

Perspectives
Jay Bookman
• Page 4A

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Final four bound
Sherwood soccer advances
• Page 9A



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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

Georgia Trust for Local News names Cynthia DuBose executive director



Cynthia DuBose

By Joshua Wilson
Macon Melody

PERRY -- Journalist and media executive Cynthia DuBose has been tapped as the new head of the Georgia Trust for Local News, which, as the Peach State's largest independent newspaper company, operates 20 publications throughout middle and south Georgia.

DuBose, a former Atlanta Journal-Constitution newsroom lead and McClatchy Media Co. administrator, will head the group's continued digital transformation, according to officials at the nonprofit National Trust for Local News, which owns the Georgia Trust. As executive director, DuBose will be responsible for, among other duties, audience and

revenue growth and editorial innovation.

She starts her new role on June 1 at a "pivotal moment" for the Georgia Trust, Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust, said in a news release. The group, which runs some of the state's oldest newspapers as well as the Knight Foundation-backed startup The Macon Melody, has been investing in

the future of its properties, the release notes. Those endeavors include equipping newsrooms with digital infrastructure and helping them launch newsletters, podcasts and social video to grow and sustain local audiences.

Wiley said in the release that those efforts are "vital" and that DuBose's "talents in building new digital products

that drive audience growth, her hands-on leadership and mentorship experience, and her focus on executing bold ideas to strengthen local news pair well with our leadership team's energy, direction and style."

"We're thrilled to have Cynthia ... drive our next stage of

See **DIRECTOR**, 2A



ASU Marching Rams' reputation for excellence has become a recruiting tool



Staff Reports
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ALBANY – The Albany State University Marching Rams Show Band is striking a powerful chord across the region and beyond, as its growing reputation for excellence, culture, and community continues to attract top student musicians.

In a show of confidence in the program, two entire senior band classes have committed to Albany State University to continue their musical journeys with the Marching Rams. Five students from Southwind High School and 12 students from Craigmont High School have all chosen Albany State, a rare and powerful testament to the band's impact.

"It's honestly a surreal and humbling feeling," Deonte Kennedy, the director of bands at Craigmont High School, said. "As a high school director, you always hope your students land in good situations, but to see all of your seniors committed to Albany State University together, in one place, it hits different. It feels like the work we've been putting in is coming full circle."

Kennedy pointed to the university's supportive environment and strong leadership as key factors in his students' decision.

"What really stood out to me about Albany State is the environment," he said. "It feels like family. It's a place set up for student success academically, culturally, and personally. Then there's the leadership. Dr. (William) Brooks is someone I consider an older brother. If I know the level



Special Photo: Reginald Christian/ASU

The Albany State University Marching Rams Show Band is striking a chord across the region and beyond, as its growing reputation for excellence, culture, and community continues to attract top student musicians.

See **ASU**, 2A

Dougherty Commission approves spending settlement funds for opioid response kits, drug counseling



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Workers with the Dougherty County Public Works Department were honored during Public Works Week on Monday at the Dougherty County Commission's meeting. The commission also honored paramedics and emergency medical technicians for Emergency Management Services Week.

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Dougherty County Commission is using its first expenditures from opioid settlement funds to supply opioid response kits for first responders and an addiction counselor/case manager for the county jail.

Municipalities and counties across the country were parties to the various settlements totaling more than \$50 billion made with manufacturers, retailers and distribu-

See **OPIOIDS**, 2A

Captain Ted Thomas Foundation expands scholarship program to honor legacy of service

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – What began as a tribute to the life and legacy of Capt. Ted R. Thomas has quickly grown into a broader mission aimed at investing in the future of Dougherty County students.

The Capt. Ted Randall Thomas Foundation Inc. announced it will award nine \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors across the Dougherty County School System this year, tripling the amount awarded during its inaugural scholarship cycle in 2025.

The scholarships honor the memory of Thomas, affectionately known as "OT," a longtime law enforcement officer, youth mentor and community leader whose impact stretched from Albany neighborhoods to statewide youth

See **THOMAS**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

Classifieds	11A
Comics	6A-7A
Crosswords	6A-7A, 11A
Horoscopes	3A
Local News	12A
Perspectives	4A
Sports	9A-10A
Squawkbox	3A
TV - What to Watch	5A
Weather	3A

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Special Photo
Brandon Meyers recorded a Bass Slam during 2025.



From 1A DIRECTOR

growth," Wiley said.

DuBose, a native of Long Island, N.Y., was first attracted to journalism as a student at Spelman College in Atlanta. There, a professor urged her to write for the campus newspaper. She later became its editor.

"I fell in love with the opportunity to be able to tell stories and meet people and learn something different every day," DuBose said in the National Trust's press release.

After graduating from Spelman with a bachelor's degree, DuBose attended Columbia University, where she earned a master's degree in journalism. She then worked for Long Island's Newsday before returning to Atlanta in 2006 to work as a reporter at the state's largest newspaper. Over the next nine years, she served in several audience engagement and digital growth roles, helping to modernize the publication and grow its revenue.

DuBose then spent almost seven years in management roles at McClatchy, which operates 29 newspapers across 14 states. Rising to the role of executive vice president of membership, she built the organization's audience growth, product development and content monetization teams. In 2022, DuBose complet-

ed the executive program in news leadership and innovation program at the City University of New York's Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism. She later became the program's lead coach, a position she will continue to hold as she also works to strengthen the Georgia Trust.

DuBose said she is eager to build deep relationships with the communities the Georgia Trust serves and to bring her experience developing digital products and growing audiences to her new role. She said she will "work tirelessly to ensure" residents have "access to credible, community-centered news and information."

"Throughout my career, in every position I've held, I have always valued bringing coverage to local communities," DuBose said. "I see tremendous opportunity for the Georgia Trust moving forward."

DuBose replaces DuBose Porter, who served as executive director from the 2023 founding of the Georgia Trust through this January. The long-time newspaper publisher, attorney and former state representative now focuses on fundraising, partnerships and acquisitions as publisher emeritus. Danyale Starley, who served as interim executive director of the Georgia Trust, will return to her role as the organization's controller.

From 1A ASU

of guidance, discipline, and mentorship he's given me, I can only imagine what he's going to do for my students."

Students share that same enthusiasm. Jaylyn Dotson, a graduating senior from Craigmont High School who plans to major in accounting, described Albany State as a place that immediately felt like home.

"The energy on campus is electric," Dotson said. "It feels like a big, loving family that welcomes you with open arms. Albany State is more than just a university. It is a community that makes you feel inspired, motivated, and proud to be there."

Under the leadership of Brooks, the Marching Rams Show Band has experienced a resurgence marked by both competitive success and strategic growth. In 2025, the band participated in the National Battle of the Bands and the Dolla Watson Battle of the Bands, was ranked Top 5 in ESPN's Band of the Year polls, and was voted among the Top 5 halftime shows of all HBCUs by HBCU Sports.

"Recruitment is the lifeblood of any great band program," Brooks said. "We are intentional about identifying talented students who not only excel musically, but who also value discipline, teamwork and growth. Our goal is to build not just a band, but a culture that supports student success on and off the field."

That intentional approach is already yielding results. Last year, 47 students received band scholarships, contributing to a roster of approximately 98

instrumentalists. The program is now on track to expand to 128 instrumentalists by fall 2026, with a long-term vision of consistently fielding 160 musicians to enhance performance quality, visibility, and competitive standing.

The excitement surrounding the program was on full display during the annual Marching Rams High School Day, where more than 400 students gathered for a high-energy experience that culminated in a joint performance at the ASU spring football game. The event also featured on-site admissions, allowing prospective students to take immediate steps toward joining the Albany State community.

That atmosphere is a defining characteristic of the Marching Rams Show Band. From the electrifying halftime performances to the sense of unity felt in the stands, the program embodies a culture of excellence, pride, and family. That spirit is perhaps best captured in the presence of Brooks' 8-year-old son, Will, who can often be seen performing alongside the drum majors—symbolizing the generational impact and close-knit nature of the band.

As the Marching Rams Show Band continues to grow, its influence extends far beyond the field, shaping student experiences, strengthening recruitment pipelines, and reinforcing Albany State University as a destination for talent, tradition, and transformation.

The university is offering a reduced application fee of \$5 to apply for undergraduate admissions in May 2026. Prospective students may apply at www.asurams.edu/apply.

Anglers encouraged to go after state Bass Slam

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE -- Need a reason to go fishing? Make it a summer challenge to get your 2026 Georgia Bass Slam, officials with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division

suggest.

A Georgia Bass Slam is earned by anglers who catch at least five of the 10 black bass species found in Georgia within a calendar year. Those species are largemouth, smallmouth, shoal, Suwannee, spotted, redeye, Chattahoochee, Talapoosa, Altamaha and Bar-

tram's bass.

Successful Bass Slammers receive a personalized certificate, two passes to the Go Fish Education Center, and special decals to celebrate their accomplishment. Anglers also are recognized on the Georgia Bass Slam webpage (BassSlam.com) and may

be featured on social media. All successful submissions are entered into a drawing for an annual grand prize.

The annual grand prize winner for 2025 was William Strasburg of Marietta. Strasburg was one of 68 anglers who got a Georgia Bass Slam in 2025. He has been participating in the program since 2017 and has six total Bass Slams. His prize included a cooler, camp chair, tackle box and a beautifully framed bass print.

Check the Rules:

Fish must be legally caught in Georgia waters where the angler has permission to fish or from boundary waters under a reciprocal license agreement.

Length limits apply — fish must meet legal size limits or be at least 8 inches long if no limit is specified.

Anglers must submit clear photos of each catch, including at least one photo with the angler holding the fish and a side photo showing the fish's length.

Submission details must include the angler's name, DNR Customer Number, fish length (weight optional), county, and water body.

Complete rules, submission link (NEW for 2026) and additional information can be found at BassSlam.com.



Luis Delgado was one of 68 anglers who got a Bass Slam in 2025.

From 1A OPIOIDS

tors of medications containing opioids.

The county's share of the total that had been paid to date stood at about \$433,000 prior to the approval.

The cost of the opioid response kits, which consist of Narcan and automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and the jail staff would total \$343,883. That is broken

down at \$210,696 for the response kits and \$133,187 for two counselors at the jail.

"We're looking forward to putting this funding to use," Assistant County Manager Barry Brooks told an Albany Herald reporter after the meeting. "This could potentially be a life-saver, having this in the hands of first-responder units."

The AEDs will be compatible with units used by Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services. The opioid response kits will be available at the

jail and in the cars of deputies, who will be available to respond to emergencies while out on the road.

"We'll be providing training to first responders (deputies)," Brooks said.

The sheriff's office, EMS and Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Development Services made the recommendation to provide the jail counselor and case manager/forensic peer specialist as well as the opioid response kits.

The counselor and case man-

ager will provide substance use disorder services at the jail and provide services to help inmates integrate back into the community. The expenditure represents a one-time request.

An Aspire representative at Monday's meeting told commissioners that the agency would work to secure grant funding in future years to pay for those services. The county anticipates receiving up to an additional \$70,000 to \$100,000 through the opioid settlements, Brooks said.

From 1A THOMAS

and school safety initiatives.

Award presentations were conducted for Westover and Monroe high schools on May 15 and Dougherty High School on May 20.

"This is not just a way to remember Ted, but also a way to inspire the next generation to follow in his footsteps," a foundation representative said.

The annual scholarships recognize graduating seniors who demonstrate leadership, community involvement and a commitment to positive change. Eligible students must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, graduate in good standing from a Dougherty County high school and have confirmed plans to attend an accredited college or university.

Thomas spent decades mentoring young people through

both law enforcement and community outreach. A Monroe graduate, he served in the United States Army before beginning a 17-year career with the Albany Police Department, where he became a nationally recognized G.R.E.A.T. instructor. He later worked as a school resource officer with the Dougherty County School System and eventually joined the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office as a captain overseeing youth programs.

Throughout his career, Thomas focused heavily on creating opportunities for young people during summer breaks and after-school hours, working alongside local, state and federal agencies to expand access to mentorship and leadership programs.

His influence also extended beyond southwest Georgia. Thomas served as vice president of the Georgia Alliance of School Resource Officers and Educators and held regional and national

leadership roles connected to school safety and youth development initiatives.

Following his unexpected death in September 2024, family members established the nonprofit foundation to continue his work through scholarships, mentorship and community outreach.

Foundation board member Avenn Smith, Thomas' grandson, said many of the values guiding the organization were shaped by lessons passed down through everyday interactions with his grandfather.

Now a freshman at Tuskegee University, Smith serves as freshman class president and participates in Air Force ROTC while pursuing a degree in aviation science with plans to become an Air Force pilot.

Even after his grandfather's passing, those lessons continued to shape Smith's life and were evident in the way he approached leadership, work and personal standards.

The foundation's first scholarship recipient, Makinnah Ricks, graduated from Monroe in 2025 and recently completed her first year at Georgia Southern University. Ricks said the scholarship helped cover the often-overlooked costs associated with beginning college, including textbooks, notebooks, calculators and required online learning platforms.

Beyond scholarships, the foundation spent much of 2025 focused on broader community outreach efforts. The organization sponsored foster children through Georgia Mentors' Program during the holidays, provided comfort items to residents at PruittHealth nursing facilities and participated in community events including the Albany State University Homecoming Parade and the City of Lights Christmas Parade.

Foundation leaders said youth volunteerism remains one of their primary focuses moving forward, encouraging parents to involve children in community service opportunities that build leadership skills and civic responsibility.

As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the foundation continues seeking donors and supporters to help expand its scholarship and mentorship efforts in the coming years.

Avenn Smith, grandson of the late Capt. Ted Randall Thomas, speaks during a scholarship presentation honoring his grandfather's legacy of youth mentorship, education and community service.



From left, Aidenn Smith, grandson of the late Capt. Ted Thomas; Justin Howard, nephew of Ted Thomas; Avenn Smith, grandson of Ted Thomas; and Makinnah Ricks, recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship, take part in a presentation hosted by the Captain Ted Randall Thomas Foundation honoring Thomas' legacy of youth mentorship, education and community service.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your message could shoot out of the gate and go viral today, today is one of the biggest jackpot days of 2026. If your individual cycles are lit, this could be the day to launch it, sign it, or meet them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A big and exciting change could be afoot in your financial world, buckle up — the stars have major momentum today. Focus and discipline can help you manage the adrenaline. Let home be a quiet charging station now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you've been contemplating changes in your identity, persona, or presentation, the time could be now. Go with it, you're not likely to want to hold back forces for explosive growth blasting you to a new level.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Forward motion demands courage, staying stuck and playing small are easier and less demanding. Build your courage by showing up for yourself daily, quieting the noise, and deciding what kind of life you want to build.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fool around and find out is not the best use of a jackpot day. Use today's powerful energies to expand your network and visibility as a serious, worthwhile person, not with over-the-top foolishness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get to the launch pad and strap in. Big recognition and/or media exposure could pop, call up all your stamina and internal resources. At the least, expect changes, and to be both visible and sought-after.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Digital creatives or people with online businesses could see their reach expanding dramatically now. Focus your attention to make the most of the opportunity. Friends could be dysregulated or dysregulating now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Something that's been dragging on and on could finally break free. The potential for a career misstep is big today and the momentum in the stars could inflate it enormously, stick to the script of what's known to work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Mouth closed, no flies caught, no feet placed inside, would be a wise stance today, the temptation to say something there's no going back from is very high. Don't. There are always consequences.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do not, do not, make a money move today. Despite great-scoring stars. Many bad-decision-gremlin planets, midpoints, and/or asteroids are in your money sectors. Don't let them mess you up now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't sweat the small stuff as long as it really is small stuff — today could bring an overreaction. If you're single, you could encounter a blinding object. If you're in individual soulmate cycles, it could be a soulmate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Changes in your domestic space could feel necessary now but might need some perseverance to complete fully. Stay centered and grounded to get necessary routine tasks done.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You could feel a need to make changes in your new personal year. The world could be at your feet now or soon. If all that's possible comes to pass, you could be blasted out of your current world into a much more visible and high-status life. There should be money to go with this too. Use your mind carefully, if some part of this doesn't align well, find a way to work around that part of the deal. June continues the financial flow, and you may have an opportunity to get a lot clearer about steps needed to reach your ultimate goals. The Universe also has your back even more than usual into about mid-July. Late July and early August brings a fairly high-risk period generally, and your individual cycles could either offset, or exacerbate, this. The risk is a temptation to do something that could have unrecoverable consequences. Don't do it.



1856 - Pro-slavery forces captured and burned Lawrence, Kansas

1863 - The Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized in Battle Creek, Michigan

1881 - Clara Barton establishes the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C.

1927 - Charles Lindbergh completes the world's first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean

1934 - Oskaloosa, Iowa is the first municipality in the

US to fingerprint all of its citizens

1980 - Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back is released

2005 - Kingda Ka, the tallest roller coaster in the world opens at Six Flags Great Escape in Jackson Township, New Jersey

2014 - The National September 11 Museum opens to the public

2017 - Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus performs their final show

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- American Red Cross Founder's Day
- Brown Bag It Thursday
- End of the World or Rapture Party Day
- Global Accessibility Awareness Day
- I Need a Patch for That Day
- International Tea Day
- National Aperitif Day

- National Memo Day
- National Notebook Day
- National Strawberries and Cream Day
- National Waiters and Waitresses Day
- Sister Maria Hummel Day
- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight -- it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Dwight D. Eisenhower,
U.S. president (1890-1969)

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

I have voted for Trump three times, and he has not kept any of his promises and gas has gone up sky high. He is not the greatest president ever.

Well, the Trumps, Kemps, Robertses and other crooked politicians and judges have accomplished what they set out to do: This country is now set to become a one-party government, with the crooked redrawing of political boundaries assuring them control of state and national governments from this point on. It will take a cataclysmic event to change things, which is apt to happen with the people we have in our government now.

I agree with the squawker who says Medicaid/Medicare scammers are the real problem. And one of them is running as a Republican for governor.

Republicans don't have to worry how crooked, demonic or evil their candidates are -- not that they would, because that's the kind of people they elect. Thanks to that racist John Roberts and his equally despicable colleagues on the Supreme Court, Republicans will rule this country from now until the next civil war.

SMRs, Trump does not care about Americans' financial situation. He only wanted your vote.

Trump has enriched himself in the way his father taught him: cheat, lie, steal. We should have seen this coming when we realized we were being asked to vote for a man who had built a fortune by filing for bankruptcies, cheating honest people out of money he owed them. This guy is scum, pure and simple.

So Gloria Gaines and Winfred Dukes worked to bring an equally crooked politician into this county's business? These foul birds of a feather always stick together.

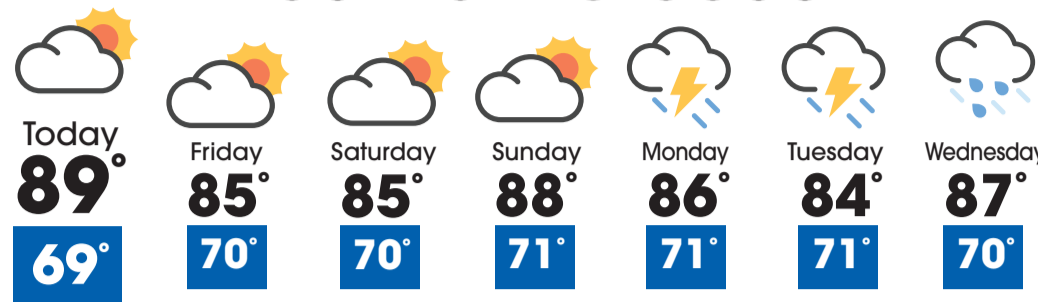
It seems it would be an easy answer to all of this child hunger and all of these nonprofits and churches making big bucks off of this so-called problem. With all of these federal, state and local community taxpayer-funded programs, they should search for the children that are not being fed and arrest their mamas and fathers. It is their responsibility, not the hard-working taxpayers'. The recent "cans for kids" drive would do better to hire someone to investigate this problem instead of throwing more money after it.

The crooks in Albany's and Dougherty County's governments have done all they can to enrich themselves and the equally crooked people who are benefitting from their "governance." Expecting help from an equally crooked state government is a fool's dream. We are doomed.

Keep Acuna on the injured reserve. The folks playing right field for the Braves in his absence may be a little less talented, but at least they play their hardest. With Acuna, that's not so.

Gloria Gaines is starting to sound a lot like Joe Biden before Joe left office. Her babbling incoherent ramblings are signs that she should be put out to pasture rather than being allowed to let her racist attitude continue to pollute this community.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Louie's rash play

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Cutting Unlucky Louie in my club's penny Chicago game is about as welcome as a patch of poison ivy in a nudist camp. What

NORTH			
♠	K J 6 4		
♥	7 5 4		
♦	8 6		
♣	7 6 4 2		
WEST			
♠	10 8 7 3		
♥	K 8		
♦	K 10		
♣	K Q J 10 5		
EAST			
♠	9		
♥	J 10 9 6 3		
♦	J 9 7 5 4 2		
♣	9		
SOUTH			
♠	A Q 5 2		
♥	A Q 2		
♦	A Q 3		
♣	A 8 3		
South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead - ♣ K			
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makes it all the more frustrating is that Louie isn't a bad card-holder.

As today's South, Louie opened 2NT with his 22-pointer. He was disappointed when North passed. (North might have risked a bid with anyone else.) West led the king of clubs, and Louie won the second club as East threw a diamond.

DOWN ONE

Louie next led a spade to dummy's jack and returned a heart to his queen. West won and cashed three clubs; Louie pitched a heart and a diamond. When West exited with a spade, Louie won in dummy and tried a diamond to his queen. West produced the king; down one.

"A lot of good 22 points did me," Louie sighed.



Frank Stewart

Louie was itching to go down. After he won the second club, all he had to do was cash four spades and exit with a club. After West took his clubs, he would have to lead a red suit, and Louie would get a free finesse and his eighth trick.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S 10 8 7 3 H K 8 D K 10 C K Q J 10 5. Your partner opens one heart, you bid two clubs and he rebids two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner may have six or more hearts but has not promised more than five, so to raise the hearts is premature. Bid two spades, forcing. If he bids 2NT next, raise to 3NT. You might have judged to settle for inviting game, but then you would have to bid 2NT now, suppressing your spades, or your first bid would have been one spade.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Wife's hair keeps ending up in packed lunch

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My wife is retired and does the majority of grocery shopping and cooking. For the past year or so she has also insisted on packing me a lunch to take to work.

I'm a teacher and bringing lunch has been part of my daily routine for years (there's no time in the school day to go out to lunch). She packs things like soups, salads or leftovers from dinner the night before. This is very generous and I appreciate that she wants to help make my workweek a little easier.

Sometimes, she even makes hand-held breakfasts to go!

I've never asked for help with meal prep but we've just sort of fallen into this routine. While I always express my gratitude, what I haven't said is that I sometimes find hair in my meals. My wife's hair is distinctive looking; it's longish, curly and grey.

I don't want to be critical or seem ungrateful, but it's pretty unappetizing. What's your advice for how to communicate about this without hurting her feelings?

— A Hairy Predicament

Dear Hairy: I'm curious if you find hair in the dinners she makes as well or just the lunches. I suppose it's moot, but you might employ a different strategy if this was related more broadly to kitchen hygiene practices.

But let's assume it's just about lunch. I honestly think that the easiest course of action would be to pick out the hair and move on. However, I am empathetic to the fact that we can't always control what makes us lose our appetites, nor

whether that appetite comes back. If your wife's kind gesture isn't having the desired impact, it's fine to pivot.

You can do this indirectly by telling her you appreciate how much help she's providing with grocery shopping and cooking, and you have appreciated the lunches, but you'd like to pack them yourself again. You can assure her that this isn't about the quality of the lunches (outside of the hair, it seems they were quite wonderful).

Or you can do this directly by expressing the same level of gratitude but also mentioning that you've noticed hairs on occasion. You might ask if she's noticed it, too. If she hasn't, a solution might be as simple as asking her to keep an eye out.

Dear Eric: My husband and I are in our 70s. He is kind and generous to me and has no problem with buying me expensive gifts. We don't go out very often, but when we do, he often will blow his top when he sees what food or tickets to an event cost, even when I offer to pay my share.

He then makes a public scene, and I worry that someone will call security. He doesn't yell at the employees but turns his ire on me.

When I try to reason with him, he says he's going to just leave me wherever we are (he never has). I've learned not to engage with him when he gets to this point, and I calmly tell him I'll just take the bus home, and I pull out my phone and start scrolling. He calms down fairly quickly and always apologizes, but I'm left shaken, as well as angry and disappointed because he has



Eric Thomas

spoiled what I thought might be a good time.

I then resolve to only come back to the "offending" establishment with my friends and leave him at home. Sometimes, I try to talk to him beforehand and remind him that the prices will be high and I walk him through what might be a better reaction, and I ask him to make suggestions about what would make him more comfortable. It's exhausting for me, but it works once in a while. Is there anything else I can do, like learn to let this roll off my back?

— Married to a Cranky Old Coot

Dear Married: Good on you for trying to have a reasonable conversation with him. His inability or unwillingness to amend his behavior is a major cause for concern, however. Blowing up at you and making threats about leaving you is emotionally abusive behavior. Consider talking to a friend or a therapist about other aspects of his behavior to see if there are other places where you're having to deal with outbursts or manipulative actions.

Right now, he isn't deserving of the privilege of going out with you. Explain to him that these outbursts aren't just embarrassing, but they're emotionally abusive and make you unsafe. Tell him that you won't be going out with him at all until he talks to a counselor and comes up with a plan to control his emotions. He then needs to demonstrate that the plan is working and you're safe before you can go out again.

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 erichthomas.com.

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

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The Albany Herald (U.S.P.S. 012-320), 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, Ga 31701, published daily by GTLN, is the legal organ of Dougherty and Calhoun Counties. Periodicals class postage paid at Albany, Ga. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Albany Herald, 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, Ga 31701. Business Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3

COLUMNIST ■ CHAD WARBINGTON

Albany Utilities and data centers - Part 1

Lately, there has been a lot of news stories and articles, both local and national, about electric utilities. Also, in the political season we are in, debates and sound bites about data centers and utility bills are flooding in.

Social media, as usual, takes these topics and amplifies them with numerous posts and comments, some factual and some not. News flash: Not everything you read on social media is true.

I have chosen to write a series of op-eds on the topic of electric utilities: the history of electricity in Georgia and Albany, data centers/AI and other related utility topics. I gauge where I need to inform citizens based on messages, emails, questions and conversations, and electric utilities are one of the most popular topics of communications lately. I currently serve on the MEAG Power Board, representing Albany, and I have learned a tremendous amount in conversations at the state and national level in area of electric utilities.

For utilities, the state of Georgia has the most reliable power-generating fleet, the best integrated distribution grid and the great network of local retail providers in the country. Georgia is looked upon regularly for benchmarking and reapplication of our electric utilities systems. Our recent construction and start-up of the

Plant Vogtle nuclear units was the first nuclear plant construction in the last 30 years in the entire United States.

Albany Utilities is the second-largest municipal electric provider in the state of Georgia, right behind the city of Marietta. In the last published electric utility rate survey, Albany had the ninth-lowest electric rate in the state among hundreds of electric retail providers and easily is 12% to 15% lower than Georgia Power electric rates.

The narrative that Albany Utility rates are high is just not true, and the facts prove that Albany electric rates are some of the lowest in the state. As I have said many times, Albany does not have a utility rate problem. We have a usage problem. Too many of our homes were built in the '60s and '70s and are very inefficient and are "power hogs" trying to heat and cool them.

Check with owners of the few new homes in Albany, and you will be surprised how low their utility bills are compared to the same-sized house built in the '60s and '70s. Also, education about the cost of our usage is lacking. The Department of Energy recommends you keep your thermostat in the winter at 68 degrees and in the summer at 78 degrees.

For an average home, any warmer or any cooler can increase your utility bill by

approximately \$10 per month per degree. It's your money and your comfort, but realize you could be costing yourself \$50 or more a month to stay "perfectly comfortable." Running a small fan in the summer or grabbing a small blanket in the winter could help save on your electric bill.

In the 100 years of organized electric power supply, there have been several drastic changes in the electric power market due to new inventions, industrial increases and general society changes. We sit in 2026 with another drastic electric power market change to provide the infrastructure for the small devices in our hands and pockets.

Some call them your cellphones, but they are much more than that. The modern cellphone is a micro-computer device we are hooked to constantly, and some say we are addicted to. The electric power we need for these micro-computers to meet our needs and maybe addictions is provided by "data centers."

Where do all the videos and pictures for social media go? To a data center. Where do all the apps we use on our phone reside? A data center. How does my phone have maps, directions, satellite images and 360-degree pictures of all addresses anywhere in the world? A data center. Where are all the movies we stream stored? A data center.

Statistics say that an older person picks up their phone 180 times per day, and a younger millennial person picks up their phone 350 times per day. With all those touches, the overall average screen time for phones is approximately 5 hours a day.

While we cry foul and say negative things about the data centers being built, they are simply responding to our habits and needs. Now, with the rise of artificial intelligence, we now have an unprecedented, once-in-a-generation boom in the electric power industry. Native power load growth (power needed for basic human growth and popu-

lation expansion) is dwarfed 1,000 times over by the power load growth needed to power the data centers that society is asking for.



WARBINGTON

While we as a society may demonize data centers, realize our very lives, actions and habits are fueling the exponential data center expansion.

I believe Albany, the state of Georgia and the United States have got to responsibly build out and expand our electric power industry to match the new demands of modern society. We can't "give away the farm" and put our future financial stability at risk and put the cost

of this growth on everyday ratepayers. But also, we can't put on blinders and say flat out "no" to data centers.

These centers themselves are not the problem. It's how we respond to the data centers, either responsibly or irresponsibly, that could be the problem. Data centers need to pay their fair share, their new infrastructure costs, their full taxes, their full-rate utility bills and become community partners and assets in the community and not a liability.

We have data centers "kicking the tires" in and around Albany. No formal decisions have been made that I'm aware of. My message is come, check out our community. We have lots of land; we have available power. Come check out what our utilities can do for you, and if you want to be a community asset and not a liability, let's talk.

We should not "give the farm" away; we should not roll over to every request, and we should not take the first deal that comes our way. We can truly find a data center deal that benefits our citizens, community and the region.

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Georgia election chaos is a deliberate policy choice

The last thing Georgia needs in the 2026 midterms is more election-related chaos, more court fights and allegations of election theft, more distrust and more conspiracy-driven nonsense, the kind of nonsense that is breaking our country apart.

Yet, whether through incompetence or design, that's exactly where we appear to be headed.

The problem dates back to 2024, when the General Assembly passed a law that required significant changes in how the state conducts its elections and set an implementation deadline of July 1 of this year.

Since then, however, state leaders have done little or nothing to implement the changes that they themselves required. Machinery needs to be purchased and installed, the federal government has to certify that equipment, and staff has to be trained on it. None of that has happened.

As a result, county election officials, the people who actually have to run the operation dictated by the state, now find themselves trapped, like an oil-tanker captain in the Strait of Hormuz, not knowing where to turn or what to do.

"If legislation is not passed, Georgia's voting laws will likely end up in court, putting Georgia's well-run and timely reported elections in jeopardy and resulting in chaos," the Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials warned in a statement last month.

As the association noted, it didn't have to be like this. In the recent session of the General Assembly, the state House approved legislation by a vote of 132-39 that would have pushed

the deadline for election changes back to 2028, allowing time to implement the changes fairly and efficiently. The bill had strong Republican support, with only six of 99 House Republicans voting against it.



BOOKMAN

However, the bill was never brought to a vote in the Senate, where Lt. Gov. Burt Jones presides.

As you know, Jones is running for the GOP nomination for governor, and election-related conspiracy plays a central role in his political identity.

Jones was a "false elector" in 2020. He argued in favor of calling the General Assembly into special session that year so legislators could try to override the decision by Georgia voters' to give the state's electoral votes to Joe Biden.

After that failed, Jones joined the state of Texas in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out every vote cast by his fellow Georgians, effectively stripping his constituents of a voice. And late last year, he appointed Salleigh Grubbs, a well-known election fabulist, to the State Election Board, where she'll have ample opportunity to cause trouble in the weeks and months ahead.

As lieutenant governor, Jones almost certainly made the decision not to allow a Senate vote on postponing election changes.

Jones' history already tells us how little regard he has for fair elections. He has proved more than willing to try to wrangle victory through the courts or legal machinations that he could not win from voters themselves. To some, it seems, election chaos is not a disaster to be avoided, it is an opportunity to be exploited.

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

What would we do without a junk drawer?

I'm not sure how anyone could exist without a junk drawer. No household that calls itself a household is without one. It may be in the kitchen or the living room or the den or perhaps the garage. Maybe even the bedroom. But it is there. And it is essential to life as we know it.

To be a truly authentic junk drawer, it must contain things too valuable to throw away because there will come a time when we will surely need them. For example, a bolt. To be operable, bolts generally need a nut at the other end to secure whatever it is that we may one day choose to repair. Also, a corresponding washer may be required as well.

A junk drawer by design will contain several randomized nuts and washers, just not any that will fit any of the bolts in the drawer. But who in good conscience can throw away a 3/16-inch x 3/4-inch round head stove bolt, even if it doesn't have a nut that fits? Or a washer? They are all too valuable to throw away, and we may need them one day.

And don't forget screws. Most screws in a junk drawer will be of the slightly used variety. We took them out of something, and even though they may be bent and a bit rusted, we assign them to the junk drawer. We may need them one day.

Any junk drawer worthy of its name also will have nails that have been previously extracted and, like the aforementioned screws, may be bent and a bit rusted. But who is going to throw away otherwise functional 3-inch nails? We may need them one day.

In my junk drawer, I also have a door strike plate — brass — should I ever have to replace one in my home. You never know when that time will come, and you have to be ready. The only thing missing are two little screws — brass — to secure the strike plate.

My junk drawer has one rubber chair leg bottom protector of indeterminate size if I find a chair that needs only

one and assuming it fits. But it is there just in case, and that is the important thing. There is also a half-opened pack of felt sliders of all sizes to go under my chairs if I don't want to use the rubber chair leg bottom of indeterminate size. The point being that when it comes to chair leg bottoms, one can never be too prepared.

Probing around in my junk drawer can be a safety hazard. That is due to several random thumbtacks interspersed with the other essentials I may need one day. For some reason, the thumb part always seems to be down and the tack part always up. My fingers hate that.

And no junk drawer is worthy of being called a junk drawer without some string or cord to tie up something. And if you can't tie it up, you will likely need to glue it. And for that eventuality, you need Super Glue. I have several tubes of Super Glue because the stuff tends to dry up, and I have to buy another one that also dries up and then another. I don't even think about throwing them away because I have been told if you soak them in hot water, they will once again be usable, and I may need to glue something one day. Right now, I'm thinking thumbtacks.

I also have in my junk drawer the directions to a flip phone that I owned back in the '90s, a warranty for a Sony Walkman cassette player, two cassettes that can't be identified, three ballpoint pens that don't write and several pencils that need to be sharpened. If there is a pencil sharpener in the drawer, I haven't been able to locate it. It may be under the flip phone directions.

I maintain that junk drawers are an absolute necessity. Who knows when you might suddenly have to glue a 3/16-inch x 3/4-inch round head stove bolt to a brass door strike plate with thumbtacks? I don't know about you, but I'm ready.

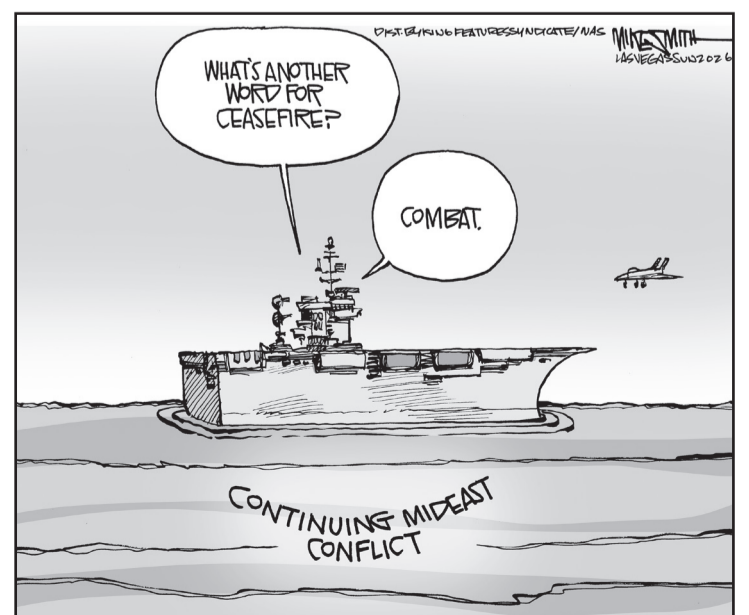


YARBROUGH

The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701



What to watch

THURSDAY

May 21, 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. ■ **Season Finale**

The *Young Sheldon* spinoff wraps up Season 2 with a one-hour finale. In "Funky Chili and Friends Who Take Their Clothes Off," Mandy and Jim (Emily Osment and Will Sasso) butt heads when they fill in at the store. Then, in "A New Beau and Someone Else's Mom's House," Georgie (Montana Jordan) and Mandy take matters into their own hands when Mary (Zoe Perry) starts warming up to Fagenbacher (returning guest star Matt Letscher). CBS has ordered Season 3.

Scrabble

The CW, 8 p.m.

Contestants wage a war of words for the chance at the \$10,000 prize in the new episode "Playing a Dangerous Game." Craig Ferguson hosts.

Next Level Chef

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

The three remaining chefs must create a dish on each level in just 90 minutes, and one contestant will be crowned the winner of Season 5 in "The Final Level." FOX has renewed the show for Season 6.

Ghosts

CBS, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

The sitcom following Sam (Rose McIver), Jay (Utkarsh Ambudkar) and the ghosts inhabiting their Woodstone bed and breakfast ends Season 5 with "Up the Creek" and "Across the Pond." When Woodstone's future is put in jeopardy, Sam and Jay join forces with the ghosts to protect the mansion by securing its place in history. Then, a major career opportunity takes Sam out of town, leaving others to step in and help with the ghosts. CBS has picked up the show for Season 6.



'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert'

MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS, CBS

Trivial Pursuit

The CW, 9 p.m.

A college professor hopes to surprise his parents for their 50th anniversary by mastering the six Trivial Pursuit categories and winning \$20,000 in the new episode "Heart of Gold." LeVar Burton hosts.

Fear Factor: House of Fear: 48 Hours of Fear

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

The two-week special event wraps up as five sleep-deprived competitors try to push through another 24 hours of tarantulas, needles, electrocution, disgusting sushi and playing chicken with ATVs. The winner claims a \$50,000 prize. Johnny Knoxville hosts.

Elsbeth

CBS, 10 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

A minor royal's mysterious death at New York's most legendary hotel brings Elsbeth (Carrie Preston) into a world of faded elegance, cabaret and murder. Patti LuPone and Michael Urie guest-star in the Season 3 finale "That's All." CBS has ordered a fourth season.

The Late Show With Stephen Colbert

CBS, 11:35 p.m. ■ **Series Finale**

The Late Show debuted in 1993 with host David Letterman, who remained behind the desk until Stephen Colbert succeeded him in 2015. *The Late Show* franchise signs off after 33 years on CBS as Colbert hosts the final broadcast.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Host Movie Confessions

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Host of *TCM Imports* Alicia Malone shares her insights on tonight's airing of **The Bridge on the River Kwai** (1957), followed by TCM's *Musical Matinee* host Dave Karger, who selects 1974's **Blazing Saddles** (pictured). *Kwai*'s lasting appeal, as TCM has shared, is its "uneasy mix of heroism and blind obedience to military honor, large-scale action and subtle characterization, humor and horror." *Saddles*, of course, is



WARNER BROS.

a Mel Brooks classic, with Gene Wilder and Cleavon Little at the lead, and remains one of the highest-grossing Westerns (even though it is a spoof) of all time.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Antebellum'

MATT KENNEDY

Imaginary (2024, Horror) DeWanda Wise, Tom Payne **SYFY, 6 p.m.**

50 First Dates (2004, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore **E!, 6:30 p.m.**

Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (2021, Children) Alec Baldwin, James Marsden **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Crooklyn (1994, Drama) Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Runaway Bride (1999, Romance-comedy) Julia Roberts, Richard Gere **MGM, 8 p.m.**

The Widow's Payback (2025, Suspense) Bianca Lawson, Kheon Clarke **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare (2024, Action) Henry Cavill, Eiza González **SYFY, 8:30 p.m.**

Tyler Perry's the Family That Preys (2008, Drama) Kathy Bates, Alfre Woodard **BET, 9 p.m.**

I Love You, Beth Cooper (2009, Comedy) Hayden Panettiere, Paul Rust **VH1, 10 p.m.**

Black Widow (2021, Action) Scarlett Johansson, Florence Pugh **FX, 10:30 p.m.**

Didi (2024, Comedy-drama) Izaac Wang, Joan Chen **STARZ, 11 p.m.**

Antebellum (2020, Suspense) Janelle Monáe, Jena Malone **FXM, 11:45 p.m.**

From the editors of

TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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What to watch

FRIDAY

May 22, 2026

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

Sheriff Country

CBS, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

With her department under scrutiny and tensions rising across Edgewater, Mickey (Morena Baccarin) faces the fallout from a major investigation that threatens to upend everything she's built in the Season 1 finale "Mexico." CBS has renewed the show for Season 2.

Fire Country

CBS, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

After a catastrophic dam failure unleashes historic floodwaters across Edgewater, Station 42 and Three Rock battle rising waters and dwindling resources in the Season 4 finale "Try Not to Drown." *Fire Country* will return for Season 5.

Great Performances

PBS, 9 p.m.

Nicole Scherzinger won Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Actress in a Musical for her



'Fire Country'

SERGEI BACHLAKOV, CBS

recent star turn in *Sunset Boulevard*. Last fall, the former Pussycat Dolls singer returned to London's Royal Albert Hall to perform pop singles and Broadway hits in a solo concert captured for tonight's episode, "An Evening With Nicole Scherzinger."

Boston Blue

CBS, 10 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

Season 1 concludes with "Patrol," featuring major twists and D.A. election drama, with Sonequa Martin-Green teasing "difficult"

revelations for her character, Lena Silver. The series has been renewed for a second season.

Comics Unleashed With Byron Allen

CBS, 11:35 p.m. ■ **New Time Slot**

This talk series hosted by Byron Allen and featuring a rotating panel of some of the top names in comedy airs at a new time with two half-hour episodes on weeknights.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Memorial Day Movie Marathon Begins

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Starting this evening and continuing into the early morning of Tuesday, May 26, Turner Classic Movies commemorates Memorial Day with a nonstop lineup of war- and military-themed films. This evening's schedule begins with the biopic

MacArthur (1977), which was the follow-up film for producers David Brown and Richard Zanuck after their successful *Jaws*. The film was a disappointment at the box office despite its lead man being Gregory Peck, but it remains a classic today, sharing the story of the prickly war general. Immediately after, the lineup features 1961's **The Guns of Navarone** (pictured), **Pork Chop Hill** (1959), **The Purple Plain** (1954), **Days of Glory** (1944), **The Sea Wolves** (1980) and **Captain Newman, M.D.** (1963).



COLUMBIA PICTURES

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'You Again'

MARK FELLMAN

Mission: Impossible (1996, Action) Tom Cruise, Jon Voight **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

Mulan (1998, Children) Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy **Freeform, 7 p.m.**

Trolls World Tour (2020, Children) Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Gladiator (2000, Historical drama) Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans **TNT, 8:15 p.m.**

Beauty and the Beast (1991, Children) Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson **Freeform, 9 p.m.**

Brown Sugar (2002, Romance-comedy) Taye Diggs, Sanaa Lathan **BET, 9 p.m.**

Hannibal (2001, Suspense) Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore **MGM, 10 p.m.**

Jurassic Park (1993, Adventure) Sam Neill, Laura Dern **TBS, 10 p.m.**

You Again (2010, Romance-comedy) Kristen Bell, Jamie Lee Curtis **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Gangs of New York (2002, Historical drama) Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis **SHO, 10:35 p.m.**

The Client (1994, Suspense) Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones **POP, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of

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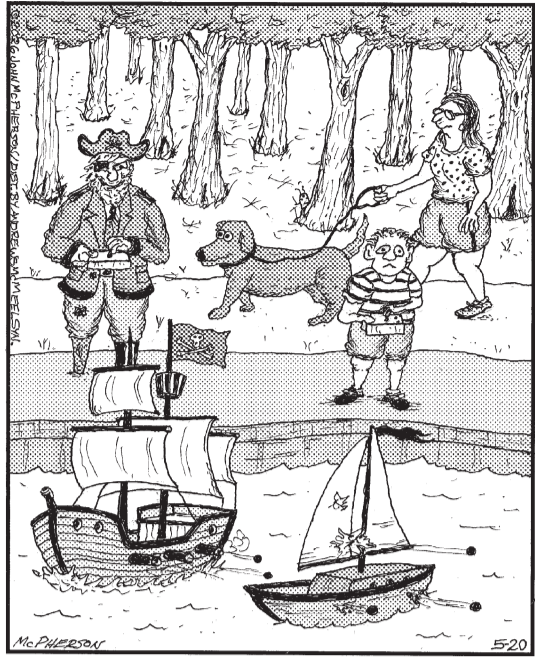
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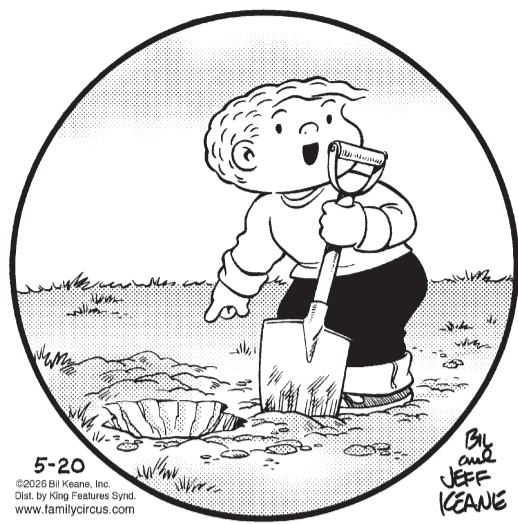
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TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson

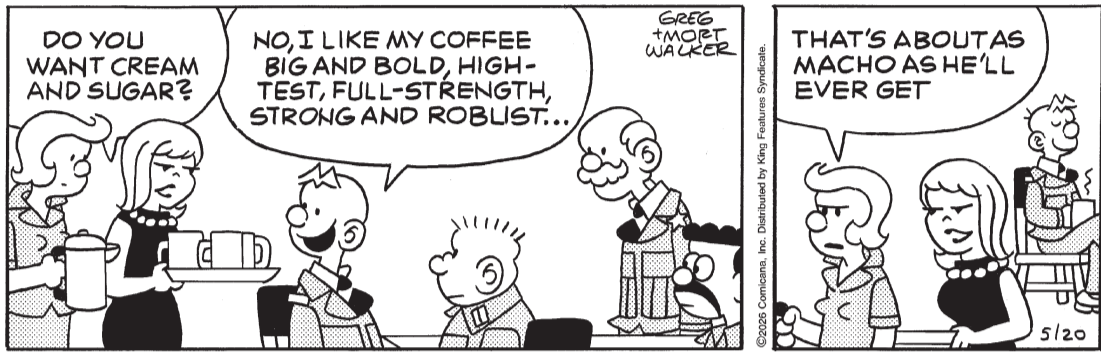


THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



5-20
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"Mommy! Guess what I discovered! Rock!"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

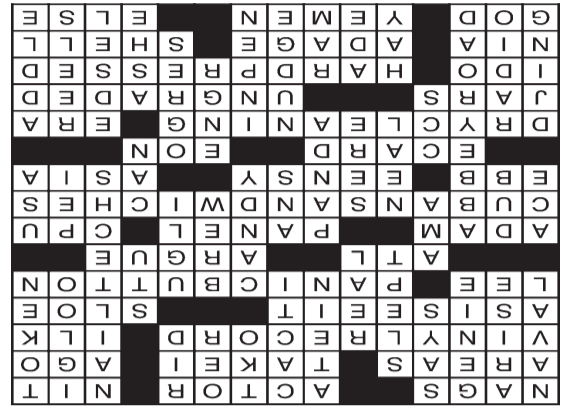


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

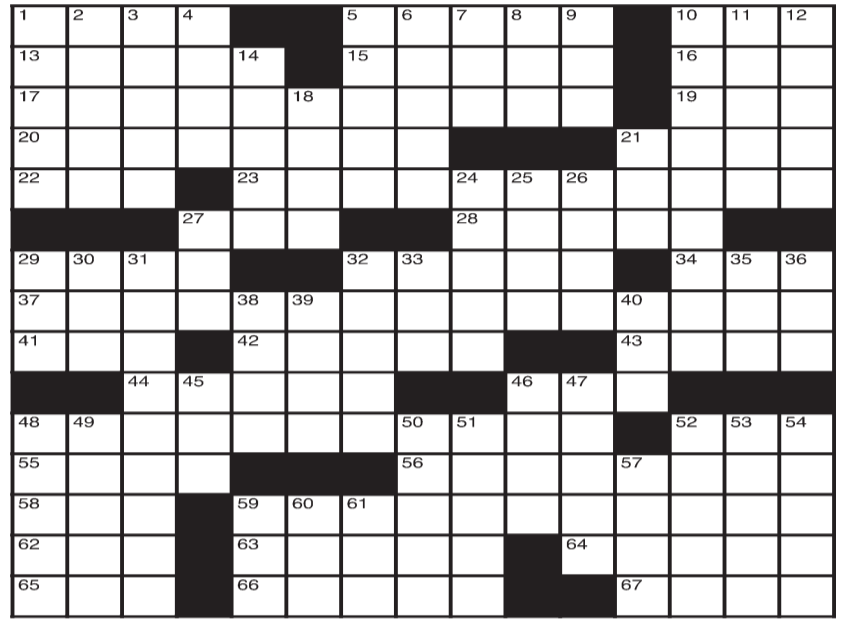
Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
 1 Pesters
 5 "Break a leg" addressee
 10 Minor quibble
 13 Regions
 15 Sulu portrayer on "Star Trek"
 16 Prior to today
 17 LP or 45
 19 Category
 20 "From my point of view ..."
 21 Gin infusion berry
 22 Filmmaker Spike
 23 Emergency feature on a car's key fob
 27 The Falcons, on scoreboards
 28 Squabble
 29 Sandler of "Uncut Gems"
 32 Plywood sheet
 34 PC core
 37 Ham-and-cheese concoctions with Florida origins
 41 Partner of flow
 42 Wee
 43 Most populous continent
 44 Online birthday greeting
 46 A billion years
 48 Waterless treatment for some clothes
 52 Bullpen stat
 55 Jam-packed containers?
 56 Like some work in a teacher's stack
 58 Vow renewal vow
 59 Feeling the squeeze, or what 17-, 23-, 37-, and 48-Across may be
 62 Actress Peeples
 63 Proverb
 64 Conchiglie pasta shape
 65 Zeus or Poseidon
 66 Saudi Arabia neighbor
 67 "If all ___ fails ..."
- DOWN**
 1 Part of USNA
 2 Respond to reveille
 3 "Aladdin" role for Robin Williams
 4 Simon ___
 5 Used Grubhub, say
 6 Some succulents
 7 Ref's ring call, for short
 8 Opposite of 'neath
 9 Divest (of)
 10 Mani-pedi pros
 11 Yeti rival
 12 Game piece
 14 Got some shut-eye
 18 Honest-to-goodness
 21 "Rugrats" dad
 24 Smarties and Nerds
 25 Make, as beer
 26 Wrinkly citrus fruit
 27 Org. whose symbol is a snake around a pole
 29 Unreturned tennis serve
 30 Add new audio to
 31 Street on a 1969 Beatles album
 32 Bamboo eater
 33 Ques. response
 35 Architect I.M. ___
 36 Can. neighbor
 38 Sci-fi author Stephenson
 39 Withered from drought
 40 Is able to
 45 Shares an email with
 46 Many a tech school grad
 47 Fairy tale monsters
 48 Working a dance party, say
 49 Marconi medium
 50 Elbow gently
 51 Confident way to solve a crossword
 52 Famous Ford flop
 53 Highland dances
 54 Bewilder
 57 Court legend Arthur
 59 Stable staple
 60 Summer refresher suffix
 61 SoFi Stadium NFL player

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

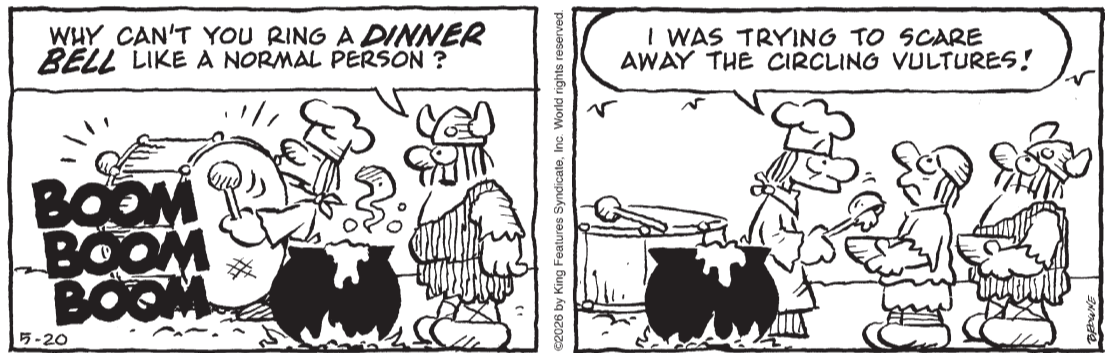


05/20/26



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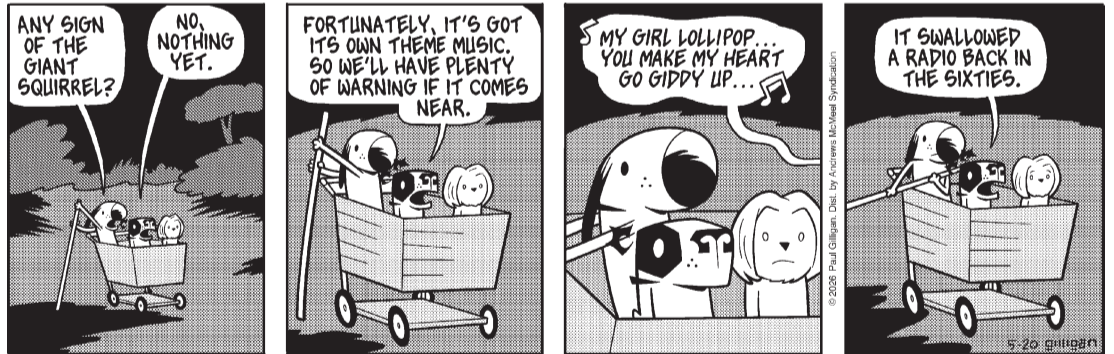
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

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

WALKING ON HOT COALS Solution: 11 letters

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

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Absorb, Ancient, Arch, Balance, Belief, Blaze, Burn, Conductor, Contact, Degrees, Embers, Evaporate, Faith, Flicker, Footprint, Ground, Healing, Heel, Ignite, Lava, Meditation, Mind, Molten, Motion, Move, Orange, Perform, Practice, Science, Smoke, Steam, Stunt, Support, Surface Area, Temperature, Test, Thermal, Time, Touch, Water

TODAY'S ANSWER: Firewalking

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Dollars and cents

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

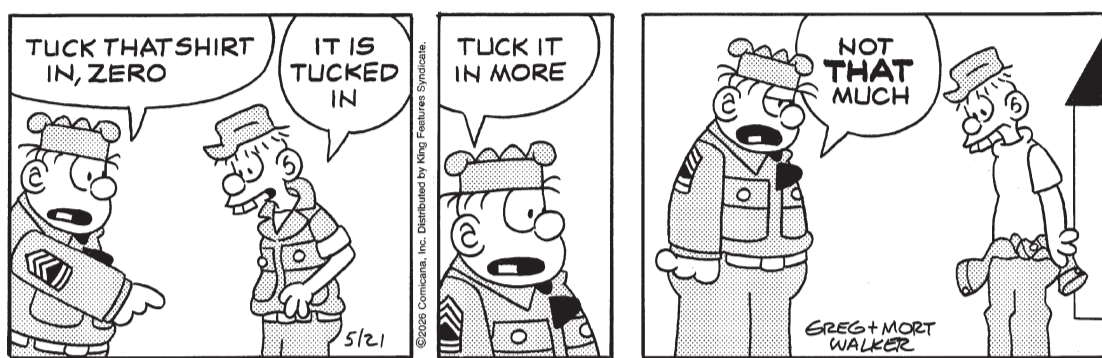
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



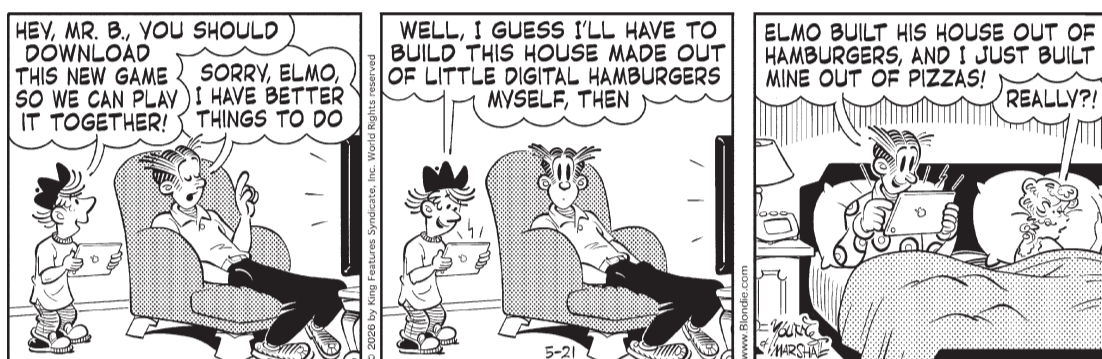
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



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



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Eagle — Landed"
 - 4 Hazard
 - 8 Deep cut
 - 12 Earthbound bird
 - 13 Pennsylvania port
 - 14 Lamb's pen name
 - 15 Distant
 - 16 Weathercock
 - 17 Honey Bunches of —
 - 18 Motif
 - 20 Die
 - 22 Bring — — head
 - 23 Droop
 - 24 Erudite one
 - 28 Familiar TV show
 - 32 Delay action
 - 33 Tumble
 - 35 Word in a palindrome
 - 36 — Arbor, Michigan
- DOWN**
- 1 Weight
 - 2 Wet nurse

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

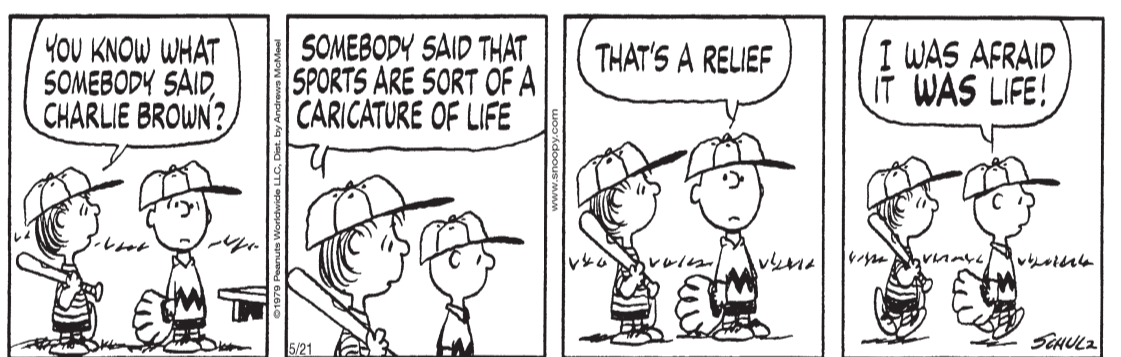
- 3 Certainty (2 wds.)
- 4 Uncover
- 5 Nest egg letters
- 6 Do wrong
- 7 Holds
- 8 Actor — Clooney
- 9 Jai —
- 10 Watches the kiddies
- 11 Diner fare
- 19 Debatable
- 21 Man of rank
- 24 Mop
- 25 Aid to walking
- 26 Astern
- 27 Cry of frustration
- 29 True to life
- 30 Press
- 31 — do-well
- 34 Caustic material
- 37 Indigo
- 38 Word in a telegram
- 40 Game official
- 42 Robberies
- 44 Lawful
- 46 Starbucks size
- 47 Margarine
- 48 — Piper of Hamelin
- 50 River in France
- 51 Note
- 54 Kimono accessory
- 55 Actor — Pace

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	

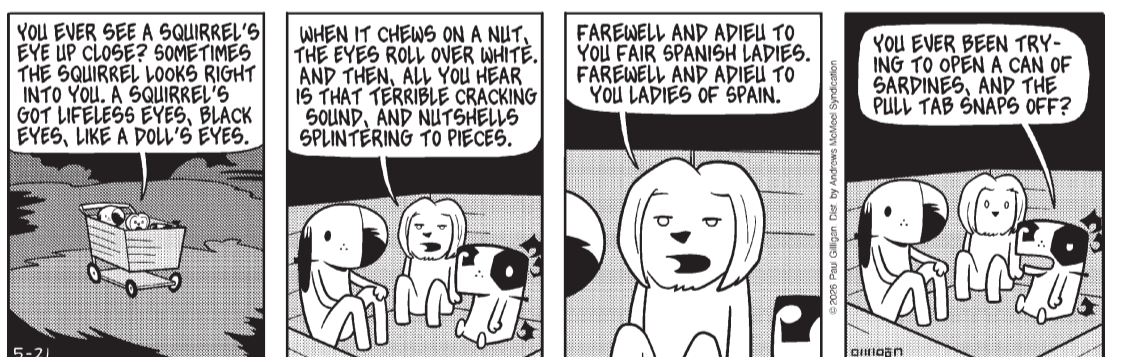
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

cider dealing

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: Insider dealing

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.

BURJ KHALIFA, DUBAI Solution: 6 letters

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

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Abu Dhabi, Antenna, Aquarium, Arabian, Architecture, Cabin, Cladding, Concierge, Corporate, Curtain, Deck, Emirates, Fountain, Hotel, Iconic, Lobby, Lounge, Luxury, Observation, Panoramic, Pool, Price, Residence, Restaurant, Rise, Royal, Skyscraper, Spiral, Spire, Steel, Structure, Sunset, Tallest, Ticket, Tourist, Units, Visit

TODAY'S ANSWER: Vision

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 30 honors Frances Davis on her 104th birthday

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — American Legion Auxiliary Unit 30 and Walter H. Burt Post 30 gathered recently to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the 104th birthday of Frances Davis, a beloved member of the Legion family and a cherished figure in the Albany community.

Davis, who officially turned 104 on May 17, was honored

during the post's dinner meeting with applause and warm smiles from members and guests. She was presented a birthday cake, a birthday balloon, and a special gift. The room filled with voices as everyone joined together to sing "Happy Birthday" and wish her many more years of joy and good health.

A member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 47 years, Davis has served in numer-

ous roles, including that of unit president, and remains a shining example of service, grace and commitment. Her leadership and devotion have left a lasting impact on Unit 30 and the veterans and families it serves.

Davis currently resides at Viva Assisted Living, where she continues to enjoy life to the fullest. She stays active not only with the American Legion Auxiliary but also

through her involvement with the Daylily Club, regular bingo games, and the many activities offered at Viva. Her energy, enthusiasm, and warm spirit continue to inspire everyone around her.

As Unit 30 members celebrated her remarkable life, they also celebrated the legacy she continues to build — one of service, friendship, and unwavering dedication to her community.



Special Photo: Legion Auxiliary Unit 30

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 30 members celebrated Frances Davis recently as she approached her 104th birthday. Attending the celebration were, from left, Gerry Alverson, Linda Breton, Kathey Rush, Davis, Rena Brewer, Brenda Alward, Marilyn Fowler and Deanna Nicholson.

Congress Votes

By Targeted News Service

WASHINGTON -- Here's a look at how Georgia's members of Congress voted over the previous week.

Along with its roll call votes this week, the Senate also passed the Medal of Sacrifice Act (H.R. 3497) to establish a medal of service for law enforcement officers and first responders; the Baby Changing on Board Act (S. 71) to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in bathrooms on passenger rail cars; a bill (S. Res. 728) expressing the sense of the Senate that the president should prioritize securing the release of six people detained by China during future engagements with Chinese President Xi Jinping; and a bill (S. Res. 526) withholding the pay of senators if a federal government shutdown occurs.

The House also passed the Tailored Regulatory Updates for Supervisory Testing Act (H.R. 4478) to permit federal banking agencies to examine qualifying insured depository institutions with under \$6 billion in total assets not less than once during each 18-month period; and the Criminal History Access Act (H.R. 8352) to authorize peace officer standards and training agencies to access criminal history records.

HOUSE VOTES:

ETHANOL MEASURE: The House has passed a bill (H. Res. 1274) sponsored by Rep. Michelle Fischbach, R-Minn., to strike from a recently passed House resolution a requirement to include the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act in the farm bill (H.R. 7567). An opponent, Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Mass., called the bill "a quick way to make sure the Senate never takes" up a revised ethanol standard as a stand-alone bill, because of the resulting debt increase. The vote, on May 13, was 213 yeas to 208 nays.

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA (9th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), McBath D-GA (6th), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

FOREIGN SHRIMP FARMS: The House has passed the Save Our Shrimpers Act (H.R. 2071) sponsored by Rep. Troy E. Nehls, R-Texas, to bar federal funds from being used by international financial organizations, such as the World Bank, to fund foreign shrimp farming. Nehls said the restriction "stands up for American jobs, American seafood producers, and the coastal communities that depend on the shrimping industry to survive." The vote, on May 12, was 391 yeas to 18 nays, with 1 voting present.

YEAS: Entire Georgia delegation

RETAIL THEFT GANGS: The House has passed the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (H.R. 2853) sponsored by Rep. David P. Joyce, R-Ohio, to take several measures to increase

penalties for the interstate movement of stolen products that are distributed through retail channels. Joyce said: "From small businesses on Main Street to retailers operating nationwide, organized retail crime threatens a key pillar of the American economy. We can't allow criminal organizations to intimidate hard-working Americans, threaten jobs, or destabilize communities across our country." The vote, on May 12, was 348 yeas to 60 nays.

YEAS: Entire Georgia delegation

POLICE FATALITIES: The House has passed a bill (H. Res. 1252) sponsored by Rep. Michael Guest, R-Miss., to memorialize law enforcement officers killed on the job. A supporter, Rep. Brad Knott, R-N.C., said: "It is up to us in Congress to honor their memory and to stand up to protect those who do so much each and every day to protect each of us." The vote, on May 13, was 418 yeas to 2 nays.

YEAS: Entire Georgia delegation

ETHANOL IN GASOLINE: The House has passed the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (H.R. 1346) sponsored by Rep. Adrian Smith, R-Neb. The bill would make year-round, rather than merely seasonal, a federal waiver allowing gasoline to contain up to 15% ethanol, rather than the current year-round 10% ethanol standard. Smith said a year-round 15% ethanol standard would support "a reliable, clean, and affordable homegrown fuel that strengthens every link in our domestic energy supply chain." A bill opponent, Rep. Harriet Hagedorn, R-Wyo., said: "If higher ethanol blends were truly competitive on their own merits, they would not require federal blending mandates, compliance credit schemes, subsidies, and special regulatory carve-outs to survive in the marketplace." The vote, on May 13, was 218 yeas to 203 nays.

NAYS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Clyde R-GA (9th), Johnson D-GA (4th), McCormick R-GA (7th)

YEAS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), McBath D-GA (6th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), Williams D-GA (5th), Collins R-GA (10th)

PRAISING LAW ENFORCEMENT: The House has passed a bill (H. Con. Res. 96) sponsored by Rep. Zachary Nunn, R-Iowa, to express support for police and other law enforcement officers. Nunn said: "When we support local law enforcement, it works, and we have proven it. Homicide rates are the lowest in over a century. Drug overdose deaths are at their lowest in over a decade." A bill opponent, Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said it made "a tired, false, cliché-ridden partisan claim about defunding the police" and advanced inflammatory anti-Democratic rhetoric about crime. The vote, on May 13, was 243 yeas to 173 nays, with 3 voting present.

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Bishop D-GA (2nd), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA



Jon Ossoff

(9th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), Johnson D-GA (4th), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: McBath D-GA (6th), Williams D-GA (5th)

ANTI-SEMITISM: The House has passed a bill (H. Res. 1251) sponsored by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., to call for politicians and cultural leaders to condemn anti-Semitism and support religious freedom in the U.S. Wasserman Schultz said: "The House must unite to denounce anti-Semitism and protect Jewish Americans from attacks on their religious freedom, dignity, and safety." The vote, on May 13, was unanimous with 419 yeas.

YEAS: Entire Georgia delegation

DETAINEES HELD BY CHINA: The House has passed a bill (H. Res. 1259) sponsored by Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., to call on the president to prioritize the release of five individuals, including two pastors and a newspaper founder, in his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Smith said pressing for the releases could win either freedom or improved treatment of the detainees, and failing to object to their imprisonment would tell China "that hostage diplomacy, coercive exit bans, and transnational repression can be normalized." The vote, on May 13, was unanimous with 414 yeas.

YEAS: Entire Georgia delegation

REGULATING BAIL FUNDS: The House has passed the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act (H.R. 6260) sponsored by Rep. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Wis., to classify as insurance businesses, for the purpose of federal insurance fraud law, entities that deal with posting bail payments for defendants. Fitzgerald cited the growth this decade of large charitable bond funds as creating a need for accountability if such funds "misappropriate funds or misrepresent the use of these funds in any financial reports." A bill opponent, Rep. Lucy McBath, D-Ga., said: "Adding non-sensical layers of bureaucracy is most likely going to make more communities unsafe, but it will also make it harder for organizations to help those people in need." The vote, on May 14, was 243 yeas to 179 nays.

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA (9th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), McBath D-GA (6th), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

IRAN WAR AUTHORITY: The House has rejected a bill



Raphael Warnock

(H. Con. Res. 75) sponsored by Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., to require the cessation of military action against Iran in the absence of a Congressional declaration of war. Gottheimer said the measure was "a call to action to the president of the United States to do what the Constitution requires and to brief the Congress and the country on the state of the conflict." The vote, on May 14, was 212 yeas to 212 nays.

NAYS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA (9th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

YEAS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), McBath D-GA (6th), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

CASHLESS BAIL: The House has passed the Cashless Bail Reporting Act (H.R. 5625) sponsored by Rep. Mark Harris, R-N.C., to require the Justice Department to annually publish lists of state and local governments that do not require cash bail for those accused of committing crimes against public safety and order. Harris said: "Americans should be able to see which jurisdictions have enacted dangerous and irresponsible policies related to bail when making decisions about where to live, to work, or to travel." The vote, on May 14, was 308 yeas to 116 nays.

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th), Clyde R-GA (9th), McBath D-GA (6th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

CONSENT DECREE MONITORS: The House has passed the Monitor Accountability Act (H.R. 8365) sponsored by Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., to establish various conditions for the appointment of monitors of state and local governments by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, following civil settlement agreements and consent decrees the governments have reached with the federal government. Biggs said: "This bill actually would help save money by holding monitors responsible, making sure that they are responsible." An opponent, Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., questioned whether the conditions were "an attempt to undermine federal monitorships" that he said were needed "to remedy entrenched, systemic violations of federal law." The vote, on May 14, was 219 yeas to 204 nays.

YEAS: Loudermilk R-GA (11th), Allen R-GA (12th), Scott, Austin R-GA (8th),



Sanford Bishop

Clyde R-GA (9th), Carter R-GA (1st), Jack R-GA (3rd), McCormick R-GA (7th), Collins R-GA (10th)

NAYS: Bishop D-GA (2nd), McBath D-GA (6th), Johnson D-GA (4th), Williams D-GA (5th)

SENATE VOTES:

FEDERAL RESERVE MEMBER: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Kevin Warsh to be a member of the board of the Federal Reserve banking system for a 14-year term ending in 2040. Warsh was on the board from 2006 to 2011; since then, he has been a scholar at Stanford University, and a member of the board at UPS since 2012. A supporter, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said Warsh understood "not only the macro -- the global economy and the markets -- but who appreciates the microeconomy, and that is the hard-working Americans, their jobs, and their livelihoods." An opponent, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said Warsh "has shown a proclivity for focusing on the interests of industry and wealth rather than the average American family." The vote, on May 12, was 51 yeas to 45 nays. In a separate vote on the 13th, the Senate confirmed Warsh to chair the Federal Reserve for a four-year term.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

IRAN WAR AUTHORITY: The Senate has rejected a motion to discharge from its Foreign Relations Committee a bill (S.J. Res. 163) sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., that would have directed an end to combat action against Iran absent a declaration of war by Congress. Merkley said Congressional oversight was needed because of the tendency for the executive branch "to commit troops and treasure to battles that made no sense in a government by and for the people in a democratic republic." The vote to discharge, on May 13, was 49 yeas to 50 nays.

YEAS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

LOANS TO MILITARY MEMBERS: The Senate has rejected a motion to proceed to consideration of a bill (S.J. Res. 132) sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., that would have cancelled a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule issued last year, to withdraw a 2021 Bureau rule regarding high-interest loans to members of the military. Reed said withdrawing the 2021 rule would give predatory lenders "free rein to go after servicemembers to take away their well-earned compensation, and in many cases -- I have seen it personally -- to put them in a financial spiral that pushes them out of the service and into a very,



Austin Scott

very difficult and challenging life." The vote, on May 13, was 48 yeas to 52 nays.

YEAS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

MEDICAL DEBT COLLECTION: The Senate has rejected a motion to proceed to consideration of a bill (S.J. Res. 141) sponsored by Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., that would have cancelled a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule issued 12 months ago that withdrew a Biden administration rule on medical debt collection practices. Warnock said the withdrawal "will make it easier for debt collectors to aggressively go after sick or struggling Americans and prey on families already saddled with medical debt." A bill opponent, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., said restoring the rule would mean debt companies intruding on patient privacy by peering "into your medical records to determine which debt should be and which debt should not be a part of their process." The vote, on May 13, was 50 yeas to 50 nays.

YEAS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

BANK OVERDRAFT CHARGES: The Senate has rejected a motion to proceed to consideration of a bill (S.J. Res. 130) sponsored by Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Del., that would have cancelled a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule issued 12 months ago that withdrew an October 2024 Bureau rule on bank overdraft opt-in practices. Van Hollen said the opt-in rule was needed because "many financial institutions use deceptive tricks and confusing fine print to get consumers to enter into these programs and then do not inform them of the costs." A bill opponent, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., called the rule an instance of bureau overreach during the Biden administration, undertaken without following prescribed methods for regulating banks. The vote, on May 13, was 47 yeas to 53 nays.

YEAS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

DEBATING NOMINEES: The Senate has approved a cloture motion to end debate on a bill (S. Res. 690) sponsored by Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., that would confirm the nomination of 49 different nominees to executive branch positions, including ambassadors and U.S. attorneys and marshals for state districts. Thune said en bloc consideration continued to be necessary because of Democrats' refusal to allow the Senate to confirm individual nominees by either voice vote or unanimous consent. The vote, on May 14, was 51 yeas to 46 nays.

NAYS: Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

Ball touchdown lifts Team Black over Team Red in Lee spring game

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Rising senior Dominique Ball broke through the middle of the line for a late touchdown run Friday night to help Team Black rally past Team Red 21-17 in Lee County's annual intrasquad spring football game at Trojan Field.

The game wrapped up spring practice for the Trojans, who enter the off-season with high expectations and a roster filled with experienced players returning from last season.

Team Red controlled most of the night and appeared to have the game in hand midway through the fourth quarter.

Facing a fourth-and-3 play from

the 23-yard line with less than five minutes remaining, Team Black was stopped short by Team Red's defense, giving Team Red possession and a chance to run out the clock.

But Team Black's defense came up with the biggest play of the night moments later.

As Team Red worked its way down the field, Davyn Brave stepped in front of a pass on a third-and-long play and returned the interception to the 15-yard line, giving Team Black new life deep in Red territory.

Three plays later, quarterback Jordan Bush handed the ball to Ball, who powered through the middle for a 9-yard touchdown run that gave Team Black the lead for good at 21-17.

The dramatic finish capped a com-

petitive night between two evenly matched squads as Lee County closed out another productive spring under head coach Dean Fabrizio.

"I thought we had a very productive spring," Fabrizio said. "We've got a veteran team coming back and it's exciting to have all this experience. We had some young guys step up and show some really good things. As always, expectations are high for this coming season and we're excited about the progress we are making."

The Trojans will now take a short break before beginning summer workouts on June 1 as preparations continue for the 2026 season.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Dominique Ball scores one of his touchdowns during Friday night's intrasquad game at Lee County High School. A late touchdown run by the rising senior helped Team Black beat Team Red 21-17 to wrap up spring practice.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Sherwood Christian's Elim Russell reacts after scoring in the second half of the match against Westminster Christian last week at Legacy Field in Albany.

Sherwood Christian soccer advances to GIAA Final Four

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY - The Sherwood Christian Eagles are headed to the Final Four after surviving one of the most dramatic matches of their season Thursday night.

Sherwood defeated Westminster Christian in penalty kicks after battling through regulation and two overtimes in a thrilling state playoff matchup that ended tied 2-2 before the Eagles finally advanced on penalties.

The Eagles controlled much of the match early behind strong play from senior Elim Russell and junior Landon Chambless.

Sherwood carried a 1-0 lead into halftime before Russell struck again early in the second half to give the Eagles a 2-0 advantage. For most of the night, play remained on Westminster Christian's end of the field but Sherwood kept the Lions from scoring until late.

But the Lions refused to go away.

Westminster scored two late goals in quick succession to erase the deficit and send the match into overtime.

Neither team could break through during two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the match into penalty kicks with a trip to the Final Four hanging in the balance.

Senior goalkeeper Colton Mathis delivered one of the biggest moments of the season for Sherwood.

Mathis stopped Westminster's opening penalty kick before the two teams traded successful attempts. The decisive moment finally came on the Lions' final kick when the shot struck the crossbar and bounced over the goal, sending the Eagles into celebration.

"I was staring right at him the whole time he was placing the ball on the line and get-

ting ready to take the kick," Mathis said. "I do that during PK's to try to see any subtle movements. I believe I saw his eyes move towards the left part of the goal and so I focused my attention on the left side of the net."

"When he struck the ball, I was moving that way, but the ball went over my head and over the goal. When I saw it hit the top of the net, I knew we had won and that was an exciting feeling."

Sherwood Christian now advances to the Final Four and will travel to Newnan this week to face top-seeded Heritage with a spot in the state championship match on the line.

Knights one series away from state championship

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The stakes get bigger now.

After surviving the grind of region play and sweeping familiar rival Tiftarea in the Elite Eight, the Deerfield-Windsor Knights are just one series away from playing for a state championship.

Standing in the way is the defending champion.

Deerfield-Windsor (17-6) will host Frederica Academy (21-7) this weekend in the Final Four of the GIAA Class AAA state baseball playoffs at Addison Field. Friday's doubleheader begins at 4 p.m., with an "if" game scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m.

The matchup pairs the tournament's No. 2 seed against the No. 3 seed from St. Simons Island, and even Deerfield-Windsor coach Kyle Keen admits there is still plenty to learn about the visitors.

"I don't know a lot about them yet, except that they are a really good baseball team," Keen said Monday morning. "I'm trying to find information on them now."

What Keen already knows is this time of year usually comes down to experienced players making big plays in big moments — and Deerfield-Windsor has leaned on its veterans all season.

Senior Lane Sceals provided a major spark during last week's sweep of Tiftarea, driving in seven runs on five hits in the two-game series. After appearing in only two regular-season games because of an illness, Sceals looked more like himself at the plate against the Panthers, giving Deerfield-Windsor another experienced bat at exactly the right time of year.

The Knights have also counted heavily on seniors David Hutchins, Gabe



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Meeting at the mound before the start of another inning during last week's sweep of Tiftarea. From left Grier Morey, Collins Clark and Lane Sceals meet for encouragement in the win against the Panthers. The Knights will need all three at their best to defeat defending state champion Frederica Academy in a three-game series that begins Friday at 4 p.m. at Deerfield-Windsor.

Daniels, Boyd Pollock, Drake Wiggins and Grier Morey throughout the season, while juniors Collins Clark, Gage Tomlinson and West Rushton have played important roles during the playoff run.

Now, with a trip to the state championship series on the line, Deerfield-Windsor suddenly looks deeper and more dangerous offensively than it did just a few weeks ago.

The Knights looked confident during last week's series against Tiftarea, scoring 18 runs in two games against a team they knew well. They may need that same offensive production again this weekend.

Frederica arrives in Albany battle-tested after surviving a dramatic three-game quarterfinal series against John Milledge. After losing the open-

er, Frederica rallied to win Game 2 in extra innings before escaping with a 9-8 victory in Game 3 to keep its title defense alive.

The two teams never met during the regular season, though they do share one common opponent. Frederica blanked Terrell Academy 15-0 during the Eagles' spring break trip to St. Simons earlier this season. Deerfield-Windsor defeated Terrell Academy three times.

Now both Knights teams are one series away from playing for a state title. The winner of the Deerfield-Windsor-Frederica series will advance to next week's Class AAA championship series at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro against the winner of the Valwood-Pinewood Christian semifinal.

Georgia earns top seed in SEC tourney, waits for opponent

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — By the time Thursday's print edition reaches readers, top-seeded Georgia Bulldogs baseball will already know its opponent for the quarterfinals of the Southeastern Conference Baseball Tournament in Hoover, Ala.

The Bulldogs (43-12, 23-7 SEC), who captured the SEC regular-season championship under coach Wes Johnson, earned a double bye in the single-elimination tournament and are scheduled to play Thursday afternoon at Hoover Metropolitan Stadium.

Georgia will face either eighth-seeded Mississippi State Bulldogs baseball, ninth-seeded Ole Miss Rebels baseball or 16th-seeded Missouri Tigers baseball in the quarterfinal round.

Ole Miss and Missouri opened tournament play Tuesday morning, with the winner advancing to face Mississippi State on Wednesday.

Georgia awaits the survivor of that bracket after dominating

all three potential opponents during the regular season.

The Bulldogs took two of three games from Ole Miss in Oxford, swept Missouri in Athens and swept Mississippi State in Starkville during a historic regular season that placed Georgia among the nation's elite teams.

Ranked as high as No. 4 nationally, Georgia won nine of its 10 SEC series, including all five road series against ranked opponents — a first in conference history. The Bulldogs' 23-7 SEC record also ranks among the best conference marks ever posted by an SEC champion since the league expanded to a 30-game schedule in 1996.

Georgia's 43 regular-season victories also established a school record for wins during a 56-game regular season and left the Bulldogs just one victory shy of the pace set by the program's 1990 national championship team entering postseason play.

The Bulldogs are making their 31st appearance in the SEC Tournament. Georgia has



Special Photo: Connor Dillon, UGAAA

Georgia outfielder Cole Johnson reacts after one of Georgia's wins over Tennessee earlier this spring. Johnson and the Bulldogs have their sights set on an SEC tournament championship and a top seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament, which will be announced Monday.

never won the event, though the Bulldogs have finished runner-up three times.

The tournament continues through Sunday in Hoover,

with the championship game scheduled for national television on ABC.

Georgia also appears to be in strong position to earn

one of the nation's top eight seeds for the upcoming NCAA Tournament when the 64-team field is announced Memorial Day, May 25.

Marlins clobber rookie pitcher, Braves, 12-0

Field Level Media

Joe Mack drove in four runs and Javier Sanoja hit a grand slam to lead the Miami Marlins to a 12-0 rout of the visiting Atlanta Braves on Monday in the opener of their four-game series.

Miami batted around in the fourth and fifth innings, scoring five and six runs respectively. The Marlins collected 10 hits, seven walks and scored a season-high 12 runs. It was the most runs allowed by Atlanta this season.

Mack, a rookie catcher, got the first run home on an infield grounder in the second inning and lined a two-run

single to start the scoring in the fourth. He walked with the bases loaded to trigger the six-run uprising in the fifth.

Sanoja teed off on reliever Aaron Bummer, who walked the bases loaded before surrendering the grand slam in the fifth inning. It was Sanoja's first homer of the season and first career grand slam. Xavier Edwards, who went 2-for-4, followed with his fifth home run.

Miami's Liam Hicks, who went 2-for-3, had a two-run double to retake the major league lead with 42 RBIs.

Mack and Sanoja were in the eight and nine slots in the Marlins' lineup.



Special Photo: Sam Navarro-Imagn Images

Miami Marlins pitcher Max Meyer delivers to the plate during Monday night's game against the Atlanta Braves in Miami. Meyer threw six scoreless innings and struck out six as the Marlins rolled to a 12-0 victory in the opener of a four-game series.

The beneficiary of the run support was starter Max Meyer (4-0), who threw six scoreless innings. The right-hander allowed three hits and two walks, striking out six. It was Meyer's second scoreless start of the season.

John King, Calvin Faucher and Lake Bachar each worked a scoreless inning to complete Miami's third shutout.

Miami handed Atlanta rookie JR Ritchie (1-1) the worst beating of his career. The right-hander worked only four innings and allowed a career-high six runs on six hits and one walk, striking out four. Ritchie's ERA soared from 3.32 to 4.91.

Bummer became the first Atlanta pitcher to walk five batters in one inning since Jaret Wright in 2004. He allowed six runs in one inning and saw his ERA jump to 7.63.

Home plate umpire Alfonso Marquez had to leave the game in the second inning after being struck twice on the mask by foul balls. He shook off a foul ball off the bat of Austin Riley, but was smacked again by the next batter, Mauricio Dubon, and went to the clubhouse. Mike Estabrook moved in from first base to call balls and strikes.

Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander repeats as NBA MVP

Field Level Media

Oklahoma City Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander has been voted the NBA Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season, the league announced early this week.

Gilgeous-Alexander is the 14th player in league history to win back-to-back MVPs. He is the first player to win consecutive MVP awards since Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the first guard to win consecutive MVPs since Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

"It's special," Gilgeous-Alexander said of having two MVPs. "Not really for me personally but more so for the city and organization."

Gilgeous-Alexander received 83 first-place votes and won handily with 939 points in balloting by a panel of 100 voters who cover the NBA.

Jokic received 10 first-place

votes and finished second in the balloting with 634 points. Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs was third with 589 points and five first-place votes.

Signed to a four-year, \$273.3 million super maximum contract extension in the off-season, Gilgeous-Alexander averaged 31.1 points, 6.6 assists and 4.3 rebounds in 68 games (all starts) this season as Oklahoma City went 64-18 and compiled the best record in the NBA.

Not surprisingly, the humble Gilgeous-Alexander passed on the credit to the other Oklahoma City players.

"Thank you guys so much for setting screens, to rebounding when I miss, to passing me the ball even though I don't pass you the ball," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Everything you guys do to make me a better player out there, I really appreciate you guys."

Gilgeous-Alexander became

the first player since legendary Wilt Chamberlain (1963-64) to score 20-plus points in every regular-season game, with a minimum of 50 games played. He also broke Chamberlain's record of 126 straight 20-plus-point efforts, and his streak stands at 140 entering next season.

Gilgeous-Alexander, 27, is averaging 25.3 points, 5.3 assists and 4.7 boards in 530 career games (521 starts) with the Los Angeles Clippers (2018-19) and Thunder. He was acquired from Los Angeles in 2019 as part of many assets Oklahoma City received in the Paul George deal.

The guard led the Thunder to their first NBA championship last year. Aiming for back-to-back titles, Oklahoma City will open play in the Western Conference final on Monday against the San Antonio Spurs.

"The way things are run in this organization and this

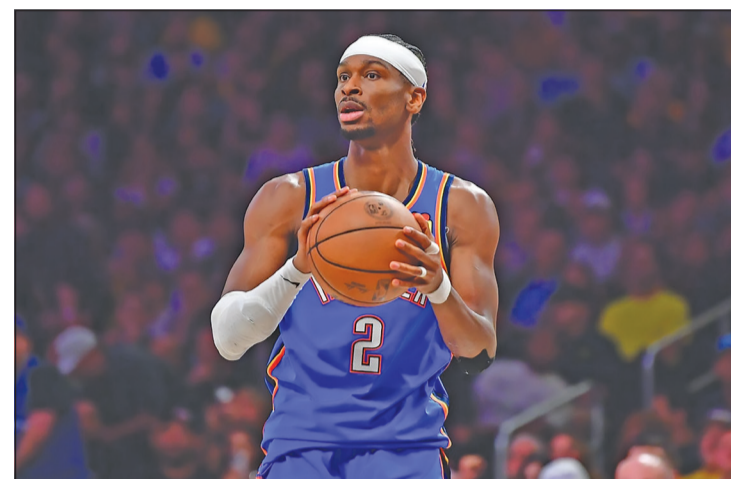
city, it breeds success," said Gilgeous-Alexander, referring to Oklahoma City as a second home. "I'm just lucky to end up here."

Gilgeous-Alexander joins Steve Nash as the only Canadians to earn the NBA MVP award. Nash also won twice, in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons with the Phoenix Suns.

The other players to win at least two MVP awards are Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (six times), Bill Russell (five), Michael Jordan (five), Wilt Chamberlain (four), LeBron James (four), Larry Bird (three), Magic Johnson (three), Moses Malone (three), Bob Pettit (two), Karl Malone (two), Tim Duncan (two) and Giannis Antetokounmpo (two).

Kevin Durant (2013-14 season) and Russell Westbrook (2016-17) also won MVPs while wearing Thunder uniforms.

"There have been four MVPs (awards) in the last 12 years



Special Photo: Gary A. Vasquez-Imagn Images

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander prepares to shoot a free throw during a game this season. Gilgeous-Alexander was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year after leading the Thunder to the league's best regular-season record.

to come through this building," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I don't think that's a coincidence. There's a reason why you have success when you come through this program."

Jokic, a three-time MVP, averaged 27.7 points, 12.9 rebounds and 10.7 assists in 65 regular-season games (all starts).

Wembanyama, who unanimously won Defensive Player

of the Year honors, averaged a career-best 25.0 points and 11.5 rebounds and led the league with 3.1 blocks per game.

NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic of the Los Angeles Lakers finished fourth in the voting (250 points), Cade Cunningham (117) of the Detroit Pistons was fifth and Jaylen Brown (89) of the Boston Celtics placed sixth.

Falcons schedule includes three Primetime games In 2026

Field Level Media

FLOWERY BRANCH — The Atlanta Falcons will open the 2026 NFL season on the road against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sept. 13 at Acrisure Stadium as part of a schedule that includes three primetime games and an international appearance in Madrid, Spain.

The NFL released the full 2026 schedule Thursday evening.

Atlanta's season opener against Pittsburgh will kick off at 1 p.m. on FOX. It marks the first time since 2019 that the Falcons have opened a season on the road.

The Falcons will play three nationally televised primetime games during the first five weeks of the season, beginning with a Thursday Night Football matchup Sept. 24 against the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field.

Atlanta then travels to New Orleans for a Monday Night Football game against the Saints on Oct. 5 before returning home the following week to host the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday Night Football.

The Falcons will also take part in the NFL's international series when they face the Cincinnati Bengals on Nov. 8 in Madrid. The game will be played at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, home of Real Ma-

drid, and will air nationally on NFL Network at 9:30 a.m.

Atlanta's home schedule also includes games against Carolina, Chicago, San Francisco, Kansas City, Detroit, Tampa Bay and New Orleans.

Road opponents include Pittsburgh, Green Bay, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Cleveland, Washington and Carolina.

The Falcons' bye week comes in Week 11.

WAGA-TV (FOX 5 Atlanta) will continue as the Falcons' television broadcast partner for a sixth season and will air a minimum of eight regular-season games along with all three preseason contests. Sports Radio 92.9 The Game returns as the team's radio broadcast partner.

Atlanta opens preseason play Aug. 14 at home against the Denver Broncos before road games against the Indianapolis Colts and Miami Dolphins.

Several late-season games remain listed as TBD because of the NFL's flexible scheduling format, which allows certain Sunday afternoon games to move into primetime windows later in the season.

The Falcons will close the regular season with division games against the Saints and Panthers. Atlanta hopes to return to playoff contention in 2026.

Week	Date	Opponent	Time	TV
1	Sept. 13	at Pittsburgh Steelers	1 p.m.	FOX
2	Sept. 20	Carolina Panthers	1 p.m.	FOX
3	Sept. 24	at Green Bay Packers	8:15 p.m.	Amazon Prime
4	Oct. 5	at New Orleans Saints	8:15 p.m.	ESPN
5	Oct. 11	Baltimore Ravens	8:20 p.m.	NBC
6	Oct. 18	Chicago Bears	1 p.m.	FOX
7	Oct. 25	San Francisco 49ers	1 p.m.	FOX
8	Nov. 1	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1 p.m.	FOX
9	Nov. 8	Cincinnati Bengals (Madrid)	9:30 a.m.	NFL Network
10	Nov. 15	Kansas City Chiefs	1 p.m.	CBS
11	Nov. 22	BYE WEEK		
12	Nov. 29	at Minnesota Vikings	1 p.m.	FOX
13	Dec. 6	Detroit Lions	1 p.m.	CBS
14	Dec. 13	at Cleveland Browns	1 p.m.	CBS
15	Dec. 20	at Washington Commanders	1 p.m.	FOX
16	TBD	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	TBD	TBD
17	Jan. 3	New Orleans Saints	1 p.m.	FOX
18	TBD	at Carolina Panthers	TBD	TBD

Tom Brady's latest venture: fashion model

Field Level Media

Tom Brady has a full career resume that includes listings as a seven-time Super Bowl winner, minority owner of the Las Vegas Raiders and top NFL analyst.

On Saturday, he added a non-football line: runway model.

Demna Gvasalia, the creative director of Italian fash-

ion house Gucci, debuted his first "cruise" collection Saturday night in New York's Times Square, with part of the area turned into a runway. The city was chosen for the unveiling because of its deep ties to Gucci; it was where the designer opened its first store outside of Italy in 1953, the New York Post reported.

Cruise collections aren't just

vacation wear anymore. Instead, the line is supposed to reflect the area in which the fashions are worn, reflecting the "plurality of styles that intersect like the streets of the city," said Demna, who goes by one name.

Brady, 48, strutted on the runway in a fitted black leather jacket with matching pants.

Others in the fashion show

included heiress Paris Hilton and supermodel Cindy Crawford, who closed the show in a black evening gown.

Celebrities in the crowd included entertainers Mariah Carey and Shawn Mendes, actress Lindsay Lohan, and F1 champion Lewis Hamilton, whose reported girlfriend, Kim Kardashian, also was there.



Special Photo: Mark J. Rebilas-Imagn Images

Tom Brady attends Gucci's Cruise 2027 fashion show Saturday night in New York's Times Square. The seven-time Super Bowl champion and Las Vegas Raiders minority owner walked the runway as part of the debut collection by Gucci creative director Demna Gvasalia.

CHEESY CHICKEN IN A ONE-PAN SOLUTION

(Family Features) On those nights when you're just too busy to think about cooking, let a one-pan dish do the work for you. Customize this Cheesy Spinach Chicken Bake to your family's liking with broccoli or cauliflower in place of spinach, if desired, and let it bake while finishing homework with the kids or prepping for the day ahead. Find more quick dinner ideas at Culinary.net.



CHEESY SPINACH CHICKEN BAKE

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- | | |
|--|--|
| Servings: 4-6 | 1 tablespoon lemon thyme |
| 2 cups chopped rotisserie chicken | Heat oven to 375 F. |
| 10 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained | Cut rotisserie chicken and spinach into bite-sized pieces. In baking dish, mix chicken and spinach with ricotta cheese. |
| 15 ounces ricotta cheese | Add mozzarella, Parmesan, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, onion powder and lemon thyme. Mix well then bake 30 minutes. |
| 2 cups mozzarella cheese | |
| 1 cup Parmesan cheese | |
| 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning | |
| 1 tablespoon garlic powder | |
| 1 tablespoon onion powder | |

State ag business depends on thriving, fully-funded public health system

By Jessica Schwind
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- In the new budget that Gov. Brian Kemp signed last week, less than one in every 10 state dollars spent on Georgia's three primary health agencies is allocated to the Department of Public Health. The future of Georgia's No. 1 industry relies on a state and local public health system that can track outbreaks and keep communities healthy. Chronic underinvestment in public health puts the state's health security and economic well-being at risk.

Georgia is the nation's top poultry producer, a leading grower of pecans, peanuts, and blueberries, and home to a multibillion-dollar cattle and hog industry. Growing up on a farm in south Georgia, rural residents observe that food sources and livelihoods are fully dependent on the health of animals and plants. Today, the practice of One Health recognizes that human, animal, plant and environmental health are all inseparable.

While these connections have been recognized for millennia, One Health has been embraced by organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the same groups that step in when livestock disease or crop failure threatens the nation's food supply, and when illness or outbreak threatens the health of Georgia families. It's not the product of any one group, but a way of thinking

that healthy land and healthy animals mean a stronger, more secure America.

To see these One Health connections, look no further than the spread of the severe and contagious avian influenza (H5N1) outbreaks recently. Across multiple states, millions of birds were culled (including hundreds of thousands in Georgia alone), egg and poultry prices spiked, and workers at affected facilities faced risk of disease and unemployment.

The economic damage can be catastrophic. When an agricultural worker cannot access care for an unknown respiratory illness that turns out to be an early signal of a novel influenza strain, the cost is not only paid by that individual, but also their household, the employer, the consumer and ultimately the taxpayer that funds the emergency response any emerging or re-emerging human pathogen necessitates.

At the end of the chain, Georgia's agricultural economy (and Georgians at large) depend on something less visible but equally vital: the trust of consumers and trading partners that its food products are safe. A single high-profile outbreak can devastate a commodity's market value for years.

Georgia has taken meaningful steps towards building the One Health, cross-sector infrastructure that is needed for today's (and tomorrow's) challenges. The newly formed Georgia One Health Consortium, a collaboration spanning academia, nonprofit partners

and state agencies is a step in the right direction.

As part of the collaboration, Georgia's Department of Public Health and Department of Agriculture work closely to serve as an early warning system of emerging health threats. As disease transmission between animals and humans grows, this surveillance network, managed primarily by county public health workers in rural communities, becomes ever more important.

Agribusiness workers face unique occupational hazards as well as more common constraints felt by many rural Georgia residents like limited access to care; public health helps to stand in the gap. For example, data collected by epidemiologists at the Department of Public Health help inform efforts to address the startlingly high rates of suicide among Georgia farmers. The department's home visiting program helps get rural families across Georgia — from the poultry workers near Habersham County to the peanut farmers in Decatur County — off to a good start during pregnancy and beyond.

And environmental health workers at county health departments offer testing for private wells to help prevent water contamination that puts rural families and livestock at risk.

Work in public health is largely invisible when everything is working. Outbreaks that are prevented are rarely met with fanfare. However, the epidemiologist who traced the source of a disease cluster or the environmental health officer who monitors water safety are frontline defenders of health.

The state and local public health system is infrastructure that is as vital to the economy and security in Georgia as roads or the energy grid and has a well-documented return on investment. On average, every \$1 spent on public health yields about \$14 in savings across health services and the broader economy. Yet over the past 15 years, total state and federal public health funding per Georgian has declined.

Public health in Georgia is not something to be funded as an afterthought. Thoughtful changes in Georgia's public health governance structure paired with adequate state and county funding can build upon the system's existing strengths and ensure every community has access to foundational public health services and functions — like One Health.

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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 out of the blue (10)	_____
2 frying food in fat (8)	_____
3 construction site lifts (6)	_____
4 like a noble (6)	_____
5 1970s First Lady Pat (5)	_____
6 got on a soapbox (11)	_____
7 2nd-longest European river (6)	_____

ED	NG	ECT	UN	SAU
EXP	TI	IED	CRA	NI
TEI	XON	TL	ED	EEC
SP	UBE	HIF	DAN	NES

Tuesday's Answers: 1. SKIM 2. GRAVITY 3. CHILDREN 4. LIVER 5. GRIMMS 6. CAPRICIOUS 7. CONNECTIVE 5/20

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 people on foot (11)	_____
2 derived from living matter (7)	_____
3 two-faced (9)	_____
4 famous Kentucky horse race (5)	_____
5 "bearded" canine (9)	_____
6 common athletic supplement (8)	_____
7 like a Spotify playlist, say (7)	_____

TUNE	PE	TRIA	SCH	EI
UL	ER	DEC	NE	NS
EATI	ORGA	NAUZ	DES	RBY
NIC	FUL	DE	TF	CR

Wednesday's Answers: 1. UNEXPECTED 2. SAUTEING 3. CRANES 4. TITLED 5. NIXON 6. SPEECHIFIED 7. DANUBE 5/21

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 Texting format initials
4 Eel in maki sushi
9 Language of Sri Lanka
14 "Long," in Hawaiian
15 Sure to end badly
16 ___ Cortina 2026
17 Under the weather
18 "Brunch choice"
20 Only major U.S. city founded by a woman
22 Roadside org.
23 Draped silk dress
24 *Apprenticeship in the ways of The Force
29 Digital exec
30 Purple bloom
31 World Series mo.
32 Comedy series featuring Lily Tomlin
34 Grown boys
35 Educational acronym
36 Opera solos
37 Unpublicized restaurant offering, or a feature of the answer to each starred clue
41 Call dibs on
44 Charger, e.g.
45 Navigation tech
48 Tolkien characters who like to eat six meals a day
51 Locavore's org.
52 Small cut
53 Result of advancing in the field?
54 "Negro Leagues player in the Baseball Hall of Fame
57 Key West, e.g.
59 ___ shu pork
60 Oyster opener
61 "I Just Called To Say I Love You" singer
66 Sock part
67 Barbershop parts
68 Leg day exercise
69 Music producer Brian

DOWN
70 Snacks stuffed with "stuff"
71 Couple of bucks?
72 Web feed initials
1 Jerky brand
2 "Tartuffe" playwright
3 First sultan of Syria and Egypt
4 Not well-matched
5 Swe. neighbor
6 Astonishment
7 Martini liquor
8 Like some ruins in Peru
9 "Beetlejuice" director Burton
10 Bitter beers
11 Last book of the Old Testament
12 Laziness
13 Skin soothers
16 Disney film set in Polynesia
19 Call, as a cab
21 Sue Grafton's ___ for Malice"
25 Campus mil. unit
26 Laptop brand
27 "I feel seen"
28 Fertilizer from bats
33 Mentor of Minions
35 Big rigs
37 Sis, for one
38 Speed reader?
39 Inspiring figure
40 Footnote abbr.
41 Artist known for fabric-wrapped installations
42 Maine course
43 Central Texas city
45 Sparkly stuff
46 City birds
47 Sound investments?
49 Makes less wild
50 Put away
52 Didn't play
55 Loses steam?
56 Sauna openings?
58 Kitchen initialism
62 Tax agcy.
63 Fan
64 "The Code Breaker" subj.
65 Pasta ingredient

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	S	R	S	G	V	L	S		S	O	E	R	O		
O	N	E	E	N	N	I		S	H	O	N	E	L		
O	L	E	H	E	D	N	O	M	E	I	A	E	L	S	
R	E	L	L	O		O	O	W	E	T	S	I			
E	G	I	V	P	E	H	C	L	V	S		I	B	R	
L	I	T	S		V	S	C		S	L	I	B	B	O	H
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05/21/26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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		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			63	64	65			66	
67						68					69	
70						71					72	

By Heather Stanger McIntire & Shannon Rapp
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Ossoff continues work in support of MCLB-Albany

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, held a hearing recently about funding priorities for military construction projects and highlighted key projects in Georgia, including the new communications facilities at Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany.

In 2023, Ossoff brought Republicans and Democrats

together to deliver \$6.4 million in planning and design funds for the project, which would provide the installation with a dedicated communications facility to more efficiently support the vital Marine Corps logistics mission, and Ossoff later secured a key authorization for the project in Fiscal Year 2024.

“In Fiscal Year 2023, I worked alongside the leadership of the installation and the Albany community to secure design funding for a new communications facility to

more efficiently support the vital Marine Corps Logistics mission,” Ossoff said to Lt. Gen. Stephen Sklenka, deputy commandant for Installations and Logistics, United States Marine Corps. “That communications facility is one of the highest priorities for the Albany community, and essential to the future of the installation. And I am really pleased that the design has come to fruition, that the project is now ready for major construction.

“Thank you for working with

me. Thank you to the Marine Corps for working with me for years to advance this project. I want to remain as helpful as possible throughout the execution of construction. So what do you need from this subcommittee to ensure the project is not just completed, but also remains on schedule?”

Sklenka told Ossoff the Marine Corps will continue working with the subcommittee to advance the project and secure funding for construction.



Special Photo

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., offers a commitment to Marine Corps officials to continue working to bring a communications project to Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany.

Free Protecting Farmland field day planned in Camilla

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

CAMILLA – Georgia is projected to have the fourth-highest farmland loss by acreage in the nation by 2040. To reduce this loss, state officials have developed resources and partners working to keep Georgia farming for generations to come.

Farmers and others interested in the protection of farmland are encouraged to join Athens Land Trust and statewide partners for a field day at the C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park in Camilla June 9 to learn about some of the resources available to help conserve and protect state farms. Guest speakers from USDA NRCS, Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, American Farmland Trust, and Athens Land

Trust will discuss strategies for on-farm conservation practices, in addition to long-term farmland protection with conservation easements and succession planning.

The field day starts at 9 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. The C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park is located at 8207 Georgia Highway 37 in Camilla.

Attendees will get to tour the Stripling Irrigation Park with UGA staff and network with additional resource providers at informational tables. Attendance is free with RSVP and complimentary lunch is provided.

For additional information, contact Director of Conservation Athens Land Trust Joe Barbaree at joe@athenslandtrust.org or call (706) 521-8403.



Special Photo

Farmers and others interested in the protection of farmland in Georgia are encouraged to join Athens Land Trust and statewide partners for a field day at the C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park in Camilla June 9.

CITY OF Albany GEORGIA

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEND-OFF

Join us as we send-off our Special Olympic athletes with a road side Pep Rally.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

8:15A.M. (PEP RALLY BEGINS)

8:30A.M. (DEPARTURE TIME)

TIFT PARK
1301 N. MONROE ST.
ALBANY, GA. 31701

Bring your pom poms, posters and signs of encouragement!
Let your department spirit shine through your team colors!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MS. TEE AT (229) 430-5222

Special Illustration

Send-off planned for Albany Special Olympians

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Officials with the Albany Recreation and Parks Department are inviting the community to gather at Tift Park Friday for a send-off as local Special Olympians head to Emory University in Atlanta to compete in the State Games.

Twelve Albany Olympians will compete in volleyball, dance, and track and field events, John Flood, a supervisor with the Albany Recreation and Parks Department and head of Special Olympics participation in the community, said.

A pep rally for the Olympians will kick off at 8:15 a.m. Friday at Tift Park, and the athletes will leave for Atlanta at 8:30. Tift Park is located at 1301 N. Monroe St. in Albany.

For additional information, contact Tee Taylor at (229) 430-5222.

Kemp extends gas tax break just in time for Memorial Day travelers

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgians and people visiting or just passing through the state will get a 33-cent-per-gallon break at the gas pump while traveling for Memorial Day.

Gov. Brian Kemp used his authority under state law to declare a state of emergency due to spiraling fuel prices. That, in turn, allowed him to re-suspend collection of the motor fuel excise tax a minute after the current suspension expired Tuesday night.

The renewed suspension went into effect at midnight Wednesday. It will remain in effect for two weeks, until 11:59 p.m. on June 2.

On March 20, Kemp signed the current gas tax suspension, which expired at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, just hours after the General Assembly approved it.

The U.S. conflict with Iran has con-

tinued to drive up oil prices.

“Global markets remain unstable and are subjecting Georgians to unpredictable price shocks on basic goods and services,” Kemp wrote in his executive order. It noted that futures on Brent crude, a global benchmark for oil prices, had spiked 3% for the day.

The order prohibits price gouging. It also suspends collections on the 37.3-cent-per-gallon tax on diesel fuel.

Diesel factors into the cost of groceries and any other product that must be hauled.

“As Georgia families prepare for the Memorial Day travel weekend, they should not feel blindsided by prices at the gas pump,” Kemp said in a statement.

His office said AAA predicts 39.1 million Americans will travel by car this Memorial Day weekend, topping last year’s record.



File Photo

Gov. Brian Kemp used his authority under state law to declare a state of emergency and re-suspend collection of the motor fuel excise tax a minute after the current suspension expired Tuesday night.

The release said the average cost of a gallon of regular gas in Georgia is \$4.02, half a dollar less than the na-

tional average. It said Georgia is one of only two states with a motor fuel tax suspension.

Alabama man sentenced to prison for Home Depot robbery

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

COLUMBUS – An Alabama man has been sentenced to prison for the robbery of a Columbus Home Depot in 2020 and was linked to an alleged 10 other similar robberies or thefts at home improvement stores in Georgia before being captured by police following a theft at a metro Atlanta Lowe’s.

Demetris Q. Suttles, also known as Demetris Suttles, 43, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., was sentenced to serve 78 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Clay Land after he previously

pleaded guilty to one count of interference of commerce by robbery on Jan. 27. There is no parole in the federal system.

“Criminals who engage in violent acts in the Middle District of Georgia will be brought to justice,” U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. “We are committed to working closely with law enforcement partners at every level to safeguard our communities and ensure these defendants face consequences for their actions.”

“Suttles carried out a pattern of robberies and thefts across multiple Georgia communities, using the presence of a firearm to create fear and

avoid apprehension,” ATF Special Agent Charles Mulherin said. “ATF remains committed to targeting repeat violent offenders who threaten public safety.”

According to court documents and statements referenced in court, a series of robberies or thefts took place at Home Depot and Lowe’s stores in Georgia between March 11, 2020, and July 20, 2020. Although the crimes took place at different times of day, the description of the sole subject was always the same, including his clothing and the fact that he had a firearm on his right hip. Some of the incidents were captured by surveillance cameras. In-

vestigators ultimately determined that at least 10 of these incidents were committed by the same person, later identified as Suttles.

On April 13, 2020, at approximately 2:55 p.m., a Columbus Home Depot Asset Protection employee was monitoring the sales floor when they noticed Suttles. Suttles was dressed in an all-black outfit with the word “SECURITY” emblazoned across the chest and his ball cap, wearing a face mask, and carrying a black holster with a black handgun on his right hip. Suttles loaded a shopping cart with various power tools, walked past the checkout area and headed toward the exit.

Suttles noticed the Asset Protection employee and shouted profanities at him. When he saw another Home Depot employee approaching, Suttles reached for the handgun on his hip, pulled it up several inches, and threatened, “Do not do it mother**er, I will shoot you.” The employee did not intervene, and Suttles fled toward his vehicle with \$2,841 worth of stolen power tools.

Three days later, on April 16, 2020, Suttles was shoplifting at the Norcross Lowe’s store, where an employee recognized him from previous robberies and called 911. Suttles was apprehended outside the store by the Norcross



Special Logo

Police Department. The Columbus Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case, with assistance from the Norcross Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara Jarrett prosecuted the case for the government.

To cover tax cuts, Kemp nixes funds for forests, historic sites, arts, short-line rail

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Among Gov. Brian Kemp’s \$300 million worth of vetoes this week were money for reforestation, land conservation, historic building restoration, the arts and live performances, and short-line railroads.

The reason he gave in most instances: “The General Assembly failed to account for this loss of revenue in the appropriations process, instead prioritizing general taxpayer relief.”

He had called for a reduction of the state income tax to 4.99% from 5.19% this year, building that into the budget. But the General Assembly went further.

House Bill 463 not only drops the rate to 4.99% this year but will

continue dropping it an eighth of a percentage point each year for eight years, if state revenues continue to grow.

The new law, which Kemp supported despite the impact on the budget, also increased standard deductions. They rise 25% this year and are scheduled to go up an eighth as much each year over the next eight years. The law also waived some overtime pay and cash tips and increased the amount of retirement income excluded from taxation for Georgians 65 and older.

All of this affected the budget lawmakers passed for the fiscal year that starts in July. They wanted to spend at least \$1 billion more than the state is expecting to collect.

So Kemp used his line-item veto authority to cut \$300 million in new spending.

“We had to do a little fine-tuning to make sure that we can pay for all those tax cuts,” he said before he signed the 156-page budget on Tuesday.

Kemp’s budget team expects increasing revenue collections to close some part of the rest of the gap. If not, Georgia’s next governor and Legislature will have to balance the budget with cuts or by spending down some of the billions in remaining reserves.

There was an immediate impact of those income tax cuts in the newly passed tax credits and exemptions that Kemp vetoed.

House Bill 376 would have doubled to \$60 million the cap in tax credits for restoring historic buildings.

House Bill 1070 would have increased the tax credit for maintenance of short-line railroads that

connect industrial sites with major railways.

House Bill 1077 would have extended for five years the existing sales tax exemptions for fine arts performances and museum exhibitions that expire at the end of 2027.

This could affect ticket prices for the symphony, art exhibits and other events, including the Georgia National Fair at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter, which the bill sought to include in the exemption.

Senate Bill 478 would have increased to 60% from the current 40% the amount of sales tax revenue from outdoor recreational equipment sales that go to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund.

Money from the fund helps to acquire lands that are critical to wildlife and clean water and for

outdoor recreation. And it pays for parks and trails.

Kemp also vetoed House Bill 14, which would have established a Georgia Music Office to promote the growth of the industry. And he struck out House Bill 519, which would have created a \$10 million annual taxpayer credit to match the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Kemp wrote that the federal tax credit does not yet exist, so Georgia does not need HB 519.

Among the large line items he vetoed was Senate Bill 59. The measure sought to further buttress the state’s efforts to address timber lost from Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Georgia had allocated \$200 million toward that project, but timber producers have already absorbed the money. SB 59 would have added another \$50 million for them, raising the cap to \$250 million.