



Perspectives
Wayne Fowler
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The Albany HERALD



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No Tiger
Woods to miss majors
• Page 9A



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TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Members of the Lee County Board of Tax Assessors and residents listen during a public meeting addressing the county's rollback rate calculation error and proposed taxpayer refunds.

Residents rally behind Lee schools as accountability questions persist

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG — As Lee County officials move forward with plans to provide refunds for taxpayers following errors in the county's rollback-rate calculations, school district leaders continue to argue that the Lee County School System's role in the controversy has been widely misunderstood.

That argument surfaced repeatedly during a recent meeting of the Lee County Board of Tax Assessors, where officials, citizens and school system representatives discussed the coding error that contributed to incorrect rollback calculations and higher-than-expected tax collections.

The discussion comes as the Lee County Board of Education prepares to adopt a Fiscal Year 2027 budget that projects increasing operating costs, growing debt-service obligations and continued reliance on reserves.

According to budget documents released by the district, the school system projects general

See **LEE**, 2A



City of Albany plans town hall sessions to discuss data centers with residents



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY — When it comes to data centers, invective from detractors can reach peak volume levels loud enough to drown out, well, a data center.

Residents from rural areas and cities are showing up at meetings to denounce the centers, and petitions are circulating online from Missouri to Michigan and from Pennsylvania to the Philippines.

The issue isn't just in another state or country, however. Developers have had their sights

on southwest Georgia as well.

The Crisp County Commission in June 2025, for example, approved rezoning to allow for a 2.1 million-square-foot data center expected to cost more than \$6 billion that is scheduled to be completed in several phases between 2029 and 2033.

A developer also is looking at Blakely for a proposed 12 million-square-foot campus.

In Albany, Aidan Hartwell has asked for a pause. Hartwell has initiated a petition on Change.org, and he also

appeared before the Albany City Commission earlier this month to request a moratorium.

The Dougherty County Commission also hosted a speaker from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia on the topic in April to give some pros and cons of data centers.

Some of the issues that Hartwell raised included the use of water and power. A data center can use up to a million gallons of water a day, as much as a large apartment

See **CITY**, 2A

DCSS FY '27 budget reflects completion of major projects, rising employee costs



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Dougherty County School System officials say the proposed FY 2027 budget reflects normal school-system budgeting practices and does not include staffing reductions or program cuts, while public discussions continue regarding local education funding, reserve levels and long-term capital needs.

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Dougherty County School System's proposed FY 2027 budget reflects a district transitioning out of a period of heavy capital investment while continuing to absorb rising employee compensation and benefit costs without increasing its property tax rate.

The tentative budget proposes approximately \$258.4 million in anticipated revenues and \$283.9 million in expenditures across all funds. While the budget continues to utilize fund balances in some areas, district officials say the proposal reflects routine financial planning and ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency rather than broad spending cuts.

One of the most noticeable changes from the amended FY '26 budget is a significant reduction in projected capital spending.

District officials said that decrease is largely attributable to the completion of two major construction proj-

See **DCSS**, 2A

Annual arts exhibit showcases southwest Georgia talent, community connections

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — For nearly three decades, the Albany Area Arts Council's annual Southwest Georgia Regional Fine Art Exhibition and Sale has served as more than just a showcase of local talent. Organizers say it is a celebration of the region's creative identity and a reminder of the role arts programming plays in strengthening communities.

The exhibition's 2026 open-

ing reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Albany Area Arts Council's gallery, with award winners announced at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments provided.

Now in its 26th year, the exhibition features work by artists from across southwest Georgia and offers residents an opportunity to engage directly with the area's creative community.

The annual show arrives at a time when arts organizations nationwide are increasingly highlighting the broader value of community-based arts programming. Research from organizations including the Wallace Foundation, Americans for the Arts and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation has found that arts programs can strengthen social connections, support local economies, provide mentorship opportunities for young



Special Logo

people and foster greater civic engagement.

Those impacts are particularly significant in rural regions, where cultural institutions often serve as gathering places that bring together residents from different backgrounds and communities.

At the Albany Area Arts Council, that role has centered around the historic Carnegie Library building, which serves as a gallery space for local and regional artists. Through monthly exhibitions

See **EXHIBIT**, 2A

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From 1A

LEE

fund revenues of approximately \$72.6 million against expenditures of roughly \$80.3 million. The district expects to begin the fiscal year with an estimated \$14 million general fund balance and finish with approximately \$6 million in reserves.

While those figures could raise questions about long-term sustainability, school officials have argued that the ongoing tax controversy cannot be viewed in the same manner as actions taken by the county and city governments, both of which have moved toward issuing refunds by reducing their effective tax rates to corrected rollback levels.

During the tax assessors meeting, Lee County School System Executive Director of Finance Gary Kelley said the district's millage rate was not based on the rollback calculation that later proved inaccurate.

"We set our millage rate based on our budget, so to fund our budget, we needed 15.96 mills," Kelley said.

Kelley maintained that the coding error affected whether additional tax-increase

hearings should have been required under state law but did not determine the amount of revenue the school system believed was necessary to operate.

"We set our millage rate on what we needed to fund our budget; that's it," Kelley said.

The comments provide important context to ongoing public discussions about potential school-system refunds. Unlike the county and city of Leesburg, which have publicly adopted resolutions authorizing taxpayer refunds based on corrected rollback calculations, school officials have indicated that any action involving school taxes would require additional legal and financial review.

In response to questions from The Albany Herald, district officials confirmed that the proposed FY 2027 budget does not currently account for any taxpayer refunds or revenue adjustments related to the rollback controversy.

"No, it does not," the district stated in an email response. "As you may or may not be aware, the Lee County Tax Commissioners Board has taken no official action on the matter. The Lee County School System is waiting for confirmation of a certified change in the digest before we can move forward on a so-

lution. We very much would like to make things right for Lee County citizens."

District officials also pushed back against suggestions that projected fund balances indicate excess collections.

The FY 2026 budget projected an ending general fund balance of approximately \$6 million, while the FY 2027 proposal begins with an estimated balance of roughly \$14 million.

Officials said the apparent discrepancy reflects actual year-end expectations rather than prior budget projections.

"This is not uncommon for school systems," district officials said. "The FY '27 budget is based on the actual fund balance the 2026 year will end with, not the budgeted amount in the prior year budget."

Officials added that budgeted expenditures are not always fully spent during a fiscal year.

"In order to ensure that we meet the fiscal needs of running a school system, there are times that the expenditures planned are not fully expended," district officials wrote. "Through good fiscal management and spending structures, there are times that we end the year without expending all funds."

At the center of the controversy remains the coding error itself.

During the public meeting, Lee County Board of Tax Assessors Chairman Philip Husain described the issue as "a miscoding that put the residential revaluation in the wrong column." Husain emphasized that the error did not alter the county's overall tax digest.

"The columns still add up to give you the same gross digest," Husain said.

Kelley later provided a more detailed explanation of the problem.

"There is growth and re-evaluation, and he put more ... in growth than there was in re-evaluation," Kelley said.

The meeting also highlighted an unresolved question that several citizens raised pub-

licly: Who actually made the coding error?

While Husain repeatedly described the issue as a miscoding and Kelley explained how residential re-evaluation was improperly categorized, no county official identified the individual, office or process responsible for the mistake. Nor did officials explain how the error survived internal review and ultimately became part of the certified rollback calculations used by local taxing authorities.

That lack of clarity became a recurring theme throughout the discussion, as several speakers argued that public criticism had increasingly focused on the school system despite widespread acknowledgment that the rollback error originated within the tax assessment process.

One citizen stated that the school board had been "thrown under the bus" for something it had "zero control over."

Another questioned why tax officials had not more aggressively explained the nature of the error before recent school board elections, arguing that public perceptions may have been shaped by incomplete information.

Kelley also directly defended Board of Education Chair Claire Lang, whose signature on the original PT-32 form became a focal point of criticism during the controversy.

"She did not," Kelley said when addressing allegations that Lang knowingly certified inaccurate information. "She attested to the fact that we didn't hold meetings, and we used the rate that we're given."

Several citizens echoed those concerns, arguing that school officials relied on information provided through the tax assessment process and certified documents in good faith based on figures supplied to them.

The district's proposed FY 2027 budget also reflects significant changes following voters' rejection of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax renewal referendum.

The FY 2026 budget included approximately \$13.7

million in capital outlay expenditures and more than \$10 million in projected bond proceeds. The FY 2027 proposal includes no capital outlay expenditures and no projected bond proceeds, while capital project revenues fall to approximately \$200,000.

Debt service expenditures, however, are projected to increase from roughly \$4 million to nearly \$4.5 million.

Instructional spending is budgeted to decline from approximately \$51.9 million to \$48.9 million, while several operational categories, including transportation, maintenance and support services, show increases.

District officials said the budget changes do not reflect staffing reductions, position freezes or program cuts. According to the district, the decrease in instructional spending is largely attributable to normal staffing transitions as veteran teachers retire and are replaced by less experienced educators with lower salary costs, as well as accounting changes that moved counselors and technology specialists into other budget categories.

Officials said increases in pupil services primarily reflect those reclassifications, while higher maintenance and operations expenditures are largely driven by rising operating costs, including fuel and other expenses associated with maintaining district facilities and services.

The district also disputed suggestions that the proposed budget reflects ongoing operating deficits, stating that the budget includes contingencies

for variable expenses such as fuel costs, health insurance and other expenditures that can fluctuate throughout the school year. Officials said the school system remains financially stable and noted that Lee County has consistently ranked among the most financially efficient school districts in Georgia.

Regarding the failed E-SPLOST referendum, district officials said no capital projects have been delayed, canceled or modified at this time. However, current E-SPLOST collections continue to be committed to repaying bonds issued for previous projects, while existing maintenance and capital needs will need to be addressed through future budgets and funding decisions.

Officials also noted that maintaining stronger reserves has become an increasing priority. While the district historically maintained fund balances between approximately 12% and 15%, state lawmakers recently approved Senate Bill 33, which encourages school districts to maintain reserves equal to 25% of annual expenditures. According to the district, the current fund balance would allow the school system to continue operating for approximately 1.6 months in the event of a significant financial disruption.

The Lee County Board of Education is scheduled to hold a final public hearing on the proposed FY 2027 budget June 8 before considering final adoption later that evening.

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DARTS MPO
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Dougherty Area Regional Transportation Study (DARTS) will hold its quarterly committee meetings on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, and Wednesday, June 17, 2026. DARTS meetings are open to the public and will be held hybrid via Zoom or In-Person at 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 380.

Citizens Transportation Committee
June 10, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85264147723?pwd=agr6CF4aahi5kIFxiTbL27RHxfVRdd.1>
Meeting ID: 852 6414 7723
Passcode: 170327

Technical Coordinating Committee
June 17, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87686489846?pwd=PTggbgTxw3t21Ob6hapbxyqw8cVORD.1>
Meeting ID: 876 8648 9846
Passcode: 235570

Policy Committee
June 17, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85012865828?pwd=imr4W9xrzrIIPvFEbePynyAIAFViM.1>
Meeting ID: 850 1286 5828
Passcode: 889768

City of Albany Planning & Development Services
240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, GA 31701

If you have any questions, please contact Transportation Planner, Tanner Anderson, at (229) 302-1843 or taanderson@albanyga.gov

DARTS MPO
AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

El Estudio de Transporte Regional del Área de Dougherty (DARTS, por sus siglas en inglés) llevará a cabo sus reuniones trimestrales de comités el **miércoles 10 de junio de 2026** y el **miércoles 17 de junio de 2026**.

Las reuniones de DARTS están abiertas al público y se realizarán de forma híbrida a través de Zoom o en persona en la siguiente dirección: 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 380.

Comité de Transporte de Ciudadanos
Fecha y hora: 10 de junio de 2026 a las 9:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85264147723?pwd=agr6CF4aahi5kIFxiTbL27RHxfVRdd.1>
ID de la reunión: 852 6414 7723
Código de acceso: 170327

Comité Técnico de Coordinación
Fecha y hora: 17 de junio de 2026 a las 9:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87686489846?pwd=PTggbgTxw3t21Ob6hapbxyqw8cVORD.1>
ID de la reunión: 876 8648 9846
Código de acceso: 235570

Comité de Políticas
Fecha y hora: 17 de junio de 2026 a las 10:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85012865828?pwd=imr4W9xrzrIIPvFEbePynyAIAFViM.1>
ID de la reunión: 850 1286 5828
Código de acceso: 889768

Ciudad de Albany
Servicios de Planificación y Desarrollo (Planning & Development Services)
240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, GA 31701

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Si tiene alguna duda, comuníquese con el Planificador de Transporte, Tanner Anderson, al teléfono (229) 302-1843 o por correo electrónico a taanderson@albanyga.gov.

From 1A

EXHIBIT

and opening receptions, the organization creates opportunities for residents to experience art free of charge while connecting with artists, neighbors and visitors from throughout the region.

According to the council, exhibition openings regularly draw more than 200 attendees and attract visitors from Albany and surround-

ing southwest Georgia communities.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Fine Art Exhibition highlights the depth of artistic talent across a region more commonly associated with agriculture, manufacturing and health care. For participating artists, the exhibition provides an opportunity to display and sell their work while gaining recognition among peers and the public.

Admission to Thursday's exhibition opening is free and open to the public.

From 1A

DCSS

ects: Phase III of the Dougherty High School Health and Physical Education Complex and Phase II of the Westover High School Health and Physical Education Complex. The Dougherty project is expected to be substantially complete in June, while the vast majority of work at Westover is also expected to be finished by the end of FY '26.

Officials emphasized that the lower capital expenditures in FY '27 do not reflect canceled or delayed projects but rather the completion of projects that required substantial spending during the previous fiscal year.

The proposed budget also continues to prioritize classroom instruction and student services.

Instructional expenditures remain the district's largest

expense category, with more than \$118 million budgeted for instructional services and an additional \$16 million allocated to pupil services.

According to district officials, the primary drivers behind those increases are employee salary step increases and rapidly escalating benefit costs, particularly health insurance.

The employer contribution to the State Health Benefit Plan has more than doubled during the past five years, increasing from approximately \$11,340 per employee annually to \$23,220. District officials estimate FY '27 health insurance costs alone will exceed \$9.9 million.

The district noted that despite those rising expenses, it has not increased its millage rate to offset the additional costs. Officials say the school system has reduced its millage rate in each of the past eight years, even as health care expenses and other operating costs have increased.

The FY '27 proposal does not include any large-scale workforce reduction initiative.

Rising health care costs, employee benefits and personnel expenses continue to place pressure on local school budgets statewide. Those trends are evident in Dougherty County's spending plan, where much of the projected expenditure growth is tied directly to compensation and benefit obligations rather than new programs or services.

While the budget summaries provide only high-level financial information, district officials said the proposal reflects continued efforts to improve efficiency in areas such as transportation, maintenance and administration while directing as many resources as possible toward classroom instruction and student support.

The Dougherty County Board of Education is scheduled to hold public hearings on the proposed FY '27 budget before final adoption this month.

From 1A

CITY

complex.

"That water will need to be treated, which is a further strain," he said. "Centers are bypassing water regulations. The centers are a major drain of power."

Pointing to Thomas County, which Hartwell said has initiated its own 12-month pause to draft regulations for data centers, he said that Albany should do the same.

"I'm for getting everything out for full consideration," he said.

Hartwell's petition at [https://www.change.org/p/albany-ga-](https://www.change.org/p/albany-ga)

datacenter-moratorium had 217 signatures as of Thursday afternoon and lists City Commissioners Jon Howard and Willie Weaver as decision-makers on the issue.

During the commission's Tuesday meeting, City Manager Terrell Jacobs said that the city will host sessions for the public on the issue.

"We are (looking) at town hall meetings so they can have all the latest information," he said. "Hopefully, we can do that in the next month. We are nowhere close to (having) a data center."

"We hope to have several community meetings, some town hall meetings to answer questions and discuss the pros and cons of data centers so

the public will understand."

For his part, Howard said that he became aware of the controversy around data centers last year during the annual Georgia Municipal Association meeting. The centers also do not have a large economic impact on the cities and counties where they are located because they require few employees once completed, he said.

"I'm doing some of the pros and cons of it," Howard said. "I said we need to do some focus groups, inform people."

"I do know it (data centers) requires a lot of money and it makes noise. I know it would have a huge impact on our water system."

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Finances could occupy your thinking and messaging as they probably have for a few weeks. If your individual cycles align, this could be a good week to initiate something for improved odds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ask a question, get a spicy answer—someone might be touchier than usual in person or online. A financial move, such as opening an account, investing, or a major purchase could work if your personal cycles also support this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Cooperation in a shared matter might not happen for a few hours today, put a pin in it and try again later or tomorrow for potentially better results. Your productivity shouldn't be your central identity for a happy life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A partner could be reactive for a few hours, but after the claws tuck back in should come a purr of contentment. If you feel a little invisible now, it can be a perfect time for the inner work that builds a life worth living.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Community involvement not only does needed good, it also builds a friendship network. Give back however you can, there is so much need now. If you hit an obstacle, try again in a few hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you gift the world isn't just your time and your skills. It's your essence expressed against the backdrop of 3-D reality. Make yourself proud. Both creative talent and recognition for it could be a thing now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There is always more to learn. The master must ever be the student, too. Learn, teach, share, so resources are disseminated widely. The home vibe could move from rebellious to centered over the course of the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some financial situations may not require as much focus now, which could

be a relief. Something you share could go viral, there's the theme of the famous icon in your sector of communications now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You and someone close might be able to finalize a negotiation now and put it behind you. Displaying a talent in person is more persuasive than telling your audience all about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Various types of interference might now recede, leaving you a clear field for accomplishment. While the world loves a star, you might feel exposed if you're too out there, too often.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Learn to understand your relationship to attention. Love it? Hate it? Chase it? Mixed feelings? Trace the roots and heal any visibility issues. The more you heal inside, the better your life outside.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Friends could be combative if approached in a way that triggers them but could be wonderful within hours. A meetup later in the day might be a workaround. Give a home project another nudge.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: A financial opportunity, raise, or bonus could drop any day now. If it's an investment, it will be important to think it through carefully though it could be awesome if it proves out. Cash flow should continue in July, and you could come to understand more about your life purpose and the next steps on your journey. Though something could look worrisome, you could get saved in the last moments—but don't take an undue risk. Late July could be a time of extremes, you might need to work to stay regulated and moderate. Early in August you could feel a push to do something short-term exciting and long-term foolish. The recommendation is: Don't. It's unlikely to be remotely worth the consequences. A happy surprise could drop on your doorstep later in August.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1855 - The Portland Rum Riot occurs in Portland, Maine

1873 - Construction begins on Clay Street, in San Francisco for the world's 1st cable railroad

1896 - Guglielmo Marconi applies for a patent for his invention, the radio

1910 - Charles Rolls, becomes the first man to make a non-stop double crossing of the English Channel by Plan. He was the co-founder of Rolls-Royce Limited

1919 - Anarchists followers of Luigi Galleani, simultaneously set off bombs in eight separate U.S. cities

1924 - The Indian Citizenship Act is signed into law by U.S. President Calvin Coolidge which grants citizenship to all American Indians

1928 - Velveeta Cheese is

created by Kraft

1952 - Maurice Olley of General Motors starts designing the Corvette

1986 - Regular TV coverage of the U.S. Senate sessions starts

1995 - U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady's F-16 is shot down over Bosnia, and he is forced to eject into hostile territory. After almost a week of evading the Serbs, he was rescued by Marines.

1997 - Timothy McVeigh is found guilty of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168

2014 - After nearly 40 years on the throne, King Juan Carlos I of Spain announced that he will be stepping down, and that his son, Crown Prince Felipe will succeed his father.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A girl phoned me the other day and said, 'Come on over, there's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home."

Rodney Dangerfield
comedian (1921-2004)

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

Trump wants his photo on a new \$250 bill, while at the same time he doesn't care about Americans' financial situation. He said he didn't care about the midterms (and, therefore, the Republican party). And that is because he is a narcissist who only cares about himself, his ballroom, his arch, his revenge, his picture everywhere and loyalty to him

Heard seems to think he can cover his illegal and illogical actions by playing the preacher card. Sorry, Little Guy, the things you've done show a) that you're not a real preacher; b) the only person you care about serving is yourself and your crooked relations, and c) the people in your church must be the most gullible in the world to keep supporting your filthy habits.

Thanks to the Greatest President Ever, the bond market is in trouble. The rate on 10-year treasury bonds is going up. You can forget about buying a house.

While he is not wrong, Carlton isn't owning up to his role. It is the responsibility of his editorial team and good people of Albany to continue to call out the illegal and unethical behavior at Dougherty and Albany governments and APD. Cronyism, fiscal corruption and waste, pandering to the poor for votes, long failed "soft on crime" law enforcement, and zero oversight of public areas. This all will be fixed with hard work, not hand-outs. These scumbags won't win.

One of the things about getting old is remembering gas at 22 cents a gallon.

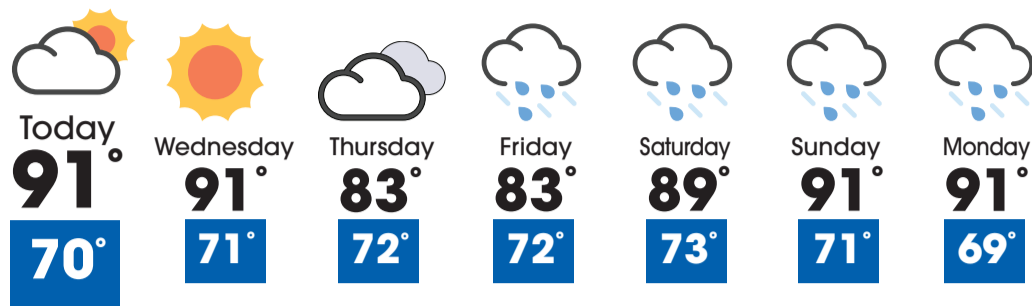
The millionaire and billionaire trying to out-Trump and out-sleaze each other to be the Republican nominee for governor have wasted millions and millions of dollars, and I wouldn't vote for either of them for dog catcher. Of course, I wouldn't vote for Bottoms either, so there goes my ballot on Election Day.

Can someone with the city of Albany explain why Recreation and Parks is only having 80 children for their summer camp? Why are other recreation facilities not having a camp so more children can attend a camp? Tax dollars must not help Recreation and Parks. They have a free camp at Driskell but never accept children. Why? That department has gone down so much.

Hard-working teachers, P&G, Phoebe, Miller/Coors and Marine Base workers who are more or less forced to donate to United Way should be fighting mad. UW has now given \$10,000 to some "preacher" that heads something called "Greater Faith and Deliverance Ministries," a domestic nonprofit that has a "church" at 1510 West Broad Ave. But the nonprofit address and church business address is a home of almost 4,000 square feet in Doublegate, which has been foreclosed on twice. How can the United Way throw away money like this?

I don't trust Rick Jackson. He misleads everyone thinking President Trump supports him, when in fact Trump has endorsed Burt Jones. Jackson refuses to debate Jones until after June 14, after all early votes have been cast. What does Jackson have to hide? Is he a plant by Stacey Abrams?

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Post-graduate defense

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

My friend the English professor told me he'd been assigned to teach graduate-level courses in the upcoming term.

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

might have finessed in trumps against East. When East takes the queen, he must shift to the ace and a second club. Then when West takes the ace of trumps, he gives East a club ruff for down one.

This week: inferences on defense.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: SAQJHJ9853D
AKC984. Your partner opens one club, you bid one heart and he raises to three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has a hand worth about 17 points for play at hearts with four-card support. Since you have five cards in hearts and controls in the unbid suits, slam is likely. Partner may hold 4,AK64,Q65,AQJ32. Cue-bid four diamonds, planning to cue-bid four spades even if he signs off at four hearts.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

"You don't seem pleased about it," I said. "Don't you enjoy working with grad students?"

"Grad school," the prof sniffed. "The snooze button on the alarm clock of life."

In today's deal, West led a spade against four hearts, and South won in his hand and let the nine of trumps ride. East took the queen and shifted to a diamond. South won, forced out the ace of trumps and won the next diamond. He drew the missing trump and claimed 10 tricks, losing a club to the ace.

CLUB RUFF

East was snoozing: Drawing a simple inference is not a post-graduate skill. If South had the ace of trumps, he would have cashed it before finessing, or he

Advice Columnist

Friends split over restraining order

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: A good friend of 30 years lashed out at me. During a group dinner she announced that she was going to apply for a restraining order against someone who has been harassing and stalking her. Once a week I play volleyball with that person. The person sometimes tries to talk to me about my good friend. I tell that person not to do that, and I stay out of that issue. He never admitted to me of harassing or stalking my friend.

During the dinner my good friend asked everyone for supporting declarations. I declined to do so because I've been a lawyer for 40 years and had extensive experience in restraining orders. I know that my declaration would not benefit her application for the restraining order, as I had no personal knowledge of his harassing or stalking my friend.

She told me I was not her friend, and she did not want to do anything with me. This really shocked me. I think it is my business who I play volleyball with.

In the past I offered her my help in drafting the application for a restraining order. I hope she prevails in her request now, and had she asked me I would have assisted her in drafting it in a lawyer-like manner. I'm not sure how to respond to her anger.

- Shocked Friend

Dear Friend: If you have extensive experience in restraining orders, it's surprising that you don't see how your volleyball friend has conscripted you into his alleged stalking. You write that you tell him not to ask about your good friend

and then "stay out of the issue." If you know there's an issue, or suspect there is, and have been made uncomfortable by the volleyball friend's request, then I'd expect you'd be more empathetic to your good friend's request.

It doesn't sound like your good friend is asking you to be judge and jury. It sounds like she's expressing the very real fear and concern that stalking and harassment provoke and you've responded in a way that downplays her concerns.

I know that you offered to help draft the restraining order in the past. It's important to recognize that's not the support she asked for right now. If there's any contact between you going forward, she'll likely have trouble trusting you, so that's something you should consider and attempt to address with an apology. One more thing to think about: if you're willing to help draft a restraining order against a friend, it suggests that you don't think the order is without merit. So, you should ask yourself why you'd want to continue a friendship with that person.

Dear Eric: On a recent visit at my daughter's home, I saw that the drywall in her house had recently been repaired. The repair was to both sides of a wall. When I asked my daughter about it, she said her husband had damaged the wall when he got angry about something but immediately assured me that he had never hit a person.

Needless to say, I am very concerned about her husband's issues with anger management after this incident. They have one child, a toddler, and I visit their home overnight on a regular basis to provide childcare. I am worried that if I express



Eric Thomas

too much concern to my daughter, she may tell her husband and my access to my grandchild may be affected. I have seen other signs of inappropriate anger from my son-in-law, sometimes directed at my daughter but more often at other people.

I have not said anything to anyone about these concerns, but this is the first time I have seen his anger manifest into this type of property damage. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

- In a Quandary

Dear Quandary: Even if your son-in-law hasn't been physically violent toward your daughter, his angry outbursts create a dangerous environment for her and for your grandchild. As someone who is sometimes in the house overnight, it's also potentially dangerous for you, too. So, you're right to be concerned.

Start by talking with her, prioritizing listening and a non-judgmental position. Helping a family member to see that they're in a potentially abusive situation requires that they trust you and see you as a resource. It may be slower going than you would like. The National Domestic Violence Hotline (the-hotline.org) has more helpful guidance for how to have these conversations.

If he decides to limit your access to your grandchild, that's the kind of isolating behavior that's a hallmark of emotional abuse. Suggest that she create a safety plan, guidance for which can also be found on the Hotline's site. And encourage her to talk with others, as well. This isn't something that you should take on by yourself.

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 vericthomas.com.

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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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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."
Proverbs 10:8

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Finding the great reset

Due to flight schedules and disruptions, I traveled four days to arrive on a tropical island swept hard by a typhoon. I was there to operate equipment that turned seawater into drinking water. But, I confess, my primary purpose was to offer what Jesus called "living water." (John 4:10)

That opportunity arose when a young man approached my team expressing gratitude.

"How are you holding up?" I asked. "I feel like this has been a big reset for the entire island."

"We need to relearn how to think of each other's needs and live together in community," he replied.

He continued unpacking his thoughts, using the word "reset" several times. I asked, "Have you ever had a spiritual reset, and can I explain that to you?"

The human mind, i.e. consciousness and self-awareness, is remarkable in its ability to rethink or reset. Your mind can instruct your brain not to dwell on things that tempt you or reconsider a conclusion based on new information. The interaction between the brain and mind is mysterious, impacted by changes in your circumstances (like a typhoon).

But it is within that interaction that God communicates in ways subtle and, at times, loud. "God whispers to us in our pleasures," but painful events are "His megaphone to rouse a deaf world," per C.S. Lewis.



FOWLER

The Bible's anthropology recognizes the benefit of a discontinuity of thought, a reset you might say. "Our inner man is being renewed day by day." (2 Cor. 4:16)

In Christ, a believer is "being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him." (Col. 3:10)

The clearest example is, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is." (Rom. 12:2)

The Bible warns of the pitfalls and disordered thinking of this materialistic world and the fallen human condition. But you are not without hope. By faith, you cooperate as your thoughts bend Godward.

My new friend said, "Yes." I shared with him, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Cor. 5:17) That is the great reset of the soul. It is an invitation to come alive to God.

I explained that God loves you so much that He stepped into humanity to die on the cross to satisfy your sin debt. It is a gift of mercy and grace received through faith in Jesus. It results in a fresh start and new thoughts about life.

He listened carefully, then grasped my hand. "Would you help me pray so I can receive Christ?"

Only God knows if Jesus is truly the Shepherd and Guardian of his soul. I pray he has found his great reset.

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Data center panic forgets the future

From national politics down to local neighborhood discussion, America seems to be in full-blown moral panic about data centers.

The two main concerns voiced by both politicians and my neighbors boil down to arguments that the increasing number and size (due to the push toward resource-intensive artificial intelligence in pretty much everything) of data centers requires "too much" electricity and "too much" water.

That may be true ... right now. But will it be true a few years from now? Not likely. Why? Well, let's look at some history.

When Henry Ford introduced his "Quadricycle" — a gasoline powered automobile mounted on bicycle wheels — in 1896, most American roads were just dirt paths. By the early 1900s, Ford and others were pumping out thousands of the new-fangled "horseless carriages."

With the cars came the complaints: Dirt roads turned into perpetual dust clouds as "rolling fire-traps" careened dangerously down them, loudly and with frequent exhaust backfires, scaring the horses that drew the "traditional" wagons and carriages. A hue and cry arose against the dangers and inconveniences of the "devil wagons."

But then cars got quieter (as inventors introduced mufflers), their brakes got improved, and the roads got paved. Over time, people ended up with cheaper, safer, faster, and more reliable transportation. And the streets and roads stopped being large-scale dumping grounds for animal feces, arguably improving health conditions.

That process of improvement hasn't ended yet. My wife's 2006 SUV gets about three times as many miles per gallon (in town) as the Oldsmobile coupe I drove

in my youth, and is probably a lot safer, even correcting for her "mature woman" driving skills versus my "crazy male teen" habits.

Getting a little more modern, consider computers: My Linux Mini PC, like the Commodore VIC-20 I got for Christmas in 1983, runs on 20-25 watts of electricity. But the mini PC — which cost about 1/3 as much as the Commodore after accounting for inflation — boasts 3 million times as much RAM and runs about 3,000 times as fast.

Yes, data centers use a lot of water. Yes, data centers use a lot of electricity.

But the builders of those data centers are constantly working to reduce water and electrical requirements because supplying those requirements is costly.

Unless there's some really bizarre change to the historical arc of invention and innovation, we are at the peak, not the low point, of data center resource usage.

In fact, shortly before I began writing this column, Wired ran an article on a recent innovation by Amazon that "delivers 33% higher data throughput, cuts network power consumption by 40%, and lowers operating costs by 27%."

Future CPUs and their associated equipment will run faster (meaning fewer are needed for the same jobs), cooler (meaning less water is needed to cool them), and on less electricity.

Those innovations won't just benefit the operators of data centers. Regular consumers will also see cheaper, faster, better products at the retail level — and lower utility bills to boot.

The future is always scary ... until it actually gets here.



KNAPP

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The illusion that life moves in straight lines

Few experiences are more discouraging than believing a struggle has finally been overcome, only to discover it waiting again around the next corner.

A person spends years trying to become more patient, only to lose their temper in a single difficult moment. Someone works hard to overcome insecurity, yet finds old fears resurfacing under pressure. Entire societies vow never to repeat past moral failures only to drift slowly back toward the same patterns they once condemned.

If the same weaknesses keep returning, has any real growth occurred at all?

Modern culture intensifies this frustration because it presents progress as visible, immediate and measurable. Success is expected to move in straight lines: improvement replacing weakness, confidence replacing uncertainty, achievement replacing struggle.

Social media magnifies the illusion. People display polished versions of transformation while concealing the slow, uneven reality beneath it. As a result, many quietly assume that ongoing struggle must mean ongoing failure.

But perhaps human growth does not move in straight lines at all.

An old Yiddish phrase describes a spiral staircase as a "shvindel trep," literally, a "swindling staircase." As one climbs its winding turns, the path becomes disorienting. It is difficult to tell how far one has come or how close one is to the top. At the final turn, there is often nothing visible except a wall directly ahead. Only after one more step does the opening suddenly appear.

The image captures something deeply true about human life.

While living through periods of struggle or repetition, progress often feels invisible.

This idea appears in the weekly Torah portion V'zot HaBerachah (Deuteronomy 33-34), the final portion of the Torah. Moses blesses the people shortly before his death, bringing the long wilderness journey toward its conclusion.

And yet Judaism does something remarkable at that exact moment. The instant the Torah reading ends, it begins again immediately with the opening words of Genesis: "In the beginning ..."

There is no pause between ending and beginning. The Torah does not conclude with closure. It returns directly to creation itself.

That ritual reflects a profound understanding of human growth. Life is not a straight ascent in which old struggles permanently disappear behind us. Instead, human beings revisit many of the same challenges repeatedly, but ideally from a different level of wisdom, humility and self-awareness.

The cycle is not a circle trapping people in endless repetition. It is a spiral. What makes a spiral

rise is not the absence of struggle but what the struggle produces within the person climbing it.

Repeated effort can deepen patience. Failure can cultivate humility. Disappointment can soften arrogance and awaken compassion. A person confronting the same weakness year after year is not necessarily standing still. The struggle itself may be shaping qualities that could not emerge any other way.

The same pattern unfolds within societies. Civilizations repeatedly confront questions about power, truth, justice, freedom and human dignity. Each generation believes its crises are unprecedented. In some ways, they are. Yet beneath the surface, humanity continues wrestling with many of the same moral tensions that have shaped history for centuries.

The danger comes when repetition is mistaken for failure. When progress is not obvious, cynicism begins to grow. Institutions lose trust. Moral effort feels naïve. Personal growth begins to seem impossible.

Increasingly, modern culture confuses visibility with transformation. But some of the deepest forms of growth happen almost entirely beneath the surface.

A seed underground appears lifeless long before it breaks through the soil. Muscles strengthen through repeated strain that feels uncomfortable while it is happening. Trust within relationships is often rebuilt quietly, through countless unseen decisions that slowly reshape the future. Human character develops in much the same way.

The Torah's ending reminds readers that renewal rarely announces itself dramatically in the moment. Often, growth becomes visible only in retrospect.

Moses himself never enters the Promised Land. From a purely linear perspective, his story appears incomplete. Yet the Torah refuses to frame his life as failure. His final act is to bless the people and prepare them to continue forward without him.

That may be one of the Torah's most quietly radical ideas. The meaning of human effort is not always visible to the person making the sacrifice.

Parents may never fully witness the values they planted within their children. Teachers may never know the lives they quietly redirected. Those struggling year after year to become wiser, calmer, kinder, or more disciplined may feel little measurable progress at all. And yet the Torah insists that unseen growth is still real.

Moses never saw the finish line. He spent his life preparing others to cross it, and the Torah calls that a life of greatness.

Perhaps the most important transformations are the ones that cannot be fully measured while they are unfolding.

The spiral is still rising. We just do not always get to see how high.



HAMBOURGER

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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What to watch

TUESDAY

June 2, 2026

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

Farmer Wants a Wife

FOX, 8 p.m.

Family introductions in the new episode "I'm Falling for You" leave the remaining couples to decide whether they'll let outside opinions change their perspectives.

America's Got Talent

NBC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The 21st season of *AGT* kicks off with an all-new lineup of aspiring acts competing for the ultimate \$1 million prize. Simon Cowell is joined on the judging panel by Sofia Vergara, Howie Mandel and Mel B.

Renovation Aloha

HGTV, 8 p.m.

When Kamohai and Tristyn Kalama head to Maui to help a friend whose parents lost everything in the Lahaina fire, they rally contractors, donors and the community to rebuild not just a house but hope for a family and an island still healing.

Bear Grylls Is Running Wild

FOX, 9 p.m.

Actor/comedian Rhys Darby goes on a trek deep into the Canyonlands of Utah, where he and Bear Grylls take danger and comedy to new heights in tonight's new episode.



'America's Got Talent'

NBC

Password

NBC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The hit game show returns for a fun-filled third season of the ultimate word showdown. Keke Palmer is back as host with Jimmy Fallon and a rotating roster of star-studded celebrity guests who team up with contestants in an unpredictable battle of wits and words. Tonight's guest is Anthony Anderson.

The Proof Is Out There: Unexplained Edition

History, 10:30 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Around the globe, people report encounters with forces they believe are either evil or divine. Was a young woman possessed by a demon? Did a guardian angel prevent a deadly crash? Tony Harris, along with his team, investigate whether these events are explained by science or faith.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Goth Gardens Movie Theme

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

This marathon from TCM features four hair-raising films, beginning with the classic *Great Expectations* (1946), based on the novel by Charles Dickens, which earned five Oscar nominations — including Best Picture — and two wins. The theme continues with 1946's *The Big Sleep* (pictured), where private in-

vestigator Philip Marlowe (Humphrey Bogart) works with Vivian Rutledge (Lauren Bacall) to solve a case that starts with blackmail and leads to what might be love. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1978), the first remake of the 1956 horror film, follows the infiltration of San Francisco and the invisible enemy taking over the city. The night of mysticism closes with *The Thing From Another World* (1951), where Arctic scientists must deflect a bloodthirsty alien organism whose spaceship crashes near an isolated military base.



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What to watch

WEDNESDAY

June 3, 2026

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

MasterChef

FOX, 8 p.m.

The kitchen is transformed into a backyard barbecue for the new episode "World Cup Cookoff." Trading in their aprons for jerseys, the home cooks must step up and prove that they can take their country's game-time cravings to the next level.

Brilliant Minds

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Senses," Wolf (Zachary Quinto) grapples with being a psych patient at Hudson Oaks and has a startling revelation.

The Floor

FOX, 9 p.m.

The new episode "Wolves at the Door" features the youngest challenger ever seen, two battle-hardened reality stars with something to prove, and one player guarding host Rob Lowe's personal favorite category of the entire season.

Flavortown Food Fight

Food Network, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Guy Fieri wraps up Season 1 with "Egg Day," in which a returning champ faces Leo Davila and Demetrio Zavala. Judges Jonathon Sawyer and Nancy Silverton crown the eggs-treme winner.

One Day in My Body

TLC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

TLC's bold, intimate and at times heartbreaking series profiles individuals challenged with the world's rarest medical conditions — each recording their own story of what their life is like. In the season finale, viewers will meet Joe DiMeo, a burn survivor who, following a car accident, made medical history as the first person to successfully undergo a combined face and double hand transplant. Viewers also will hear Piyah Martell's story, as she lives with caudal regression syndrome (CRS), which has left her with a shortened spine and missing lower vertebrae.



'Flavortown Food Fight'

DAVID MOIR

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Disaster Movies

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

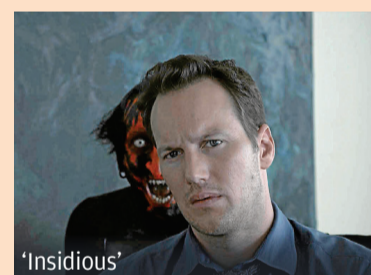
Watch a night of high-stakes tension and sky-high drama with TCM's disastrous marathon. This lineup dives into some of the most fearful situations, starting with *Airport* (1970), where a stressed-out airport manager attempts to keep his terminals open during a massive snowstorm and with a suicide bomber aboard an in-flight Boeing 707. The film was nominated for 10 Academy Awards, with Helen Hayes winning Best Supporting Actress. Next, *The Hindenburg* (1975) chronicles the events of the real-life 1937 tragedy in which a German airship burst into flames. The



PARAMOUNT PICTURES / PHOTOFEST

film received three Oscar nominations as well as two Special Achievement Awards, for special effects and visual effects. TCM moves the night along with 1957's *Zero Hour* (pictured) and *The Crowded Sky* (1960), which both prove the rationality in fear of flying when everything goes wrong in the air. Lastly, *Skyjacked* (1972) follows Capt. Hank O'Hara (Charlton Heston), who does everything in his power to keep his passengers alive when a crazed Vietnam War veteran hijacks the plane.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



FILMDISTRICT

I Am Mary Jo Buttafuoco (2026, Docudrama) Chloe Lanier, Dillon Casey **LMN, 6 p.m.**

The Way to You (2026, Romance) Kim Matula, Aaron O'Connell **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Black Panther (2018, Action) Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan **FX, 7 p.m.**

Insidious (2010, Horror) Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

Rush Hour 2 (2001, Action) Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker **TNT, 7:30 p.m.**

The Cheetah Girls (2003, Children) Raven-Symoné, Lynn Whitfield **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Two for Tee (2026, Romance) Janel Parrish, Chris McNally **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009, Action) Denzel Washington, John Travolta **BBC America, 8:30 p.m.**

Rush Hour 3 (2007, Action) Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker **TNT, 9:30 p.m.**

The Dating App Killer: The Monica White Story (2026, Docudrama) Lela Rochon, Jarod Joseph **LMN, 10 p.m.**

The Moment (2026, Comedy-drama) Charli XCX, Rosanna Arquette **HBO, 10:10 p.m.**

Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill, Amy Adams **TNT, 11:15 p.m.**

From the editors of



TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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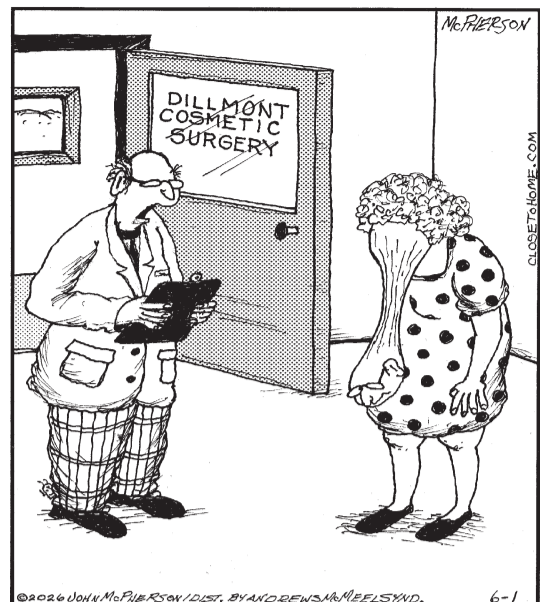
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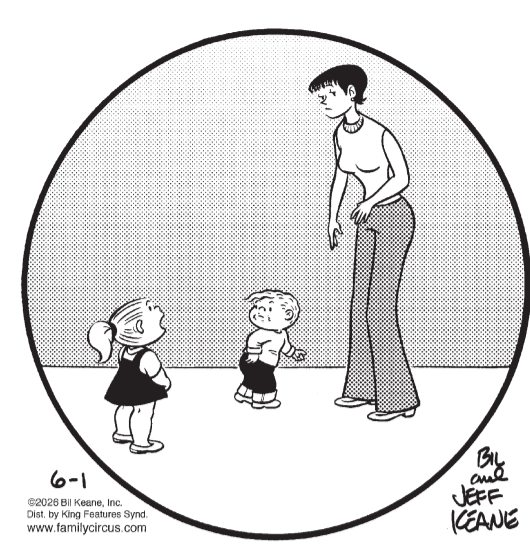
TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



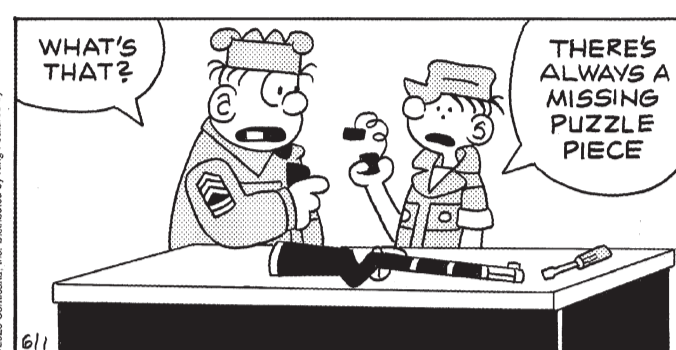
“Unfortunately, Carolyn, your body has rejected your facelift.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



“We’re s’posed to forgive and forget. Well, I forgive Jeffy for eating my candy bar, but I’ll never forget it.”

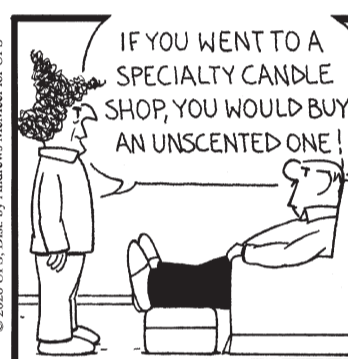
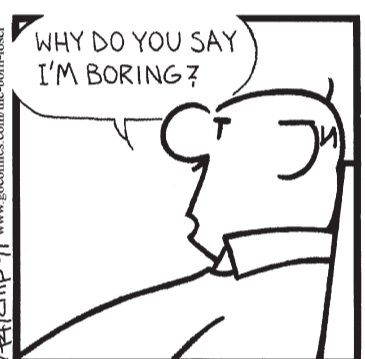
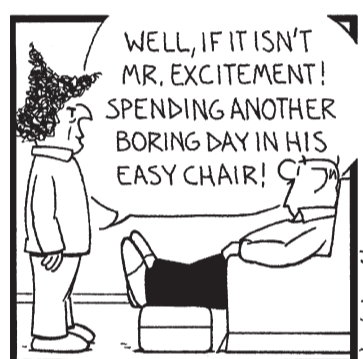
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



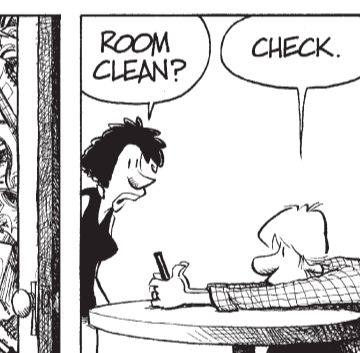
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



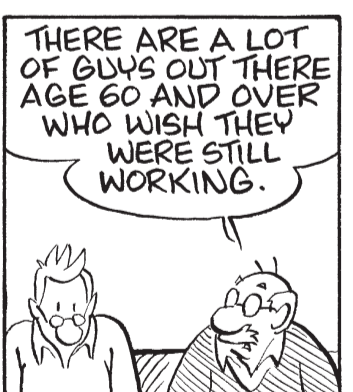
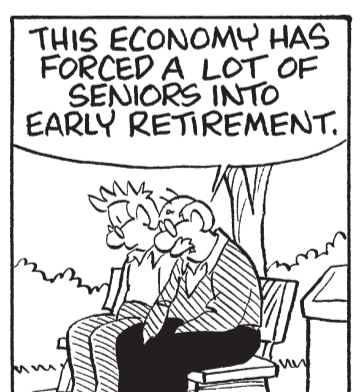
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

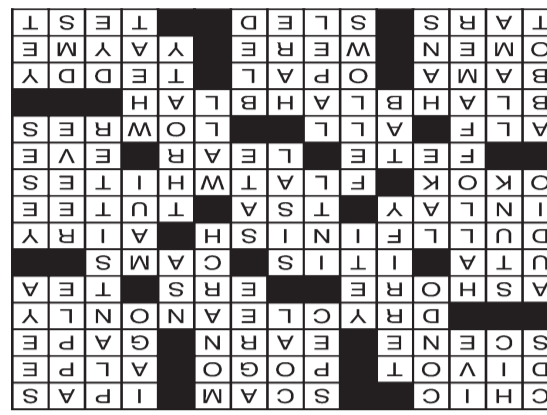
Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Timelessly stylish
 - 5 Many a robocall
 - 9 Brewery tour pours, for short
 - 13 Polo ground chunk
 - 15 ___ stick
 - 16 French peak, to locals
 - 17 Public tantrum
 - 18 Bring in
 - 19 Stare open-mouthed
 - 20 Warning on delicate garments
 - 23 On land
 - 26 Verbal hesitations
 - 27 Lipton drink
 - 28 The Jazz of the NBA, on scoreboards
 - 29 “Most definitely”
 - 32 Vlogger devices, informally
 - 34 Feature of nonglossy countertops
 - 37 Like a room with open windows
 - 40 Parquet floor feature
 - 41 Airport entry org.
 - 42 Mentor’s pupil
 - 43 “You told me a thousand times already!”
 - 44 Espessos with steamed milk
 - 46 Glam gala
 - 48 Elderly Shakespearean king
 - 49 All Hallows’
 - 50 1980s sitcom ET
 - 52 Each and every one
 - 54 Not top quality, screenwise
 - 56 “... and other meaningless drivel,” or what can be found at the start of 20-, 34-, and 44-Across
 - 60 Crimson Tide team, familiarly
 - 61 October birthstone
 - 62 Baby shower bear
 - 66 Bad news bringer
 - 67 “Now ___ talking!”
 - 68 “I’m so great!”
 - 69 Fixes, as potholes
 - 70 Snow glider
 - 71 Assessment

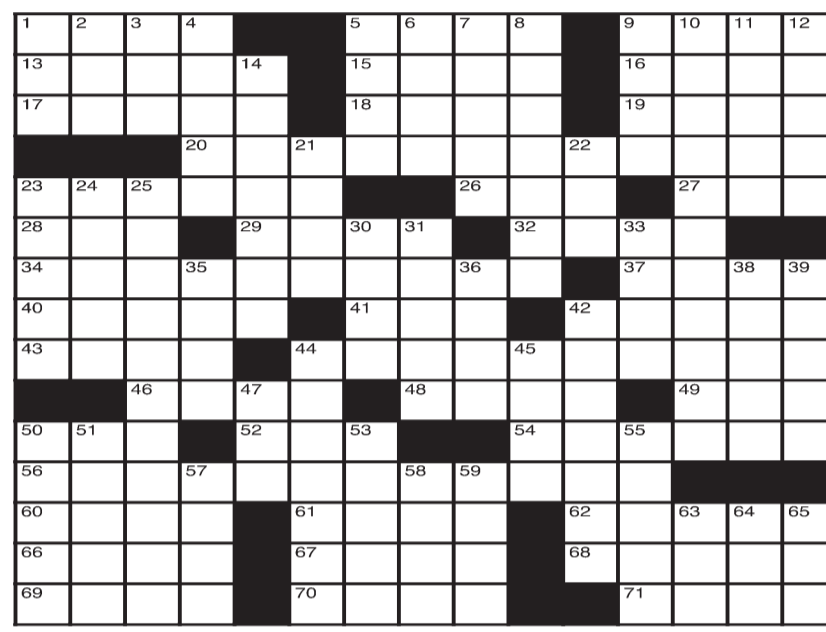
- DOWN**
- 1 Record store section
 - 2 Sound of a diaphragm spasms
 - 3 “___ been meaning to tell you ...”
 - 4 Unit in a complex
 - 5 Hardware detail, for short
 - 6 Snowman’s eyes, sometimes
 - 7 Be in harmony
 - 8 Charles III, e.g.
 - 9 “Othello” villain
 - 10 Friend who maintains one’s watering schedule, say
 - 11 Orchard pick
 - 12 “Bye now”
 - 14 Fill with fear
 - 21 Hairy cryptid
 - 22 Govt. intel org.
 - 23 Broadcast’s sound component
 - 24 Didn’t do well
 - 25 Cooperstown honoree
 - 30 Abbr. in some airport names
 - 31 Doormat fiber
 - 33 “You’re Welcome” singer in “Moana”

- 35 Waterskiing spot
- 36 Fully gratify
- 38 Superman player Christopher
- 39 Affirmative replies
- 42 Husky, as a voice
- 44 Guys
- 45 Barrier
- 47 Tavern tally
- 50 Religious brotherhood leader
- 51 Vicuña kin
- 53 Jacket flap
- 55 Flour source
- 57 “Dune” film score composer
- 58 Fabled race loser
- 59 Turned light laundry pink accidentally, perhaps
- 63 Turn light laundry pink intentionally, perhaps
- 64 Private app convos
- 65 As of now

TODAY’S SOLUTION:



06/01/26



By Katie Hale ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

06/01/26

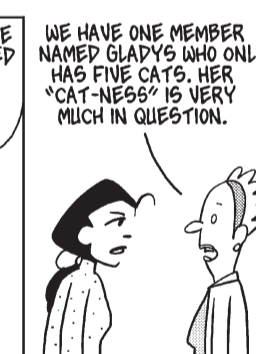
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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:
Long underwear

TODAY’S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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.

MEMORIES OF THE DRIVE-IN Solution: 4 letters

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

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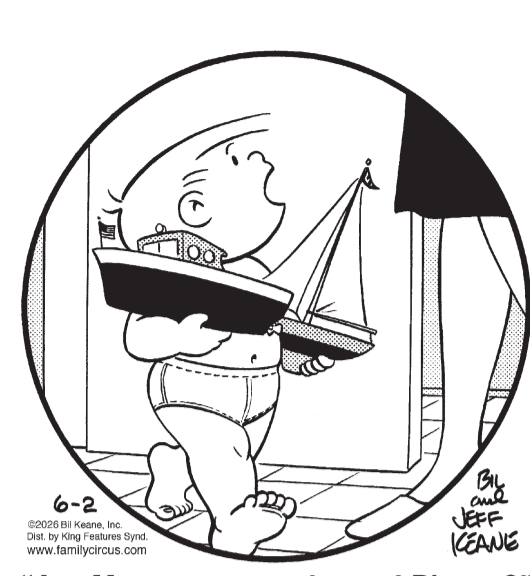
TODAY’S ANSWER: Date

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



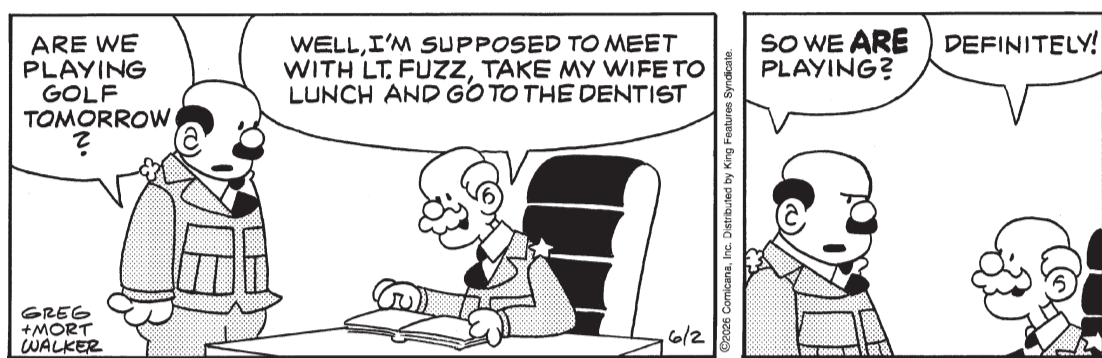
"Oh, you didn't know? Yeah, Tony the Squid was a champion diver when he was in high school."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"Aw, Mommy, not a shower! Please?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



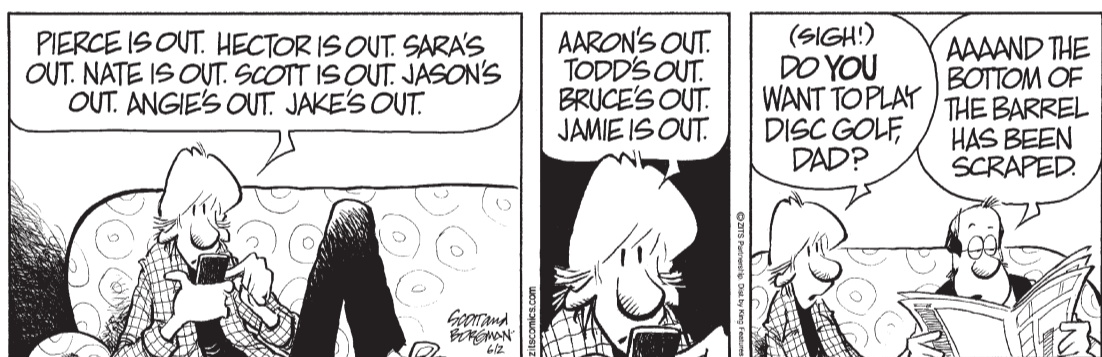
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



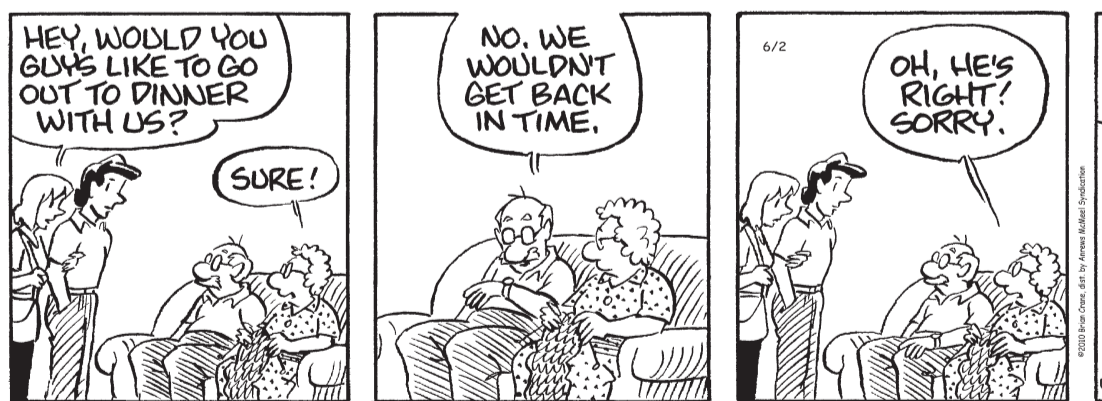
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



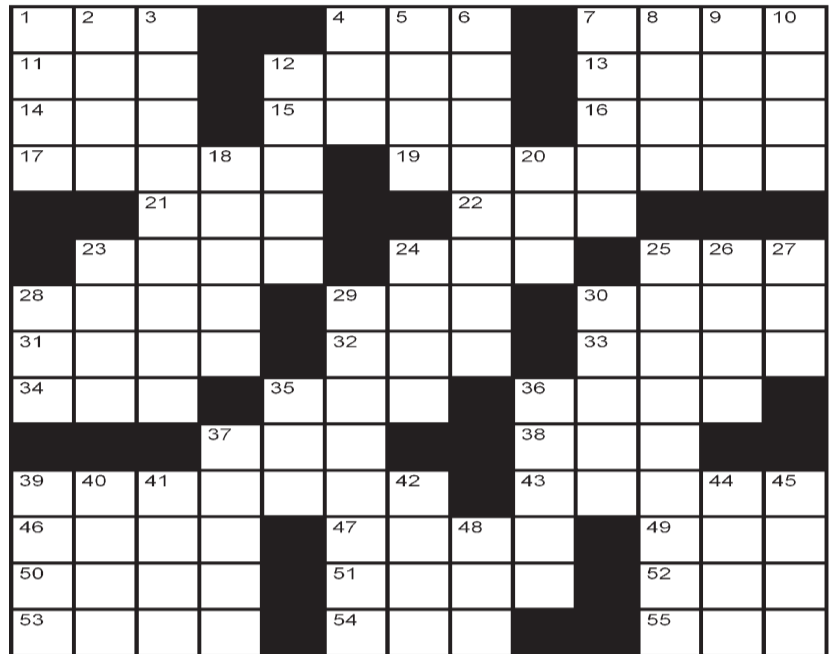
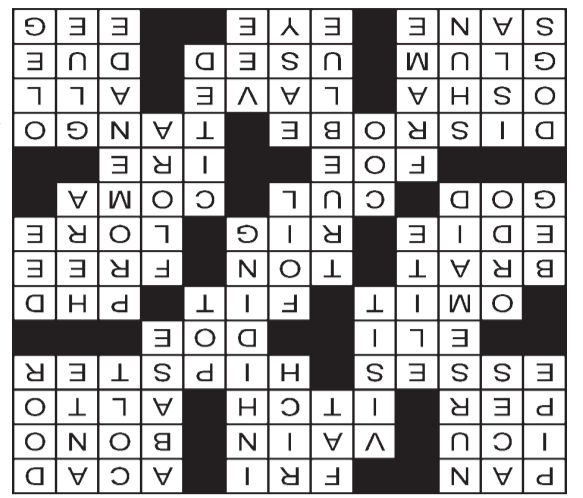
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
 1 Moo goo gai —
 4 Datebook abbr.
 7 Sch.
 11 Hosp. area
 12 Futile
 13 U2 lead singer
 14 According to
 15 Hankering
 16 Singing voice
 17 Serpentine letters
 19 Cool cat
 21 Pharmaceutical giant — Lilly
 22 Female deer
 23 Leave out
 24 Healthy
 25 Advanced deg.
 28 Troublesome child
 29 Weight measure
 30 Gratis

DOWN
 1 Water main
 2 Experts
 3 Governess
 4 "Jack Sprat could eat no — ..."
 5 Opulent

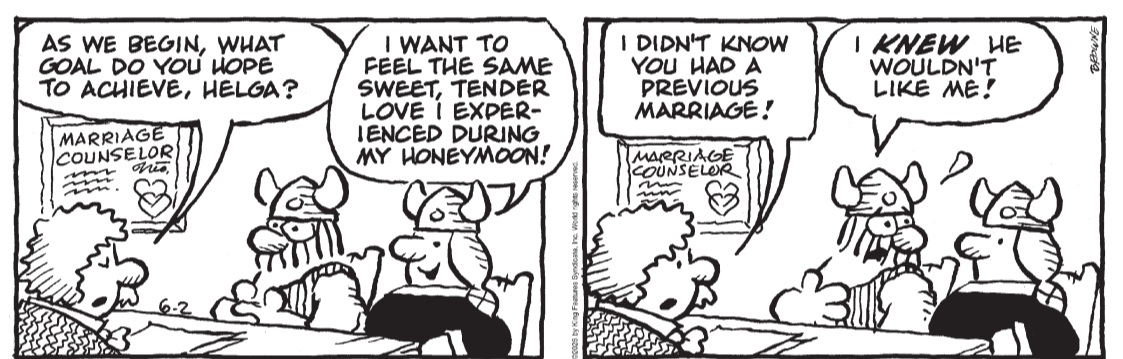
31 Actress — Adams
32 Fix fraudulently
33 Learning
34 "Children of a Lesser —"
35 —-de-sac
36 Unconscious state
37 Enemy
38 Anger
39 Get undressed
43 Dance from Argentina
46 Job-safety org.
47 Wash
49 Totality
50 Despondent
51 Like hand-me-downs
52 Payable
53 Rational
54 Storm's center
55 Brain scan, for short

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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:
Learn meat

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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.

EXOGENOUS ECONOMIC SHOCKS Solution: 9 letters

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

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Bank, Budget, Chain, Changes, Cost, Country, Crash, Currency, Earthquake, Employment, Energy, Environment, Flood, Food, Fuel, Goods, Hurricane, Income, Interest Rate, Invest, Monetary, Nation, Nature, News, Policy, Premium, Price, Product, Random, Recession, Region, Service, Spend, Stock, Taxes, Trend, Wage, Weather, Wildfire

TODAY'S ANSWER: Influence

GSW earns award for excellence in accounting, reporting for third straight year

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University's Division of Business and Finance has once again been recognized for its outstanding financial stewardship, receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting from the University System of Georgia at the FY '26 Year-End Workshop. This marks the third consecutive year GSW has received this honor, having earned the award each year since its inception.

Georgia Southwestern was one of only eight institutions across the entire University System to receive the award, placing GSW among the top-performing schools in the state for financial accuracy, accountability and timeliness.

"This recognition reflects the strong commitment to excellence and professionalism demonstrated by our business and finance team," Jeff Hall, vice president for GSW's Division of Business and Finance, said. "We are committed to upholding accurate, transparent financial reporting and meeting the ex-

pectations of our stakeholders with integrity. I'm extremely proud of our team's hard work, dedication and attention to detail."

The award acknowledges institutions that submit high-quality financial statements, meet additional reporting requirements and provide all necessary supporting documentation in a timely and accurate manner. It encourages campuses to establish strong internal controls, improve operational processes, and proactively mitigate financial and reporting risks.

Institutions are evaluated

based on three key criteria:

Timeliness – Meeting critical reporting deadlines set by the USG, as well as by state and federal agencies.

Quality – Ensuring financial submissions are accurate and require minimal adjustments.

Audit Results – Having no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses identified during annual audits or reviews, with no more than three control deficiencies noted.

This achievement highlights GSW's ongoing commitment to financial excellence and operational integrity, school officials said.



Special Photo: GSW

From left, Teresa Hudson, Danielle Melvin, Amanda Barrett, Christy Barry, Polly Conger and Gwen Bellew from Accounting Services, and Tiandra Stanford and Jamie Vincent from Student Accounts, were primarily responsible for Georgia Southwestern's Certificate of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting from the University System of Georgia.

12 Georgia legislative races headed to runoffs

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- Voters across the state will head back to the polls next month after a number of state legislative candidates failed to reach the majority vote needed to avoid a runoff election.

Candidates in five state Senate seats are hoping to fill seats vacated by senators who had eyes for higher office. Three of the races will be held on the Democratic ticket, and the remaining two races will be on the Republican ballot.

On the House side, candidates across seven districts will compete to replace representatives who are retiring, have resigned or are seeking statewide office. One incumbent candidate is also fighting to hold onto her seat in the face of a competitive primary challenge. Democrats will face off in six races, while two Republicans will seek a rematch in one House runoff.

The runoffs will be held June 16, with at least one week of early voting. Voters who selected one party's ballot in the May primary election will have to stick with that party for the runoff, but anyone who did not vote in the primary can pick the runoff ballot of their choice. Voters who selected a nonpartisan ballot in the primary can also choose which runoff they would like to vote in.

Here's a look at the legislative candidates who advanced to a runoff.

House District 177

Family nurse practitioner Elsie Cason Napier and former Valdosta Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Payton Jr. will compete in a Lowndes County district previously represented by Democratic Valdosta Rep. Dexter Sharper, who resigned from office shortly before pleading guilty to federal fraud charges. Napier came in first place with nearly 30% of the vote in a five-way contest, while Payton came in second place with roughly 26%.

Payton is also running in a special election to fill the remainder of Sharper's term. He will face former Valdosta City Council member Eric Howard in the special election runoff on June 9.

Senate District 7

Voters in Senate District 7 will have two races to settle in the runoff.

Republican Air Force veteran and small business owner Aizaz Shahbaz Shaikh and Democrat Adrienne White, who works in finance, will see each other again in a special election to finish former state Sen. Nabilah Parkes' term after she resigned from her seat to run for lieutenant governor. The district includes a western portion of Gwinnett County.

In the Democratic primary to choose the district's next senator longer term, state Rep. Ruwa Romman and civil rights attorney Rahul Garabadu are also headed to a runoff after neither managed to secure a majority in a three-way

race. According to unofficial results from the secretary of state's office, Romman came in the lead with 38% of the vote, and Garabadu was in second place with 33%. The winner will later face Shaikh, who ran unopposed in the GOP primary.

Senate District 10

Democrats Larry Johnson, a former DeKalb County commissioner, and Gabrielle Rogers, the founder of a consulting firm, are vying for a seat that spans portions of DeKalb and Henry counties. Johnson received 48% of the vote in a four-way primary, while Rogers came in second place with 27%.

The district is currently represented by Democratic Sen. Emanuel Jones of Decatur, who recently lost a six-way primary for the 13th Congressional District.

Senate District 14

Democrats Kevin Abel, a consultant, and Nathalie J. Kanani, an attorney, will face off again over a northern Fulton County district currently represented by state senator and lieutenant governor candidate Josh McLaurin. Abel received 37% of the vote in a three-way primary, while Kanani received roughly 33%. The winner will face Republican real estate broker Mike Dvorscak in the general election.

Senate District 46

Republicans Marc McMains, an entrepreneur, and Doug McKillip, a lawyer, will compete to represent Senate District 46, which spans Oconee County and portions of Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett and Walton counties. McMains received 43% of the vote in a three-way contest, while McKillip came in second place with 35%.

Incumbent Sen. Bill Cowsert, an Athens Republican, ran for attorney general but lost the Republican primary to fellow state Sen. Brian Strickland of McDonough.

Senate District 51

State Rep. Will Wade of Dawsonville and attorney Philip Milam are headed to a runoff in the Republican primary to replace former Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch, a Dahlonega state senator who lost his bid for lieutenant governor. The district encompasses Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Pickens and Union counties, as well as a portion of White County. According to unofficial results from the secretary of state's office, Wade was in the lead with roughly 43% of the vote, while Milam came in second place with 41%.

House District 47

Jack Miller, a financial planner, and Brian Cochran, a software engineer, will compete to replace outgoing Rep. Jan Jones of Milton after neither candidate secured a majority in Tuesday's election. The metro Atlanta district encompasses part of Fulton and Cherokee counties. Miller came just shy of securing a majority at 49% of the vote, while Cochran received 37%.



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

Voters across the state will head back to the polls next month after a number of state legislative candidates failed to reach the majority vote needed to avoid a runoff election.

Jones, who serves as the House Speaker Pro Tem, announced her retirement earlier this year.

The winner will run against Lindsay Defranco, who was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

House District 58

Nonprofit director Demetria Henderson will face software engineer Mathewos Samson in the runoff for the Democratic primary runoff for a metro Atlanta seat. Henderson finished first in a four-way contest with about 39% of the vote. Samson, a Democratic Socialist, came in second place with 29% of the vote.

The winner will face Republican Torrey Balam in November. The seat is currently held by Democrat Rep. Park Cannon of Atlanta, who announced earlier this year that she will not be seeking re-election.

House District 62

Nonprofit founder Kenn Collier and consultant KaVon Arnold will compete to fill a seat previously held by Minority Caucus Chair Tanya Miller, who is now the Democratic nominee for attorney general. Collier received 38% of the vote, while Arnold received 32% in a four-way contest.

No Republican candidate qualified in the 62nd House district, meaning whoever wins the runoff election will represent the district starting next year.

House District 68

Retired law enforcement officer Mark Baker will face maternal health advocate Ti-

morina McQueen Saba in the Democratic runoff election for a district that includes portions of Fulton and Fayette counties. Incumbent Democratic Rep. Derrick Jackson of Tyrone launched an unsuccessful bid for governor. Baker received nearly 30% of the vote, according to unofficial results from the secretary of state's office. Saba came second in a six-way contest with 18% of the vote.

House District 94

Democrat Venola Mason, a DeKalb County education consultant, is set for a rematch with fellow Democrat Kelly Kautz after defeating her earlier this year during a special election for a district that spans portions of Gwinnett and DeKalb counties.

The seat was vacated in January by former state Rep. Karen Bennett, a Stone Mountain Democrat who resigned shortly before pleading guilty to pandemic-era unemployment fraud.

Mason received 48% of the vote in a four-way contest Tuesday, and Kautz took second place with roughly 20%.

House District 117

Democrat Kim Thomas Smith came close to unseating incumbent Rep. Mary Ann Santos of McDonough, finishing first in a five-way contest with roughly 30% of the vote. Santos, who received 26% of the vote, was first elected in 2024. The district includes portions of Henry and Spalding counties.

Raymond Carnley named ABAC vice president of external affairs

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — ABAC President Tracy Brundage recently announced the selection of Raymond E. Carnley as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's next vice president of external affairs.

Carnley brings more than two decades of leadership experience in higher education advancement, fundraising, governmental relations and institutional strategy. A seasoned executive and trusted advisor to college presidents and governing boards, he has built a distinguished career focused on strengthening institutional visibility, cultivating strategic partnerships and advancing mission-driven initiatives.

Most recently, Carnley served

as principal and senior vice president with Winkler Consulting Group, where he advised organizational leaders, foundation boards, and executive teams on advancement strategy, governance and external relations.

Throughout his career, he has helped secure more than \$275 million in philanthropic support and played front-line leadership roles in campaigns totaling more than \$2 billion in fundraising efforts.

"ABAC has experienced tremendous positive momentum in recent years, and Dr. Carnley's experience and leadership will help us continue building on that success," Brundage said. "His record of strengthening institutions through strategic partnerships, philanthropic support, and external engagement makes him uniquely po-

sitioned to help ABAC reach new heights. I am excited to welcome him to our leadership team and look forward to the impact he will make on our students, alumni and communities."

Carnley previously served as vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Foundation at Middle Georgia State University, where he led fundraising and external engagement initiatives, cultivated relationships with legislators and community leaders, implemented institutional branding initiatives, and increased foundation support. He has also held leadership positions at Georgia Highlands College, Presbyterian College, Emory University, Habitat for Humanity International, and several other mission-focused organizations.



Raymond E. Carnley

As vice president of external affairs, Carnley will serve as a member of the president's senior leadership team and oversee the college's advancement and external engagement efforts. His responsibilities will include providing executive leadership for fundraising initiatives, alumni and donor engagement, government relations, corporate partnerships, and oversight of the ABAC Foundation.

PHADIA® 250

A new, advanced platform that supports the diagnosis of allergy and autoimmune disease

- Quicker Results
- More Accurate
- Timelier Treatment Plans

TIFT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



Special Illustration: Tift Regional

The Tift Regional Medical Center Laboratory is now offering the new Phadia 250 blood testing platform that provides the rapid diagnosis of allergy and autoimmune diseases.

Tift Regional now offers rapid diagnosis of allergy, autoimmune diseases

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — The Tift Regional Medical Center Laboratory is now offering the new Phadia 250 blood testing platform that provides the rapid diagnosis of allergy and autoimmune diseases.

Located in Tifton, TRMC is the main hospital for Southwell.

"With this advancement, TRMC is one of the first hospitals in the region to offer comprehensive, high-quality testing for all allergies and autoimmune conditions," Spencer Smith, TRMC's assistant vice president for ancillary services, said in a news release. "This will help to increase access to accurate diagnosis and timely treatment for patients."

Supplied by Thermo Fisher Scientific, Phadia 250 is an automated laboratory instrument used to diagnose allergies and autoimmune diseases from a single blood sample. It measures allergen-specific IgE and autoimmunity markers with high precision and speed.

Smith said the Phadia 250 system provides clinically relevant, accurate information to help healthcare providers make more informed treatment decisions.

"This project was driven by our laboratory team and reflects their commitment

to expanding high-quality diagnostic services locally," said Smith. "I especially want to recognize Laboratory Director John Ansley for leading the implementation and helping bring this platform online."

The new blood tests for environmental and food allergies include ImmunoCAP specific IgE whole allergen tests and ImmunoCAP specific IgE allergen component tests. EliA tests are also available to aid in the diagnosis of autoimmune diseases such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and celiac disease.

"The Phadia 250 gives our team the ability to perform advanced allergy and autoimmune testing from a blood sample with reliable, standardized results," Ansley said. "For patients and providers, that means more testing can be performed locally, helping reduce wait times by keeping specimen processing in-house and avoiding many of the delays associated with send-out testing."

Smith added that TRMC is proud to be able to provide this advanced technology. "It's another great diagnostic tool for our patients and the community," he said.

For more information, visit www.MySouthwell.com or call (229) 353-7535.

Valwood takes state title in sweep of Knights

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

STATESBORO — For a few minutes Saturday morning, it looked like Deerfield-Windsor was about to do it again.

Six months after knocking off Valwood for the GIAA Class AAA football state championship on the Georgia Southern campus, the Knights completed a stunning six-run comeback and grabbed the lead in Game 2 of the state baseball championship series.

But this time, Valwood had the final answer.

Brayden Thomas delivered a two-run single in the top of the seventh inning, and the Valiants held off Deerfield-Windsor 9-8 Saturday at J.I. Clements Stadium to complete a two-game sweep and claim the GIAA Class AAA state baseball championship.

The game resumed Saturday morning after a thunderstorm halted play Friday afternoon with Deerfield-Windsor trailing 7-6, runners on first and third and designated hitter Gage Tomlinson at the plate.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor's David Hutchins scored the go ahead run Saturday morning on a double from Gage Tomlinson in the sixth inning of the state championship series' Game 2. But Valwood scored two runs in the seventh to beat the Knights 9-8 and take the state championship.

Tomlinson wasted little time making an impact. Facing Valwood reliever Asher

Wells, the senior lined a double into right field, scoring Turner Simmons and David Hutchins to

give the Knights their first lead of the game at 8-7. The hit completed an improb-

able rally for Deerfield-Windsor, which had trailed 6-0 through five innings and 7-2 entering the bottom of the sixth.

The Knights erupted for six runs in the sixth inning. Grier Morey and Brantley Michlig delivered RBI hits, a wild pitch brought home another run, Boyd Pollock drove in a run with a ground out and an error allowed another run to score before Tomlinson's dramatic go-ahead double when play resumed Saturday.

Valwood answered immediately. A single, a walk and a sacrifice bunt put runners in scoring position before Thomas lined a two-run single to put the Valiants back in front 9-8.

Valwood reliever Lane Pridgen then took over.

The right-hander retired the first two hitters he faced before Deerfield-Windsor mounted one final threat. Morey and Michlig singled with two outs, bringing the tying and winning runs aboard.

That brought Pollock to the plate.

The senior battled to a two-strike count before lifting a fly

ball to left field. When the catch settled into a glove, Valwood players stormed from the dugout to celebrate the championship.

Despite the loss, Deerfield-Windsor outthit Valwood 11-9. Morey, Michlig and Lane Sceals each collected two hits, while Tomlinson drove in two runs with the biggest hit of the game for the Knights. They finish the season with a 21-10 record.

The ending was particularly painful for a Deerfield-Windsor senior class that had already enjoyed one memorable victory over its longtime rival.

In December, many of the same players — including Sceals, Gabe Daniel, David Hutchins, Morey, Tomlinson, Pollock and West Rushton — helped the Knights defeat the defending state champion Valiants for the GIAA Class AAA football title at Georgia Southern's Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

On Saturday, just a few hundred yards away, they nearly authored another comeback against the same rival.

This time, Valwood found the final answer.



Special Photo: Bruce Newman, Imagin Images

Ole Miss head football coach Pete Golding questioned why LSU was not also being investigated amid the NCAA's tampering probe involving Ole Miss and linebacker Luke Ferrelli as he spoke during SEC meetings Wednesday in Miramar Beach, Fla.

Ole Miss' Pete Golding questions why LSU isn't being investigated

Field Level Media

The NCAA is investigating Pete Golding's Ole Miss program for tampering in relation to its recruitment of linebacker Luke Ferrelli, but on Wednesday, Golding openly called into question why other schools weren't being investigated as well.

Asked about the tampering case involving Ferrelli at the Southeastern Conference meetings in Miramar Beach, Fla., Golding talked about Ferrelli becoming a replacement for another player who departed in the portal, and with dubious circumstances surrounding the latter's departure.

Golding referred to the departing player as a three-year starter, a thinly veiled reference to former starting linebacker TJ Dottery, who transferred to LSU — now led by former Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin — on the final day of the portal window.

"The kid we're talking about with tampering was on an official visit that weekend," Golding said of Ferrelli before turning his attention to Dottery moments later. "We're not comparing that to a guy that was a three-year starter somewhere, that wasn't in the portal, that's at a new school now? What are we doing?"

"There's an enforcement on this that just took an OV, but there's not an enforcement of this, that he just ruined his brand over three years, who's been tampered with his entire time?" Clemson coach Dabo Swin-

ney held a press conference in late January alleging tampering by Ole Miss with Ferrelli, who committed to transfer to the Tigers from Cal and had even arrived on the Clemson campus before departing for Ole Miss a short time later.

Dottery started for the Rebels the past two years, but he became the fourth player to defect from the program to follow Kiffin to LSU, who hired Kiffin away from Ole Miss in the midst of its 2025 playoff run.

Golding, who took over when Kiffin left, took another shot at Kiffin and LSU when he related the issue of tampering to coaches as well as players, an issue the U.S. Senate is attempting to address with its "Lane Kiffin Rule," meant to limit coaches' mobility during the season.

"My thing when they talk about tampering, you don't think the coaches get tampered with?" Golding asked rhetorically. "You don't think ADs meet with head coaches? I mean we're talking about this new Kiffin rule and this s—, who do you think's meeting with these guys and offering them the job before?"

"So, I'm not getting into all of that, but holy cow."

Ole Miss hosts Kiffin and LSU in Oxford, Miss., on Sept. 19.

Addison, Foster earn post-season honors

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Albany State's baseball season may have ended in the SIAC Tournament, but recognition for two of the Golden Rams' top performers continues to roll in.

Senior third baseman Luke Addison and freshman pitcher Dereck Foster were named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division II All-South Region Team, becoming two of only four Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference players to receive the honor this season.

Addison earned First Team All-South Region honors at third base after putting together one of the best offensive seasons in the region. Foster was selected to the Second Team as a relief pitcher following a breakout freshman campaign.

For Addison, a Leesburg native and Terrell Academy graduate, the latest honor adds to an already impressive postseason collection that includes First Team ABCA/Rawlings All-South Region recognition.

The senior led Albany State with a .386 batting average, 13 home runs and 57 RBIs this season while helping guide the Golden Rams to a 31-18

record and a second-place finish in the SIAC.

His career numbers are equally impressive. Over four seasons, Addison batted .352 with 44 home runs and 232 RBIs while contributing at multiple positions and on the pitching staff.

Albany State coach Scot Hemmings believes Addison leaves behind a legacy as one of the best players in program history.

"I am really proud of these two," Hemmings said. "Luke Addison just continues to receive honors and rewards, which is a direct reflection of not only his talent but his hard work and dedication to our program. In today's sports, you very rarely have guys stick in one place for four years, and it is nice to see a player like Luke hold up his commitment for four years. It's an honor to sit back and enjoy this time with him."

While Addison's success was expected, Foster's emergence was one of the biggest surprises of the season.

The freshman from Ellenwood and Stockbridge High School developed into one of Albany State's most dependable bullpen arms. Foster appeared in 16 games, pitching 21 innings with 21 strikeouts and a 2.57 earned run average.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany State's Luke Addison rounds third base during a game earlier this season. Addison, a First Team NCBWA All-South Region selection, and freshman pitcher Dereck Foster earned regional honors after helping lead the Golden Rams to a 31-win season.

As the season progressed, he earned increasing responsibility and eventually became the Golden Rams' closer.

"Dereck is a really good success story," Hemmings said. "He was a guy we added late last year and did not expect him to have too many innings for us until he just kept proving himself. We would put him in and he would get out of a lot of tough jams and ended up being our closer at the end."

"We will look to move him to a starting role next year and are real excited about his future. This is awesome for a freshman to receive this

honor. He has worked hard and has proven himself as a front-line arm."

The NCBWA All-South Region teams recognize the top Division II players throughout the region and are selected by members of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

For Albany State, the recognition serves as another reminder of both the production of one of the program's all-time greats and the promise of a young pitcher expected to play a major role in the Golden Rams' future.

Woods will miss all 2026 Majors

Field Level Media

Tiger Woods, who hasn't competed in a major tournament or even a competitive event at all since 2024, made his absence at all of this season's majors official by failing to submit an entry for the Open Championship.

Woods is not eligible to compete at the U.S. Open next month, but he did have an exception to compete at the Open. He had previously openly discussed the possibility of returning for the Masters last month.

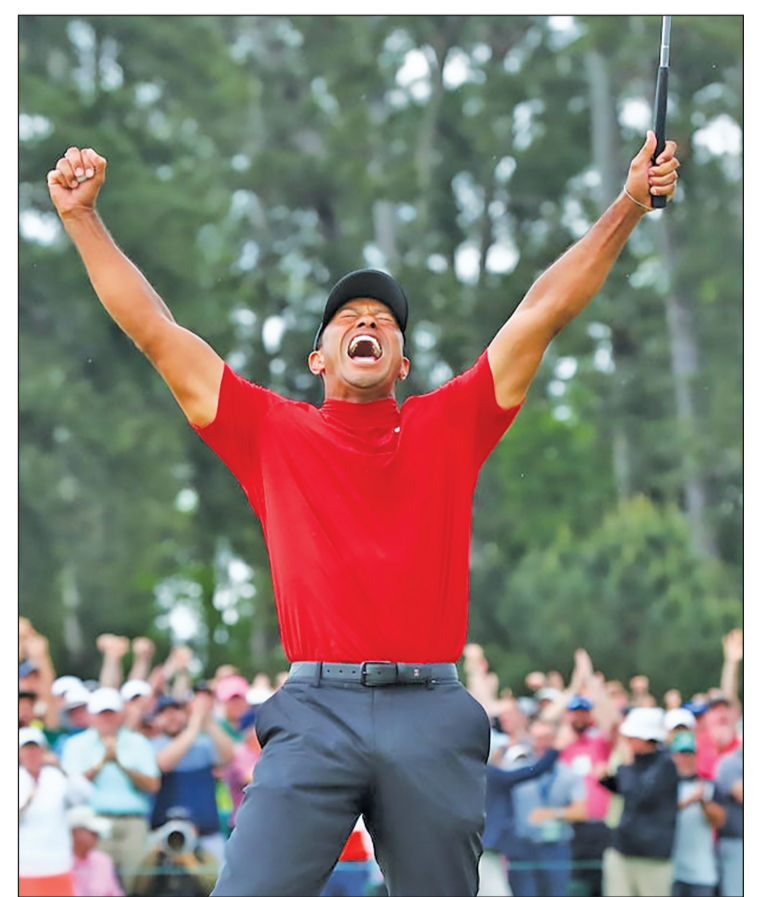
Instead, a car crash in late March that resulted in a suspicion of DUI arrest derailed those plans. Shortly after the incident, Woods announced that in addition to seeking treatment, he would be taking time away from his off-course duties — including serving on the PGA Tour Policy Board and the Future Competition Committee — and withdrew his name for consideration for the U.S. Ryder Cup captain's role.

Woods' health has played a significant role in his lack of professional activities in recent years. A separate car accident in 2021 injured his lower leg, and he has endured seven back surgeries, including a disk replacement in October. Woods, a 15-time major champion, has failed to recapture a title since the '21 accident, last winning at the 2019 Masters.

Woods, 50, remains exempt at the Open Championship until the age of 60.

In contrast, 55-year-old Phil Mickelson elected to submit an entry for the event, but his participation is in doubt following his absence at several LIV events this spring to attend to an ongoing family health situation. Mickelson hasn't missed an Open Championship since 2009, last winning the event in 2013.

Woods has won Open Championships in 2000, 2005 and 2006.



Special Photo: Rob Schumacher/The Republic

Tiger Woods celebrates after winning the Masters Tournament at Augusta National. Woods will not compete in this year's Open Championship after failing to submit an entry for the major.

MLB Cy Young competition among best of all time

By Thomas Harrigan
MLB.com

This year's National League Cy Young field isn't just loaded with worthy contenders -- it's shaping up to be the deepest race either league has ever seen.

While the American League has a clear frontrunner in the Yankees' Cam Schlichter, the NL has an abundance of pitchers putting up extraordinary seasons

In fact, entering Thursday, six NL pitchers had thrown at least 50 innings with a sub-2.00 ERA while striking out more than a batter per inning.

From 1967, when the Cy Young was first awarded to a pitcher from each league, through 2025, there was never a year when one league had that many pitchers meet those benchmarks through a comparable point in the season. (MLB teams, on average, have played 56 games in 2026.)

And that doesn't even cover every pitcher in the mix. To understand just how deep this field is, consider what each of these contenders has done through the first two months

of the season.

All stats below are through Wednesday.

Last year's NL runner-up hasn't given up a run in four weeks

Phillies ace Christopher Sánchez allowed a pair of runs in the first inning on April 30. Since then? Nada. The left-hander has thrown 44 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings and counting, eclipsing a Phillies record that had stood for 115 years. He's 14 1/3 innings away from tying Orel Hershiser's single-season MLB record of 59 scoreless innings in a row.

After placing second in the NL Cy Young Award race last season with a 2.50 ERA and 212 strikeouts over 202 innings, Sánchez has managed to unlock another level in 2026. He leads all qualifiers in ERA (1.47), FIP (1.81) and has the third-most WAR (3.3, per FanGraphs) of any player.

Two-way superstar, sub-1.00 ERA

Shohei Ohtani made a strong return to the mound last season after spending 2024 solely as a DH, but the Dodgers were careful not to overwork his

surgically repaired right arm. This season, though, Ohtani has been fully unleashed as a pitcher, and he's been simply magnificent.

After throwing six innings of no-hit ball against the Rockies on Wednesday, Ohtani owns a 0.82 ERA with a .147 opponents' batting average over 55 innings in 2026. Excluding openers, that's tied for the fourth-lowest ERA a pitcher has recorded through nine starts since earned runs became official in 1913. Ohtani doesn't have enough innings to qualify for the ERA title, but there are no such requirements for Cy Young consideration.

Baseball's hardest-throwing starter has 300 K's in his sights

It seems like Brewers flame-thrower Jacob Misiorowski has been setting some new velocity record every time he takes the mound. Facing the Cardinals his last time out, he touched triple-digits 57 times, 10 more than any other pitcher since the pitch tracking era began in 2008. He also recorded the fastest strikeout (103.4 mph) by a

starting pitcher in that time-frame, breaking his own mark of 103.3 mph set on May 8.

Misiorowski tied a career high with 12 strikeouts against St. Louis, reaching double figures for the third time in four starts and becoming the first pitcher to notch 100 K's this season. The lanky righty has struck out more than 40% of the batters he's faced and has a chance to become the first pitcher to reach the 300-strikeout plateau since Gerrit Cole and Justin Verlander did it in 2019. He has a 1.83 ERA to boot, including a 0.29 ERA in May.

The 2024 NL winner is off to an even stronger start than his Cy Young year

In a normal year, Braves left-hander Chris Sale would be leading this race with a 1.89 ERA, 72 K's and a .181 opponents' batting average over 10 starts.

Heck, those are better numbers, by and large, than Sale had through 10 starts two years ago, when he won the NL pitching Triple Crown and captured the first Cy Young Award of his career. Right now, though, he probably



Special Photo: Braves.com

Atlanta ace Chris Sale is one of many Major League pitchers off to a strong start this season. The 2024 Cy Young winner has a better start than he did when he won the award, but his numbers are being surpassed by others in the league.

wouldn't even be an NL finalist.

Don't forget about these guys Misiorowski isn't the only Brewers starter in Cy Young contention. There's also Kyle Harrison, Milwaukee's latest pitching success story. A former top prospect on his third team, Harrison had a 4.39 ERA in 42 games (37 starts) for the Giants and Red Sox from 2023-25 but has blossomed into a dominant force with the Crew.

The 24-year-old left-hander has thrown 18 scoreless innings over his past three starts to lower his ERA to 1.57 with 61 strikeouts in 51 2/3 innings this season.

It speaks to the depth of the field that the Reds' Chase Burns, a 23-year-old former No. 2 overall Draft pick with electric stuff, has barely registered in the NL Cy Young conversation so far.

Burns possesses elite velocity and has struck out 50 batters with his slider, the most any pitcher has recorded on a single breaking pitch in 2026. He has a 1.19 ERA in May and a 1.96 ERA over 64 1/3 innings on the year.

We'll also give a nod to the Phillies' Zack Wheeler, who has returned from thoracic outlet decompression surgery looking as good as ever. Missing a month of action to start 2026 won't do Wheeler any favors in the Cy Young vot-

ing, but he could make things interesting if he keeps pitching as well as he has through six starts (1.67 ERA).

Miller's remarkable dominance in relief

No reliever has won the Cy Young Award since Eric Gagne in 2003, and with so many worthy starters around the NL this year, that drought is poised to continue.

Still, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention Padres closer Mason Miller, who is on track to post one of the most dominant seasons by a reliever in MLB history. He's currently 16-for-16 in save chances with a 0.76 ERA, a 0.24 FIP and a 52.2% strikeout rate.

What about Skenes?

There's also the small matter of the reigning NL Cy Young winner, Pirates right-hander Paul Skenes. By the otherworldly standards he set over his first two seasons, Skenes' 2026 has been a disappointment. He's given up nine earned runs in his past two starts, causing his ERA to jump to 3.00.

At the same time, Skenes leads all qualifiers in WHIP (0.82) and K/BB ratio (7.22) and has the third-best expected ERA (2.40) of anyone who has faced at least 200 batters this season. No one is going to be surprised if he's back at the head of the line a month from now.

Falcons' Michael Penix Jr. not yet cleared for drills

Field Level Media

Falcons quarterback Michael Penix Jr. is not yet ready for 11-on-11 drills as he recovers from a torn ACL, new Atlanta coach Kevin Stefanski said Wednesday.

Penix, 26, is "doing outstanding" and will participate in individual drills and 7-on-7 work at OTAs while awaiting full medical clearance on his left knee, Stefanski said. "He's not 100 percent, but he's exactly where he needs to be," Stefanski said.

Once Penix is ready, the 2024 first-round draft pick (eighth overall) is expected to compete with offseason signee Tua Tagovailoa for



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Penix Jr. is participating in limited work during OTAs as he continues recovering from a torn ACL suffered in 2025.

the starting job.

Penix sustained the season-

ending injury in Week 11 in 2025, the first season he be-

gan as the Atlanta starter. He replaced Kirk Cousins as the starter midway through his 2024 rookie campaign.

Across 14 career games (12 starts), Penix has completed 59.6% of his passes for 2,757 yards, 12 touchdowns and six interceptions.

Tagovailoa, 28, compiled a 44-32 record while completing 68.0% of his passes for 18,166 yards, 120 TDs and 59 picks in six seasons with the Miami Dolphins.

Both quarterbacks are entering a new offensive scheme led by Stefanski and offensive coordinator Tommy Rees. The Falcons also have QBs Trevor Siemian and undrafted rookie Jack Strand on the roster.

Moving the Chains: All about the \$\$\$

By Scott Ludwig
MagiLudwig1@gmail.com

'It's never about the money. It's always about the money.'

Although it may sound like it, these words weren't spoken by a professional athlete. You know, someone whose job it is to play a sport for a living.

It actually came from the mouth of boxing promoter Bob Arum. But he didn't say it just recently. He actually said it more than 50 years ago, when the highest paid baseball player was making less than what Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees now makes in two days. Back when the winner of the Masters went home with a green jacket, \$25K, and if the stars aligned just right, a pimento cheese sandwich. Back when, for the average fan, sports was more affordable.

Fifty years later, can you imagine what Arum might say today? I'm guessing 'help me to the restroom' or 'where is my medicine?' But that's because today he's 94 years old. Otherwise, if he was still a younger man, he might amend what he said originally and modify it to 'it's ONLY about the money:

end of story.'

(I will now get on my soap box and directly address the PGA Tour.)

Jack Nicklaus, arguably the greatest professional golfer of all time, earned less than \$6 million in prize money in the entirety of his illustrious career. His actual career earnings playing golf (\$5.73 million) amounts to approximately \$27.5 million in today's dollars. Not too shabby by any stretch of the imagination -- especially when all he did for a living was hit a little white ball over six miles of gorgeous terrain in marvelous weather ... and take every winter off.

Now, compare Nicklaus' career earnings (in today's dollars) to the \$19.5 million that the top earner on the PGA tour, Scottie Scheffler, made last year. Simple math indicates that Scheffler made over 70% of what Nicklaus made throughout his entire career in just one year. (Technically, Scheffler did it in just eight months, since he only played on the tour from January through August. Then, like Nicklaus, he took the winter off.)

(I will now step from one soap

box to another.)

And it's not just golf that has gone off the monetary rails:

Dak Prescott is paid \$60 million annually for being a slightly better than average quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys.

The Boston Celtics' Jason Tatum gets nearly \$63 million a year to dribble a basketball up and down the court and take a lot of shots.

Shohei Ohtani makes \$70 million from the Los Angeles Dodgers to play baseball (they'll say it's because they're getting 'two for one' because Ohtani can pitch as well as hit).

The Edmonton Oilers pay Leon Draisaitl \$14 million a year to skate on ice and slap around a puck, which is a ridiculous amount of money because, well, because it's hockey. Where is this going, you ask? I'll tell you where.

Money. To be more specific, minimum wage.

When Bob Arum expelled his words of wisdom about money in the early '70's, minimum wage in this country was less than \$2 an hour.

Today, employers are subject to

the Fair Labor Standards Act and therefore must pay the current Federal minimum wage of a whopping ... (drum roll) ... SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER HOUR!

Now for a comparison. In 1972 the average ticket for a Major League Baseball game was \$3. Today it's ballooned to \$38.

So in 1972, 90 minutes of labor at minimum wage covered the price of a ticket. Today a ticket would require more than 5 hours working for minimum wage.

It hardly seems fair, does it? You know, for such a huge disparity between the athletes who get paid a whole lot of money and the people who pay to watch them making a whole lot less?

I realize what Scottie Scheffler does for a living doesn't compare to what a school teacher does for a living, but the fact that it would take the latter 260 years to make what the top money winner on the PGA Tour made in just one year can't be anything good.

In Scheffler's case and for all the others who are paid to play sports



LUDWIG

for a living, Bob Arum was right. It is always about the money.

And for teachers and everyone else with a regular job, the same holds true for them as well.

Because without money, even though it might be nowhere close to the millions of dollars professional athletes are making, regular people like you and I wouldn't be able to survive.

Let alone take in a game of Major League Baseball.



Atlanta Braves Television Schedule June 2 – June 8

Date	Opponent	Time	TV
Tuesday, June 2	vs. Toronto Blue Jays	7:15 p.m.	BravesVision
Wednesday, June 3	vs. Toronto Blue Jays	7:15 p.m.	BravesVision
Thursday, June 4	vs. Toronto Blue Jays	7:15 p.m.	BravesVision
Friday, June 5	vs. Pittsburgh Pirates	7:15 p.m.	BravesVision
Saturday, June 6	vs. Pittsburgh Pirates	4:10 p.m.	BravesVision
Sunday, June 7	vs. Pittsburgh Pirates	1:35 p.m.	BravesVision

No nationally televised Braves games are currently scheduled during that stretch.

Phoebe highlights behavioral health services in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and for the Phoebe Putney Health System, it is both a moment of reflection and a milestone worth celebrating, Phoebe officials said.

This year, Phoebe's Behavioral Health services is undergoing one of its most significant expansions in recent memory, growing its emergency care footprint, embedding therapists and nurse practitioners into primary care offices and urgent care centers across the region, launching an innovative service for patients with treatment-resistant depression, and deepening its outpatient and inpatient services.

The goal, according to Ellen Williams, Phoebe's vice president for behavioral health, is straightforward: to make mental health care accessible, evidence-based and part of everyday community life.

"Mental health issues are not uncommon," Williams said. "They affect about 20% of the population. The sooner you get treatment for a mental health symptom, just like any other medical condition, the better your prognosis is going to be, and we have services available to help."

Phoebe's Behavioral Health services are organized across three distinct divisions: emergency behavioral health, inpatient psychiatric care, and a robust outpatient clinic, which is now expanding into the broader community in new and meaningful ways.

The outpatient department is a multidisciplinary clinic staffed by psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and therapists. The clinic provides psychiatric evaluation, medication management, individual and group therapy, and an Intensive Outpatient Program, a structured level of care that's designed for patients who need more support than traditional weekly outpatient appointments.

For patients considering whether to seek help, understanding the difference between outpatient and inpatient care can make the first step feel less daunting. Outpatient care, Williams explains, is much like visiting any other medical provider.

Telehealth is a core part of Phoebe's outpatient service. Patients can come to the clinic to connect remotely with a psychiatrist, nurse practitioner, or therapist, or they can do the same from the comfort of their



Special Photo: Phoebe

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation is among the most significant clinical advances in mental health care at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

own home. Phoebe is working toward expanding existing in-person services in Albany to Phoebe Sumter Medical Center and Phoebe Worth Urgent Care clinic. At Phoebe Worth, there will be a mental health therapist there one day a week to provide therapy starting in June. Services at Phoebe Sumter should begin later this year.

In addition to outpatient services, Phoebe operates an 11-bed inpatient behavioral health unit at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, divided into two areas. One is for patients experiencing acute crises such as active suicidal ideation or psychosis, and the other is for those managing major depressive or anxiety disorders who benefit from a structured therapeutic environment, group activities, and peer interaction.

"An inpatient stay typically lasts three to five days, but the length of stay varies depending on each patient's individual situation," Williams said. Patients are very involved in their care."

The goal in all cases is stabilization, symptom reduction, and a clear transition plan for continued care after discharge.

One of the most visible recent additions to Phoebe's behavioral health infrastructure is the expanded behavioral health area within the Emergency & Trauma Center. What was previously a four-bed unit has grown to six beds, built specifically for patients arriving in a mental health crisis.

The unit functions as a critical bridge, a safe, appropriate space to begin stabilization and connect patients to the right next level of care, whether that is inpatient admission or outpatient follow-up.

Perhaps the most far-reaching development in Phoebe's behavioral health expansion is its move into primary care offices and urgent care centers, a model built on the recognition that the path to mental

health care should be easier to access. Therapists will begin seeing patients at certain primary care clinics this spring, a collaboration championed by Phoebe Medical Director of Primary Care Dr. Derek Heard, who has worked closely with the behavioral health team for more than a year to bring the vision to life.

The expansion will include Phoebe Urgent Care of East Albany.

Bringing therapists into primary care offices and urgent care centers removes one of the most persistent barriers to mental health treatment: the logistical and psychological distance between a person and the care they need.

"One of the things this helps address is the stigma around going to see a mental health provider," Williams said. "A lot of people still have the idea that you have to be very mentally ill before getting treatment. But if you have a mental health symptom, just like any medical symptom, the earlier you intervene, the better your outcome is going to be."

Among the most significant clinical advances this year has been re-starting Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation, or TMS, which is a non-invasive, FDA-cleared therapy for patients with treatment-resistant depression. TMS uses magnetic pulses, similar in concept to the magnets in an MRI machine, though delivered very differently to stimulate specific areas of the brain associated with mood regulation.

Phoebe's TMS program is led by Dr. Eric Ragazzino, a psychiatrist who is optimistic about the therapy and its potential to reach patients who have long gone without adequate relief.

To learn more about available services or to schedule an appointment, call Phoebe Behavioral Health at (229) 312-7001 or visit www.phoebhealth.com/behavioralhealth.

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The Millennium Center - Cuthbert, GA

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Program Director needed for managing the daily operations of a substance use treatment program in Cuthbert, GA. Minimum requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in a related field and CAC Level II (or Master's + CAC Level

Part-Time

I), 5+ years working with individuals with substance use disorders and at least 1 year of supervisory experience. For more information and application instructions, go to www.voase.org/careers.

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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 speaking out against (10)	_____
2 had a chat (9)	_____
3 tart summer drinks (9)	_____
4 Scottish clans' patterns (7)	_____
5 duvet alternative (9)	_____
6 front tooth (7)	_____
7 they may be insured (9)	_____

ESTI PROT CO ON SED
 NVER ADES TER ISOR CO
 ABL VALU NG TART MF
 ES OR INC ANS LEM

Saturday's Answers: 1. CORRECTS 2. VENUS 3. CONCOCTING 4. ISTHMUS 5. THEODOR 6. BUCKLING 7. DYSPEPTIC 6/1

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 funny film (6)	_____
2 locket location (8)	_____
3 pointing fingers (8)	_____
4 Weird AI works (8)	_____
5 anticipates a blow (8)	_____
6 light blockers (8)	_____
7 Dead Sea quality (8)	_____

TA ACE COM NG NEC
 KL ES ACC OD NCH
 USI INS IES EDY LIN
 SA ITY CUR FLI PAR

Monday's Answers: 1. PROTESTING 2. CONVERSED 3. LEMONADES 4. TARTANS 5. COMFORTER 6. INCISOR 7. VALUABLES 6/2

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- Betting setting
- Bad air day factor
- Comprehend
- Figure of speech?
- City near Stanford University
- Experience again
- Restore from the trash, say
- Big primates
- "The Far Side" cartoonist Larson
- Nasal cavity
- "Viva ___ Vegas"
- Ellipsis trio
- ___ for apples
- Depleted atmospheric layer
- Largest and strongest of the 19-Across
- Kitchen cover
- Cloth that protects hair waves
- Bond creator Fleming
- "Wonder Woman" actress Gal
- Cookbook writer Garten
- Let in or let on
- Morn's opposite
- Noble rank below viscount
- Dorothy, to Em
- Snake
- Hangs on the line
- World-warping drug
- Computer repaired at a Genius Bar
- Egg cells
- Competition with barrel racing
- Alum
- "Everybody Loves Raymond" actor Garrett
- "That makes sense"
- Ready for farming
- Canada's second-most populous city
- Rebelled, or what can be found in 3-, 10-, 24-, and 29-Down
- Sun spot?

DOWN

- Reef material
- Griddled corn cake
- Success for a pitcher?
- "Yes, indeed!"
- Mo. that was ninth in a 10-month Roman calendar
- State with the deepest lake in the U.S.
- San Antonio NBA team
- More than a few
- Timeworn
- Shifts to eco-friendly farming
- "Twisters" star Powell
- Caesarean delivery?
- Digits in socks
- Suspect's excuse
- Groveled
- "Save your apologies"
- Feathery scarf
- Menagerie
- Consultant on a family history project, perhaps
- Refreshing citrus dessert
- Secular
- Penny-___: trivial
- Forever and ever
- Smooth (over)
- Family card game
- Cube with pips
- "Go on ..."
- Fold on a kilt
- Tracking devices
- "Yay, me!"
- Hold dear
- Very good (at)
- Edges of hoops
- "If you insist"
- Disavow
- Soccer score
- Hunting/fishing retailer ___ Pro Shops
- Affirmative vote
- Caviar

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

06/02/26

By Ken Buxton & Zhouqin Burnikel
 ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

06/02/26

Lee Board of Education working on tax plan

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG -- The Lee County Board of Education is working with the county's tax commissioner on a plan to

correct an error made by the county's Board of Tax Assessors in calculating the 2025 rollback rate, the board announced Friday morning. Board Attorney Chris Coh-

ilas issued the following statement:

"The Board of Education will always act with the best interests of its students as its priority," the statement said. "At this point, much of the community is aware of the confusion flowing from the unofficial announcement that there was an error made by the Board of Tax Assessors in calculating the 2025 rollback rate. The School Board recently requested the Board of Tax Assessors to take official action to formally correct this error so that it could move forward with taking corrective action."

"Though this was not an error made by the Board of Education, (the board) has and will continue to insist that the legal process be followed so that it can take legal and appropriate corrective action. Until today, that action had not been taken by the Board of Tax Assessors. Now that the Board of Tax Assessors has done what is legally required of it, the Board of Education will work with the Tax Commissioner to develop a plan for a path forward for the property taxpayers of Lee County."



CELEBRITY CIPHER
 by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"NQW UXIV LQ MBIV LUVF UQHV.
 UQHV PQT X DVLLVT CQTGE, UQHV
 PQT X DVLLVT LQFQTTQC ... UQHV
 LUXL XGG CBGG DV XGG TBMUL."
 — UXTIVN FBGY

Previous Solution: "If you don't get out there and define yourself, you'll be quickly and inaccurately defined by others." — Michelle Obama

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 9 16 26 9

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CELEBRITY CIPHER
 by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"A E M DBX DM YIHO UBAHIKX ... A
 DBX DM FO YMROCD DM VYM AIW
 VYOR AIW AR UQFJAK, FQD AIJCM
 DBX DM LOOU DYARPC NMB WXCOJN."
 — GOREIXI

Previous Solution: "You have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow ... Hope that all will be all right." — Harvey Milk

TODAY'S CLUE: 4 9 16 26 9

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Phoebe to host Men's Health Fair 'Stay in the Game'

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Phoebe Putney Health System is encouraging men across southwest Georgia to take charge of their health at the 2026 Men's Health Fair: "Stay in the Game." The health fair is a free community event focused on prevention, early detection and healthy living.

The annual Men's Health Fair will take place June 20 from 8 a.m.-noon at the Albany State University West Campus gymnasium, located

at 2400 Gillionville Road. Centered around the theme "Stay In The Game," the fair highlights the importance of routine health screenings and proactive care.

Screenings will be offered from 8-10 a.m., giving men of all ages the opportunity to access critical health services at no cost. Available screenings include prostate cancer screenings, blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, glucose (diabetes) testing, and HIV and syphilis testing.

"Unfortunately, men often

aren't as proactive about our health as we should be," Dr. Derek Heard, Phoebe's medical director for primary care, said. "Women tend to see their doctors more regularly, especially for checkups and preventive screenings. We want to close that gap and encourage men to proudly take control of their health."

"Our Men's Health Fair is a great way to get men focused on their well-being in a casual and enjoyable environment, and we encourage men throughout the community to join us."

This Men's Health Fair creates a welcoming environment where men can comfortably engage in conversations about their health and wellness, Phoebe officials said.

In addition to free screenings, attendees will receive free event T-shirts and fresh fruits and vegetables while supplies last, promoting healthier lifestyle choices beyond the event.

Health experts and community partners also will be on-site to provide education about common health conditions and share practical

Special Illustration

tips for improving overall wellness.

Phoebe encourages all men in the community to attend, especially during Father's Day

weekend, as a reminder that caring for their health is one of the most important steps they can take for themselves and their families.

Albany Museum of Art is a 2026 Blue Star Museum

Staff Reports

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ALBANY -- The Albany Museum of Art will participate again this year in Blue Star Museums, a nationwide program providing free admission to currently serving U.S. military personnel and their families during the summer.

"As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country, the Albany Museum of Art is proud to reach out and offer a special welcome to the brave military personnel who serve our nation, and to their families, who love and support them," AMA Executive Director Andrew James Wulf

said in a news release. "Art can have a profound, positive effect, and we hope our friends in the military and their families will take the opportunity to experience it this summer, and to engage in the programs and events we offer."

The 2026 Blue Star Museums program started on Armed Forces Day (May 16) and continues through Labor Day (Sept. 7). The Albany Museum of Art, located at 311 Meadowlark Drive, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and



Special Illustration

The Albany Museum of Art will participate again this year in the nationwide Blue Star Museums program.

Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and participating museums across America.

"Museums help military families stay connected — to each other, to their communities, and to the nation

they serve," Mary Anne Carter, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, said. "As our country approaches 250 years of independence, Blue Star Museums provides service members and their loved ones with meaning-

ful opportunities to explore history and spark curiosity.

"For military families — who often face frequent moves and time apart — these shared museum experiences offer a sense of stability, belonging, and connection. By opening doors nationwide, this program ensures they can engage with the arts and history that reflect their sacrifices and strengthen the bonds that hold them together."

The list and a map of participating museums is at <https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/blue-star-museums>

Summer exhibitions at the Albany Museum of Art will be open through Aug. 29. Ex-

hibitions will include "Vitus Shell: Power of Sight"; "Sense of Place: Green Book Sites in Albany"; "Moments in The Good Life City: An Oral History of Albany"; "The Middle Way," photography by Rylan Steele, and "The Home of Birds," works by Jessica Ambadipudi.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States military: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members.

South Georgia State, Southern Regional Tech sign agreement to support future educators

Staff Reports

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THOMASVILLE -- South Georgia State College and Southern Regional Technical College have entered into a course articulation agreement designed to create a smoother pathway for students pursuing a career in education.

The agreement allows eligible students who complete the Associate of Science in Education program at SRTC to transfer coursework toward SGSC's Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary/Special Education. The partnership is designed to help students transfer credits more smoothly, avoid repeating coursework, and move easily from a technical college program into a bachelor's degree program.

Through this agreement, SRTC graduates who meet the outlined requirements may continue their education at SGSC as they work toward becoming classroom teachers. Students must apply and be admitted to SGSC and meet all applicable admission, program and graduation requirements, including standards set by the University System of Georgia



Special Photo

Representatives from both South Georgia State College and Southern Regional Technical College, including SGSC Interim President Greg Tanner and SRTC President Jim Glass, signed an education articulation agreement.

and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

The articulation agreement outlines approved course equivalencies between the SRTC Associate of Science in Education and SGSC's Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Special Education programs. It also establishes a collaborative relationship between the two institutions to

communicate with students, provide advising, and support program completion.

"This is a great day for students across our region," SRTC President Jim Glass said. "Through this partnership, students can earn an associate's degree with us at Southern Regional Technical College and then continue their education at South Georgia

State College to pursue a bachelor's degree in education. We are excited about this opportunity and the relationship we are continuing to build with South Georgia State College."

The agreement was signed by representatives from both institutions, including SGSC interim President Greg Tanner and Glass.



Donald Green

University System names Donald Green president of Valdosta State

Staff Reports

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VALDOSTA — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has named Donald J. Green president of Valdosta State University, effective Aug. 1.

Green, a veteran administrator with a decade of leadership experience within USG, currently serves as president of Gordon State College. He previously served as president of Georgia Highlands College from 2014 to 2021, then took the helm at Point Park University in Pittsburgh before returning to Georgia. In total, Green brings nearly 36 years of higher education leadership experience to his new role at VSU.

"Don Green is a leader who knows how to deliver results, and he's proven that time and again," USG Chancellor Sonny Perdue said.

VSU has been led by interim President William Crowe since Jan. 1, when former VSU President Richard Carvajal stepped down to assume the presidency of California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt.

"Leaving the Gordon State community is a moment of deep reflection for me, and I'm incredibly proud of the strides we made together to transform the student experience," Green said. "My focus has always been on using higher education to drive regional prosperity, and Valdosta State is building incredible momentum as the main economic engine for south Georgia. I'm eager to get to campus, build strong partnerships with the community and local industries and create new workforce pathways that will help both Blazer Nation and the entire region grow."

Valdosta State University is one of four comprehensive public universities in the University System of Georgia. Founded in 1906 as a women's college, the coeducational university now serves more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students from nearly every county in Georgia, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and more than 60 countries.

USG will announce next steps regarding leadership at Gordon State in the near future.

UGA student veterans earn scholarships and graduate in record numbers

By Jon Segars

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ATHENS — The University of Georgia continues to be a national leader in support for student veterans and service members. For the 2026 calendar year, 122 student veterans will earn a degree — the largest graduating class since the inception of the UGA Student Veteran Resource Center in 2013.

This was the first academic year in which UGA's veteran population topped 400 students. The SVRC anticipates more student veterans joining the campus community over the summer, including continued growth at UGA's extended campuses and among online students.

During the 2026 academic year, 46 donors provided more than \$387,000 for student veteran scholarship through the SVRC and another \$100,000 was provided directly through UGA colleges and schools. This continues a trend of growth in the number of donors contributing to the success of these students. Their gifts help UGA's student veterans graduate on time and find employment at high rates.

Thirty-one percent of UGA's student veterans do not have education benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and an additional 10% receive only partial benefits. This results in more than 160 student veterans requiring help with covering the shortfall in tuition, books and cost of living expenses.



Special Photo: UGA

For the 2026 calendar year, 122 University of Georgia student veterans will earn a degree, a record.

"In the long run, they will be highly successful in a new career, and it is our mission to help get them to that point," Jon Segars, director of the SVR, said.