He played a role in making Ray Charles' "Georgia on My Mind" the official state song. He also stated that he wrote and introduced the Georgia Lottery Bill in the House of Representatives in 1977, an

idea that, years later, would become one of the most consequential education funding mechanisms in modern Georgia history.

That point matters. Before the lottery became scholarship checks, pre-K classrooms, cam-

See **WHITE**, 2A

City of Dawson unable to produce records on excavator repairs, surplus equipment sales

By Kathryn Crockett
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DAWSON -- Questions surrounding the city of Dawson's inoperable mini excavator, missing maintenance documentation and the disposal of surplus equipment have continued to grow following an April 9 city council discussion in which city officials acknowledged the machine remained out of service despite previous repair efforts.

During the meeting, interim City Manager Roxie Powell told council members the city's mini excavator was unusable and that the city had purchased a rebuilt motor that "won't turn on." Powell also stated the city had attempted additional repairs, including replacing the starter, but the machine still would not operate. When Councilwoman Sondra Walker questioned whether the city had effectively

spent the \$10,000 previously approved by the council on an engine without fixing the excavator, Powell replied, "Yes, ma'am."

The discussion arose as city officials considered using privately owned equipment to complete utility work because the city lacked functioning equipment to perform the work itself.

However, in a follow-up conversation after the meeting, City Attorney Tommy Coleman confirmed that no replacement engine was ever purchased for the mini excavator, though documents verifying the initial purchase request or financial statements confirming that information were not made available.

The excavator remained stored at the city barn on April 15, according to photographs taken at the site. The images appeared

See **EXCAVATOR**, 2A



Special Photo: Kathryn Crockett

A starter visible on the city of Dawson's mini excavator appears noticeably newer than surrounding engine components in photographs taken April 15 at the city barn. City records provided through Open Records requests confirmed the purchase of a replacement starter, though no documentation related to a replacement engine or additional repair work had been provided at the time of publication.

Freddie Powell Sims: Support candidates with integrity, character

By Freddie Powell Sims
Special to The Albany Herald

DAWSON -- While growing up in rural Georgia, the single most important lessons learned from my parents were always embedded in integrity and personal character. At that particular time, little did I know that, eventually, those lessons would propel me into a life of full-time political service.

While entering into the deepest abyss of political campaigning, voters are reminded that political integrity is the most important characteristic of a candidate. Political integrity comprises honesty, accountability and fairness. It is a commitment to serving the people, taking care of their needs and challenges. It's never ever about a politician's desire to seek personal gain.

Unprincipled politicians will present themselves as the "cure-all" for everything that "others" did wrong, even when

See **SIMS**, 2A



File Photo

Outgoing state Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, right, encourages District 12 voters to support Ed Brown to take over the seat she is relinquishing at the end of the year.

U.S. Senate candidates make Albany stops on campaign trail

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY -- U.S. Reps. Earl "Buddy" Carter and Mike Collins have a couple of beliefs in common: one, that U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff should be sent home in the November election.

They are also both ardent supporters of President Donald Trump.

They are split, however, on who should be the Republican candidate to carry the party banner in November.

Collins, who has served in House

District 10 since 2023, and Carter, the District 1 U.S. representative since 2025, two of the five candidates seeking the Republican nomination, were recently in Albany to drum up support. The other candidates on the May 19 Republican primary ballot are John F. Coyne III, Derek Dooley and Jon McCollum.

Carter, a pharmacist, pointed to his experience as a Pooler City Council member, mayor, state representative and state senator.

"I've been learning my lessons," said Carter, who drew an audience of about 12 at Austin's Firegrill & Oyster Bar. "(I support) President Trump and his America-first policies. 'This is an important election. We lost the last three (Georgia) Senate races. We've got to win this seat back. ... That's going to be me.'"

During his address to the audience, Carter alluded to a House ethics in-

See **CAMPAIGN**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

U.S. Rep. Mike Collins speaks with Cindy Summerlin during a recent campaign stop in Albany.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Edward Zwick, left, has a conversation with U.S. Senate candidate Earl "Buddy" Carter during a recent campaign stop for the current U.S. representative from Pooler.

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

Classifieds	11A
Comics.....	6A-7A
Crosswords.....	6A-7A, 11A
Horoscopes	3A
Obituaries	11A
Perspectives	4A
Sports	9A-10A
Squawkbox.....	3A
TV - What to Watch.....	5A
Weather	3A

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From 1A

SIMS

they had an opportunity to participate in making things right. Political integrity means choosing to do right by your constituents, although your decisions may have been unpopular amongst your political colleagues.

Placing constituents first is invariably the desired outcome of political engagement. Therefore, in this season of political outreach, select candidates who are truthful to voters. Individual candidates who honor commitments, make decisions based on good solid principles rather than political convenience and personal gain, will serve southwest Georgians best as political leaders.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTION OF BEER LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Dallas Brothers LLC, doing business as Strokes Sim Golf, located at 2709 Gil-lionville Rd., Albany, Georgia 31721, has made application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for the on-premises consumption sell of beer for consid-eration and approval by the appropriate governing authority. This notice shall be published in the Al-bany Herald on May 14th, 16th and 19th.

When political candidates speak and behave in unprin-cipled and unscrupulous be-havior, it speaks volumes about the kind of elected official they will become ... if elected. Once elected, their agendas quickly change. Constituents’ voices no longer matter, and the political seat becomes a “position of power” for the elected, rather than a posi-tion of service for the people.

These masters of disguise, will undoubtedly present fab-ricated roles of political en-gagement. I learned early on what a difficult task it was navigating this big and some-times scary world of poli-tics. Consequently, the most important lessons I learned dealt with integrity, account-ability, ethical respect for the law, and concern for the people that I represented. I also learned that political is-sues are best resolved when elected officials are held ac-countable for what they say and for what they do, and that they should always take ethi-cal conduct seriously.

Thus, let us again be re-minded that political integ-riety is the cornerstone of de-mocracy. It strengthens local, state and national govern-ment and builds commu-nities that flourish. When leaders place service above self-interest, constituent chal-lenges improve, quality of liv-ing improves, human rights are protected, and justice is promoted.

I also ask that the citizens of District 12 choose wisely this political season and that they vote for Edward Culin Brown to continue the work I have done as Senator of District 12.

From 1A

WHITE

paign slogans, and accepted public policy, there had to be someone willing to introduce the idea. White was one of

Dougherty County Police issue warning about credit card skimming devices

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Swiping a card at the gas pump or inside a store to make a purchase can be convenient, but it can also cause headaches and potential financial loss when scammers get involved. And skimming credit cards is a billion-dollar problem for U.S. financial institutions and consumers.

Currently, the Dougherty County Police Department is investigating a reported credit card skimmer discovered on a card machine at the 5731 New-ton Road Dollar General store. Shoppers who used a debit or



File Photo

The Dougherty County Police Department is investigating a reported credit card skimmer found at a local Dollar General store. Customers who used cards at the location are advised to check their credit and debit card accounts for unusual activity.

credit card at that location are asked to monitor their bank ac-counts for unusual or unauthor-ized activity. Those who notice

suspicious transactions should immediately contact their fi-nancial institution and notify law enforcement, police said.

From 1A

CAMPAIGN

vestigation regarding allega-tions that Collins’ office re-tained an employee who did not perform duties for com-pensation received and that the employee had a person-al relationship with Collins’ chief of staff.

“Collins is under investi-gation for misusing taxpayer funds,” Carter said. “I don’t have that baggage.”

The Collins campaign did not respond to a request for com-ment about the allegations.

In recent polling, Collins has been the frontrunner, with a May 5 Quantus Insights poll showing him at 33%, trailed by Dooley at 23% and Carter at 14%. A Cygnal poll released a day prior had Collins at 30%,

followed by Dooley at 12% and Carter at 11%.

Both Carter and Collins, who had about 30 show up at the Merry Acres Inn conference center, say that they agree with the president’s decision on hostilities against Iran. Both pivoted to the war when asked about gasoline prices and the impact on the U.S. economy.

“First of all, I would applaud the president for what he’s doing with the war,” Carter said. “This is a 47-year-old war that should be ended.

“I would say to you this presi-dent is saving millions of lives in the future by ensuring that Iran doesn’t have a nuclear weapon. Iran is the biggest state sponsor of terror.”

Collins, a second-generation operator of a trucking opera-tion in Jackson, Georgia, also praised the president for taking

on Iran, something that other presidents avoided.

“Just think if they had got-ten a nuclear weapon,” Col-lins said during an interview with a reporter following his remarks to the audience.

The president is also work-ing other angles to lower the price of energy, the represen-tative said.

“He’s putting regulations in place so we can be energy inde-pendent,” Collins said. “Presi-dent Trump will go down as the best president in my life-time. He’ll be one of the best presidents we’ve ever had.”

The candidate urged voters to get out to the polls to sup-port him, saying that MAGA (Make America Great Again) voters have a low propensity to get out for midterm contests. MAGA voters, who tend to “only show up when Trump

is on the ballot or a candidate (endorsed) by Trump is on the ballot” are one of the groups that will vote in the primary, he said.

The other group is Atlanta suburbanites “who just want somebody to go up to D.C. and get something done.”

The candidate also refer-enced his authorship of the Laken Riley Act.

Collins also described his voting record as the most con-servative of any of the five can-didates, and said that he is the Republican who can defeat Os-soff, who is seeking a second six-year term in November.

“At the end of the day, we’re going to continue to stay in first place, we’re going to be the nominee and we’re going to send Jon Ossoff home,” Collins said. “Put the (best) candidate in there.”

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.

“ H N K Q G F R L U G V F U L N Y N K V D J I V N
G F Y K N R X N K , E N T I F K N D M R G V K G M
D U L D X D L F I R K B G V G B N V Q N Y V Q N U H N
T I U I T T G J Z R D K Q I R J G K V I U S V Q D U B . ”
— B Y N V I V Q F U E N Y B

Previous Solution: “I cross out words so you will see them more; the fact that they are obscured makes you want to read them.” — Jean-Michel Basquiat

TODAY'S CLUE: j s i e n b e q

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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.

“ W R A M O C W A B H X D M F U T M B F A U T C
P R X S R O N N A U Z A H X D . . . W R A M O C W A B
H X D ’ N N Z B X P O C O S X Y A T F O U (O U T
B A Z B A C C O C O R D Y O U) . ” — S X N F U I X C W

Previous Solution: “We should not underestimate ourselves, because if lots of individuals go together then we can accomplish almost anything.” — Greta Thunberg

TODAY'S CLUE: H s i a l e n b e q

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From 1A

EXCAVATOR

to show a newer starter in-stalled on the machine.

Information later obtained from Yanmar Compact Equip-ment North America indicated the engine currently in the ma-chine was the original factory-installed engine. In an email

response, Product Support Specialist Blake Eaton stated, “Engine serial No. 69736 is original to the machine.”

The statement from Yanmar aligns with Coleman’s clar-i-fication that no replacement engine had been installed on the machine, despite state-ments made by Powell during the April 9 council discussion referencing the purchase of a \$10,000 rebuilt motor.

documentation provided by the city in response to those requests was the purchase or-der for the starter and an email response addressed to former city superintendent Michael Knight outlining pricing for replacement motors directly from the manufacturer.

Questions surrounding the excavator also have high-lighted broader concerns over city equipment, maintenance ca-pabilities and inventory tracking.

made during the April 9 meet-ing, Powell had previously pre-sented a request for \$10,000.

No documentation establish-ing the excavator’s purchase date, maintenance history, repair history or age has been provided by the city.

The equipment concerns extend beyond the excava-tor itself.

A purchase order provided by the city confirms the city of Dawson purchased a “Start-er for Mini Excavator” from Whatley Oil & Auto on March 31 for \$381.37.

No invoices, work orders, engine replacement records, maintenance records or doc-umentation confirming the purchase or installation of a replacement engine — beyond the starter purchase order — had been provided by the city at the time of publication.

Information related to the excavator repairs, equipment records and financial state-ments was initially request-ed through an Open Records request submitted April 22. Following a May 4 meeting with Powell, a narrower re-vised request was submitted seeking documentation spec-ifically tied to the excavator repairs, purchase approvals, open purchase accounts, sur-plus equipment and related financial records.

As of publication, the only

During the April 9 council meeting, officials discussed the city’s inability to complete cer-tain repairs internally because it lacked functioning equip-ment or sufficient resources.

The excavator issue emerged during discussion of a sewer line installation on Sixth Av-enue, where Powell said the city would likely need to rely on privately owned equipment to complete the work.

In a subsequent May 4 dis-cussion, Powell described the mini excavator as “some years old” and estimated it was “may-be six years or more,” though no verification was provided.

The comments came as city officials debated whether in-vesting additional money into the machine made financial sense. Powell stated during that conversation that replac-ing the engine could cost “four or five thousand” dollars, while a new machine could cost ap-proximately \$40,000. How-ever, according to statements

According to inventory and disposal information most recently provided by Powell, the city previously disposed of several pieces of equipment and vehicles, including a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado reported-ly sold to Anthony Brown for \$100; a backhoe, forklift and two military pumps report-edly sold to Davis Atkins for \$2,000; and an “older model John Deere Utility Vehicle” re-portedly sold to Dennis Scott and paid for by Rodney Gard-ner for \$300.

During the May 4 dis-cussion, Powell said records ex-isted showing the transactions and said some payments were made by check, while at least one payment included cash. However, no bank records, de-posit receipts, canceled checks or other financial documenta-tion verifying the transactions had been provided at the time of publication.

The status and location of additional surplus inventory listed on a January 2026 in-ventory document also had not been independently verified.

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A harsh approach could seem justified for a few hours, but that will likely rapidly shift and could leave you feeling remorseful — choices bring consequences. A financial plan could be really coming together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Rising day scores mean rising opportunity if your individual cycles are also strong. A centered mindset and a well-crafted plan can take you far. Process the past fully and it becomes treasure, not baggage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A huge new A-ha could move your needle and give you a better way forward. Some people's brutal honesty can be more about the brutality than the honesty, notice which seems like the main point.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Form a think tank with people who are aligned, solid intel could be shared and acted on, with notable progress made. People out in the world may seem less wacky or dysregulated today and more focused.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You might feel like you're finally getting some helpful answers after endless frustration. A new approach is more likely to be the right one now. Talk through solutions and pool the best ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be moving away from apathy or despair and into aligned action — it's a much better place to be. A tangle with others could be gradually resolving from being strictly an ego battle into a more solution-focused space.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A lot could come together and finalize, you might feel like you're being set free after being under mountains of stress. Even though life will always send challenges, some of them eventually resolve.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Serve with love, put your caring and devotion into tangible action. When mundane tasks are elevated to spiritual actions, every tiny thing has

meaning and the time is spent in love, not resentment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Creativity could be flooding out of you, along with a carefree and joyous vibe. Concurrently, you may find excellent clarity and focus for tasks that need to get done today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you can't duck out and play today, do it for an hour. If you can't do it for an hour today, promise yourself a time out as soon as you can manage it. Outside-the-box solutions could be wow now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check your motives before you speak — you might think they're clean but there could be another motivation in there too. When you keep things clean, the Universe doesn't need to dish out hard lessons.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Speak from grounded clarity but always leave room for new intel which could require a reset. Work on any old scarcity mentality that keeps you in fear and lack -- releasing inner blocks allows for outer manifestation.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The next few months could bring easier times than the first part of the year, which should be welcome. You're more likely to be drawn to simple and practical solutions during May. Step away from a situation that's a loser for everyone, as soon as it's in your rear view some wonderful opportunities could blow in your door. Big change, fame or increased popularity is the first one. The second is improved discipline and focus. The third is more money. There additional cash flow arriving by mid-June. All these could put you on a different path, and you'll want to consider the path and needed steps as you get near the end of June. Early July puts the Universe squarely in your corner, considerable protection and assistance should be yours. Stay centered and balanced late in the month. Early August could bring a surprise.



1607 - Jamestown, Virginia is settled as the 1st permanent English settlement

1610 - Henry IV of France is assassinated and Louis XIII takes the throne

1796 - Edward Jenner administers the first smallpox vaccination

1804 - The Lewis & Clark Expedition set out from St. Louis and travel up the Missouri River and on to the Pacific Coast

1889 - The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is launched in London.

1897 - The Stars and Strips Forever is first performed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1939 - Lina Medina, of Peru becomes the youngest confirmed mother in medical history at the age of five

1942 - US Women's Army

Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) forms

1943 - A Japanese submarine sinks the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur off the coast of Queensland

1955 - The Warsaw Pack is signed by Eight Communist countries, Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania

1963 - Kuwait joins the United Nations as the 111th member

1964 - Underground America Day is observed for the first time

1973 - U.S. Supreme Court approves equal rights to females in the military

1973 - The U.S. first space station, Skylab is launched

1980 - The U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services begins operation

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Ascension Day (of Jesus)
- International Dylan Thomas Day
- National Buttermilk Biscuit Day
- National Chicken Dance

- Day
- Shades Day
- The Stars and Stripes Forever Day
- Underground America Day

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are several good protections against temptations, but the surest is cowardice."

Mark Twain,
writer (1835-1910)

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

Roy Lane was the last really good city manager Albany had and likely the last we will ever have. No qualified city manager will locate to a city with the school and crime problems Albany has, nor will he risk his career working for city commissioners with no business background and whose main focus is taking taxpayer revenue and turning it into entitlement programs.

Rick Jackson should be deported for stealing Medicare funds.

Do you notice "Cash for your house" signs at every intersection? These scam artists target senior citizens in financial distress, and it is disgusting. It is simply unimaginable that our city commissioners and city manager allow these crooks to run their scams in our city.

I hope ICE doesn't invade my yard and arrest my Mexican Petunias.

City street sweepers today on Golf Course and Ashford Drive. It is also trash pick-up day on those streets, so the sweeper is having to go in and around the trash bins in the streets, which means he is getting about half of the streets swept. Wouldn't one think the managers of each of those departments could coordinate that a little better? I mean, all they would have to do is look at the schedules of each department ... a little common sense and effort.

Kudos to Feeding the Valley. I see that they are doing a new food drive. Those donations will go a long way at places like the Albany Rescue Mission, BJ's and Byne.

Bruster's new owners increased prices 33%. The new FLOST will make it 35%. Ice cream is a luxury middle-income Albany cannot afford when parents stand in line for bread. Goodbye, Brusters.

Why is Joe Biden always blamed for any and everything that goes wrong on Trump's watch? Biden has not been president since Jan. 21, 2025. When are every business failure, gas hike, high grocery prices, war in Iran, and COVID deaths going to land rightfully at the feet of the current occupant of the Oval Office?

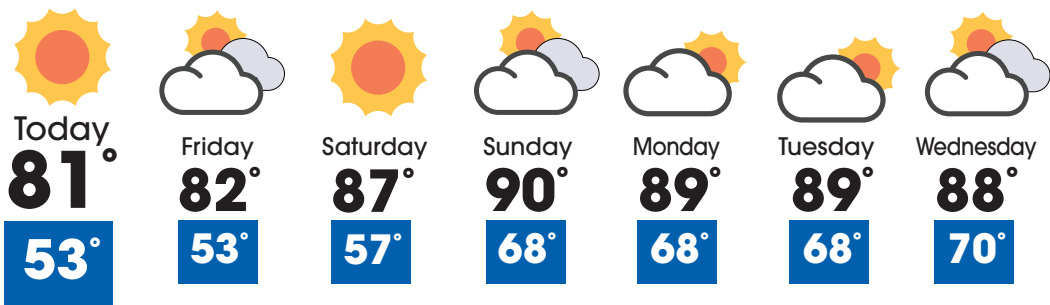
Bath and Body Works in Albany Square should work on your customer service, manager included. Customers spend money when they're happy and treated nice.

Vote no on FLOST. The numbers don't work in Albany's economy, demographics and under municipal budget mismanagement. Its supportive assertions will not hold up, as implementation will negatively change those assertions. Bad idea and misrepresented.

If the Democrats win the midterms, this country is doomed.

It is sad that Albany/Dougherty has to rely on tax dollars to fund new housing and new commercial property development. Whatever happened to private enterprise wanting to build in our community? Phoebe, the mayor and Sanford Bishop can slap themselves on the back all they want, but Albany needs private contractors to build homes that are not being paid for with tax dollars.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Nervous business

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic says it's tough to work for a nervous boss, especially if you're the reason he's nervous. I suppose having a

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

partner who seems reluctant to draw trumps would make anybody nervous, but it can be mandatory to wait.

Against six hearts, West led the king of spades, and South took dummy's ace and was faced with two losers: a spade and the ace of diamonds. He cashed the A-K of trumps and huddled when West discarded.

LAST SPADE

South then took the A-K of clubs, as North fidgeted, and led a third club from dummy. East followed low, and South ... finessed with his ten. North shut his eyes, but all was well: When West showed out, South took the queen to pitch dummy's last spade and ruffed a spade in dummy. He lost only a diamond, making six.

Advice Columnist

Aging couple's calendar is too full

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: So often we read questions from people seeking friends and how to do that. We have the opposite problem. How do we gracefully say no to all of the askers?

My husband and I are in our mid-80s and 70s, respectively, and have a problem we feel lucky to have, but aren't sure how to resolve with love and respect.

We are grateful for the many friends we've made over the years in our professional and personal lives, volunteering and teaching (my husband). Every week we receive invitations to have dinners, lunches or coffee with many of them. We love them and wish them well, but now we're tired and our lives are full enough.

For example, my husband meets either in person, on Zoom or by phone with more than 10 people weekly. I have nerve issues that make speaking increasingly more painful, so I dislike meals or phone calls. I've had people respond negatively when I suggested keeping in touch by email. My husband and I agree that it's over the top, and we choose to slow down. But how?

— Grateful and Tired Now

Dear Grateful: It's so healthy that you're recognizing and honoring your impulses here. Friendships have seasons, as does our capacity for social engagement. It's good that you're listening to the parts of yourselves that want to commit energy elsewhere.

For friends with whom you're close, consider a brief, proactive conversation before the next invite. You can tell them that you feel grateful for their invites and don't take them for

granted, but that you want to let them know about a change you're experiencing. You don't have to go into great detail, but you might say something like, "We're more likely to decline invites and I hope you understand that it doesn't reflect any ambivalence toward you."

Invite them to respect and respond to your changes by finding new ways of staying in touch, like the emailing that you mentioned. Hopefully the context will help people understand your request. If someone is still responding negatively to the suggestion of email after this, that's a blockage that they need to resolve for themselves. You can ask, "what would you suggest?" or you can just let it be.

For more casual or professional acquaintances, you may want to reset expectations on a case-by-case basis by saying something like, "we're declining now and will be doing so more moving forward. Health challenges and the changing paces of our lives are asking us to slow down and we're listening. We hope you understand it's not personal."

Dear Eric: I was part of a group of 10 moms in a community. We were all close but five of us were very close and the "social leaders" of the group. Just to differentiate, call the group "The Five."

A woman moved into the neighborhood that one of The Five knew. From the very start this woman made me uncomfortable. I tried to shake it off and hung out with them a couple of times, but it was just awful. I mentioned it to the other three moms (not the one who knew her). I was told that I was being unfair and judgmental.

I decided I would step back and let them be friends, hop-

South gave himself a chance for 12 tricks. He had to assume that East had four clubs as well as the missing trump so South could effectively pitch a spade from dummy while dummy still had a trump. A 3-3 club break wouldn't help.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S K Q 10 9 7 3 H 2 D A 8 4 2 C 5 3. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one spade and he bids two clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: This decision is close. A rebid of two spades would be reasonable; if partner's hand is unsuitable, eight tricks at spades might be your limit. Since you have good spade intermediates and a side ace, you might jump to three spades, invitational to game. Partner might hold J4, AQ863, 76, AK102. South dealer N-S vulnerable



Eric Thomas

ing we could also continue our friendship, too. Instead, they all dropped me. They unfriended me on social media and no one was interested in going for so much as a coffee, let alone brunch.

Now, six months later, the newcomer convinced the mom she knew to get rid of two of the other three moms. And they have turned to me, apologizing for how they treated me and saying they would like another chance. But I have no interest in rekindling these "friendships".

Am I being too harsh?
— Former Friend

Dear Friend: The dissolution of these friendships seems to have escalated really quickly, and your former friends had their feet firmly planted on the gas pedal. It's no wonder you feel less than compelled to start again. It would be different if things had simply petered out and they were looking to rebuild. But their actions — the unfriending, the social ostracization — were unkind and extreme, at least from your telling.

If you have no interest in starting over, forcing yourself to grin and bear a reunion isn't likely to get you very far. Now, if you do believe there's something to salvage here, once bruised feelings heal and amends are made, it could be worth thinking about what "another chance" looks like. What can the friendship be moving forward? And what do you need from these former friends to be able to trust them?

But again, if you'd rather put all of this behind you, there's nothing wrong with telling them "thanks but no thanks."

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 rerichthomas.com.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

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LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Understanding the limitations of human finitude

"You are enough" is a catch phrase of this cultural moment. It is a response to the epidemic of unfair comparisons and unrealistic expectations. It is frustrating, to say the least, to feel like a failure. But is a cliché ego boost the remedy?

Do you understand "finitude," i.e., the limitations and finiteness of the human condition? You can "be all you can be" but not more. You are created with boundaries – of time, space, strength, and ability. That suggests human finitude is a gift from the Creator, not a deficiency; a feature, not a flaw.

A disordered view of human capacity manifests itself in overscheduled children who must be good at everything. It promotes dehumanizing practices in the workplace. It contributes to burnout in relationships, reduction in church involvement, and a defeated view of life. There is nothing wrong with taking delight in productivity. But you are wise to know when planning, resilience, and hard work have done all they can.

Does your lifestyle suggest you are in denial of your finitude? The Adam and Eve story in the Bible reveals the human struggle with overgrasp, which plagues us to this day. The serpent told Eve to eat the fruit so that "your eyes will be opened and you will be like God." (Gen. 3:5) What tempted her was the promise that she could know and be more than her human finitude would allow. Was she thinking,

"I am enough" as she reached for equality with God?

Former Sen. Ben Sasse is living with a brutal reminder of human limitations. He spoke about his cancer with Ross Douthat on the "Interesting Times" podcast. He said, "Things are not right in my soul. My soul thinks Ben should be God, and I want that to die. ... Cancer is a stake against my delusional self-idolatry."

He spoke of the hubris of self-reliance and added, "I now, in the midst of this disease, know much more the truth of my finitude than I ever let myself believe in the past."

So, how do you understand and embrace your finitude without the searing focus of terminal cancer? What is the remedy for unrealistic expectations? The contented believer says, "You are God and I am not." You rejoice knowing "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him." (2 Pet. 1:3) Pride carries you beyond the limits of your ability. Faith says, "Apart from you, I can do nothing." (John 15:5)

God created you to learn, achieve, and produce. Resilience and wisdom are quality traits. But so are patience, peace and faithfulness. Embrace your finitude by trusting God to complete you with everything pertaining to life and godliness. He is enough.



FOWLER

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

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ EDWARD BROWN

My promise to southwest Georgia

Families across Albany, Americus, Camilla, Dawson, Edison, Fort Gaines, and communities throughout our region have seen first-hand the pressures of rising costs, limited health-care access, and the struggle to find good-paying jobs close to home.

As an economist, I know how policy decisions — both at the state and federal levels — directly impact everyday life. I also understand that economic policy is not just about numbers on a page — it is about whether families can afford groceries, whether small businesses can survive, and whether young people can build a future in the community that raised them.

Our region is filled with hard-working families, farmers, educators, healthcare workers, students, and entrepreneurs who care deeply about southwest Georgia. This is why I believe our future should be built on opportunity, growth, and investment in our people. We need stronger support for our small businesses, better work-force partnerships with our colleges and technical schools, expanded healthcare access, and economic development that benefits our rural communities instead of leaving them behind.

But building a better southwest Georgia not just about crafting effective policy. It is also about listening. It is about showing up, hearing directly from the community, and working honestly toward solutions. For too long, communities like ours have heard promises during election season only to feel forgotten once the votes have been counted. That ends now.

I will never stand before you and promise things I cannot deliver. I will never insult your intelligence with talking points designed for headlines instead of real results. If there is a challenge we cannot solve, I will tell you the truth. If compromise is necessary, I will explain why. If I make a mistake, I will own it.

Accountability should not be rare in public service; it should be expected.

So my promise to you is this: I will do everything in my power to lift up the people of southwest Georgia, and I will do so transparently. I will work every day to make southwest Georgia stronger economically, healthier as a community, and better prepared for the future. I cannot promise perfection. But I can promise honesty, effort, accessibility, and relentless advocacy for the people of District 12.

At the end of the day, elected office is about service. It is about improving lives and leaving communities better than you found them. That is the standard I will hold myself to every single day if entrusted with the honor of serving you in the Georgia Senate.

God bless you all.
Edward Brown
Candidate for Georgia State Senate, District 12



BROWN

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ WILL THAULT

A dreamer's anthem, a warrior's creed

I joined Turner Broadcasting in early 1980, just months before CNN went live with 24/7 news, birthing a new era of television journalism.

On my first day at work, the first person I met as I walked into the lobby of SuperStation WTBS was its owner. Sporting a wide grin, below his Rhett Butler pencil-thin moustache, he reached out his hand to shake mine and said, "Hi, I'm Ted Turner. What's your name?" I responded in kind, followed by a polite, "Mr. Turner," to which he quickly said, "Call me Ted."

Turned out, this was a regular routine for Ted. When in town, he'd hang out in the lobby first thing in the morning to greet any visitor or employee who happened to walk through the door. The cynic in me reasoned that it also might be to catch any of his employees coming in late for work. Maybe that was so to a certain extent, but after getting to really know Ted, I soon realized that the hands-on approach was emblematic of his bigger-than-life character.

The Ted the public saw wasn't an act. He was high-energy, full-tilt all the time, and that exuberance was irresistibly contagious. As a culture, Turner employees not only had to, but wanted to, work hard to make Ted's dreams come true. They became our dreams as well.

We felt privileged to be on the team of the most charismatic media pioneer of the age: the modern-day Pathfinder, who was turning Cable TV, a fledgling industry back then, into a major alternative to conventional over-the-air broadcast TV. Ted even recorded a song titled "I Was Cable When Cable Wasn't Cool."

It's hard to describe the media frenzy Ted created. Perhaps all the AI excitement today might come close as a comparison to the buzz Ted generated with his radical onslaught on existing and emerging technology.

Ted passed away at the age of 87 last week and has been eulogized by many media outlets, some of whom were once fierce competitors. An ironic footnote here: While struggling in its first year, it was rumored within CNN that Dan Rather with CBS was the one who first sarcastically nicknamed the fledgling operation the Chicken Noodle Network. True or not, Rather watched CNN eclipse CBS News in credibility, reach, and influence within the decade, and now, after Turner's death, "CBS Sunday Morning" airs one of the more substantive tributes. By contrast, CNN itself, as of press time, remains all but silent by comparison, limiting its memorials to brief fillers or "shorts" scattered throughout its regularly scheduled programming.

One hopes the network will eventually produce a primetime special that properly honors their founder.

Most of the tributes that have aired have focused on Ted's creation of CNN, as well they should. But they fell short of revealing the true nature of the man with time-worn platitudes like "visionary" or "maverick." To be sure, some of his off-the-cuff/off-color comments justly earned him the monikers "Captain Outrageous" (a play on "Courageous," the name of Ted's America's Cup yacht) and one he really disliked, "Mouth of the South." But I think "Riverboat Gambler" comes closer to the mark.

Think about it. He competes for the America's Cup and wins; buys a struggling UHF TV station in Atlanta with limited capital; negotiates a leveraged buy-out deal with the Atlanta Braves, perennial losers, ultimately turning them into World Series winners; against all odds, "goes to war" with CBS, NBC and ABC, with the launch of a 24/7 television news network; follows with the purchase of MGM's film library which nearly breaks him. The result? A gambler who plays the odds and wins.

He once said during a speech at the National Press Club, "If we fail' doesn't exist in my vocabulary."

He was a man of action, asserting, "The best advice is never to do anything. You'll never get in trouble if you don't do anything. On the other hand, you'll never get anywhere either."

My role at Turner Broadcasting called for me to meet one-on-one with Ted quite often in his office my first year there. Typically, the topic of discussion would be an OTO (one-time-only) or limited series production that he had in mind. Sometimes he'd suggest an unorthodox way of covering the cost of the project, which I would think was a perfectly brilliant idea at the time.

I came to believe that he had a corner on Pixie Dust, because it'd usually fall off somewhere between the time I left his office and got back to mine. Regardless, after the "dust" had settled, the unorthodox way always seemed to work.

On one of those occasions, as a means of inspiring me, he picked up a little music box with Pinocchio standing on top, performing for Jiminy Cricket on a concertina. It chimed the tune, "When You Wish Upon a Star." This figurine always sat on his desk, along with a mini-billboard (facing his guests) that read, "Either Lead, Follow, or Get Out of The Way." I think both were like touchstones symbolizing Ted's true nature: The tune from the music box was his dreamer's anthem, and the message on the mini-billboard was his warrior's creed.

On the last page of his 2008 autobiography, "Call Me Ted," he joked about what he might want written on his tombstone. "These days," he said, "I'm leaning toward 'I Have Nothing More to Say.'"

His close friend Tom Brokaw interviewed Ted during his book tour. When it came to the question of faith, Brokaw suggested that some thought he was agnostic. Ted deflected that charge by responding, "I think God will let me in heaven. He may not let me sit on the 50-yard line, but I think I can get into the end zone."

Maybe so, Ted. Only God knows our hearts. But, given your track record in the game of life, I like the odds.

"TRUMPED-UP CHARGES."

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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What to watch THURSDAY

May 14, 2026

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

Georgie & Mandy’s First Marriage

CBS, 8 p.m.

A financial windfall leads Georgie (Montana Jordan) to make a questionable purchase in the new episode “Splurges and Secrets.”

Scrabble

The CW, 8 p.m.

Word lovers battle it out to claim the best bonus squares and a chance at the \$10,000 prize in the new episode “Ruthless With Words.” Craig Ferguson hosts.

Next Level Chef

FOX, 8 p.m.

The final four chefs must create a signature dish that they feel defines them, but there is a hidden catch. Find out who advances to the finale in the new episode “Building a Legacy.”

Law & Order

NBC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In “Liberty,” the Season 25 finale, the murder of a military hero draws the FBI into Brady’s (Maura Tierney) investigation.

Ghosts

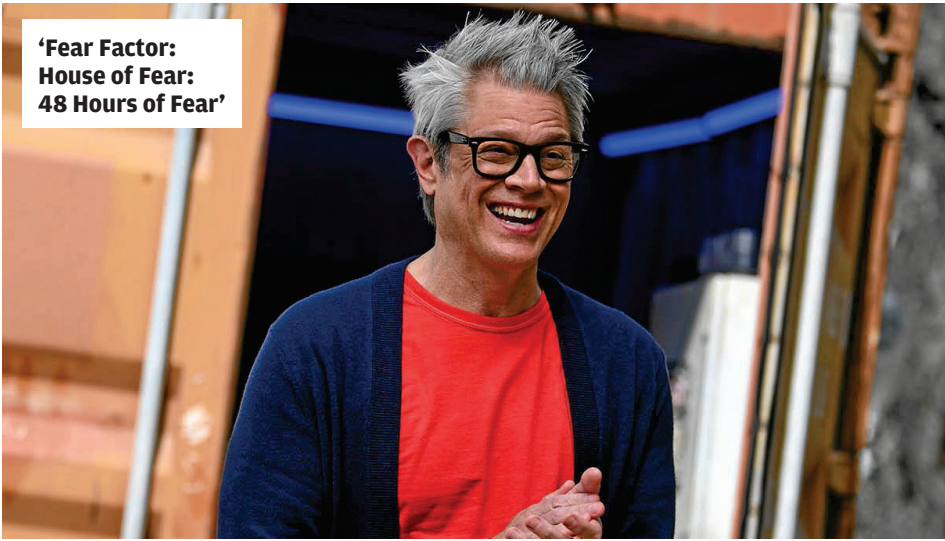
CBS, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode “Polar Opposites,” a Hollywood producer (guest star Rose Abdo) comes to scout Woodstone as a filming location, leading Sam (Rose McIver) to take a creative leap that draws unexpected support from the ghosts.

Elsbeth

CBS, 9 p.m.

Elsbeth (Carrie Preston) battles a veteran gossip columnist (guest star Tracey Ullman) who trades in people’s secrets — and may have killed to keep her own — in the new episode “Catch and Kill.”



‘Fear Factor: House of Fear: 48 Hours of Fear’

FOX

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

NBC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In the Season 27 finale “Monster,” a procedural mistake made during the rescue of a kidnapped boy causes the case to collapse in court. The show will return for Season 28.

Fear Factor: House of Fear: 48 Hours of Fear

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

In this two-week special event series, contestants are put through 48 hours of nonstop challenges — including being covered entirely in bees, eating “evil” sushi and getting ejected from a speeding ATV — all while the shock collars they’re wearing deprive them of sleep. Johnny Knoxville hosts.

Trivial Pursuit

The CW, 9 p.m.

An English teacher and travel consultant get tested in the six iconic Trivial Pursuit categories to try to win \$20,000 in the new episode “First Class.” LeVar Burton hosts.

M.I.A.

NBC, 10 p.m.

“Revenge,” the pilot episode of this crime drama currently streaming on Peacock, airs tonight on NBC. Restless in the Florida Keys, Etta Tiger Jonze (Shannon Gisela) dreams of a life in Miami’s glittering, tropical kingdom. When her family’s drug-running business shatters in tragedy, Etta embarks on a dangerous journey through Miami’s underbelly that will define what she’s capable of. Cary Elwes and Danay Garcia also star.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Games People Play

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Games show up in all kinds of ways in tonight’s TCM films, revealing how seemingly trivial pastimes can mask deeper agendas. In 1951’s **The Mating Season**, led by Gene Tierney, backgammon symbolizes the divide between a blue-collar mother and the high-society world she has infiltrated, with the real game being about people pretending to be something they’re not. The stakes shift from social standing to cold, hard skill in 1965’s **The Cincinnati Kid (pictured)**, a gambling drama starring Steve McQueen and Ann-Margret that reveals the



EVERETT COLLECTION

psychological warfare and gamesmanship required to thrive in the ruthless world of professional poker. Lastly, in 1972’s neo-noir **Gumshoe**, Albert Finney is a bingo caller who fantasizes about being a hard-boiled private eye and unexpectedly finds himself embroiled in a real criminal investigation.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



‘Insidious: The Red Door’

SONY PICTURES

Enemy of the State (1998, Suspense) Will Smith, Gene Hackman **AMC, 6 p.m.**

Greenland 2: Migration (2026, Action) Gerard Butler, Morena Baccarin **HBO, 7:20 p.m.**

The Incredibles (2004, Children) Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter **Freeform, 7:25 p.m.**

Footloose (1984, Drama) Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009, Comedy) Kevin James, Jayma Mays **VH1, 8 p.m.**

The Hockey Mom’s Revenge (2025, Suspense) Kate Dailey, Molly Ryman **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Venom: Let There Be Carnage (2021, Action) Tom Hardy, Woody Harrelson **FX, 9 p.m.**

Insidious: The Red Door (2023, Horror) Patrick Wilson, Ty Simpkins **FXM, 9:20 p.m.**

Almost Famous (2000, Comedy-drama) Billy Crudup, Frances McDormand **MGM, 9:50 p.m.**

The Ice Rink Murders (2024, Suspense) Maddison Bullock, Natasha Calis **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Dumb & Dumber (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels **TNT, 11 p.m.**

The A-Team (2010, Action) Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper **AMC, 11 p.m.**

The Doors (1991, Biography) Val Kilmer, Meg Ryan **MGM, 11:55 p.m.**

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

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What to watch FRIDAY

May 15, 2026

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

Celebrity Jeopardy!

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

One celebrity wins \$1 million for the charity of their choice in the Season 4 finale. Ken Jennings hosts.

Dutton Ranch

Paramount Network, 8 p.m. ■ New Series

This two-episode premiere marks the return of *Yellowstone* favorites Beth (Kelly Reilly) and Rip (Cole Hauser), who are fighting to build a future together — far from the ghosts of Yellowstone. The couple collides with brutal new realities and a ruthless rival ranch headed by Beulah Jackson (played by Annette Bening), who will stop at nothing to protect her empire. Also joining the cast is Ed Harris as a Navy vet and friend to Beth and Rip.



‘Dutton Ranch’

EMERSON MILLER, PARAMOUNT+

Outlander

Starz, 8 p.m. ■ Series Finale

After eight seasons, the drama series following the love story of Claire and Jamie Fraser (Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan) over centuries and continents comes to an end.

Fire Country

CBS, 9 p.m.

When a volatile blaze at the Pineville Dam triggers a cascading infrastructure failure, Station 42 races to execute a series of perilous rescues in the new episode “Rain Check for Tomorrow.”

Great Performances: ‘Irving Berlin’s Top Hat’

PBS, 9 p.m.

Inspired by the iconic 1935 movie musical starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, this acclaimed revival is directed and choreographed by three-time Tony winner Kathleen Marshall. With a timeless score by Irving Berlin, the musical features classics such as “Cheek to Cheek,” “Let’s Face the Music and Dance” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz.”

Boston Blue

CBS, 10 p.m.

A deadly threat strikes close to home, pulling Danny and Lena (Donnie Wahlberg and Sonequa Martin-Green) into an intense investigation in the new episode “Chasing Monsters.”



EVERETT COLLECTION

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



‘Black Adam’

WARNER BROS.

Descendants 3 (2019, Children) Dove Cameron, Sofia Carson **Disney, 6 p.m.**

The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997, Adventure) Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore **TNT, 6:15 p.m.**

Encanto (2021, Children) Stephanie Beatriz, María Cecilia Botero **Freeform, 6:30 p.m.**

Knock at the Cabin (2023, Suspense) Dave Bautista, Jonathan Groff **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

The Hunger Games (2012, Science fiction) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson **AMC, 7:30 p.m.**

Death at the Dinner Party (2026, Suspense) Candice Lidstone, Cameron Brodeur **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Beverly Hills Cop (1984, Action) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold **IFC, 8:15 p.m.**

Coco (2017, Family) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Freeform, 8:35 p.m.**

Doctor Strange (2016, Action) Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor **FX, 9 p.m.**

Black Adam (2022, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Aldis Hodge **TBS, 9:30 p.m.**

The Martian (2015, Science fiction) Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith **WE, 11:15 p.m.**

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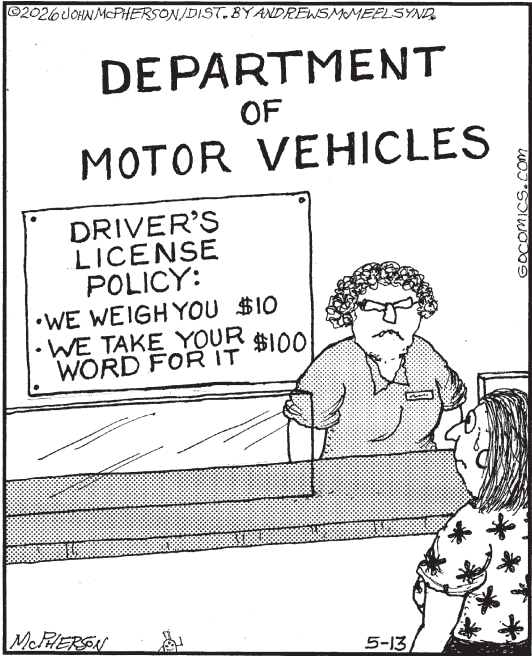
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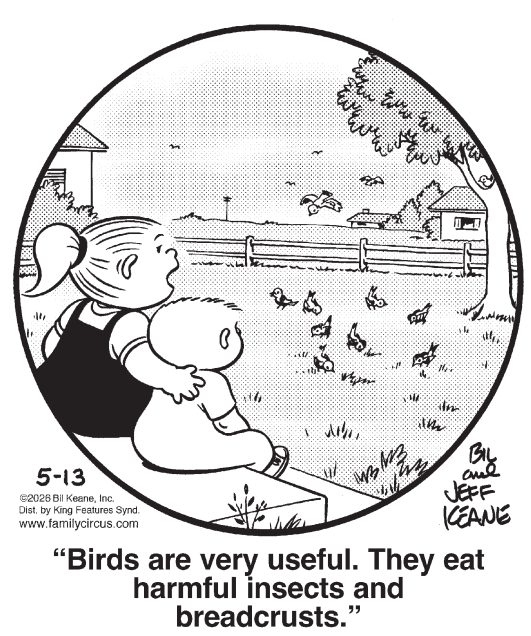
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TV - What to watch

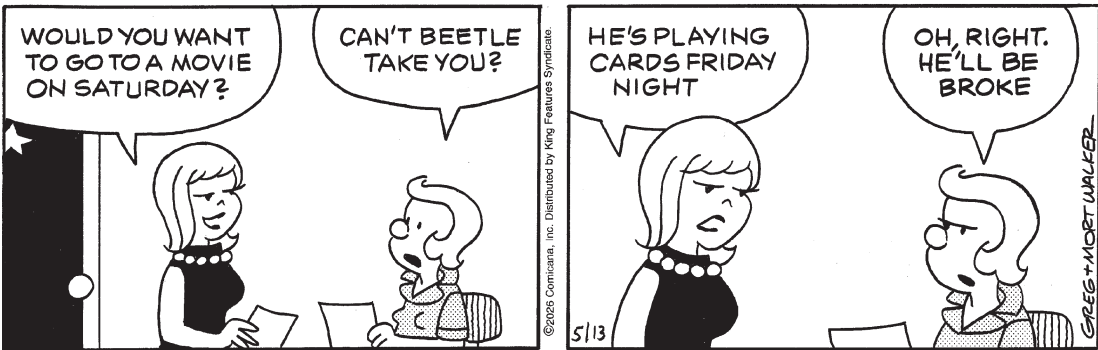
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



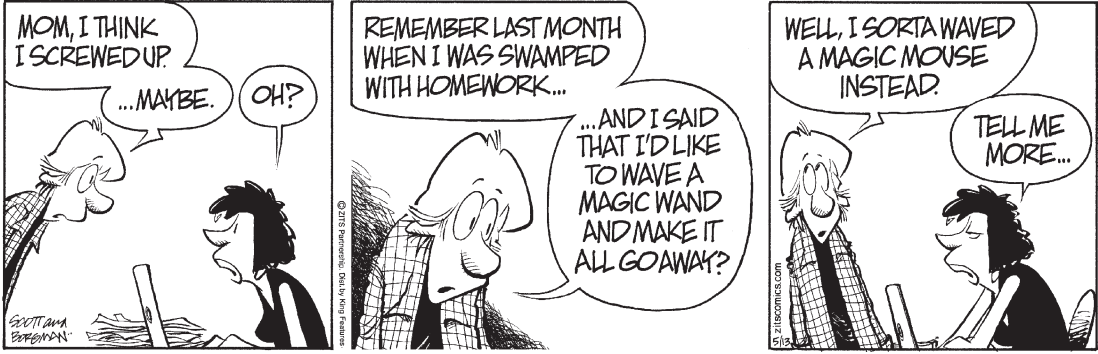
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



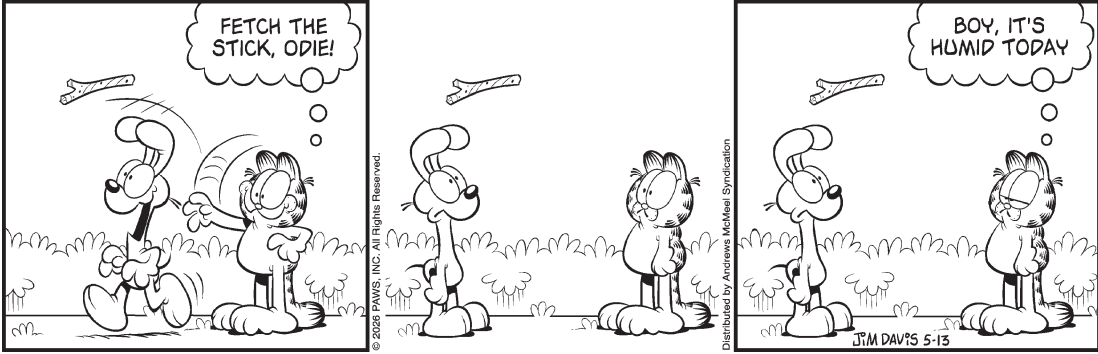
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



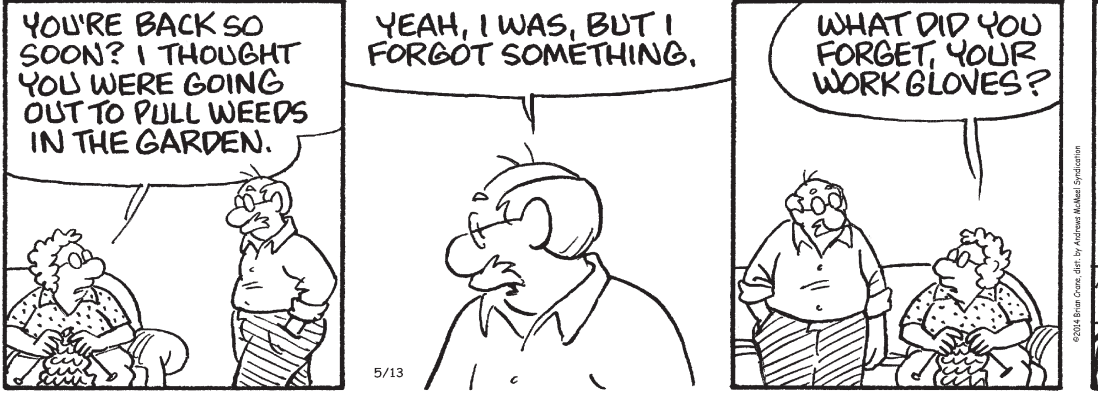
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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WHATZIT?

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

ME

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Take a tip from me

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- 1 Sticky and stinky sealant
- 4 Yank (on)
- 7 Agrees to
- 14 Purple yam from the Philippines
- 15 Game with red, yellow, blue, and green cards
- 16 Steel mill material
- 17 Barbecue choice
- 19 Find and remove
- 20 "Across the pond" pond
- 22 ___ in comparison
- 23 Hotel amenity
- 24 Chooses to participate
- 27 Help desk techs
- 30 Bank charge
- 31 Got the highest score in golf, say
- 34 Jazz pianist Chick
- 35 Execs focused on the bottom line
- 36 10th grader, briefly
- 37 Singer-songwriter DiFranco
- 38 Special skills
- 41 Kaitlin's "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" role
- 42 Totally dismantle
- 44 California-based candy company
- 45 Five Pillars religion
- 47 Grade sch.
- 48 Alternative to sparkling
- 49 Stick
- 50 Fine wool
- 52 Summer sign
- 53 Love, in Firenze
- 55 Like some game night games, or a feature of 4-, 11-, 21-, 29-, and 40-Down
- 60 Some park employees
- 63 Common oatmeal cookie ingredient
- 64 First Amendment word
- 65 Place to spend the night
- 66 One-on-one chats on soc. media

DOWN

- 1 Bulky horn
- 2 Stand watch for, say
- 3 Instagram feed feature
- 4 One who switches sides
- 5 Fuses together
- 6 Mongolian for "waterless place"
- 7 Atmosphere
- 8 ___-Magnon
- 9 Henhouses
- 10 Necessitates
- 11 Basic flotation device
- 12 "Good point"
- 13 Hardens, as concrete
- 18 Word with laissez or savoir
- 21 Brewery vessel?
- 25 Low-level workers
- 26 Trial
- 27 "You matter to me"
- 28 Like many Chinese dialects
- 29 Purse at a boxing match
- 32 Piece of fishing gear
- 33 Motif
- 35 G-rated
- 39 Prosecco kin
- 40 Soccer pitch boundary
- 43 Pops up
- 46 Vans or Crocs
- 49 Empire State capital
- 51 Like a clarinet's sound
- 53 Pet sounds
- 54 Rooney of "Women Talking"
- 56 Like the 6-Down
- 57 Spruce (up)
- 58 "I'm buying!"
- 59 Hushed summons
- 61 Blini topping
- 62 Texting format initials

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

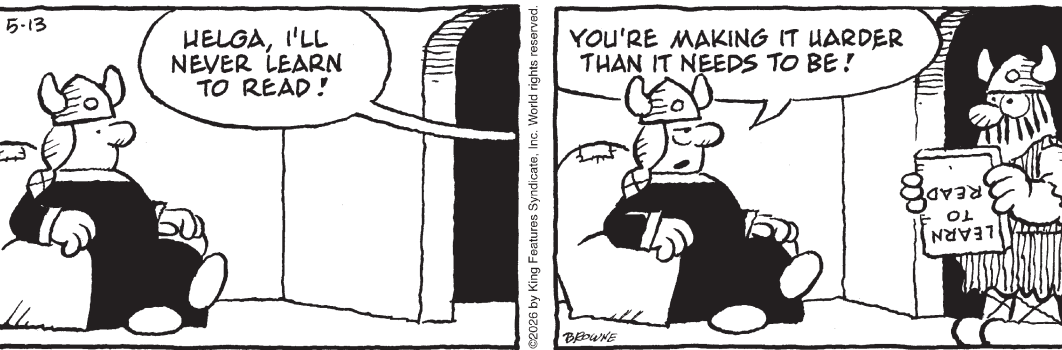
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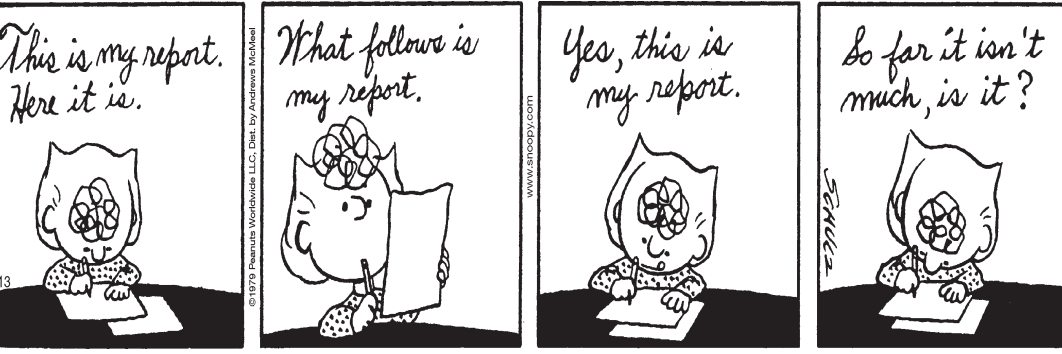
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05/13/26

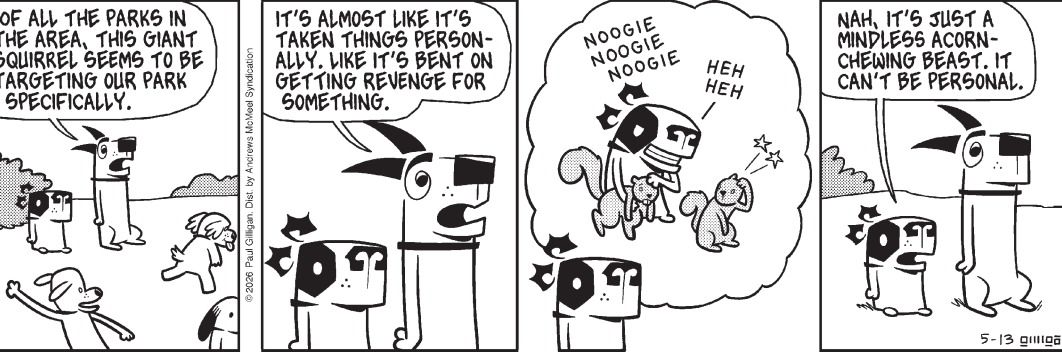
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

D3 & K2 SUPPLEMENTS Solution: 8 letters

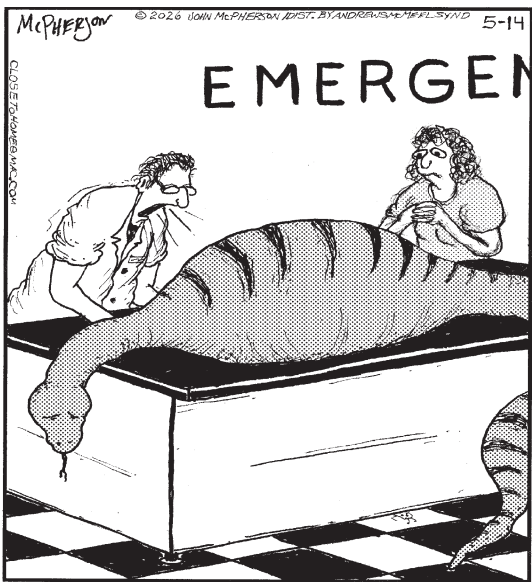
B R A L U C S A V O I D R A C
R O E R A N T H G I L N U S I
A R N D T E I L A B S S T T R
I G D E W E M K B V T N R I C
N A O E S O R I S R E A E F U
M N O N T O P Y O I E L G E L
S I M I N T F N R H N U U N A
I C U B I D G T B H E M L E T
L Y I M O A U M O T R R A B I
O D C O J N U R N E G O T M O
B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

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Absorb, Artery, Benefits, Blood, Body, Bones, Brain, Calcium, Cardiovascular, Circulation, Combine, Energy, Formula, Health, Heart, Hormones, Immune, Insulin, Joints, Labs, Meal, Metabolism, Micronutrients, Mood, Muscles, Nerve, Organic, Pharmacy, Plant, Powder, Prevent, Pure, Regulate, Skin, Soft, Strong, Sunlight, Teeth, Tone

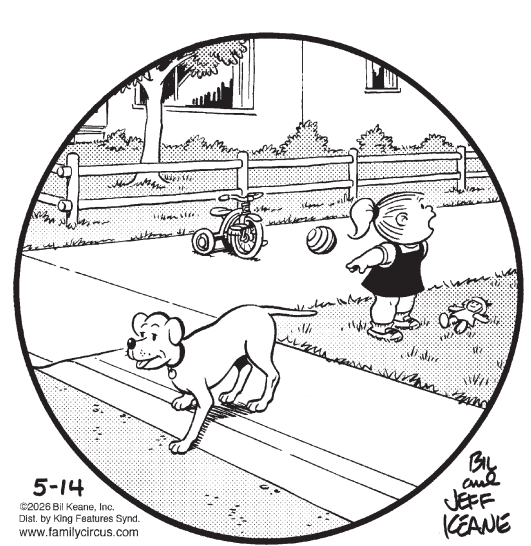
TODAY'S ANSWER: Vitamins

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



“Everything’s going to be fine, Mrs. Glatz. We’ve given the snake a laxative, and you should be out of there in four hours!”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

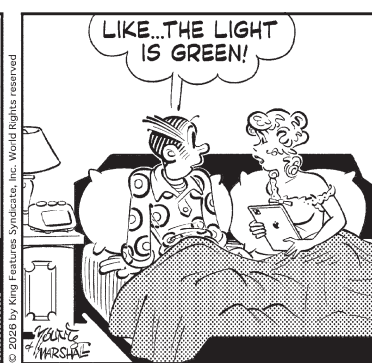
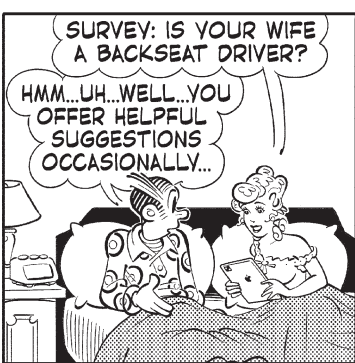


“Barfy’s being a naughty doggy, Mommy! He’s settin’ foot in the street!”

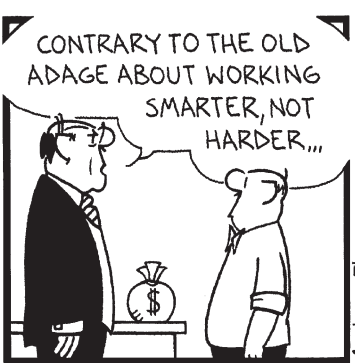
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



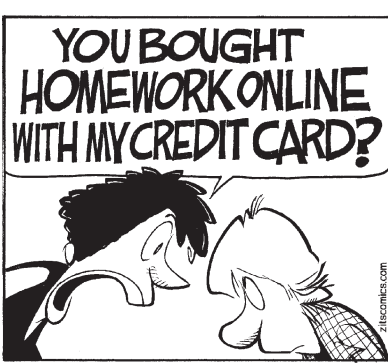
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



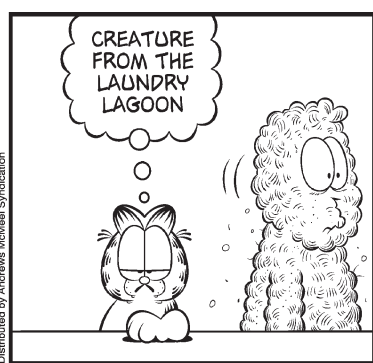
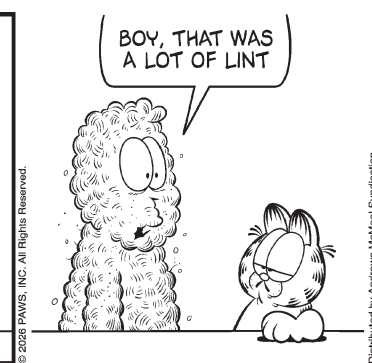
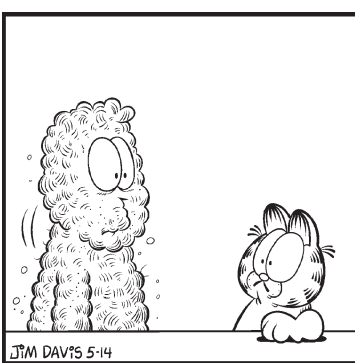
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



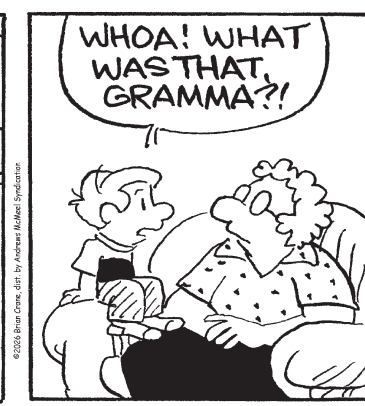
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

your ball court

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:

The ball is in your court

CROSSWORD

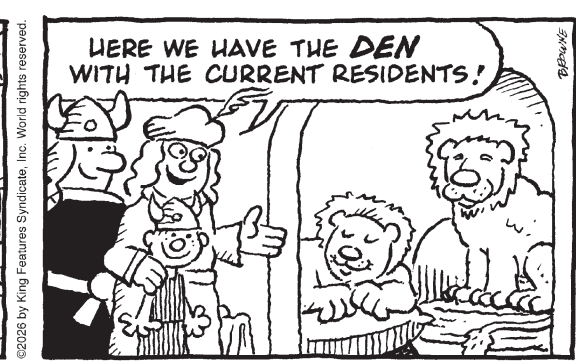
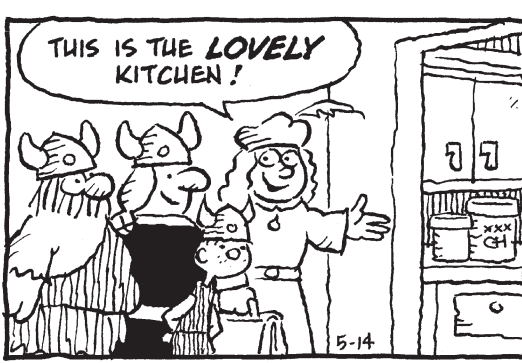
- ACROSS
- Vat
 - Repair
 - Injury result
 - A Gershwin brother
 - Chills and fever
 - Palo —, California
 - Snapshot
 - Mil. group on campus
 - Tardy
 - Comedy sketch
 - Smooth and shiny
 - Lanka
 - Hither and —
 - Concentrated
 - Money in Mexico
 - New Zealand bird
 - Greek god
 - Advanced deg.
- 36 Brain scan, for short
- 37 Flatboat
- 38 Tell a tale
- 39 Skillful
- 41 Orange piece
- 44 “— Town”
- 46 Possess
- 47 Solemn
- 50 Airborne speck
- 52 Trick
- 53 Salon item
- 55 Unit of work
- 57 Prayer ender
- 58 On the Pacific
- 59 — de Janeiro
- 60 “— mention it”
- 61 Skin
- 62 Harden

- DOWN
- Gratuity
 - “Exodus” author

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
	18		19		20		21					
		22				23						
24	25				26	27		28		29	30	
31					32	33			34		35	
36				37					38			
	39		40			41		42	43			
			44		45		46					
	47	48			49		50			51		
52					53		54			55		56
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

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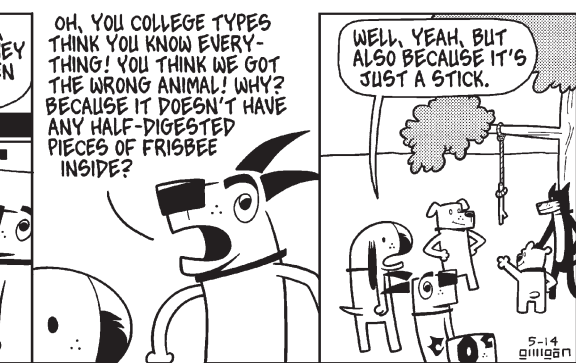
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PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



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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.

ARTEMIS II WAS A SUCCESS Solution: 10 letters

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

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Astronaut, Boost, Burn, Christina, Coast, Commander, Crater, Crew, Earth, Energy, Flight, Float, Gateway, Glover, Hansen, History, Hope, Human, Jeremy, Jets, Koch, Landing, Launch, Lunar, Mission, Moon, NASA, Navigate, Orbit, Orion, Pilot, Real, Reid, Research, Safe, School, Solar, Spacecraft, Team, Tech, Test, Trajectory, Travel, Victor, Vlog, Wiseman, World

TODAY'S ANSWER: Splashdown

Anthony Jones – District 6 Dougherty Commission: Incumbent vows to ‘listen, learn, lead’

By **Carlton Fletcher**
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Editor’s Note: The last section of this article, which appeared on Pages 1A and 2A of the Weekend Albany Herald, was inadvertently omitted from the paper. The story runs here in its entirety.

ALBANY – Anthony Jones’ approach to county government is a simple one, based on the way he’s lived his life. But it’s an approach that’s served Jones well in his 12 years as part of the Dougherty County Commission.

“It doesn’t take a lot of effort to do what’s right,” Jones said. Seeking a fourth term on the commission, Jones is being challenged for his District 6 seat by Willie Martin, who served 12 years as mayor and city councilman in Cuthbert.

“Being on the commission is not a job, it’s being a servant,” said Jones, a retired educator who worked with the University of Georgia Extension office as 4H Youth Development Coordinator for more than two decades before taking over as County Extension Coordinator

over the past four-plus years of his career. “And I am proud that I have been a servant of the people.”

Jones has served on the County Commission through some historic ups and downs in the southwest Georgia county. He personally delivered food to hungry citizens and rescue workers during life-altering tornadoes and storms that devastated his district, he remained loyal to long-time friend Michael McCoy when the former county administrator was unceremoniously removed from office, and it was Jones who, after 11 years of trying, spearheaded efforts to make the Nelms Road/U.S. 19 intersection safer after several deaths and collisions there.

“That intersection has always been dangerous, and when I was elected to the board, I reached out to DOT (Department of Transportation) officials and requested that a traffic light be put up at that intersection,” Jones said. “DOT said there was not enough traffic to warrant a traffic light, but I wasn’t satisfied. I had them out here to do five studies.”

When yet another deadly crash

at the site in 2025 resulted in another death, Jones became a tireless advocate, insisting that state officials do something at the intersection.

“We had community meetings, and it was clear the local citizens were tired of excuses,” Jones said. “I started calling people, telling them, ‘We’ve got another death here, what are you going to do?’ I reached out to (state House member) Gerald Greene, and he started calling people. See, in a situation like this, it’s not what you know, it’s who you know.”

The county did not get the traffic light that citizens in the Putney area wanted, but Jones’ efforts led to a fast-track DOT project to install an “R-cut” at the intersection at the end of last year. So far, there have been no major crashes at the site since that work was completed.

Getting the safety feature added at Nelms Road was one of several accomplishments Jones was instrumental in helping complete in his role as commissioner. He points to “that \$1.7 (community center) building” being built in Putney; a new community park developed in the Pine

Glen community; speed bumps placed at strategic locations throughout District 6; and the development of a pickleball/tennis complex adjacent to the Albany Mall that utilizes funds that have sat unused for more than a decade and, Jones notes, “might just save the mall.”

“The mall here has always been a major retail outlet in southwest Georgia,” Jones said. “But, man, it’s been on life support for a while now. The city and county had SPLOST funds that had been allocated for development of a tennis center, but no one could make a decision on where to locate such a center.

“One of our leading businessmen, Mr. Milan Patel, called me up one day and said he wanted to show me something. He said he’d brought up the possibility of using land he owned at the mall to build a center, but no one would listen to him.”

Jones did. He met with Patel, found out that the developer’s plan called for the donation of land he owned, and Jones quickly got on board. He reached out to his colleagues on the

Dougherty Commission, and when he got their blessing, he started calling counterparts on the Albany Commission.

“(City Commissioners) Chad Warbington and Bob Langstaff, I believe, got on board,” Jones said. “And when we had a discussion of the proposal at a commission meeting, (City Manager) Terrell Jacobs showed up. We discussed the proposal, and Mr. Jacobs told us what the city could do. I tell you what, this gentleman came along at just the right time.”

The pickleball/tennis center, along with an adjacent sports bar complex, is currently set for construction.

While Jones has played a key role in a number of projects that have had a huge impact on Albany and Dougherty County, he said there’s plenty of work to be done going into the next four years. He mentions “stabilizing the county’s tax digest, strengthening the county’s landfill enterprise fund, working closely with our Economic Development Commission to bring jobs to the community, and creating a strategic plan for county operations” as vital to the community’s future.



Anthony Jones

Jones dismisses his opponent’s claims that he was denied the opportunity to sign on to volunteer for county positions to help make the community better.

“If you live in Albany and you want to help make this community better, you have to be willing to put your shoulder to the wheel,” Jones said. “You have to get in the game. If anyone wants to help in this community, they can volunteer at any number of places. Making excuses only sound good to the people making them.

“You have to be cut out to be a person of service. That’s me. I believe in collaboration with my fellow commissioners and other leaders, and I’ve proven, I believe, that I’m going to do everything I can to see that the people of District 6 and Dougherty County get what they deserve. I will always listen, learn and lead.”

Georgia Southwestern faculty, staff recognized at awards ceremony

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University held its annual Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony recently in the Storm Dome.

GSW President Michelle Johnston addressed the room at the start of the ceremony, noting, “Every person here has contributed to the growth and development of Georgia Southwestern, and your dedication is deeply appreciated. The awards and honors that will be presented today highlight the exceptional talents and contributions of individuals who go above and beyond in their roles.”

Staff Excellence in Achievement and Performance: Chelsea Collins, director of marketing and communications in the Department of University Relations, was recognized for Staff Excellence in Achievement and Performance. This award recognizes staff who make exceptional contributions to the essential work of GSW.

Since stepping into her role, Collins has played a big part in shaping how the

university is presented and experienced. Through strategic leadership, she has strengthened institutional brand identity while supporting marketing, fundraising, and community engagement and partnerships. Known for her attention to detail and high standards, she ensures quality and consistency across communications while mentoring her team and guiding campus partners.

Staff Excellence in Customer Service and Personal Interactions: Krystal Whittaker, web content strategist in the Department of University Relations, was recognized for Staff Excellence in Customer Service and Personal Interactions. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to customer service across the university.

Whittaker exemplifies these qualities through her work managing the university’s most visible digital systems. She combines technical expertise with a clear, approachable communication style, ensuring partners feel supported and confident. Whether guiding website updates, assisting



Special Photo: GSW

Chelsea Collins, left, and Krystal Whittaker, received Staff Excellence in Achievement and Performance and Staff Excellence in Customer Service and Personal Interactions awards, respectively, during the recent GSW Faculty and Staff Awards ceremony.

with digital form management, or mentoring students, she approaches every interaction with patience and respect.

Faculty Excellence in Advising: Sally Merritt, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Sociology, was recognized for Faculty Excellence in Advising. This award recognizes faculty who demonstrate outstanding student advising at the undergraduate and/or graduate level.

Merritt exemplifies these



Special Photo: GSW

Georgia Southwestern State University staff Sam Peavy and Julie Megginson were honored for 25 years of service to the university.

in research, scholarship, and creative activity.

Amarachintha exemplifies these qualities through his research on complex biological processes related to liver disease in infants. He actively mentors undergraduate students, guiding them to present award-winning research at conferences and contribute to peer-reviewed publications.

Faculty Excellence in Service: Michele McKie, an assistant professor in the College of Education and assessment director, was recognized for Faculty Excellence in Service. This award recognizes faculty who demonstrate meritorious service beyond their assigned responsibilities and a deep commitment to caring for others.

McKie exemplifies service in its fullest sense. She has provided thoughtful leadership in assessment and accreditation, strengthened academic programs, and guided colleagues through complex processes with care and expertise.

Professor of the Year: Robert Bennett, a professor in the College of Business and Computing, was named Professor of the Year. This award is presented annually by the GSW Alumni Association

and honors a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to student success.

Faculty members recognized for promotion and tenure were: Brandon Bell, promoted to senior lecturer

Sally Merritt, promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure

Judy Orton Grissett, promoted to professor and awarded tenure

Michele McKie, promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure

Faculty members recognized for earning emeritus status were Paula Bryant, Elizabeth Gurnack and Michael Fathi.

Faculty and staff recognized for milestone years of service to GSW included:

35 Years: Mike McNeel, Gaye Hayes

25 Years: Trina Frazier, Sam Peavy, Julie Megginson, Cheri Paradise, Karen Cook

20 Years: Brian Parkinson, John Stovall, Tzvetelin Iordanov, Nellie Iordanova, Genie Bryan, Gaynor Cheokas, Chu Chu Wu

15 Years: Yangil Park, Susan Bragg, Alwen Yeung, Paul Dahlgren, Chadwick Gugg, Lauren DiPaula, Rhonda Slocumb, Anthony Lasiter and Donna Tissue.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

All American Fun Park

2608 N Slappey Blvd
Albany, GA 31701

225 W. Broad Ave.
Albany, GA 31701

229.434.8700

albanyga.com

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes All American Fun Park as this week's Star Business of the Week.

For more than 60 years, All American Fun Park has been a staple of fun and entertainment in the Albany community, creating memories for generations of families across Southwest Georgia.

Known for its wide variety of attractions, All American Fun Park truly offers activities galore—including three miniature golf courses, a quarter-mile go-kart track, 26 bowling lanes, bumper cars, batting cages, laser tag, mini golf, and Hologate VR. Whether you're planning a family outing, birthday party, or a fun night with friends, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Their long-standing presence and commitment to providing family-friendly entertainment continue to make them a valued part of our community.

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

PCOM South Georgia graduates 65 students

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE – PCOM South Georgia celebrated 65 graduating students at a commencement ceremony recently at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center here.

The ceremony honored graduates from all doctoral and graduate programs within the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the School of Health Professions and Sciences.

Dr. Kirby O. Smith delivered the commencement address. A board-certified family physician and educator, Smith has devoted his career to advancing rural health care, serving as the inaugural program director of the Georgia South Family Medicine Residency Program and the former chief of staff and chief of medicine at Colquitt Regional Medical Center.

After graduation, graduates will begin residency training in a wide range of specialties, including emergency medicine, family medicine and internal medicine.

Special Photo: PCOM South Georgia

Sixty-five students graduated from PCOM South Georgia last week during a commencement ceremony held on the University of Georgia Tifton campus.

Obituary

announcements



Col Howard D Barnard III

Col. Howard D. Barnard III, 81, passed away on Friday, May 8th, 2026 at his home in Surfside Beach, South Carolina. He was born on January 21, 1945, in Albany, Georgia, the son of Howard Barnard and Theodosia Donaldson Barnard. He was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Albany High School, where he was a three-year letterman in basketball and track. In 1967, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Georgia and received his Air Force commission through the university's ROTC program.

For the next 28 years, he served his country with distinction as a fighter pilot and paratrooper, accumulating over 5,000 flying hours in single-seat fighters, including the A-10, in which he was recognized as a Top Gun. He later earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma, a Master's degree in Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army War College, and also pursued additional postgraduate studies in Environmental Engineering at Pennsylvania State University.

A veteran of the Vietnam conflict, Colonel Barnard also served as a commander during Operation Desert Storm. He was decorated for heroism in combat, receiving two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 13 Air Medals. Throughout his career, he commanded at every level within an Air Force Fighter Wing and served on the fighter planning staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. In 1982, he was assigned to Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, where he served for four years and commanded the 356th Fighter Squadron—an assignment he considered the highlight of his distinguished Air Force career.

Following his retirement from the Air Force in 1995, Colonel Barnard returned to Horry County and became deeply involved in volunteer service. A devoted member of the Presbyterian Church for more than 30 years, he served as an elder, deacon, and teacher. From 1995 to 2007, he worked as Director of Lay and Stewardship Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach, leading outreach efforts both locally and internationally.

Colonel Barnard was a man of deep faith who loved his family, his friends, and the joy of flying.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Marga Faith Massey; his daughter, Beth Barnard Blum and her husband, Buck; his son, Howard D. Barnard IV and his wife, Julie; and five grandchildren: Dr. Andrew Ellis Blum (Dr. Courtney), Catherine Blum MacLaren (Stephen), Sarah Barnard Watson (Will), James Cole Barnard, and Ella Rose Barnard. He is also survived by his loving sister, Doty Barnard Dunn, and her husband, JD. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 55 years, Connie Cordell Barnard.

A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Thursday, May 28th at First Presbyterian Church, Grissom Campus, located at 3810 Robert M Grissom Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 followed by a reception in Wilkes Hall. Memorials may be made to the Connie Barnard Memorial Garden at First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 70127, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572. A complete Obit may be found at: <https://www.msfh.net/obituary/ColHoward-BarnardIII>

Dr. Robert A. Clay, Jr.

Dr. Robert A. "Bobby" Clay, Jr., 98, of Lee County, Georgia, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Born in 1928, in Lee County, Dr. Clay was the son of the late Robert A. Clay, Sr. and Eddye Hooks Clay. He devoted his life to faith, family, education, agriculture, and public service. Raised during the Great Depression on Clay Spring Farms which is recognized as a Centennial Farm, having been in operation by the same family for 121 years. He carried with him the values of hard work, humility, stewardship, and perseverance throughout his life. A proud graduate of Leesburg High School's Class of 1945, Dr. Clay demonstrated leadership from an early age. At just 15 years old, while still a student himself, he became a school bus driver for the Lee County School System. He later attended North Georgia College before earning his bachelor's degree from University of Georgia. With a lifelong commitment to learning

and service, he continued his education, earning both a master's degree and doctorate in education. Dr. Clay dedicated more than three decades to the Lee County School System, first serving on the Lee County Board of Education and later as superintendent for 32 years. During a transformative era in public education, he provided steady leadership marked by integrity, compassion, and vision. Under his guidance, the school system successfully navigated integration, expanded educational opportunities, welcomed students with disabilities for the first time, and experienced tremendous growth that helped shape Lee County into one of Georgia's most respected school systems. After retiring as superintendent, he served again on the Board of Education. Though widely respected as an educator and community leader, Dr. Clay remained, at heart, a farmer who deeply loved the land and rural life that shaped him. He often spoke fondly of childhood days spent swimming in Chokee Creek, fishing, and working alongside his family on the farm. Clay Spring Farms was not simply where he lived — it was part of who he was. On June 13, 1954, he married the love of his life, Betty Ann Pace Clay, begin-ning a devoted partnership that spanned 67 years until her passing in 2021. Together they built a life rooted in faith, family, education, service, and community. Their home was known for its warmth, hospitality, and deep love for family traditions. Dr. Clay and his wife were members of DeSoto Baptist Church where they served faithfully for many years. Throughout his life, Dr. Clay served his community in many capacities, including longtime service on the Board of Health. He was also honored as a member of the Lee County High School Distinguished Alumni Program, a fitting recognition for a man whose life embodied leadership, humility, and devotion to his hometown. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Betty Ann Pace Clay; his son, Robert A. Clay III; grandson, Zachary Clay Peak; and son-in-law, Sidney Clinton Peak.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughters, Carol Ann Clay Peak of Lee County and Melody Clay Sheffield and Jim of Albany; his grandson, James Clay Sheffield; sister, Evelyn Clay Hicks of Marietta; along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who were blessed to know and love him. A visitation and viewing will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026, in the chapel of Joseph W. Jones Funeral Home from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Graveside funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026, in the Leslie City Cemetery.

Robert "Bobby" Wayne Knight

Robert "Bobby" Wayne Knight, 80, of Worth County, GA, passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2026 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Salem Baptist Church Cemetery in Worth County GA. American Legion Post #335 will provide military honors. Rev. Nick Arbogast will officiate. Born on May 31, 1945, in Albany GA, to the late William and Gertrude Shiver Knight. Mr. Knight owned and operated Knight's Starters and Generators, where he served faithfully for 50 years until his retirement. Robert also served his country with honor as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Outside of his professional and military life, Bobby had a deep passion for horses and found great joy in spending time caring for them. He was an avid cook and griller, delights he shared with his family and friends, alongside many cherished moments spent together. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Gertrude and brother Larry Knight.

Bobby is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Julia Ann Knight of Worth County, Georgia, his sons, Shane Knight of Otto, North Carolina, and Heath Knight, along with his wife Leisa, of Ashburn, Georgia, grandchildren Michael Knight, Madison Knight, Christina Hunt (and her husband Adam), Travis Wright (and

his wife Bridget), as well as his great-grandchildren Lukas Hunt, Lenora Hunt, Tracelee Wright, and Brevyn Wright and Liam Knight. He is also survived by his brother Kenneth Knight and his spouse Chris. The family will receive friends following the graveside service.

Harriette Elizabeth Lathrup (Hilliard)

Harriette Elizabeth (Hilliard) Lathrup, 81, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2026, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. Born on December 29, 1944, she lived a life defined by devotion—to her family, her faith, her students, and her community.

A proud graduate of Mitchell County High School's Class of 1962 and Valdosta State College, Harriette embraced education both as a student and as a lifelong calling. She was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi sorority and went on to shape young minds for three decades as a 4th- and 5th grade teacher at King Springs Elementary School in Smyrna, Georgia from 1966 - 1996.

After retiring, she returned home to Camilla with the love of her life, Don, where she poured her energy into church life, service, and friendship. Harriette was an active member of Camilla United Methodist Church and the Crusaders Sunday School Class, where she served as Class President for eight years. She also served faithfully in the United Methodist Women and contributed her creativity and leadership to the Camilla Garden Club.

Harriette was preceded in death by her husband, Don-ald Edward Lathrup, Jr., her parents Edward Bradford and Elizabeth Nowlen Hilliard, and her brothers Richard Wayne and James David Hilliard. She is survived by her brothers Edward Nowlen (Sue), Tommy Lee, Sr. (Barbara), and Drew Wilson (Nan), as well as sister in law Kay Brooks Hilliard. She also leaves behind step children Steve, Michael (Terrie), Tony, and Kim Lathrup, along with a large and loving extended family of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and step grandchildren. She is also survived by her devoted caregivers, Gilberteen (Money) Williams and Cheryl Wimberly.

A visitation and funeral service will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Camilla United Methodist Church, with visitation at 10:00 a.m. and the funeral at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Chris Shoemaker will officiate. A private family burial will follow at Bethany United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Harriette's memory may make contributions to Camilla United Methodist Church, PO Box 192, Camilla, GA 31730 or Bethany United Methodist Church, 3393 Slough Rd, Camilla, GA 31730.

Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. To sign the online guest registry, visit our website at www.parkerbramlett.com.

*"To every thing
there is a season,
and a time to
every
purpose under
the heaven: A
time to be born,
and a time to
die; a time to
plant, and a
time to pluck up
that which is
planted:"
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)*

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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 propelling a small boat (6)	_____
2 way to reach agreement (11)	_____
3 handlebar handles (5)	_____
4 not without end (6)	_____
5 bacon-like Italian meat (8)	_____
6 PGA star Korda (5)	_____
7 battered candy containers (7)	_____

PA	ION	NE	ROW	TI
ING	FIN	PI	GRI	NC
AT	ET	ITE	GO	NEL
TA	TAS	LY	NA	PS

Tuesday's Answers: 1. BLAND 2. FABLES 3. SEEKING 4. MIAMI 5. ICEBREAKERS 6. ANTECEDE 7. SCENERY 5/13

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 esteemed (11)	_____
2 peanut protectors (6)	_____
3 fashionably nostalgic (5)	_____
4 language of St. Bart's (6)	_____
5 Connie Britton's TV drama (9)	_____
6 major vessel (5)	_____
7 tiny golden lion monkey (7)	_____

AR	PR	IG	SH	RE
FRE	LE	LLS	TAM	IO
TA	US	VIL	EST	NA
SHE	IN	NCH	TRO	AOR

Wednesday's Answers: 1. ROWING 2. NEGOTIATION 3. GRIPS 4. FINITE 5. PANCETTA 6. NELLY 7. PINATAS 5/14

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

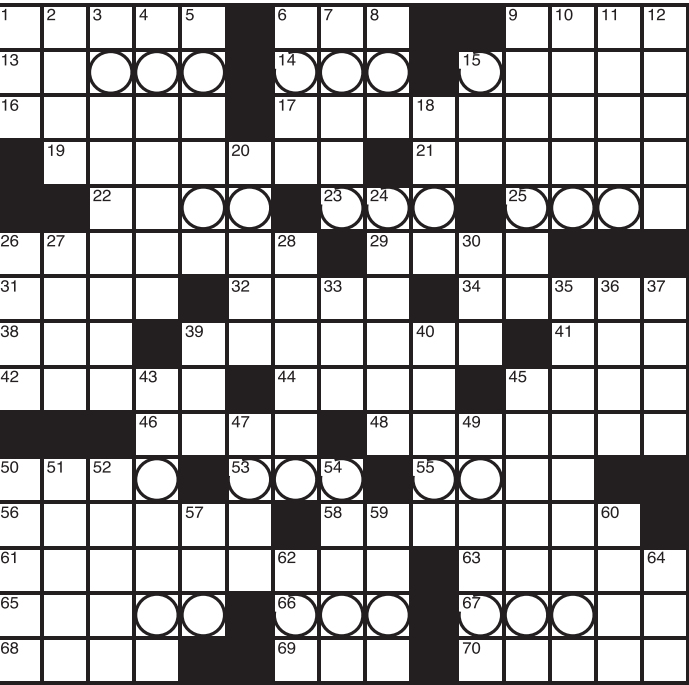
Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS	DOWN	
1 Novice gamers, informally	1 Super Mario Bros. console	37 Cry in pain
6 Thurman of "Pretty Lethal"	2 Jazzy James	39 Biblical rider of a red horse
9 Pizzeria array	3 Guitar accessory that may create vibrato	40 Development sites
13 Moral principle	4 Knights' neighbors	43 Elements of a strategy
14 "M*A*S*H" setting, for short	5 Blueprint	45 Move stealthily
15 "Butterfly Dance" artist	6 Luau instruments	47 Steve who co-founded YouTube
16 Put away	7 May, say	49 Power of classic films
17 Under a spell	8 Skill	
19 College where Robert Frost taught English	9 Prehistoric supercontinent	
21 "Let's do it!"	10 Like some pyramids	
22 NYC home of Matisse's "Landscape at Collioure"	11 Moriarty, to Holmes	
23 Fail to share	12 Musician's better half?	
25 Taylor-Joy of "The Northman"	15 Sweet potato	
26 Skillets	18 Latvian capital	
29 Area exposed by an updo	20 Cost	
31 Teases	24 Recipe quantity	
32 "___ it down!"	26 Greek life group	
34 "Downton Abbey" cook	27 Part of P.R.	
38 Here, in Honduras	28 Calm	
39 Artistic printing method, and a feature of rows 2, 5, 11, and 14 in this puzzle	30 S.F. summer hrs.	
	33 Leak prevention measure, briefly	
	35 Home of the Cyclones	
	36 Hormel product	

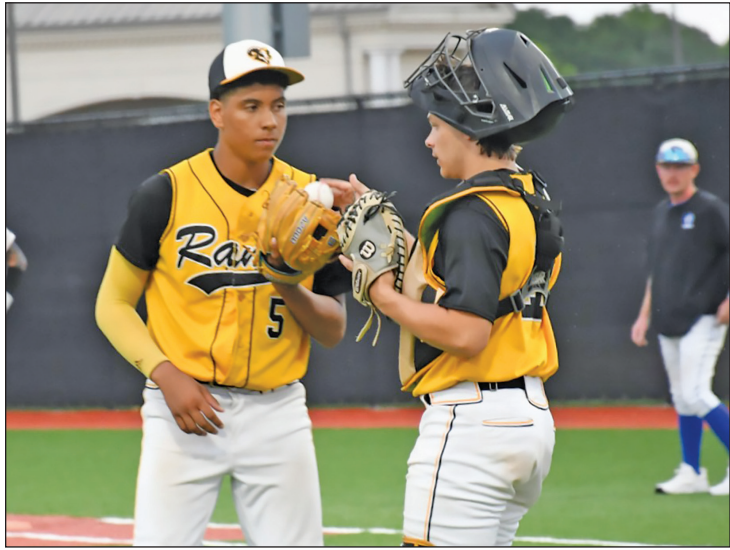
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



05/14/26



By Sam Brody
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 05/14/26



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Worth County pitcher DJ Easom and catcher Brady Weaver talk during last week’s Elite Eight series against Social Circle. Easom, Weaver and the Rams are in northwest Georgia to take on Gordon Lee for a chance to play for the Class A Division I state championship next week.

Worth County chasing another title

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — The buses rolled out of Worth County on Wednesday afternoon carrying baseball gloves, duffel bags and the hopes of an entire South Georgia community. By the time the Worth County Rams arrived in Chickamauga after the long ride north, the biggest baseball series in school history was waiting. Four wins from a state championship. One step from playing for it all. And waiting on the other side of the bracket stood defending

state champion Gordon Lee Trojans, a powerhouse program with a 34-2 record and another Final Four appearance already feeling routine. None of that seems to bother the Rams. Not this group. Not this season. Worth County enters the Class A Division I Final Four riding the confidence of a team that has spent the last several months proving it belongs among the state’s elite. The Rams have leaned on dominant pitching, airtight defense and the same toughness that helped many

of these same athletes bring a football state championship home to Sylvester just a few months ago. Now they are trying to do something the baseball program has never done. “This team expects to win,” veteran head coach Will Smith said earlier during the playoff run. “That mentality comes from these kids competing in big games year-round.” No player has embodied that mentality more than senior ace Avery Kilcrease. Kilcrease has emerged as one of Georgia’s most dominant pitchers this season,

overpowering hitters with a fastball that has piled up strikeouts throughout the postseason. He helped lead Worth County through the opening rounds and figures to once again carry a heavy load against Gordon Lee. But the Rams have hardly been a one-man team. Pitchers DJ Easom and Colby Griffis have delivered crucial postseason performances, while catcher Brady Weaver has anchored a defense that has become one of the team’s greatest strengths.

See **TITLE**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County offensive line coach and strength coordinator John Flath gives instructions during drills Monday as the Trojans work toward Friday’s spring game. The team will divide up for an intrasquad game Friday night in Leesburg with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

Lee County set for spring finale at Trojan Field

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG - There is no scoreboard pressure in May, no region standings to study and no playoff implications hanging in the humid South Georgia air. Still, when the Lee County Trojans take the field Friday night at Trojan Field, head coach Dean Fabrizio expects it to look and feel very much like football season. Lee County will conclude spring practice with an intrasquad game Friday at 7 p.m. in Leesburg, a final evaluation opportunity for a program once again overflowing with talent and competition. “We are going to divide up the team and let them compete,” Fabrizio said. “It will be like a real game.” That competitive atmosphere has defined the spring for the Trojans, who are looking to build on last year’s 8-4 campaign. More than 120 players have participated in workouts and practices over the past two weeks, creating the kind of roster depth most programs spend years trying to develop. For Fabrizio, spring practice has been less about installing schemes and more about identifying which players are ready to claim bigger roles heading into the fall. “We’ve got a lot of really good returning players and a lot of good young players,” Fabrizio said. “This spring we are getting them to compete for their spot and they’ve been working really hard.” That internal competition has long been one of the foundations of Lee County’s success. The Trojans have become one of Georgia’s most consistent programs over the past decade, annually producing college prospects while remaining a fixture in the state rankings. This year’s roster again features an impressive collection of Division-I talent, led by Texas A&M commit Jaden Upshaw at wide receiver and Florida State commit Gregory Batson. Other

Division 1 prospects include Montravious Clay, Carter Blackwell, Jordan Bush, Trey Bush, Jace Murray, Shavezz Dixon and Dominique Ball, among others. But Fabrizio believes the program’s strength goes beyond recruiting rankings or scholarship offers. He said one of the biggest reasons Lee County continues to thrive is the culture older players create for the younger athletes coming through the program. “That is one reason we have been so good all these years,” Fabrizio said. “The older guys are committed to helping the younger ones.” Friday’s scrimmage will offer fans their first extended look at the 2026 Trojans and provide younger players an opportunity to prove they belong under the Friday night lights. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Trojan Field. Admission is \$5, cash only.

Knights ready to begin playoff run

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Somewhere in the back of everybody’s mind at Deerfield-Windsor, there’s probably a quiet understanding they’d rather not say out loud. Beating a good baseball team four times in one season can get dangerous. Especially this time of year. The Knights swept all three regular-season meetings against region rival Tiftarea Academy, but none of those games felt comfortable for very long. One ended in extra innings. Another featured an early avalanche of runs. Even the more lopsided scores came with tension attached. Now the rivals meet again with the season on the line. Second-seeded Deerfield-Windsor, 15-6, will host Tiftarea, 16-11, in a best-of-three GIAA playoff series beginning Thursday afternoon at Addison Field. The teams will play a doubleheader Thursday at 4 p.m., and if a deciding third game becomes necessary, it will be played Saturday at 3 p.m. because Tiftarea has graduation ceremonies scheduled for Friday. The stakes are significant. The winner advances to the GIAA Final Four, and Deerfield-Windsor would host the semifinal series against either Frederica Academy or John Milledge Academy. “We know them and they know us,” Deerfield-Windsor coach Kyle Keen said. “It always gets tougher when you’ve already beaten a team three times — that’s the way baseball is.” That statement probably lands a little differently after



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Senior outfielder Boyd Pollock prepares to bat in a recent game against Valwood. Pollock and the Knights will host region rival Tiftarea Thursday in Albany in the second round of the GIAA state baseball playoffs.

the first meeting between the teams this season. That afternoon turned into a tense, eight-inning fight before Deerfield-Windsor finally escaped with a 5-4 walk-off victory when Grier Morey lined a game-winning single in the bottom of the eighth inning. Tiftarea had already taken a late lead in the sixth before the Knights tied the game again in the seventh after a Panther error. Nothing about it felt easy. The other two meetings fol-

lowed a similar pattern: moments where Deerfield appeared in control before Tiftarea pushed back again. The Knights won 9-1 in one game behind 12 hits, seven stolen bases and a dominant showing from Collins Clark, David Hutchins and West Rushton. In another, Deerfield exploded for seven runs in the opening inning before holding off Tiftarea 9-3. The Panthers’ six region losses this season all came against the top two teams in the league

— three against top-ranked Valwood and three against Deerfield-Windsor. That detail matters. Because it suggests Tiftarea is far more dangerous than a typical No. 3 seed. That’s the tricky part about playoff baseball between region rivals. The records matter less. The familiarity matters more. “We know the three guys they are going to throw at us

See **KNIGHTS**, 10A

Cox made baseball – and everyone around him – better

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

LOS ANGELES -- Bobby Cox said, “even if you win the World Series, the next day is sad because there are no games to be played.” There is a sadness at the end of every season, with some conclusions being sadder than others. I have been blessed to bid adieu to 25 seasons in this role. None were sadder to say goodbye to than the 2010 season. Along with saying goodbye to one of the most fun-loving and comical rosters I’ve encountered, I, like you, was facing the reality that Cox’s incredible tenure as Atlanta’s manager was over. We were saying goodbye to a man who made the Braves and all of those around him better. This is my 26th season covering the Braves. Would I be in this position if I hadn’t had the honor of dealing with Cox on a daily basis for the first 10 seasons in this role? I gained my masters while dealing with Chipper Jones, John Smoltz, Tom Glavine, Andruw Jones and Greg Maddux. The daily interactions with Cox netted me my doctorate in human relations. Yeah, I learned an incredible amount



Special Photo: Braves.com

Legendary Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox waves to the crowd after one of his historic wins. Cox, 84, passed away Saturday in Marietta after extended struggles following a 2019 stroke.

about baseball from the Hall of Fame manager. But he taught me a lot more about life and how to treat others. He knew how to make everyone feel like they were either his ace or cleanup hitter (that role meant more back in the day). Chris Hammond hadn’t pitched at the MLB level since 1998. But when

he came to Turner Field to throw in January 2002, Cox greeted him like he was a four-time Cy Young Award winner. Hammond later said, “I know he didn’t know me, but he made me feel like a million bucks.” The lefty actually earned millions of bucks after he posted a 0.95 ERA in 65 appearances for Atlanta that season.

A few years later, Dewayne Wise approached as Cox was talking to longtime Braves beat writer David O’Brien and I in the middle of the clubhouse at the start of Spring Training. The skipper shook the outfielder’s hand and said, “I’ve been watching videos of your swing and can’t wait to see you out there.” As Wise walked away, Cox looked at us and said, “Who was that?” Cox’s rosters were blessed with the Hall of Fame talents possessed by Maddux, Glavine, Smoltz, Fred McGriff and the Jones boys. But his incredible support helped get the most out of guys like Mark Lemke and Eddie Perez, whose presence on the current Atlanta staff can be attributed to his strong bond with Cox. “He was a great person and everybody wanted to play hard for him,” Perez said. Nobody wants to disappoint their grandfather and that’s what Cox was to so many, including those of us in the media. He was stern when he needed to be. But for the most part, he was a fun-loving man who loved to smoke a cigar while talking about the day’s

See **COX** 10A



Special Photo: Submitted

Pictured with the state golf championship trophy are, from left, Owen McFarlin, Gracie Gaines, Cohen Kinnett and golf coach Stan Edmonds. The Byne Christian Saints won the state title recently in Winder.

Byne Christian captures state golf championship

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

WINDER — One year after finishing just short of a state title, the Byne Christian Saints made sure this season ended differently.

Behind strong performances from Owen McFarlin and Gracie Gaines, Byne Christian captured the GCAA varsity golf state championship recently at Chimney’s Golf Course in Winder, completing a season-long mission that began months earlier.

McFarlin fired an 86 in the 18-hole championship round to earn low medalist honors, while Gaines carded an 87 to finish as the second-lowest medalist and help power the Saints to the team title.

The championship marked a major breakthrough for the Byne Christian program after last season’s runner-up finish.

“When we began the season, it was our goal to make a mark at state after finishing second the previous season,” Byne Christian head coach Stan Ed-

monds said. “It was a great day for these kids as they showed determination and desire can earn you. I am proud of their accomplishments.”

McFarlin’s performance helped set the tone for the Saints throughout the tournament as he claimed first-place medalist honors against the state’s top competitors. Gaines followed closely behind with another standout round that secured second-place medalist recognition.

Byne Christian also found success in the middle school division.

Cohen Kinnett captured state low medalist honors in the nine-hole middle school competition after shooting a 40, adding another championship performance to an already memorable day for the Saints program.

The combination of varsity and middle school success highlighted the growing strength of Byne Christian golf and provided a fitting finish to a season built around unfinished business.

seven in another and seven again in the third.

That aggressiveness has become part of Deerfield’s identity.

The week off after earning a first-round bye may have helped the Knights in another important way as well.

Senior Lane Seals is finally starting to look like himself again.

Seals — the school’s quarterback during football season and one of its top outside shooters during basketball season — missed the end of basketball season and nearly all of baseball season because of illness. He returned for the final two regular-season games and continues gaining strength at the perfect time.

“He is getting stronger and putting some weight back on,” Keen said. “He can be a big asset when he is healthy.”

That matters in May.

Experienced players matter. Pitching depth matters. Familiarity matters.

And sometimes the strangest thing about baseball is that the more often teams see each other, the harder the games become.

Deerfield-Windsor already learned that once in an eight-inning walk-off.

Now the Knights will try to survive the rivalry one more time.

after spending more than a century at Pope Park. What began as a celebration of a new stadium has evolved into the deepest playoff run the program has ever experienced.

Now the Rams find themselves playing baseball in May with a chance to bring another state trophy back to Sylvester.

And somewhere on the highway between South Georgia and Chickamauga on Wednesday, the realization likely began to settle in.

The ride is no longer about making history.

Now the Rams are chasing a championship.

From 9A KNIGHTS

and they know our guys as well,” Keen said.

The Panthers certainly know all about Collins-Clark by now.

The region co-player of the year has become one of the GIAA’s most complete players, entering the playoffs with a .390 batting average and a 1.56 ERA. Clark has already hurt Tiftarea with both his bat and arm this season.

The Knights can also lean on one of the deepest pitching staffs remaining in the postseason.

Senior David Hutchins owns a 2.09 ERA and has repeatedly delivered steady innings in big games. Gage Tomlinson carries a 2.90 ERA and already played a major role against Tiftarea this season, driving in runs in the extra-inning win and doubling in another meeting. West Rush-ton has been stellar in relief.

Rushton, Drake Wiggins, Gabe Daniel, Boyd Pollock and Hutchins all earned all-region honors for a Deerfield-Windsor team that has mixed pitching depth, speed and aggressive baserunning throughout the season.

Against Tiftarea, the Knights stole six bases in one game,

From 9A TITLE

Around the infield, players like Lyndon Worthy, Brodey Hancock, Hayden Short, Luke Rogers, Garrett Brooks, Caleb Parten, and Cully Hendley have helped turn Worth County into one of the most fundamentally sound teams left standing in Class A Division I.

The timing of the postseason run has only added to the emotion surrounding the season.

This spring marked the first year the Rams played in the school’s new baseball facility

LeBron James: Too soon to determine future plans

Field Level Media

LeBron James wasn’t ready to make a decision about his NBA future in the wake of the Los Angeles Lakers’ season-ending loss to the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday.

The visiting Thunder prevailed 115-110 to sweep a Western Conference semifinal series despite James registering 24 points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

James, 41, just completed his record-setting 23rd NBA season, and the league’s all-time leading scorer is heading into unrestricted free agency.

“What my future (holds), I don’t know, obviously,” he said after the defeat. “I mean, this is obviously still fresh from obviously losing and I don’t know. I mean, I don’t know what the future holds for me obviously, as

it stands right now tonight.

“I got a lot of time to sit back like I think I said last year after we lost, I think to Minnesota, to go back and recalibrate with my family and talk with them and spend some time with them and then when the time comes, I’ll obviously you guys will know what I decide to do.”

James was selected to his 22nd consecutive All-Star Game as he thrived in an unfamiliar role for much of the season. Luka Doncic was the Lakers’ top offensive threat, and he led the league with an average of 33.5 points per game Austin Reaves ranked second on the team at 23.3 ppg, with James third at 20.9 ppg.

James contributed 7.2 assists and 6.1 rebounds per contest.

Doncic missed all of the Lakers’ playoff games due to a hamstring injury. Reaves



Special Photo: Gary A. Vasquez-Imagn Images

LeBron James looks to pass against the Oklahoma City Thunder during Monday night’s Western Conference semifinal game in Los Angeles. After the Los Angeles Lakers were eliminated, James said it is too soon to determine his future plans following his 23rd NBA season.

sat out the final five regular-season games and first four postseason games because of oblique strains.

In the playoffs, James averaged 23.2 points, 7.3 assists and 6.7 rebounds.

“Obviously we fell a little

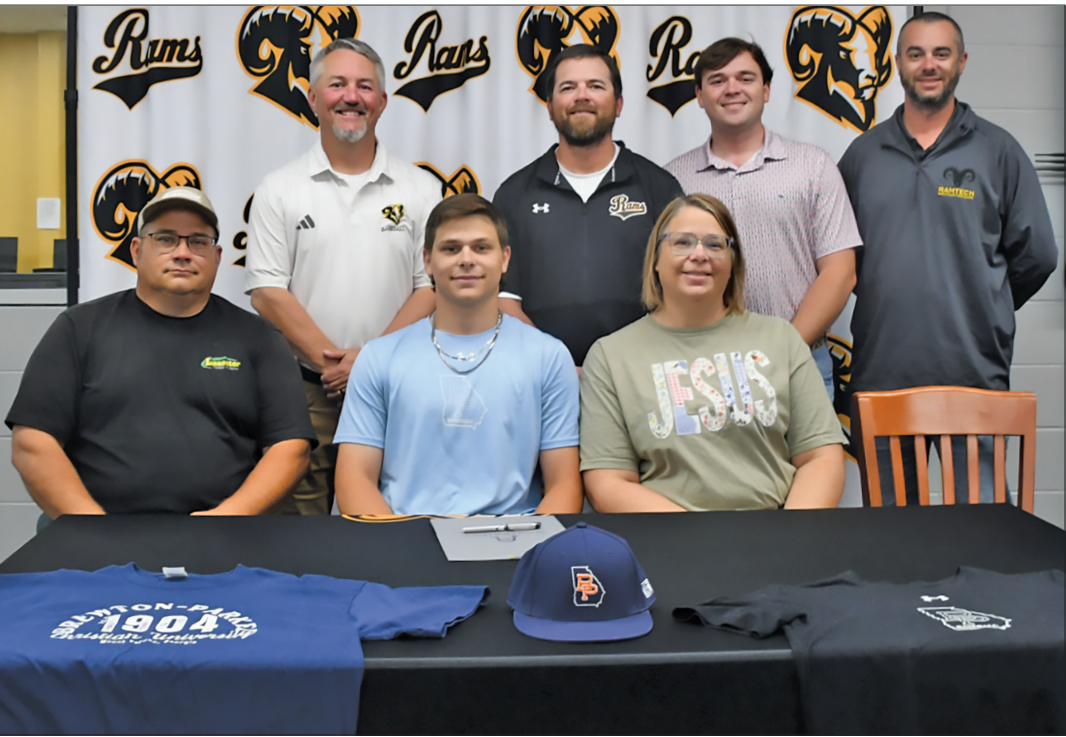
short, but I’m not looking at my year as a disappointment, that’s for damn sure,” James said. “I was put in some positions I never played in my career before, actually in my life. I’ve never been a third option in my life.

“So, to be able to thrive in that role for that period of time and then have to step back into the role that I’ve been accustomed with over my career or my life playing this sport and be able to thrive under that and then just my teammates allowing me to lead them under extreme circumstances, I thought that was pretty cool for me at this stage of my career.”

Reaves, 27, also has a decision to make about his future. The 27-year-old guard has a \$14.9 million player option that he is expected to decline to become an unrestricted free agent.

“It’s been fun. It’s been a joy. It’s been a grind,” Reaves said after the Lakers’ Monday loss. “A lot of things didn’t go our way this season and there were a lot of opportunities for us to quit, and you know, that’s not who we got in the locker room or the organization. Everybody stuck together.

“I’ve been around the NBA for five years now. I know a lot of teams would have given up (due to late-season injuries), and that wasn’t the case with this team.”



Special Photo: Submitted

Brady Weaver is headed to Brewton-Parker

Worth County senior Brady Weaver signed to play college baseball at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon during a ceremony at Worth County High School last week. A three-year starter at catcher for the Rams, Weaver has helped lead Worth County to the state Final Four this season. Worth will play top-seeded Gordon Lee in a best-of-three semifinal this weekend. Weaver was also a starting linebacker on the Rams football team that captured the GHSA Class A Division I state championship earlier this year. Seated with Weaver are his parents, Tom and Kayla Weaver. Standing behind are Worth County head coach Will Smith, assistant coach Zach Mauldin, middle school coach Reece Bozeman and former assistant coach Kaleb Hancock.

Moving the Chains: Three words for the NCAA – more is less

By Scott Ludwig
MagicLudwig1@gmail.com

When I worked in logistics, I found the paradox ‘less is more’ to be true. In other words, removing any excess - clutter, in other words - produces better results. Here’s an example:

I reduced my staff of 40 by 10% by eliminating the 4 least productive employees. Soon, it was obvious that the workforce reduction actually increased the overall performance of the operation. Therefore, ‘trimming the fat’ proved to be a wise decision.

According to reports, the NCAA is now in the final steps of expanding the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball tournaments - from 68 to 76 teams. To me, this indicates that the governing body in collegiate athletics is looking at it backwards. Soon they’ll realize that adding more teams will actually lessen the overall performance of their ‘operation,’ the NCAA tournament. In other words, more will actually be less.

Adding 8 more teams to the field won’t enhance anything; it will only clutter the field. It will prove to be the worst decision since the tournament discarded the “perfect 64 format and added 4 teams - which resulted in 4 play in games - in 2011. (At the time, that was the worst decision since 2001 - when the tournament added one team to the field of 64 thereby necessitating a stand-alone, underwhelming play-in game.)

*In a single-elimination tournament, 64 teams in 32 first-round games cut the field in half.

In the second round, 16 games (with the remaining 32 teams) cut the field in half once again. And so on, leaving ‘one man standing’ after the sixth round/championship game.

Don’t get me wrong: I understand why the NCAA want\$ to add more team\$. It\$ not like I was\$ born yesterday.

But here’s my take: if the number of teams in the tournament is going to change,

the NCAA is moving in the wrong direction. I recommend fewer teams for the Big Dance. That’s because less is actually more: a smaller field will result in more competitive games and therefore a better overall tournament.

As recently as 1984, there were only 48 teams in college basketball’s premier event. It wasn’t until the following year that the field expanded to 64. In fact, before 1979, there were only 32 teams. And before *1975, the biggest field was only 25 teams.

*1975 was the only year in UCLA’s dominant run of 10 National Championships in 12 seasons under John Wooden that the Bruins had to win even as many as 5 games in the tournament.

For Wooden’s first title, they only needed to win 4.

(Now a championship requires 6 wins; 7 for play-in teams.)

Did you know the lowest-seeded team to ever win the NCAA tournament was #8 Villanova in 1985? Or that

the lowest-seeded teams to ever make it as far as the Final Four were #11 seeds? (LSU in 1986, George Mason in 2006, VCU in 2011, Loyola Chicago in 2018)

Here’s where I’m going with this. There are four NCAA tournament teams seeded 11th - one in each of the four regions. That means between the four of them, they’re all presumably ranked amongst the top 44 teams in the country. So if the field was reduced to 48 teams, as it was back in 1985, they would all be in the tournament.

And realistically (if not historically) speaking, if you’re not one of the top 44 teams of the country, there’s not a snowball’s chance of making it to the Final Four anyway.

Ergo, why bother including the teams ranked 49th or worse in the tournament? As for those of you who like to see those first-round upsets - and who doesn’t? - I’ll counter with this: they tend to result in underwhelming games in the second round.

From 9A COX

events with the beat writers.

Nowadays, most interactions with managers are formal and stiff because cameras are involved. During Cox’s reign, his office was always open. But most of our informal conversations before games took place in the weather room located below the home dugout at Turner Field.

We’d talk about the Braves. Without cameras present, he could say something and raise his eyebrows to indicate that’s

not how he really felt about something. But we also talked about the world’s events, NASCAR and what was going on in the baseball world. This is also back when scouts were in stadiums every day. He wanted to hear what those scouts were saying or what they might be in town to see.

It should be noted Cox had an incredible eye for talent. He was the first person to tell me about this Ronald Acuña Jr. kid he saw in the instructional league. I also remember him raving about young prospects like Cole Hamels or George Springer, who homered while Cox was watching a back-field

game at the Astros’ complex in Kissimmee, Fla.

Cox never tried to steer us wrong or guide us down the wrong path. But that doesn’t mean he didn’t use us when he needed to protect his players. Chipper Jones and Smoltz had a brief spat in 2007 when Smoltz indicated Jones needed to play through pain. Jones heard the clip on the radio during his drive home and wasn’t happy.

How did Cox handle it? He said something like the media had misinterpreted what Smoltz was trying to say. No big deal. He did what he always did, which was to pro-

tect his players and the team.

At the same time, we shared a lot of laughs. When reliever Dan Kolb struggled after being acquired in 2005, Cox looked at me and said, “Do you guys also boo me when I bring Kolb out of the bullpen?” I said, “No, we just started rewriting our stories.”

I wish we had never had to write about Cox having his stroke in 2019 or the ones published after he passed away on Saturday. But I’m forever thankful that every story I will ever write will have been enriched by the opportunity to have known this great man and leader.

