



**OP-ED**  
Charles Ochie  
• Page 5A

# The Albany HERALD



Serving readers and online viewers in Metro Albany, Camilla, Tifton and Americus



**Cutting edge**  
Lee County craftsman  
• Page 1B



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**WEEKEND**

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

## ATC student earns bronze medal at National SkillsUSA competition

**Staff Reports**  
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**ALBANY** - Albany Technical College student Eleanor Handwerk claimed a bronze medal at the recent SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta.

Handwerk earned a bronze medal in Welding Sculpture, placing among the top national competitors in her category.

Albany Tech also was represented by Nadia Qualls in Esthetics, Olivia Taylor as an Esthetics model, Tommy Stewart in Masonry, and Chavares Porter in Extemporaneous Speaking.

“Competing on the national stage is an incredible achievement, and we are extremely proud of the professionalism, dedication, and excellence demonstrated by each of our students throughout the week,” Kenneth Williams, the student life and athletics director at ATC, said. “While Eleanor brought home a medal, each of our competitors represented Albany Technical College with superior skill, commitment, professionalism, integrity and Titan pride.”

Williams also recognized the faculty and staff advisors who helped prepare and support the students during their SkillsUSA competition, noting that their mentorship, guidance and commitment to student success continue to make a lasting impact.

Across the Technical College System of Georgia, students earned 36 medals at the 2026



**ELEANOR HANDWERK**

SkillsUSA National Championships, including 17 gold, 6 silver, and 13 bronze medals. Combined with Georgia’s secondary division competitors, the state earned a total of 55 national medals, placing Georgia sixth nationally in overall medal count.

TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier said Georgia’s SkillsUSA competitors continue to show the talent, determination, and technical expertise that define the strength of Georgia’s workforce and reflect the instruction, partnerships and workforce-focused education taking place across the state’s 22 technical colleges.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The organization serves more than 400,000 members annually and is recognized as one of the nation’s premier career and technical student organizations.

## Lee County agricultural land values could rise 83% as new assessments near mailing

**By Kathryn Crockett**  
kathryn@albanyherald.com

**LEESBURG** — Lee County property owners could see significant changes in assessed values this year as county officials move forward with a comprehensive revaluation of residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural properties.

During a work session Tuesday, Terry McCormick of McCormick Solutions provided the Lee County Board of Commissioners with an update on the county’s 2026 tax digest and ongoing reappraisal efforts.

See **LAND**, 2A

## Albany Commission eyes another draft at downtown brewery

**By Alan Mauldin**  
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**ALBANY** — It’s back to the drawing board, again, as Albany elected officials look to figure out what to do with the brewery and taproom they purchased last year.

The 120 Pine Ave. site that housed the Pretoria Fields Brewery has been vacant since the brewing operation and taproom were closed in November 2024. Now the Albany City Commission is looking for a new company to step in and take over the operation.

The commission approved purchasing the building and equipment, a sale that went through in late 2025. An initial hope of bringing another brewing company has fallen through, as the Socius Beer Collective has pulled out of expanding its operation into Albany.

“They decided they did not want to proceed,” City Manager Terrell Jacobs said. “They have three other breweries, and that is a sizable undertaking.”

Size is the operative word in Jacobs’ remarks: The Pretoria Fields Brewery was set up to make large batches of beer for distribution to retailers, along with serving in the taproom. Those quantities are much greater than what would be needed to just supply the brew pub for customers in Albany.

Socius was the only brewer to respond to the city’s request for proposals to take over the brewing operation, and its departure leaves the city with no current candidates.

City commissioners have expressed a desire to return the portion of the building where the brewing equip-

See **BREWERY**, 2A



File Photo

The city of Albany is looking to bring a beer brewery to downtown Albany. One hindrance to finding an operator to step into the former Pretoria Fields Brewery location is the scale of the equipment in the Pine Avenue building, which is more suited to brewing quantities for widespread distribution than the small amount needed for a brew pub.

# PUBLIC OPPOSITION SINKS PROPOSED LEE COUNTY SOLAR FARM

**By Kathryn Crockett**  
kathryn@albanyherald.com

**LEESBURG** — Following a public hearing that drew overwhelming opposition from nearby residents, the Lee County Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday night to deny a request for a utility-scale solar facility proposed on approximately 123 acres off Fussell Road and Chase Hill Lane.

The proposal, submitted by Atlanta-based Inman Solar on behalf of the Stovall family, would have allowed construction of a 15.75-megawatt solar energy system on roughly 69 acres of the property. County planning staff and the Planning Commission had both recommended denial before the matter reached commissioners for final consideration.

The motion to deny passed with support from Chairman Luke Singletary and Commissioners Chris Guarneri, Billy Mathis and George Walls. Commissioner Dennis Roland cast the lone vote against the denial, effectively supporting the application.

The vote followed various public comments dominated by concerns over stormwater runoff, environmental impacts, private road access, property rights and the long-term industrialization of an area many residents described as increasingly residential in character.

See **SOLAR**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Researchers collect soil and water samples near a Silicon Ranch solar installation in southwest Georgia as part of ongoing efforts to better understand stormwater runoff, erosion and environmental conditions associated with utility-scale solar developments.

**Periodical — Mail Label**

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## Albany Area Primary Health Care Supports Our Seniors

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## From 1A SOLAR

The proposal became one of the most contentious land-use debates to come before county officials this year, reflecting broader conversations taking place across rural Georgia as utility-scale solar developers seek sites for renewable energy projects.

According to a staff report prepared by the Lee County Planning Department, the project met several technical requirements of the county's solar ordinance but raised concerns related to wetlands, compatibility with surrounding land uses, potential nuisance impacts and access issues associated with Chase Hill Lane.

Planning officials noted the site contains approximately 2.23 acres of isolated wetlands proposed for disturbance and identified concerns regarding impacts to mesic hardwood wetland areas containing some of the healthiest sections of forest on the property. Staff also noted that no property value analysis had been submitted and that no operational noise study was included in the application materials.

The report further concluded that the project was not compatible with the established and developing character of the surrounding area, citing nearby homes, future residential growth associated with Palmyra Subdivision Section XII and the planned Albany-to-Sasser multi-use trail corridor.

While residents raised a variety of concerns, stormwater

runoff emerged as the dominant theme throughout the hearing.

Online public sentiment preceding the public hearing referenced ongoing drainage complaints surrounding Silicon Ranch's existing solar development in Lee County and questioned whether another large-scale installation should be approved before those issues are fully resolved.

One neighboring Chase Hill Lane resident argued the proposed development was inconsistent with the area's current land-use pattern and expressed concern about the impact that a large concentration of solar panels could have on local drainage systems.

"A hundred acres of solar panels is essentially the equivalent of adding a large impervious surface," the resident said. "When you concentrate that much runoff, it has to go somewhere."

The resident described the surrounding watershed as environmentally sensitive, noting that a seasonal slough on the property drains into Fowltown Creek, which eventually feeds the Kinchafoonee Creek watershed.

"We have sinkholes throughout this area," he said. "When we get heavy rains, water comes up out of the ground. The water here is crystal clear, and any development in this area has the potential to impact that system."

The citizen's concerns mirror findings from a growing body of research examining stormwater behavior at utility-scale solar facilities.

Studies have found that large

solar arrays can alter natural hydrology because smooth panel surfaces concentrate rainfall and accelerate its movement toward the ground. Researchers have documented instances where this concentrated runoff contributes to erosion and increased stormwater flows if not adequately managed.

A preliminary 2025 study by researchers at Virginia Tech found that catchments within utility-scale solar developments can produce rapid and, in some cases, substantially greater runoff volumes during storm events than comparable undeveloped land. A 2023 study published in the journal Hydrological Processes found solar installations could increase peak runoff discharge rates compared with natural reference hillslopes while significantly reducing the time required for stormwater to begin flowing across a site. Earlier erosion studies identified concentrated discharge at panel drip lines as capable of causing soil detachment, transport and rill erosion.

Supporters of utility-scale solar projects frequently note that modern stormwater management practices, vegetative ground cover requirements and engineered drainage controls are specifically designed to address those concerns. Inman Solar representatives repeatedly emphasized that the proposed project would comply with state and local stormwater regulations and include erosion-control measures.

Road access was another major issue raised during the hearing.

Residents noted that Chase

Hill Lane is a privately maintained road serving nearby property owners and questioned how construction traffic would affect the roadway.

"I can't get to my house without using Chase Hill Lane," one resident said. "The residents maintain that road. We trim the trees, pick up litter, grade the road and installed the gate ourselves."

According to residents, the road was offered to Lee County for acceptance into the county road system approximately 20 years ago but was declined.

Several speakers expressed concern that heavy equipment associated with construction could damage the roadway and create long-term maintenance challenges for nearby property owners.

Josh White, who lives on Chase Hill Lane, said his primary concerns involved both runoff and road usage.

"How often is that road going to be used? How long is construction actually going to take? How long are they going to be bringing large equipment through there?" White asked.

Representatives from the Stovall family, which owns the land, urged commissioners to consider the project as an alternative to residential development.

Brad Stovall argued the facility would have minimal impact on county services while generating new tax revenue and preserving more open space than a subdivision.

He said the project would include a 150-foot vegetative buffer and would not increase utility costs for county residents.

Vann Stovall, the family

matriarch who said she is 85 years old and has owned the property for approximately 20 years, told commissioners that revenue from the solar lease would help offset rising expenses during retirement.

"If the property were sold for residential development, the traffic, the clear-cutting and the population growth would change the area considerably," she said. "I believe using the land for a solar farm is the best option for preserving it into the future."

Nick Stein, representing Inman Solar, said the company has spent nearly two decades developing solar projects throughout Georgia and emphasized the project's economic benefits.

Stein estimated the facility would generate approximately \$700,000 in tax revenue during its first five years and roughly \$2 million over its operational lifespan.

He also said the company would pay for water testing for nearby well owners before and after construction, contribute approximately \$200,000 toward road improvements and establish a \$30,000 road maintenance fund.

The company further pledged to maintain a decommissioning bond required under state law to ensure the site could be restored at the end of the project's useful life.

The debate also renewed scrutiny surrounding Commissioner Dennis Roland's support for solar development.

During the hearing, Roland acknowledged that his family previously sold land for a solar project and said he had "fought this battle before." He

argued that while solar facilities may not be everyone's preferred land use, private property owners should retain the right to determine how their land is used.

His comments drew attention because the former Roland family land is now occupied by portions of the Silicon Ranch solar development.

Some residents have publicly questioned whether Roland's previous involvement with solar-related land transactions creates a conflict of interest when voting on similar projects. Others argue that his experience provides perspective on private property rights and agricultural land-use decisions.

The denial means the conditional-use request will not move forward unless the applicant pursues future action through the county's zoning process.

The outcome highlights the increasingly difficult balancing act facing local governments across Georgia. Utility-scale solar projects often promise tax revenue, private-property income and renewable-energy generation, but they frequently encounter resistance from residents concerned about environmental impacts, infrastructure strain and the preservation of rural character.

In Lee County, those concerns ultimately proved decisive.

Despite promises of economic benefits and stormwater safeguards, commissioners sided with residents and planning officials who argued the proposed site was not an appropriate location for a utility-scale solar facility.

Staff Photo:  
Kathryn Crockett  
Cattle gather beneath a large oak tree on a Lee County farm.



## From 1A LAND

McCormick said his firm is currently reviewing increase-and-decrease lists for all property classes and making adjustments in accordance with the

Georgia Department of Revenue's Appraisal Procedures Manual.

"We're in the process of doing the edits following the guidelines for each area in the state's appraisal procedures manual," McCormick told commissioners.

The review comes as Lee County continues to recover from a tax digest error discovered earlier this year that resulted in approximately \$1.5 million in excess ad valorem taxes being collected. County officials have since approved corrected PT-32 forms, lowered millage rates and begun issuing refund checks to affected taxpayers.

While discussing the current revaluation process, McCormick noted that commercial and agricultural property assessments present unique challenges because of the limited number of recent sales available for comparison.

"There are limited samples to draw from," McCormick said, noting the county had approximately 10 commercial sales and 12 agricultural sales available for analysis, leading them to take the previous three years of sales records into account.

Despite the limited data, preliminary figures indicate substantial increases in assessed values across several property

See **LAND**, 11A

## From 1A BREWERY

ment still sits unused to use for beer-making.

"First off, for downtown and the hotels coming to fruition, we need a brewery," Commissioner Willie Weaver told an Albany Herald reporter during a Wednesday telephone interview.

The commissioner was referring to the opening earlier this year of the renovated St. Nicholas Hotel and plans to bring a hotel to the former Water, Gas & Light and former Davis Brothers Department Store/Albany Herald buildings.

"The first option is a solid proposal that can use the brewery and other space," Weaver said. "The second option is (having a separate) brewery and other things. That's a lot of space. The No. 2 option is to have a brewery and something else. The brewery is the first priority."

Downtown Albany needs something that brings people to the area, and that is something that a brewery operation and taproom would be able to provide, Commissioner Diana Brown said.

When in operation, Preto-

ria Fields hosted events like trivia and Bingo nights, held community market events and provided a watering hole in the evenings. With the closing of the brewery, that evening crowd is no longer present.

"You've got to have foot traffic," Brown said. "We've got to be strategic about what we do downtown. Where's the events? Where's the people? I'm going to push for a brewery."

Next for the city is seeking other potential operators for the brewery in a new request for proposals.

The last time the city advertised for interested parties it did not own the building, Mayor Bo Dorrough said. That may have made potentially interested parties hesitate before trying to deal with the city on operating a facility the city did not even own, he said.

"There might be somebody else in the Southeast that needs to increase production and they would operate the brewery pub secondarily," the mayor said. "I suggested in the past that we get somebody in the industry to help us draft a proposal."

Like Brown and Weaver, Dorrough said his support is for bringing a beer-brewing operation back to the site.

## ANTHONY JONES RE-ELECTED TO DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 6 WITH OVERWHELMING VICTORY

ALBANY, GA — Dougherty County District 6 Commissioner Anthony Jones won re-election in the May 19, 2026, Democratic Primary in commanding fashion, receiving 1,342 votes, or 80.6% of the vote, defeating challenger Willie Martin, who received 322 votes (19.4%).



Jones' victory margin of 61.2 percentage points is believed to be one of the largest — and possibly the largest — margin of victory in a contested Dougherty County Commission primary race in modern county history based on publicly available election records.

"I am humbled and deeply grateful for the overwhelming support from the citizens of District 6," said Jones. "This victory was not just about me — it was about the people of our community believing in steady leadership, accessibility, accountability, and continuing progress for Dougherty County."

Jones thanked supporters, volunteers, family members, church leaders, neighborhood residents, senior citizens, business owners, and voters throughout District 6 for their encouragement and support during the campaign.

"Now the campaign is over, and the work continues," Jones said. "I remain committed to serving every citizen of District 6 and all of Dougherty County with integrity, transparency, and dedication."

Official election results from the Georgia Secretary of State show: • Anthony Jones — 1,342 votes (80.6%) • Willie Martin — 322 votes (19.4%)

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# Daily Horoscopes

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Stars are now back in sunshine for the next couple of weeks and headed for the stratosphere, bringing the second highest-scoring day for 2026 later in June. It's time to get something personal or professional ready for launch.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Some financial healing could be on its way in the next week or so. High emotions could subside, leaving you with energy to take hold of your life and move and shape things into a better configuration.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Some short-term inner disruption should have subsided, but you could be left feeling tired but wired in its wake. Balance activity and rest to get yourself back to center. Conformity doesn't guarantee acceptance.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** If there's some let-down after major activity or emotional exhaustion after drama, give your nervous system time to regulate and restore itself. Self-work is the strongest power move of all, and costs only time and discipline.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your inner child may have dreamt of being the hero. You can still be a hero to your community, set ambitions that uplift others too. So much of people's emptiness is lack of purpose, not lack of pleasure.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Your career could wake up and stretch with an infusion of new energy. You could be ready for a fresh start or new side gig to put your energies into the world in a more personally-aligned way.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Your platform in the world matters, even if you're not a social influencer. What you teach ripples out, how you conduct yourself serves as an example — good or bad. Be the change you want to see in the broader world.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** All eyes might be on a shared situation. If there's a non-starter, no-win vibe, don't try to push through,

wait a few hours. Things could soon get back on track toward resolution as emotions settle.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Things could feel pessimistic or disrupted for a few hours in a relationship, then things should right themselves. Finances within a partnership could be a focus. Let neutrality and logic lead.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Daily routines and tasks might take on more than normal importance now. A bottleneck could be briefly frustrating but once the situation moves you might learn something that changes the game.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Weathering storms and working your way past or through obstacles builds huge confidence, once you're home free, you can soar with unfettered joy — a greater joy than if no dues had been paid.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A cooler head can craft a more effective communication strategy, wait until emotions quiet. Putting energy into your home space instead of chasing the world can build you a truly solid foundation.

**IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Your birthday month is a time to see with clear eyes and communicate with clear words, your mind could be working quickly and cleanly now. July could bring dreams to your doorstep. First, your path forward could get smoother and also more visible further into the future. Second is big protection and gentle meeting of your needs. Third is cash. Creativity, grace, and charm, too, but also cash. There could be a swing away from peace and moderation and toward extremes of any kind before month-end. Try to keep things in the center. In August, withstand a temptation to show how much foolishness you are capable of. Under this influence, it could be a lot. Instead, don't blow up your life, you'll be glad you didn't. A happy surprise could land near the end of the month.



**1774** - The first of Britain's North American colonies to ban the importation of slaves is Rhode Island

**1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette lands near Charleston, South Carolina to help the Continental Congress train its army

**1881** - The USS Jeannette is crushed in an ice pack in the Arctic Ocean

**1886** - Much of Vancouver, British Columbia is destroyed by fire

**1966** - The U.S. Supreme

Court rules in Miranda vs. Arizona that the police must inform suspects of their rights first before they question them

**1997** - Timothy McVeigh is sentenced to death by a jury for his part in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing

**2002** - The U.S. withdraws from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

**2018** - The U.S. EPA Department fines Volkswagen one billion euros due to violations of the Clean Air Act

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"She got her looks from her father. He's a plastic surgeon."

**Groucho Marx,**  
comedian/actor (1890-1977)

## 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

The situation at Ashley Riverside is sad but expected. City commissioners refuse to admit that Code Enforcement simply hasn't done their job in months. The government center needs an audit badly. They also fail to acknowledge that evil 501(c)3 organizations, many church-based, lurk in our community to provide dirty housing to take advantage of low-income people. The saddest part is that many commissioners constantly rant for more of these housing scams.

Trump heard "mostly cheers" during his ill-advised visit to the NFL play-offs at Madison Square Garden, where he slept part of the time and was recorded gorging himself on fatty foods? This man is so out of it, I guess it's Satan or some other power keeping him alive.

Trump is Charlie Brown and Iran is Lucy. Every time Trump tries to kick the ball, Iran takes it away.

I'm glad citizens complained about the Bob White Coffee building that has been sitting on the lot at the mall for a long time. But some of the folks wondered why Code Enforcement has not done anything about it. I would bet one reason is one of the Code Enforcement county trucks sits over on Covey Road all during the day, and has for two or three years. I don't know when that person works, if they do at all.

You're right, Squawker. We'll probably have to build a new exit and create several more lanes of traffic to account for the crowds of people who will be rushing here (if it ever is finished) to see Lorenzo and King's folly, the "virtual civil rights tour."

Four organizations founded in 1913: Federal Reserve, FBI, IRS, Anti-defamation League. WWI started a year later. Not a coincidence.

The buzzwords of our community in almost every sentence some politician or nonprofit leader or a preacher says every time they open their mouths: food insecurity, affordable housing, high-paying, better jobs and the always available "giving back to the community." Dang, man, find something else to talk about.

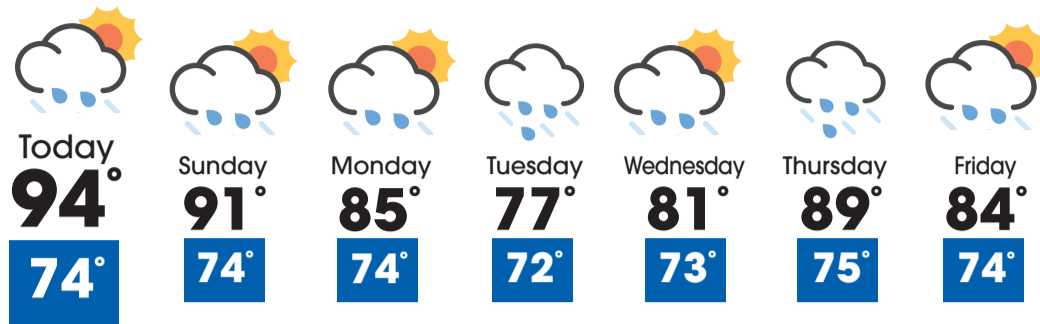
What an amazing story by Kathryn Crockett about Dr. Clay. She rightfully says Dr. Clay was primarily responsible for turning the Lee County School System into one of the state's best, and thus starting the growth that has made the county one of the fastest-growing in the state.

Carlton tried not to upset folks this week, but there were just too many other options.

Squawker who thinks Luke Bryan's and Cole Swindell's music comes even remotely close to the music of greats like George Jones, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, etc.: Are you out of your freakin' mind?

I'm tired of people putting down the greatest president that has ever served our country. He is working hard to make this country great, and all he hears is negative comments. It's time we all got behind this great man and supported him, not criticize him.

## Weather Forecast



## Daily Bridge Club

### Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart  
Tribune Content Agency

Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

"I know you're no fan of finesse-

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠ K 10 9 8 4 3			
♥ 9 3			
♦ J 8			
♣ A J 10			
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ 7		♠ 5	
♥ A J 5 4		♥ Q 10 8 6 2	
♦ 7 5 4 2		♦ K 10 9 6 3	
♣ 9 8 7 3		♣ 6 5	
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠ A Q J 6 2			
♥ K 7			
♦ A Q			
♣ K Q 4 2			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		
Opening lead - ♣ 9			
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es," a club player said to me. I admitted that such was the case.

"Well, what's worse," she said, "is having two possible finesses to try and knowing I'll pick the wrong one."

In today's deal, South bashes into six spades. West leads the nine of clubs, and South wins and draws trumps. He has 11 tricks and can win one more if East has either the ace of hearts (declarer can lead to his king) or the king of diamonds (South can finesse with the queen). How should he play?

#### CLUB TRICKS

When you have more than one chance for your contract, first try the one that won't guarantee defeat if it fails. South should cash his club tricks, pitching a heart



Frank Stewart

from dummy, then lead a trump to dummy and lead a heart to his king.

When West takes the ace, South still has a chance: He can ruff the heart return in dummy and try a diamond to his queen.

Two finesses are better than one.

#### DAILY QUESTION

**You hold:** S 5 H Q 10 8 6 2 D K 10 9 6 3 C 6 5. Neither side vulnerable. Your partner deals and opens one heart. The next player passes. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** Bidding has two goals: Find a good contract and stop the opponents from finding one. Bid four hearts. You show a shapely hand with great heart support but little high-card strength. If all pass, partner may or may not make the contract, but you will have kept the opponents out.

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

## Advice Columnist

### Relationship between younger man and older woman tempts gossips

By Eric Thomas  
Tribune Content Agency

**Dear Eric:** I have been widowed for almost three years now. About a year ago, I began dating a guy significantly younger than me. Prior to our romantic involvement, we were close platonic friends for more than a decade, and he was in fact a close friend of my late husband.

We communicated well and thoroughly discussed the effects that dating may have on our close relationship if it doesn't work out. So, this is not a "Boy Toy" phase or situation.

He has always looked and acted much older than he is and I look younger than my age. So, taking all that into consideration, my new guy has no problem with our age gap and tries to assure me that we do not even appear to have an age gap.

However, I live in a very small rural area where everyone knows each other and are constantly in each other's business. Up until now, we usually went on dates out of town, but this year I would like to stop hiding the fact that we are a couple.

Since most people around here know my age and have never really seen me with anyone other than my late husband, I know that nosy questions will be asked. I would like to be able to respond in a way that lets them know that it's really none of their business, but I also feel like just because they are rude, doesn't necessarily mean I have to respond rudely.

What can I say that gently informs them that their question is out of line, and I feel it is unnecessary for them to be calculating the age gap between us. I have no desire to listen to

anyone's opinions on age gap relationships, and I don't have any reason to try to justify our relationship to people it does not affect. Can you give me a clever response to being asked "How old is he?"

— Not Your Stereotypical Cougar

**Dear Not Your Stereotypical Cougar:** "He's old enough to make his own decisions." You can try that or you can say, "if you want to know how old he is, you should ask him. If you have another question, you should ask that directly."

Now, these might be a little more arch than you're looking for. However, it seems from your letter that these conversations have already started in your mind. You may be training for a fight that doesn't come.

So, part of the solution may be deciding for yourself that whatever is going on in other people's mind is their business and not your concern.

This is often easier said than done — no one wants to be gossiped about. But you rob yourself of the joy of your relationship by giving up too much mental space to other people's questions, especially questions that haven't been asked yet. We can't control what other people think and there's freedom in deciding to stop trying. I wish you happiness.

**Dear Eric:** My parents own many properties which were put into three trusts for me, my sister and my brother when they pass away. They are approaching their 80s and still manage these properties by themselves with some help from my brother.

My question to them is, can



Eric Thomas

they start teaching us how to manage these properties and how to keep the books, so when they pass, we are not stuck trying to figure all this out on our own?

Every time I bring this up, they get very vague and basically skirt around the subject saying they are not retiring any time soon so there's nothing for us children to do right now. Do I just hope things will work out when they pass or do I need to be more proactive and keep trying to get answers from them now?

— Tired of Being Kept in the Dark

**Dear Tired:** Try to be proactive, to ease your nerves and to, ideally, share the workload. It will be helpful, however, to place less emphasis on needing this information to prepare for their passing.

They have valuable knowledge from years of lived experience and effort. And you both have a unique and precious opportunity to spend time together as they share that knowledge with you. Focus on that. Inheritance is not just about money and property; it's also about legacy.

They may resist being asked to teach if they feel it's solely because one day you'll replace them. This is understandable. No one wants to think about being replaced; no one wants to feel irrelevant in their own lives.

Remember and remind them that having them here is the gift, that it's something you value more than the trust, and that their presence isn't something you want to take for granted.

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

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# 'She Me Her and Him' will bring story of life challenges to Leesburg stage

By Alan Mauldin  
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**LEESBURG** — Lee County writer Bridgett Mack is bringing her play "She Me Her and Him" to the Lee County High School Theater on Aug. 1, with the performance coming along with bookbags and teacher's bags containing school supplies for the new school year as it gets set to kick off.

The play will be presented at 5 p.m., with doors opening at 4:15 p.m. Tickets are available for \$25 each at <https://bmacwrites.com/>.

The play focuses on the lives of three friends, Camille, Ebo-

ny and Tonya, and also brings Camille's husband, Chris, and Ebony's husband, Quinton, into the mix.

"They are all facing their own personal challenges that will put their lives, friendships and families to the test," Mack said. "All three are facing their own personal trials and tribulations."

A founder and leader at Real Faith Church in Leesburg with husband and pastor Travis Mack Sr., the writer, known online by her company name BMackWrites, said that she thinks her play will give the audience some insights into how to deal with conflict.

"I wanted to give the audience

a bird's-eye view of a way to face the challenges of life," she said.

The play is suitable for children, said Mack, who has written more than 30 plays. Her previous works include the books "I Quit," a testimonial about her comeback from bankruptcy, the sudden death of her sister and being kicked out of her church. She released her second book, "Breaking Point," in 2020.

"It's appropriate for children because it teaches them how to deal with conflict," Mack said. "I'm also giving a voice to the men in the play. A lot of times, you don't get that."

Children also will be included

in the giveaway of bookbags and school supplies Teacher's bags and personal care bags for girls also will be distributed.

Proceeds from the production will go toward re-launching Lady in Wait, a training program for women that Mack previously operated.

"I'll be doing this alongside my church family," she said. "They are also helping to support this play."

The audience also will be treated to a pre-show comedic skit featuring some of the characters from Mack's "Elders" skits.

"I'm known online for my 'Elders' videos," she said.



Special Photo  
Lee County writer Bridgett Mack is bringing her play "She Me Her and Him" to the Lee County High School Theater on Aug. 1.

## Kerry Palmer named president of Georgia Southwestern State University

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**AMERICUS** — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has named Kerry Palmer president of Georgia Southwestern State University, effective Aug. 1.

Palmer, a seasoned leader with almost 30 years of experience across higher education, independent school leadership and K-12 education, currently serves as the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at Troy University in Alabama.

Palmer's selection follows a May 22 announcement by GSW President Michelle Johnston that she has accepted a new role as president of the University of Montevallo in Alabama. Johnston's last day will be June 30, and GSW will be led in the interim by Provost Rachel Abbott until Palmer begins his tenure.

"I want to thank Dr. Michelle Johnston for her leadership and dedication to GSW's students, faculty and staff, and we wish her the best," USG Chancellor Sonny Perdue said. "As we look to the future, Kerry Palmer is a results-driven leader who understands the role regional universities play in the community and the workforce. At Troy University, he focused on the fundamentals by aligning programs with workforce demands, securing critical funding and driving institutional growth. The board and I are confident his energy and strategic vision will serve GSW well."

In his role as Troy's chief academic officer, Palmer oversees an \$80 million budget and five academic colleges for a regional comprehensive institution serving 13,000 students. He brings a proven track record of institutional advancement, strategic planning and cultivating regional partnerships to his new leadership role at GSW, USG officials said.

"Stepping into the presidency at Georgia Southwestern State University is an incredible honor, and I'm thrilled to join the Hurricane family," Palmer said. "Higher education can no longer rely on business as usual, and that is exactly what makes GSW a true destination. It's a university that is proving how to be nimble, creative and deeply relevant to the students and communities it serves."

"I'm eager to build on Dr. Johnston's work and bring a renewed focus on academic innovation, student retention and workforce success to Americus. Together with the campus community, we'll strengthen GSW's position as the primary economic and

cultural engine for southwestern Georgia."

Since June 2023, Palmer has served as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at Troy University, where he functions as the chief academic officer and the chancellor's representative to the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee.

During his tenure as provost, Palmer successfully guided Troy's reclassification as a doctoral institution and established the university's first engineering program, securing \$1.2 million in start-up funding and an annual \$700,000 state appropriation. He also spearheaded the creation of the College of Science and Engineering to align STEM initiatives with regional workforce needs, helped launch a doctorate of chiropractic medicine program and established the Honors Global Scholars program.

Before his current role, Palmer served as dean of Troy's College of Education from 2020 to 2023, managing a \$20 million annual portfolio of grants and contracts, expanding specialized program accreditations, and generating more than \$1.9 million in private philanthropic gifts and pledges. He also served as the college's associate dean from 2019 to 2020.

Before entering public higher education leadership, Palmer spent six years as the head of school at Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery, Ala., from 2013 to 2019. There, he established the school's first institutional advancement office, increased annual giving by 233% in two years and increased average ACT scores from 21 to 26 while maintaining 100% college placement and 98% college retention rates.

His early administrative experience includes serving as the founding middle school principal at Trinity Presbyterian School and as a middle school vice principal and director of bands at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School. He began his career in education as a high school and junior high school band director, teaching across multiple schools in Alabama and Georgia from 1995 to 2004.

Palmer holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Troy University, a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Auburn University at Montgomery and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Adult Education from Auburn University, where his dissertation focused on the persistence of college sophomores.

Distinguished by its close-knit campus community,



Kerry Palmer

GSW is frequently ranked among Georgia's most affordable public universities and fields 10 intercollegiate sports teams competing in the NCAA Division II Peach Belt Conference. As a vital economic and cultural engine for southwestern Georgia, the university generates an annual economic impact of \$115.4 million. It actively partners with regional business, health care and educational leaders to build highly skilled talent pipelines that drive long-term regional prosperity.

## Georgia's university system announces three new campus presidents

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** — Thousands of students at Georgia's public colleges will have new leadership when they return this fall after the University System of Georgia named new campus leaders.

On Monday, the system named three new presidents: Greg Tanner at South Georgia State College, Russell Crutchfield at Gordon State College and Kerry J. Palmer at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Tanner is not entirely new to the role; he has served as interim president at South Georgia State since February 2023.

Chancellor Sonny Perdue said Tanner "hasn't missed a beat over the past three years" there, helping to increase enrollment as the campus recovered from Hurricane Helene. Crutchfield moves from Gov.



Greg Tanner



Russell Crutchfield

Brian Kemp's office, where he has been chief operating officer, to lead Gordon State effective Aug. 1.

Perdue praised Crutchfield's roots in the university system and his work for Kemp, saying Crutchfield knows how to develop a skilled workforce for Georgia's economy.

Crutchfield has been with Kemp since January 2024. Previously he served in executive leadership at the Uni-

versity of West Georgia as chief of staff and associate vice president. He also held leadership roles at several state agencies.

Palmer succeeds President Michelle Johnston, who is departing to lead the University of Montevallo in Alabama. Crutchfield follows Donald J. Green, who was tapped last month to lead Valdosta State University.

## Fuel tax suspension results in May tax revenue decline of 12.6%

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** — The state of Georgia's net tax revenue collections in May totaled \$2.35 billion, for a decrease of \$339.1 million, or 12.6%, compared to FY 2025, when net tax collections totaled \$2.69 billion for the month. Year-to-date, net tax revenue collections for the period ending May 31 totaled \$30.8 billion, for an increase of \$344.6 million, or 1.1%, compared to last year's net collection revenue through 11 months.

Monthly comparisons were affected by the recent motor fuel tax suspension. Revenues for the month of May were down 5.7% from the same month a year ago, while year-to-date collections remained up 1.8%. Monthly comparisons were also impacted by last year's extension of the return and payment deadlines for both individual and corporate income taxes to May 1, 2025, due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

With that extension shifting some collections between months, April and May are more informative when viewed together. On a combined basis, April and May net tax collections were down 1.9% overall from the same two months in 2025 and up 2.5% net of motor fuel changes.

The changes within the following tax categories help to further explain May's overall net tax revenue decrease:

Individual income tax collections totaled \$1.23 billion, for a decrease of \$97.7 million, or 7.4%, compared to last year when individual tax collections approached \$1.33 billion.

The following notable components within individual

income tax combine for the net decrease:

Individual income tax refunds issued (net of voided checks) were down \$99.8 million or 48.1%.

Individual withholding payments increased by \$8.4 million, or 0.7%, over the previous fiscal year.

Individual income tax return payments declined \$163.3 million, or 59.1%, from FY 2025.

All other individual tax categories, including estimated payments, were down a combined \$42.6 million.

Gross sales and use tax collections totaled roughly \$1.72 billion in May, which was an increase of \$117.9 million, or 7.4%, over FY 2025. Net sales and use tax increased by \$36.7 million, or 4.7%, compared to last fiscal year, when net sales tax totaled \$783.5 million. The adjusted sales tax distribution to local governments totaled \$879.5 million, for an increase of \$70.1 million, or 8.7%, while sales tax refunds for May increased by \$11.1 million compared to the previous fiscal year.

Corporate income tax collections for the month of May totaled \$60.6 million, for a year-over-year decrease of \$60.5 million, or 50%, compared to last year's total of \$121.2 million.

The following notable components within corporate income tax make up the net decrease:

Corporate income tax refunds issued (net of voids) increased \$13.6 million, or 132% over FY 2025.

Corporate income tax return payments decreased by \$34.9 million, or 56.5%, from May 2025.

All other corporate tax types, including corporate estimated payments, were down a com-



File Photo

Monthly state tax collection comparisons for May were affected by the recent motor fuel tax suspension in Georgia.

Motor fuel tax collections decreased by \$196.6 million, or 99.5%, compared to FY 2025, reflecting the impact of Gov. Brian Kemp's Executive Order suspending the motor fuel excise tax for tax-

payer relief. Motor vehicle tag & title fees decreased by \$1 million, or 3%, for the month, while title ad valorem tax collections decreased by \$4.6 million, or 5.6%, from May 2025.

## FEMA approves \$51 million in Georgia recovery funding

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** — FEMA approved more than \$51 million in funding to support 13 recovery and mitigation projects in Georgia communities affected by Hurricane Helene.

Below are some notable projects FEMA will help fund for the state and local communities:

\$22 million to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to temporarily shelter 1,500 displaced survivors at 113 hotels throughout the state.

\$17 million to the Satilla Rural Electric Membership Corporation for emergency power restoration and utility repairs in Appling and Jeff Davis counties.

\$2.9 million to Nashville for the removal of more than 95,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and nearly 600 cubic yards of construction and demolition debris from public rights of way.

\$1.1 million to Berrien County for management costs related to the storm.

\$727,400 to Albany to repair utilities.

\$305,800 to Irwin County for management costs related to the storm.

\$201,600 to The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta for debris removal efforts.

FEMA is reimbursing these costs at no less than a 75% federal cost share through its Public Assistance program, which provides funds for state and local governments' response and recovery work.

Additionally, FEMA approved mitigation projects that prevent, eliminate or reduce disaster-related damage, including:

\$2 million for the Bryan County stormwater master plan to minimize the effects of flooding.

\$1.9 million for the city of Pooler stormwater master plan to minimize the effects of flooding.

\$1.5 million to Columbia County to supply weather radios for the county's population.

## SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX

SQUAWKBOX@ALBANYHERALD.COM

Now that Chief Persley is retiring, this is another opportunity to discuss consolidation via attrition. Seems only the taxpayers want consolidation.

Current negotiations involve funding for Iran's post-war reconstruction. A more equitable approach would be to utilize Iran's oil resources to reimburse us for our war costs.

No, squawker, we would never turn our backs on Trump or any other criminal because we know they would stab us in it. Please note that Iran never had a nuclear arsenal. And, Trump and his minions said that they obliterated their nuclear material last summer, remember? So many lies, it's hard to keep track.

The joke online civil rights comedy that is no laughing matter to Dougherty County taxpayers, costing us \$190,000-plus, is the perfect example of an inept local government handing out money to friends who don't mind taking other people's hard-earned money.

It is great to see many ASU celebratory events in The Herald, but it seems like job placement is a low priority for school administration. The absolute best way for the university to serve these students is to plug them in to a full-time job after graduation. The tough reality is that most of these campus events mean virtually nothing for their future. ASU should be a more careful governor of tuition dollars to set these students up for career success.

The city of Albany's Community and Economic Development Office has over 12 employees. That is millions of dollars in costs annually with no real benefit or accountability to the taxpayers. The office is run by a deacon pastor who lives near Camilla in Mitchell County. He may be a very nice fellow, but this "good old boy" set-up is a prime example of why no one trusts their city commissioner.

You can't list great country music songs and leave out "All My Exes Live in Texas" by the great George Strait and "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" by Charlie Daniels.

Can anyone ever remember a completely honest, promise-keeping politician in their lifetime? I know I can't, and I will be 79 shortly.

Squawker, I saw a kid using one of those million-dollar ramps to skateboard on several years back. Other than that, no way, Jose.

Carlton may be undiagnosed, but we all know something ain't right.

I don't claim to be a religious scholar, but I would be willing to bet a few months' pay that people who call themselves preachers and then commit as many of the sins listed in the 10 Commandments -- adultery, thievery, covetousness, etc. -- as they can cram into their busy schedules have a special place reserved in hell.

A pest exterminator shouldn't get angry at an old man just because he had to flag him down after he parked in front of his apartment, serviced other units, then tried to leave without servicing the old man's apartment. He also shouldn't pull the stove and refrigerator out and ask how often he cleans behind them, then tell him he doesn't have an infestation problem and walk out, unless he's looking for another job.

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ CHARLES OCHIE

## Our children need more than sports: It's time for Albany-Dougherty to invest in youth recreation

As summer begins and schools close for the year, many parents across Albany and Dougherty County face the same challenge: finding safe, healthy and enjoyable activities for their children.

Unfortunately, one concern continues to surface throughout our community: There simply are not enough recreational opportunities for young people.

Over the years, local leaders have invested in parks, basketball courts, and athletic facilities. Those investments are important and appreciated. However, we know as teachers that not every child or young person is interested in organized sports. Many young people are looking for places where they can socialize, exercise, build friendships, and simply enjoy being young in a safe and supervised environment.

The lack of such opportunities has become a growing concern for families throughout Albany-Dougherty County. We hear it regularly from young people participating in our summer programs and camps. Many residents remember the large skating rink that once operated on Ledo Road.

It was more than a place to skate; it was a community gathering space where children and teenagers spent time with friends,

stayed active, and enjoyed a positive environment away from negative influences. Parents felt comfortable knowing their children were safe.

When the rink closed, many young people lost a place they genuinely loved. In fact, I often joke that if I ever won the lottery, one of my first investments would be building a large skating and family entertainment center in Albany-Dougherty County.

Today, children and teenagers have fewer entertainment options outside of sports. As a result, many spend increasing amounts of time on phones, computers and other electronic devices. While technology certainly has benefits, excessive screen time can limit social interaction and physical activity.

Others may seek entertainment in places that are not always safe or constructive. This issue extends beyond recreation; it affects the future of our community.

Many young people leave Albany-Dougherty County after high school because they feel disconnected from their hometown.

If we want young people to stay, return after college, and invest in this community, we must create

an environment where they feel engaged, valued and connected, from childhood through young adulthood. One practical solution would be for the city of Albany and Dougherty County to work together to invest in a modern skating and family entertainment facility. Such a venue could include roller skating, arcade games, music events, educational programs, birthday party spaces, and youth development activities. It could serve children, teenagers, young adults, and families while providing a positive destination for the entire community.

This should not be viewed as an expense but as an investment in our future. It would promote physical activity, encourage social interaction, support youth development, and provide a safe place for young people to spend their free time. It could also attract visitors from neighboring counties and contribute to local economic growth.

In addition, local leaders should explore other family-friendly opportunities, including arts and music programs, youth activity centers, technology and gaming hubs, weekend recreation events

and expanded summer programming. Young people have diverse interests, and our recreational offerings should reflect that diversity.

The conversation should begin now. Parents, educators, faith leaders, community organizations, business leaders, and young people themselves should help identify the recreational opportunities our community needs most.

Our children deserve more than limited options. They deserve places where they can learn, connect, build friendships, and create lasting memories. Investing in youth recreation is investing in the future of Albany and Dougherty County. The question is not whether we can afford to make these investments. The real question is whether we can afford not to.

The future of our community depends on the young people we raise today, and we owe them opportunities to thrive right here at the Good Life City.

*Charles O. Ochie is a professor of Criminal Justice, the former chair of the Criminal Justice Department, and currently serves as the Dean of the Graduate School at Albany State University.*



OCHIE

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ LAWRENCE KNIGHTON

## Excellence has already happened here

There has been much discussion in recent years about poverty, trauma, food insecurity, health-care access, and the many challenges facing education in Dougherty County. Those realities are real, and no honest person should ignore them.

But there is another truth we cannot afford to overlook: Dougherty County has already proven that academic excellence is possible. At some point, we must stop talking as if success in Albany, Georgia, is impossible when history has already shown us otherwise.

There was a period in Dougherty County when schools consistently demonstrated strong academic performance, leadership, discipline, growth and achievement. Lincoln Fundamental Magnet School, under the leadership of Sheryl Holmes, earned National Blue Ribbon recognition in 2004. International Studies Elementary Charter School, led by Wanda Mallard, earned National Blue Ribbon recognition in 2007. Alice Coachman Elementary School, under the leadership of Pat Victor, earned National Blue Ribbon recognition in 2009.

Those schools did not exist in wealthy suburbs or elite communities. They existed right here in Dougherty County. The same poverty existed. The same economic struggles existed. The same community challenges existed. The same food insecurity existed. Yet excellence still happened.

I personally remember leaders who walked into struggling schools and changed the trajectory of those schools in less than three years. Eddie Johnson took over Sherwood Elementary, Albany Middle School and Dougherty High when they were considered some of the lowest-performing schools in the district. All three of those schools made significant gains under his leadership.

I also remember Vinson Davis taking over Radium Springs Middle School and Monroe High School and significantly improving performance and school culture within roughly three years. Those examples matter because they challenge the dangerous narrative that our children cannot succeed because of their circum-

stances or zip code.

Poverty creates obstacles, but poverty does not make excellence impossible. If it did, Dougherty County would never have produced Blue Ribbon schools. If it did, schools would never have risen from the bottom of district rankings to among the strongest-performing schools in the district within just a few years.

Leadership matters. Culture matters. Expectations matter. Accountability matters. Children often rise or fall to the expectations placed before them.

This conversation is not about attacking leadership, educators, parents or students. It is not about pretending challenges do not exist. It is about refusing to normalize low expectations and academic decline.

Today, Dougherty County continues to face serious academic challenges. Public data show the district ranking to be 184th out of 222 school districts. Only 38 districts rank lower than Dougherty County statewide. We are at the

bottom tier statewide in overall proficiency despite high graduation rates. Those realities deserve honest conversations not to shame our students or educators, but to ensure our children are truly being prepared for life after graduation.

A diploma should represent true readiness, not simply completion. Our children deserve schools that prepare them to compete academically, professionally and economically with anyone in this country. The encouraging news is that Dougherty County has already shown what is possible.

The question is no longer whether excellence can happen here. History has already answered that question. The real question is whether we are willing to recommit ourselves to the leadership, accountability, consistency, parental involvement, discipline, and academic culture that once helped produce those results.

Because if excellence happened here before, it can happen here again.

*Email Lawrence Knighton at stressfree1960@gmail.com.*



KNIGHTON

COLUMNIST ■ SCOTT LUDWIG

## Flirting with a ticket disaster

I saw Iron Butterfly perform in their prime many years ago. This was back when "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" first came out. Getting concert tickets was pretty simple then. I just went to the box office and gave someone four dollars for a ticket.

I remember the exact amount because I mowed two lawns to earn it. That ticket, I might add, never left my sight until the night of the show. After all, four dollars was a lot of money in 1969.

Concert-going has come a long way since then. And I don't mean that in a good way. Have you seen the price of tickets to see Eric Clapton or The Eagles?

But the point I want to address is how one goes about getting tickets now in the first place. It's not as simple as just handing over \$752.83 for a premium floor seat for Clapton.

I'll illustrate with a personal experience when I tried to purchase tickets for the Black Jacket Symphony (the absolute best tribute band on the planet) concert on

April 12. (You can take it from there. If those clues didn't help, the company's name rhymes with the title of this piece.)

I bought two tickets online by charging them to a credit card. Tickets sold were just \$30, but the total for a pair plus fees and tax ended up being \$107.60. The tax didn't amount to much, although the fees were nearly as much as the cost of the tickets. But that's not the worst part. Not even close.

Tickets were issued to me via an email with a link to "view mobile tickets." (At this point my wife took over, because I hate this part.) A few keystrokes later, our pair of "mobile tickets" were in my Apple wallet.

I assumed everything was all set. That is until I checked my Apple wallet and saw our tickets had a red exclamation point inside of a red circle beneath them with the words "Pass Disabled." It went on

to explain that any and/or all of the following had occurred:

-- The tickets could have been purchased from a third-party platform that didn't transfer the tickets correctly.

-- I might not be using the latest version of iOS and/or the (anonymous ticket sales company) app.

-- My phone may not support the latest iOS required to add tickets to my wallet.

-- I might be trying to add tickets already in someone else's wallet.

For someone who still uses paper boarding passes to fly on an airplane, I didn't have the slightest chance of figuring out which one of these was the problem.

So I decided I just wanted my money back. After an exhaustive search for the toll free number for the ticket sales company -- by now I trust you know which one -- I called them and was immediately placed on hold, at which point I listened to bad elevator music for

nearly 30 minutes.

The chat was going smoothly until I mentioned wanting a refund. The chatter said for that to happen I had to speak to a representative and was given a number to call. It was the same number I'd called earlier, but that wasn't the problem. The customer service department had closed for the day. Apparently they didn't think leaving me on hold until the following day was a problem.

I called first thing the next day, only to find out refunds for the concert ended two days prior. I said I just purchased the tickets the day before, and for any or all of the problems listed earlier I wouldn't be able to use them. The representative said all I had to do was tell the box office my order number when I showed up for the concert and they would take care of it.

I was told this problem is pretty common nowadays, which made me wonder why they haven't done anything to resolve it.



LUDWIG

THE ALBANY HERALD

# Perspectives

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**Carlton Fletcher**  
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —  
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**TODAY'S  
BIBLE  
VERSE**

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*  
**Romans 5:17**

**COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER**

## Great – and maybe not so great – expectations

*And I've changed, I've changed, I've reconsidered everything.*

**Josh Joplin Group**

While gleefully going back in time to rediscover an old journalistic hero recently, I accidentally uncovered an uncomfortable truth. It's one that will aggravate – even anger – readers of a certain age.

But I feel compelled to discuss it.

On a whim – with an assist from Tara – I started re-reading some of the books by one of my favorite all-time journalist/author heroes, late Atlanta Journal/syndicated columnist Lewis Grizzard. Just gazing upon some of his literary works – especially the collections of his most memorable columns – left me giddy, almost as much as when I spent the last couple of months re-reading my collection of classic literature by the great (maybe greatest?) Georgia author, Pat Conroy.

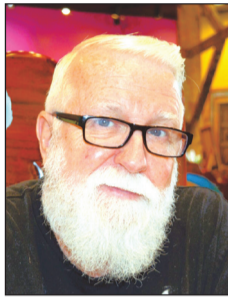
Just reading the book titles left an ear-to-ear grin on my face: "Don't Sit Under the Grits Tree With Anyone Else BUT Me," "Kathy Sue Loudermilk, I Love You," "Elvis Is Dead and I Don't Feel So Good Myself," "If Love Were Oil, I'd Be About a Quart Low," "They Tore Out My Heart and Stomped That Sucker Flat," "When My Love Returns from the Ladies' Room, Will I Be Too Old to Care?," "Don't Bend Over in the Garden, Granny, You Know Them Taters Got Eyes" ...

During his heyday, mostly in the '80s and '90s, Grizzard was one of, if not the, most celebrated columnists in America. He has often been imitated – generally very poorly – by pretty much any newspaper columnist in the South, and there are still individuals who purport to be columnists who try – again, very poorly – to imitate his style. But all come up way short.

Grizzard had more going for him than his quick wit and his eagle's eye for a story that he could turn into one of his columns that could one day make readers laugh out loud, the next have them raging mad at some inequity, or even bring a tear to their eye as he'd discovered the key that unlocked readers' emotions.

And thoughts of Grizzard's hilariously famous characters – Weyman C. Wannamaker Jr. (a great American), Cordie Mae Poovey, the aforementioned Ms. Loudermilk, "Hog" Phillipot, Claude "Goat" Rainwater, Curtis "Fruit Jar" Hainey, et al

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FLETCHER

– bring an immediate smile to a faithful reader's face. (This is where many of Grizzard's would-be imitators fall way short: They try to match his wit by coming up with their own recurring characters who typically are very much derivative and invariably, well, dumb.)

So, without delay, I dived into a newly rediscovered collection of Grizzard's books. But a funny thing happened as I eagerly – at least at first – made my way from column to column. I discovered, to my own dismay, that this great writer whose columns made me want to do what he did, did not really hold up the way I expected them to.

Now don't get me wrong: I am not saying that the years have done anything to diminish Grizzard's writing style. His turn of phrases and usage – make that correct usage – of Southern slang and cultural references are still so spot on, any of his would-be imitators should be ashamed for even trying to capture his inimitable style.

(Personal aside here: When I was a young and impressionable lad walking the not-so-mean streets of Ocilla, Ga., I found ways – in libraries, in the Ocilla Rex-All Drug Store, and occasionally, when I had a little spare change, in a newspaper rack – to get ahold of Grizzard's columns. I read them religiously. Fate intervened, and I was given the opportunity (thank you, Bill Bradford, one of my journalism heroes) to start what's turned into a somewhat checkered but long-term career in this industry that I love, and, yes, I was one of those unskilled columnists who thought he was Ocilla's answer to Lewis Grizzard. I don't have any of those columns I wrote for The Ocilla Star – hopefully they've all been burned or buried in some deep, dark hole – but I'll admit now I had to grow out of my penchant for, as Bradford told me once, "aping (again, poorly) Grizzard.")

Getting back to the point I was making, while many of Grizzard's columns in his book series are indeed reminders of why he was so great, the problem I encountered reading them some 40-plus years later is that the topics were largely unrelated in the 2020s South.

Now I know people around here who were not only huge fans of Grizzard's, their University of Georgia ties made them close friends. To those folks, I apologize. I guess maybe there is something about the idea of setting oneself up for disappointment by setting expectations too high. I think even Goat Rainwater would agree.

**COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL**

## More adventures in customer service

I believe in the importance of customer service. A while back, I dropped my cable/internet provider after spending half my time battling their so-called customer service reps. I had many indecipherable conversations with guys in India who called themselves "Rick" or "Sam."

I finally switched to another provider. I should have done it years earlier. The new company's customer service was excellent. Within days, my cholesterol level improved, my headaches disappeared, and I could leap tall buildings in a single bound.

Having grown up in a retail environment, I learned at a young age that the customer is always right, even when they're actually wrong. The key is getting them to come back, over and over.

That's why I visit my favorite burger place every Monday. They start preparing my order as soon as I walk in. They know I'm pro-cheese, anti-mayonnaise, with no salt on my fries. Some might look at this as an example of how good customer service results in repeat business. Others might see it as an unhealthy habit. All I know is, it gets my week off to a good start. It's almost a superstition, like baseball players who won't change their underwear as long as they're on a winning streak. I guess that's a fair comparison, but I hope I'm never in that locker room.

Of course, not all of my fast food missions are successful. At the drive-through recently, all I wanted was a sausage biscuit, with gravy on the side. "Do you mean a gravy biscuit, add sausage?" the lady asked. I replied, "Yeah, just a biscuit with sausage, plus a little gravy." Long pause. "Well," she said, "I can either get you a sausage biscuit with a side of gravy, or a gravy biscuit plus sausage." I felt like I was negotiating a ceasefire in the Middle East. If I said the wrong thing, the whole deal could fall apart.

Online shopping brings its own challenges. We've all had negative experiences involving damaged mer-

chandise, and trying to get an exchange or a refund. We've had packages delivered to the wrong address, or not at all. We've tried talking to supervisors, who can be cranky after talking to people like me all day.

That's why I must give special recognition to publicrecords.us. A few months ago, I needed their services. I paid \$20 for a one-time request. I got what I needed, and never thought of the website again. Last week, I actually took a close look at my credit card bill. (I know, I should be doing this every month.) I saw not one, but two \$20 charges for the month of May from publicrecords.us.

I remembered the name of the company, but it sure seemed like longer than a month ago when I dealt with them, and even then I thought it was just a one-time thing. I looked through the last few months of my credit card statements. I realized that for the past five months, I had gotten billed \$20 every two weeks. Evidently, I had subscribed to their service, but I had no idea I had done so.

I called them to cancel. The representative did so, quickly and efficiently. He then asked if there was anything else he could do. I moaned about having been charged a couple hundred dollars for a service I was not using, and that I had not intended to subscribe. Within 5 minutes, he had refunded all my money, graciously. And I didn't really have to ask. So thank you publicrecords.us. You deserve a shout-out.

Finally, one more face-to-face encounter. At the drug store, I asked the cashier to help me figure out their app (which was already on my phone). A coupon on the app could save me two bucks on a tube of toothpaste. She showed me how to do it, and I saved the money. As I was leaving, she said, "Don't worry, I'll help you with it again next time, because you'll probably forget." She was so right. I love it when they get me. And I will return to that store soon.

**COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER**

## When growth quietly stops

At 120 years old, Moses stood before the people and declared, "I can no longer go or come."

It is a strange statement.

Later, the Torah insists that Moses' physical strength had not diminished. His eyesight remained clear. His vitality remained intact. He was not frail, confused or physically broken.

So what did he mean? Jewish tradition offers a profound interpretation. Moses was not describing the weakening of the body, but the completion of a spiritual journey. His life had been defined by continual movement, ascent after ascent, challenge after challenge, refinement after refinement. Now, standing at the end of his mission in the Torah portion Vayelech (Deuteronomy 31), he recognized that the climb itself had reached completion.

And perhaps the Torah's unsettling implication is that a person can remain outwardly strong while inwardly ceasing to ascend. A person may still appear successful, productive, socially engaged, and fully functional, yet quietly stop growing.

The danger is subtle because stagnation rarely announces itself dramatically. Most people do not consciously decide to stop developing morally, emotionally or spiritually. They simply settle into familiar patterns. Risks become smaller. Questions become fewer. Old assumptions harden into certainty.

Over time, comfort quietly replaces movement.

Modern culture often treats comfort as an achievement in itself. Convenience, stability and emotional ease are presented as markers of success. Entire industries now exist to eliminate friction, minimize difficulty, and protect people from discomfort.

But a life with no resistance often becomes a life with no ascent. Muscles weaken without strain. Relationships become shallow without vulnerability. Moral courage disappears when it is never exercised. Even the mind gradually stiffens when it no longer encounters challenge or uncertainty.

The Torah's understanding of growth is almost the opposite of the modern instinct toward comfort.

The Chassidic masters describe life as a continual rhythm of descent and ascent. Setbacks are not meaningless interruptions to growth; they are

often the very experiences that make deeper growth possible. Failure may expose illusions that success concealed. Pain may awaken compassion that comfort never could. Disappointment may force humility where achievement produced arrogance.

Sometimes, struggle is evidence that something inside a person is still alive enough to grow. That is why spiritual stagnation can be more dangerous than failure.

Failure at least implies movement, effort, risk and aspiration. But stagnation slowly persuades people that who they are now is sufficient, that no further refinement is necessary.

A plateau begins to feel permanent. And that may be the deeper danger facing modern life.

Not difficulty. Not uncertainty. Not even failure.

But becoming so comfortable that the instinct to continue climbing slowly disappears. The Torah challenges that illusion directly.

Moses' greatness did not come from remaining comfortable. His entire life demanded movement into uncertainty. He leaves Egypt and abandons privilege. He confronts Pharaoh despite fear and resistance. He ascends Sinai repeatedly. He carries the burden of an entire nation through disappointment, rebellion, exhaustion and 40 years of unpredictability in the wilderness.

Again and again, his life required willingness to keep climbing. That pattern remains true on a smaller scale in ordinary human life.

The parent learning patience after a difficult day. The person rebuilding after failure. The individual confronting destructive habits rather than surrendering to them. The aging soul still willing to learn instead of retreating into cynicism or complacency. All of them are still climbing.

Near the end of his life, Moses recognizes that his own climb has finally reached completion. Yet his final words to the people are not words of retreat. They are words urging continuation, movement forward into uncertainty, responsibility and growth.

Because in the Torah's understanding, the climb does not end until the very last moment of life. And perhaps one of the great spiritual dangers of modern culture is becoming too comfortable to keep climbing.



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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MAIL: Albany Herald News  
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# SRTC Foundation awards \$69,250 in scholarships for summer semester

## Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

**THOMASVILLE** — The Southern Regional Technical College Foundation awarded scholarships to 50 students totaling \$69,250 for the technical college's 2026 summer semester, which began May 19. The SRTC scholarship funds assist students with education-related costs such as tuition, fees, books, classroom and lab supplies, and travel-related expenses.

Students who were awarded scholarships include:

Asia Collins of Sylvester  
Ashley Dukes of Albany  
Shaniah Green of Camilla  
Kerstan McCook of Pelham  
Kaitlyn Penny of Pelham  
Joey Stanford of Sale City  
Brenda Thomas of Albany  
Southern Regional Technical College offers more than 150 degree, diploma and certificate programs that are designed to get students quickly into their desired careers, and 38 general education courses that transfer to the University System of Georgia institutions and 19 private colleges and uni-

versities in Georgia. SRTC has instructional sites located in 11 counties across southwest Georgia for the convenience of its students.

SRTC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. For the most up-to-date information on registration, class dates and program offerings, interested individuals can log on to [www.southernregional.com](http://www.southernregional.com).



Special Illustration

The Southern Regional Technical College Foundation awarded scholarships to 50 students totaling \$69,250 for its summer semester.



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

Congress must act to shore up Social Security during the next six years to avoid an automatic drop-off in benefits in 2032.

## Projected Social Security benefits cliff creeps up to 2032

By Jennifer Shuff  
Georgia Recorder

**WASHINGTON** — Congress must act to shore up Social Security during the next six years to avoid an automatic drop-off in benefits in 2032, according to a report released this week.

The annual update on the Old Age and Survivors Insurance trust fund shows that it will “become depleted” in the fourth quarter of that year, a few months earlier than projected in last year’s report.

That would lead to recipients receiving 78% of their benefits — the projected yearly income to the trust fund — unless Congress acts before then. By 2100, benefits would be only 62%, according to the report.

That decrease would have a significant impact on the tens of millions of Americans who rely on the program to stay out of poverty, especially retirees.

Social Security Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano wrote in a statement that in order to “protect the promise of Social Security, it is important for lawmakers and the Social Security Administration to work together to ensure the trust funds continue to provide financial stability now and for future generations.”

More than 68 million Americans received Social Security payments in April, according to data from the administration. More than 56 million of the beneficiaries were 65 or older.

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, wrote in a statement November’s midterm elections will have an impact on who is in the Senate, where lawmakers have six-year terms, in the lead-up to the deadline.

“It’s important to recognize that the Senators we elect this year will be in office when Social Security becomes unable to pay out full benefits, so this must be a central campaign issue,” he wrote.

Peterson added that “there are many well-known solutions available” and that it’s “time for responsible, bipartisan leadership to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, ensuring the stability of these programs for generations of Americans to come.”

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, wrote in a statement that “Washington is sleepwalking into a retirement crisis, allowing our nation’s most important trust funds to go insolvent at the expense of over 70 million beneficiaries who count on these programs.”

MacGuineas added that there is “no shortage of options out there to avoid this.”

“It’s time for our leaders to start telling the truth on Social Security and Medicare, and working on real plans to save these programs,” she wrote. “Time is running out.”



Special Photo

Rideout Arsenal, a firearms designer and manufacturer, is investing \$22 million in a new manufacturing facility in Thomasville, creating 120 new jobs over the next several years.

## Rideout Arsenal to bring 120 new jobs to Thomas County

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

**THOMASVILLE** — Rideout Arsenal, a firearms designer and manufacturer, is investing \$22 million in a new manufacturing facility in Thomasville, creating 120 new jobs over the next several years.

“Georgia attracts job creators from all over the country and world because we work with them, not against them,” Gov. Brian Kemp said. “Our state’s pro-business approach, skilled workforce, and enduring support for constitutional freedoms make us an ideal home for manufacturers like Rideout Arsenal, and we look forward to their success here in the No. 1 state for business.”

Currently based in the United States, Rideout Arsenal specializes in high-performance, high-end competition pistols.

“Rideout Arsenal is proud to

manufacture innovative firearms in America using a localized supply chain built around trusted domestic partners, suppliers, and skilled labor,” Travis and Kelsey Rideout, founders of Rideout Arsenal, said. “Thomasville and the State of Georgia provide a business environment necessary for us to continue designing and manufacturing high-performance products, made entirely here in the United States.”

“This relocation was not something we originally planned to pursue. The reality is that recent anti-gun legislation in Virginia created a significant uncertainty for our company and ultimately forced us to look for a state where we could continue operating, investing and growing with confidence. We are excited to bring new jobs and manufacturing investment to Thomas County and are grateful for the warm welcome we

have already received.”

The new Rideout Arsenal facility will be located within the Plantation Oak Industrial Park, with additional buildings planned throughout the next few years. Rideout Arsenal is hiring for production, engineering, administrative, and management positions. Interested individuals can learn more at [www.RideoutArsenal.com](http://www.RideoutArsenal.com) or email [Support@RideoutArsenal.com](mailto:Support@RideoutArsenal.com).

“Today we welcome Rideout Arsenal to Thomasville: This includes new highly skilled jobs, new partnerships, new careers and new momentum for our community,” Thomasville Mayor Scott Chastain said. “Most importantly, we welcome the Rideout family to our community.”

Assistant Director of Existing Industry and Regional Recruitment Tina Herring represented the Georgia Department

of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the Thomasville-Thomas County Payroll Development Authority and Georgia Quick Start.

“We are excited by companies like Rideout Arsenal that locate in rural Georgia,” GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. “Georgia’s workforce training and development for companies of every size and across every industry is one of the key reasons businesses choose Georgia. Investments like this also strengthen integrated supply chains, creating additional opportunities for local businesses, workers, and communities throughout the region.”

“We’re excited to see the positive impact this project will have both locally and across Georgia’s manufacturing ecosystem.”

## State ag commissioner: Be on the lookout for hornet embryo, primary nests

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** — Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper is urging residents — particularly those in Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham and Liberty counties — to remain vigilant and report sightings of yellow-legged hornet (YLH) embryo and primary nests.

“Georgia has made significant progress in our effort to eradicate the yellow-legged hornet, but public participation remains critical to our success,” Harper said. “Every embryo or primary nest reported and removed today helps prevent larger infestations tomorrow. We need Georgians to stay alert and report suspected nests to help protect our pollinators and Georgia’s No. 1 industry, agriculture.”

Early detection and removal of these nests is critical to preventing the development

of large secondary nests later in the season. A single undetected primary nest can produce a secondary nest containing thousands of hornets and multiple reproduc-

tive queens capable of establishing new colonies. This poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators that support Georgia’s agricultural industry.

What Georgians can do:

Stay Alert: Embryo and primary nests are often found in trees, shrubs, eaves, and other elevated locations around homes, businesses and wooded areas. Watch for hawking activity around beehives, particularly during the morning hours (before noon) and after 5 p.m.

Report Suspected Nests: Anyone who believes they have found a yellow-legged hornet nest should contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection Division at [yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov) to ensure the nest is properly identified and the queen is eradicated.

For more information about the yellow-legged hornet and how to identify potential nests, visit <https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet>.

# BOLO

YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET

Primary Nest Description:

Softball to  
watermelon-sized

Report a Sighting:

bit.ly/Report-YLH

Special Illustration

# Governor announces funding for local transportation projects

## Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) Board of Directors have approved \$26 million in funding for Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) grants and low-interest loans that will support 20 transportation roadway projects and two regional airport hangar projects.

The awards include a \$1.1 million grant for continued work at the intersection of Old Dawson Road and North Westover Boulevard in Albany, and a loan of \$713,757 and grant of \$1,740,718 to resurface Callis Road, Cemetery Road and Pleasant Hill Road in Terrell County.

Worth County will receive a \$240,000 loan and \$412,000 grant to widen and pave two miles of PT Salter Road.

SRTA also announced the opening of the GTIB FY 2027 call for applications, inviting Community Improvement Districts and local, regional and state government entities to apply. Publicly owned airports also are eligible for GTIB's low-interest loans and grants to build airport infrastructure, including hangars.

"These awards are on top of the historic funding we've put toward local transportation projects in recent years, and today's announcement further represents our commitment to investing in high-quality infrastructure, including in our rural areas," Kemp, who serves as chairman of the SRTA Board, said. "We're taking a long-term

view with this funding, which is why for the first time GTIB is extending awards to two regional airports to construct multiple hangars, supporting business aviation and driving economic activity."

GTIB provides strategic state investments that improve mobility, safety and economic opportunity in communities across Georgia. Through low-interest loans and grants, GTIB supports critical transportation infrastructure improvements that improve mobility, strengthen local economies and accelerate project delivery across Georgia.

Since its inception in 2010, GTIB has provided \$272 million in loans and grants, supporting transportation infrastructure improvement projects valued at more than \$1.3 billion statewide. Now entering its 14th round of investments, the GTIB program continues to be a catalyst for infrastructure improvements by reducing funding gaps and accelerating project delivery by an average of five years.

FY 2026 applications were evaluated through a competitive process based on transportation benefits, engineering merit, economic value, matching funds, project readiness and overall feasibility. Loan applications are also reviewed for creditworthiness. An advisory committee representing state agencies and statewide associations evaluated SRTA staff recommendations and provided final recommendations to the SRTA Board. GTIB funds may be used for capital improvements only.



File Photo

State officials have announced more than \$26 million in loans and grants for road improvement projects, including roadways in Albany and Terrell and Worth counties.

The FY 2027 application window will remain open through Aug. 21. Eligible submissions include roadway projects such as bicycle, pedestrian and traffic control infrastructure, as well as airport hangar projects. Full program details and application materials are available at [www.srta.ga.gov/gtib](http://www.srta.ga.gov/gtib).

Among the Fiscal Year 2026 awardees, project descriptions, and funding amounts are:

### ROAD PROJECTS

**Albany-Westover CID Westover Triangle:** This project will upgrade traffic signal equipment and pedestrian facilities at the intersection of Old Dawson Road and North Westover Boulevard, the third phase of the broader Westover Triangle effort. Focused on improving safety and traffic flow in an area that has seen 12 recent crashes involving injuries, the project delivers modernized signals and safer pedestrian

connections in one of Albany's busiest commercial districts.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$1,100,000

**Brantley County-Little Buffalo Creek Bridge Replacement:** This project will replace the existing Little Buffalo Creek Road bridge, a critical link for residents, farm operations, school buses and emergency responders in rural Brantley County. The replacement includes raising the structure and realigning approximately 300 feet of roadway on each approach, improving safety, reliability and long-term access for the surrounding community.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$600,000

**City of Buena Vista-Tyson Road Repair:**

This project will repair the southbound lane of Tyson Road by installing new curb and gutter and upgraded drainage infrastructure to redirect storm-

water runoff. Once complete, the project will allow the lane to re-open, restoring safe, reliable and unobstructed travel along a key route serving school traffic.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$134,878

**City of Hoboken-Highway 82 Sidewalk Reconstruction:** This project will replace sidewalks along Main Street/SR 82 to improve pedestrian safety and strengthen connectivity within the city. GTIB funding accelerates the project by nearly four years, allowing the community to benefit from improved access to the downtown area sooner while reducing overall project costs.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$500,000

**Stewart County-Carters Spur Road Widening & Resurfacing Project:**

This project will widen and resurface 4.3 miles of the existing Carters Spur Road from SR 520 to Trotman Road. The current two-lane roadway will be widened from 18 feet wide to 22 feet wide to meet modern roadway design standards, improving truck traffic safety for local agricultural and industrial operations.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$1,750,514

**Terrell County-GTIB & LMG Road Resurfacing Improvements:**

This project will resurface Callis Road, Cemetery Road

and Pleasant Hill Road for a combined distance of just over nine miles. By accelerating the work by three years, GTIB funding reduces project costs and allows the county to deliver important roadway improvements sooner.

**GTIB Loan Award:** \$713,757

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$1,740,718

**Town of Iron City-Broad & Dunham Phase II:**

This project will resurface portions of Broad Street and Dunham Street. Broad Street will be resurfaced from Church Street west to its dead end and from Williams Street east to the city limits. Dunham Street will be resurfaced from Robinson Street east to the city limits and from Appomattox Street west to the city limits.

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$733,125

**Worth County-PT Salter Road Transportation Connector:**

This project will widen and pave two miles of PT Salter Road, which is currently a dirt road, from SR 33 to SR 256. The improvements will create a safer and more reliable route for the traveling public, including emergency response vehicles.

**GTIB Loan Award:** \$240,000

**GTIB Grant Award:** \$412,000

For more information about the GTIB program, visit [www.srta.ga.gov/gtib](http://www.srta.ga.gov/gtib).



Special logo

## Albany State Yellow Ribbon Program approved by Department of Veterans Affairs

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany State University has announced that its Yellow Ribbon Program agreement has been approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The agreement will take effect for the 2026–2027 academic year, beginning Aug. 1 and continuing through July 31, 2027.

This initiative was led by Chassidy Jackson, the interim director of the Office of Military and Adult Education.

The program will be visible on the VA GI Bill Comparison Tool beginning in July, providing eligible veterans, service members, and military family members with enhanced educational benefits and financial support. Albany State will ensure funds are contributed to help cover tuition and fees not fully covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill, along with comprehensive support and resources to ensure military-connected students can focus on their academic success without financial barriers.

ASU serves a growing population of military-connected students, with enrollment steadily increasing in recent years. The university currently supports nearly 600 military-affiliated students, including veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard, Reservists, military spouses, and dependents, reflecting its continued commitment to access, flexibility and student success.

"This approval reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting military, veterans, and military family members and dependents as they pursue their educational goals at Albany State University," ASU Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Jarrod Benjamin said. "As a military vet-

eran myself, I understand first-hand the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve our country.

"Through the Yellow Ribbon Program, we are honored to help our military-connected students transition successfully into civilian life while earning their degrees and building their futures."

Albany State provides a comprehensive network of support services tailored specifically for military-connected students. These include a dedicated military success coordinator, priority registration, and specialized military and veteran support services. The university accepts VA and Department of Defense education benefits, offers credit for military training and exams such as CLEP and DSST, and provides VA work-study opportunities.

Eligible students may also qualify for in-state tuition, further reducing the cost of attendance.

To foster a supportive and informed campus environment, ASU features Green Zone-trained faculty and staff and hosts an active Student Veterans of America chapter. Conveniently located just minutes from Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany, the university is well-positioned to serve active-duty personnel, reservists and military families. Flexible learning options, including extensive online programs, allow students to continue their education while managing deployments, relocations and professional responsibilities.

For more information about the Yellow Ribbon Program at ASU, eligibility requirements, and how it benefits veterans, service members, and their families, visit [www.asurams.edu/military](http://www.asurams.edu/military) or contact the Office of Military and Adult Education at [veterans@asurams.edu](mailto:veterans@asurams.edu).

## Phoebe Sumter earns Level III Emergency Cardiac Care Center designation

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Phoebe Sumter Medical Center has been officially designated as a Level III Emergency Cardiac Care Center by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma. The designation recognizes the hospital's commitment to delivering high-quality, life-saving cardiac care and is valid for three years.

"This designation reflects the dedication of our physicians, nurses and care teams who work around the clock to provide exceptional cardiac care for our community," Phoebe Sumter President Carlyle Walton said. "We are proud to be part of Georgia's coordinated effort to improve outcomes for patients experi-

encing heart attacks and other cardiac emergencies."

Phoebe Sumter joins a dozen other Level III Emergency Cardiac Care Centers in Georgia that are equipped to provide rapid assessment, stabilization and treatment for cardiac patients until they can be safely transferred to a higher-level center if they need more advanced care. The designation confirms that Phoebe Sumter is an essential link in the state's system designed to increase survival rates and improve patient outcomes in cardiac emergencies.

"As a designated Emergency Cardiac Care Center, Phoebe Sumter Medical Center has become an integral part of a statewide system focused on protecting and improving lives," Department of Public



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center has been officially designated as a Level III Emergency Cardiac Care Center by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Health officials noted in a designation letter.

"Phoebe Sumter remains committed to advancing cardiac care services, investing in clinical excellence, and ensuring quality, advanced care for patients across Sumter County and surrounding communities," Walton added.

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany is a Level I Emergency Cardiac Care Cen-

ter — the highest designation — indicating that it provides the most comprehensive cardiac services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including open-heart surgery and interventional cardiac catheterizations.

PPMH and Phoebe Sumter work closely to coordinate patient transfers when appropriate to ensure patients get the highest level of cardiac care quickly.

## Georgia Southwestern earns national recognition for preparing future elementary teachers in reading

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — The undergraduate elementary teacher preparation program at Georgia Southwestern State University has earned an A+ from the National Council on Teacher Quality for how well the program prepares future teachers to teach reading to elementary students.

• Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Elementary Education with Certification: A+

The report, Teacher Prep Review: Decoding Progress in Reading Preparation, published on June 9, spotlights GSW for meeting the standards set by literacy experts for coverage of the most effective methods of reading instruction. Specifically, this means the program is preparing aspiring teachers in all five components of scientifically based reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary, and avoids many instructional practices that research has shown to be ineffective or counterproductive for teaching children to read.

"We are committed to preparing educators to enter the classroom equipped with the

knowledge, skills and confidence to help every child succeed," Rachel Abbott, GSW provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said. "This recognition from NCTQ affirms the outstanding work of our faculty and the strength of our Elementary Education program in aligning teacher preparation with evidence-based literacy instruction. Reading is the foundation for all learning, and we are proud to prepare future teachers who will make a lasting impact on students, families and communities across Georgia and beyond."

A child's ability to read proficiently in the early grades shapes everything that comes next in school and in life, yet according to NAEP data, four in 10 fourth-graders in Georgia cannot read at a basic level. Teacher preparation is one of the most direct levers available to change that — but only if it is aligned to the research-based instructional methods that have been proven to help most students become successful readers.

Georgia Southwestern is part of a growing group of teacher preparation programs nationwide helping transform how future teachers are trained to teach reading. Teacher candidates in the el-



Special Photo: GSW

The undergraduate elementary teacher preparation program at Georgia Southwestern State University has earned an A+ from the National Council on Teacher Quality for how well the program prepares future teachers to teach reading to elementary students.

mentary education teacher preparation program take four courses specifically focused on literacy: Early Literacy, Intermediate Literacy, Literacy Assessment and Instruction, and Literature for Children. Candidates are prepared through coursework, field experiences, and clinical practice emphasizing evidence-based literacy practices.

"Every child deserves a teacher who has been well-prepared to teach reading, and every teacher deserves the opportunity to enter the classroom ready to help students succeed," NCTQ President Heather Peske said. "Across the country, many teacher preparation programs still do not fully align with the science of reading, but Georgia Southwestern State University is demonstrating what strong preparation can look like."

NCTQ's methodology is in-

formed by a panel of reading experts, teacher preparation faculty, reading advocates and measurement experts. To evaluate the quality of preparation being provided, a team of experts at NCTQ analyzed syllabi, including lecture schedules and topics, background reading materials, class assignments, and opportunities to practice instruction in required literacy courses for elementary teacher candidates at Georgia Southwestern.

To earn an "A," programs needed to demonstrate that coursework for future elementary teachers includes all five core components of scientifically based reading instruction and avoid teaching more than three instructional methods that are unsupported by the research on effective reading instruction.

## Miracle in the Garden

### New York stuns Spurs with historic comeback

**Jerry Beach**  
Field Level Media

**NEW YORK** — Mike Brown walked to the podium inside Madison Square Garden just before midnight on Wednesday, sat down and let out an exhausted sigh.

“Uhh, that was a good win by our guys, obviously,” the New York Knicks coach said.

It was a lot more than that, and now the Knicks are one win away from a goal more than five decades in the making.

OG Anunoby’s tip-in with 1.2 seconds left capped the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history, as New York overcame a 29-point deficit

to stun the San Antonio Spurs 107-106 in Game 4.

The Knicks, who trailed 81-52 in the third quarter, lead the best-of-seven series 3-1. They can clinch their first title since 1973 on Saturday night, when Game 5 will be played in San Antonio.

“Felt cool — I mean, everyone’s pretty excited, I’m excited too,” the normally poker-faced Anunoby said before breaking into a rare grin. “We’re all excited. We’re enjoying it right now, but we’re just focused on the next game now.”

The Knicks ended the game on a 55-25 run after Victor

Wembanyama was whistled for a flagrant-1 foul on Karl-Anthony Towns with 9:27 left in the third. New York shot 52.6% (20-for-38) following the foul while holding the Spurs to 17.1% shooting (6-for-35), including 4-for-19 (21.1%) in the fourth quarter.

“To put as much good work into that first half as we did, get the lead that we had and not finish the job is disappointing to say the least,” Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said.

Jalen Brunson, the symbol of the Knicks’ stoicism, was asked if the Wembanyama foul sparked him and his teammates.

“Not necessarily, no,” Brunson said.

Earlier in his press conference, Brunson invoked a baseball analogy to describe the Knicks’ approach.

“We need to hit singles, get on base and make plays from there,” Brunson said.

New York scored 13 unanswered points after the Wembanyama flagrant foul and trailed 90-75 at the end of the third. The Knicks didn’t score on their first four possessions in the fourth as the Spurs extended the advantage to 95-75.

A 3-pointer by Jose Alvarado that rolled around the rim



Special Photo: Vincent Carchietta-Imagn Images

New York’s OG Anunoby battles San Antonio’s Dylan Harper during Game 4 of the NBA Finals. Anunoby’s late tip-in lifted the Knicks to a 107-106 win and a 3-1 series lead.

sparked the stunning final rally for New York. Consecutive 3-pointers by Alvarado and Jalen Brunson pulled the Knicks within 104-103 with

2:21 left. The Spurs turned the ball over, but Josh Hart missed a layup, after which Wembanyama missed two

See **MIRACLE**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County’s Trey Bush prepares to shoot during Tuesday’s big win over Valdosta (2) during Summer basketball workouts in Leesburg.

### Lee County outruns Valdosta (2), 65-33

**By Joe Whitfield**  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — Lee County basketball coach Kirven Davis knew his team would face growing pains this summer.

After all, the Trojans entered June having lost four starters from last season’s squad.

Two graduated. Two moved away.

Yet if Tuesday’s performance was any indication, the rebuilding process may be ahead of schedule.

Lee County overwhelmed Valdosta (2) 65-33 during a summer basketball workout at Lee County High School, using relentless defense and transition offense to turn what appeared on paper to be a challenging matchup into a lopsided victory.

“Surprisingly, we are getting better,” Davis said. “Today was good. Our young, inexperienced guys are being forced to grow up fast.”

The Trojans wasted little time showing that growth.

Lee County’s pressure defense created problems for the Wildcats from the opening tip, forcing turnovers and converting them into easy baskets. The Trojans raced to a 13-3 lead and never looked back.

By halftime, Lee County had stretched the advantage to 43-13.

The Wildcats struggled to handle the Trojans’ defensive intensity, and whenever Lee County forced a turnover, the Trojans seemed to beat Valdosta down the floor for another transition basket.

What impressed Da-

vis most wasn’t an individual performance.

It was the collective effort.

“No one person stood out,” Davis said. “We are trying to get a full buy-in from everyone.”

That approach is especially important this season.

Lee County is replacing a significant amount of production from last year’s team. The Trojans graduated point guard TJ Williams and power forward Trecori Green. They also lost 6-foot-6 forward Kaiden Newberry and guard Ashton McKinney, who both moved away.

Those departures left major holes in the lineup and forced younger players into expanded roles.

“We had two starters that moved away — 6-foot-6 Kaiden Newberry and 5-foot-10 Ashton McKinney,” Davis said. “That is forcing us to step up in all areas.”

The responsibility now falls largely on senior leaders Josiah Franklin, Jashawn Maddox and Tremayne Johnson.

Davis said the trio has embraced the challenge of guiding a roster that is still finding its identity.

“Josiah Franklin, Jashawn Maddox and Tremayne Johnson are our senior leaders, and they are filling huge shoes,” Davis said.

Tuesday’s performance suggested the Trojans are beginning to understand what Davis expects.

The defensive effort was consistent. The ball moved well offensively. Most importantly, Lee

See **LEE**, 10A

### Westover star commits to Louisville

**By Joe Whitfield**  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — Westover offensive lineman Kyson Mallard kept everyone guessing until the very end.

With family, teammates, coaches and classmates gathered Tuesday to watch one of Southwest Georgia’s most highly recruited football players make his college decision, the 6-foot-7, 325-pound lineman methodically worked through the suspense.

Three shirts sat on the table in front of him — Louisville, Georgia Tech and Pitt.

After thanking his coaches, parents, family members and teammates, Mallard stood and picked up the Georgia Tech shirt. He held it briefly before dropping it back onto the table.

Next came Pitt.

Again, he dropped the shirt as the crowd reacted.

Then he picked up the Louisville shirt.

Moments later, he dropped that one, too.

As the room erupted in confusion, Mallard turned around, opened his jacket and revealed the Louisville shirt he had been wearing all along.

Decision made.

The three-star recruit announced he will continue his football career with the Louisville Cardinals, choosing the ACC program over 22 other scholarship offers.

“It felt like home to me,” Mallard said. “It just felt right.”

For Mallard, the moment represented the culmination of a recruiting journey that began years ago.

Rated as the No. 47 interior



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Westover offensive lineman Kyson Mallard sits in the middle of his family wearing Louisville attire after committing to play college football for the Cardinals during a ceremony Tuesday at Westover High School.

offensive lineman in the nation, Mallard has been attracting college attention since his freshman season at Westover. His combination of size, strength and athleticism quickly made him one of the state’s top prospects, and before the start of his junior year he verbally committed to Georgia. Then adversity struck.

Mallard suffered a major ACL injury and was limited to just one game during his junior season, temporarily putting his football future on hold.

Rather than allowing the injury to define him, Mallard focused on rehabilitation and recovery.

Now, with his college decision behind him, he has his sights set on returning to full strength for his senior season.

He said Tuesday he continues to work through the final stages of recovery and expects to be cleared for full activity in July as the Patriots prepare for the upcoming season.

Westover coach Corey Joyner said Mallard’s success is the result of years of hard work both on the field and in the classroom.

“Kyson put himself in this position,” Joyner said. “He works hard every day when he is on the field and he works hard in his academics. He had lots of

options as one of the top offensive linemen in the country.”

Joyner also pointed to a familiar local connection that helped make Louisville an attractive destination.

The Cardinals’ wide receivers coach is former Monroe High School standout Deion Branch, one of Albany’s most accomplished football products.

Branch starred at Louisville before enjoying a successful NFL career that included a Super Bowl MVP performance for the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXIX. He caught 11 passes for 133 yards in the

See **STAR** 10A

### Braves place Acuna on injured list

Field Level Media

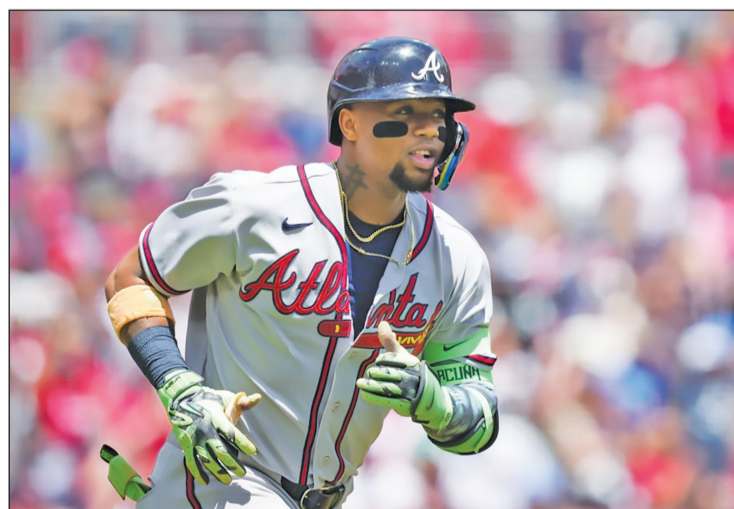
The Atlanta Braves placed outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. on the 10-day injured list Wednesday after he departed Tuesday’s game against the Chicago White Sox with hamstring tightness.

An MRI exam Wednesday revealed that Acuna has a left hamstring strain.

In corresponding moves, the Braves selected the contract of first baseman Rowdy Tellez from Triple-A Gwinnett, while right-hander Jhancarlos Lara was designated for assignment to open a 40-man roster spot for Tellez.

The Braves also selected the contract of right-hander James Karinchak and recalled right-hander JR Ritchie, while right-hander Carlos Carrasco was designated for assignment and right-hander Tyler Kinley (elbow) was placed on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Monday.

Acuna, the 2018 National League Rookie of the Year and 2023 NL MVP, missed 14 games earlier this season due to a hamstring strain while similarly trying to leg out an infield hit. He saw his 2021 and



Special Photo: Aaron Doster-Imagn Images

Atlanta Braves star Ronald Acuna Jr., a former National League MVP, was placed on the 10-day injured list Wednesday after an MRI revealed a left hamstring strain.

2024 seasons end prematurely due to torn ACLs.

The five-time All-Star is hitting .251 with seven homers and 22 RBIs in 53 games. He is a career .287 hitter with 193 homers and 481 RBIs over 870 games across nine seasons with Atlanta.

Ellez, 31, is poised to make his Braves debut. He was batting .259 with eight

home runs and 33 RBIs in 49 games at Triple-A. In eight major league seasons with five different clubs, Tellez is a career .234 hitter with 122 home runs and 368 RBIs in 776 games.

Karinchak, 30, has pitched in the major leagues since 2023. He was 2-2 with a 2.45 ERA in 21 relief appearances at Gwinnett. In five major league seasons, all with the Cleveland Guardians, he was 12-11 with a 3.10 ERA in 174 relief outings.

Carrasco, 39, was designated for assignment by the Braves for the fifth time since

August as the club gets around the veteran’s lack of minor league options. He has a 3.00 ERA in five major league outings for the Braves this season.

Ritchie, 22, made his major league debut April 23 and is 1-1 with a 4.56 ERA in five outings for the Braves this season. Kinley, 35, is 4-2 with a 3.18 ERA in 31 relief outings for Atlanta this season.

# Lionel Messi, Argentina beat Iceland at Auburn University

## Field Level Media

Lionel Messi came off the bench and converted a penalty in Argentina's final World Cup tune-up friendly Tuesday, a 3-0 defeat of Iceland at Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Subbing in during the 70th minute, Messi set up a penalty kick with his first touch of the match, passing a throughball to Lautaro Martinez, who Iceland goalkeeper Elias Olafsson took out.

In the 72nd minute, Messi buried the PK into the roof of the net, doubling Argentina's lead to 2-0 on the 117th international goal of his career.

Messi, 38, missed Argentina's first friendly against Honduras on Saturday as he continued his recovery from left hamstring soreness which forced him to prematurely exit Inter Miami's final match

before the World Cup break on May 24.

With his World Cup status seemingly certain, Messi is set to simultaneously set a record this month alongside Cristiano Ronaldo when he appears in his sixth career World Cup.

No one has played in more World Cup matches than Messi, who has appeared in 26, one more than Germany's Lothar Matthaus. Messi's 13 career World Cup goals are tied for fourth-most, three behind German record-holder Miroslav Klose (16).

Valentin Barco (eighth minute) and Thiago Almeda (86th) also scored for Argentina, who outscored their opponents 5-0 in the final tune-up matches entering their World Cup title defense.

Argentina's Group J schedule at the upcoming World



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Superstar Lionel Messi celebrates with teammates after scoring as a substitute during Argentina's 3-2 win over Iceland on Tuesday at Auburn University. The final World Cup tune-up drew a record crowd of more than 88,000, the largest ever to attend a soccer match in Alabama.

Cup features matches against June 22 at Arlington, Texas, Algeria on June 16 in Kansas City, Mo.; against Austria on June 27 at Arlington.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia Tech's Vahn Lackey races around the bases during the Yellow Jackets' run to the College World Series. Lackey was honored Tuesday with the Johnny Bench Award as college baseball's top catcher.

## Georgia Tech's Lackey wins Johnny Bench award

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

**THE FLATS** — Junior catcher Vahn Lackey has been named the 2026 Johnny Bench Award winner for the best collegiate catcher in Division I, the Cincinnati Reds announced today. Lackey, the Atlantic Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year, was the most feared catcher in college baseball this season, consistently getting runners out on the base paths, either by catching them stealing or with back-picks, while also becoming one of the best hitters in the nation.

Georgia Tech becomes the first program with three Johnny Bench Award winners as Lackey joins Joey Bart (2018) and Kevin Parada (2022) on the all-time list. The Yellow Jackets are one of three programs with multiple award winners, along with Florida State and Southern California, and the only one with more than two.

Lackey delivered an incredible 2026 season, slashing .397 avg / .519 OBP / .772 slug. over 61 games with 20 home runs, 78 RBI and 85 runs scored. He is second in the nation with a 5.66 WAR and his 1.39 runs-per-game were the most in Power 4. His .397 average is the highest among Division I catchers this season and his 1.291 OPS is Top 10 in the country as he rocketed up draft boards to become the most coveted catcher in the draft class.

He led the most potent offense in the BBCOR era in runs scored (85), slugging % (.772), on-base (.519) and walks (50) while stealing 15 bases for the second year in a row. Lackey's 85 runs scored this season are the sixth most in program history and the most by any Yellow Jacket since 2000 while driving in 78 RBI, the 12th most in a single season. His .772 slugging is tied with Mark Teixeira (2000) for the second highest slugging percentage of any Yellow Jacket this century, behind only Drew Burress' freshman season (.821).

Behind the dish, Lackey is the most feared arm in college baseball, catching six attempted base stealers and catching five more with back picks. Teams don't test Lackey often in the run game, only attempting to steal in the most optimal of times against him, due to his reputation. Defensively, Lackey helped guide the GT pitching staff to the ACC ERA title this season with a 4.36 ERA, the lowest in the conference during league games.

## Albany State's Kelly helps lead national discussion

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** — As college athletics continues to navigate one of the most transformative periods in its history, Albany State University Athletic Director Kristene Kelly is helping lead the conversation on a national stage.

Kelly was one of four Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference administrators selected to serve in leadership roles during the 61st Annual National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and Affiliates Convention, which concluded this week in Las Vegas.

The convention, held June 7-10 at the Mandalay Bay Resort, is the largest gathering of intercollegiate athletics administrators in the country and focuses on the most pressing issues facing college athletics.

Kelly, who has led Albany State athletics since July 2023, served as moderator for a featured session hosted by the

Women of Color Athletic Administrators Network titled "Built for the Build: Women of Color Leading Through Transformation."

The panel featured discussions on leadership, overcoming challenges and building successful programs in environments where resources are often limited and expectations remain high.

"I am honored to moderate this discussion because the stories represented on this panel reflect the experiences of many women of color in athletics," Kelly said. "We have often been asked to lead, build and transform in environments where resources are limited and expectations are high. Throughout my career, I have learned that leadership is about having the courage to create what is possible, and I look forward to learning from these incredible women and sharing their insights with others."

A native of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Kelly brings

more than two decades of experience across all three NCAA divisions. Since arriving at Albany State, she has focused on facility improvements, resource development and strengthening opportunities for student-athletes while fostering a culture centered on excellence and integrity.

Kelly was joined at the convention by three other SIAC administrators who were recognized for their contributions to collegiate athletics.

Tuskegee University Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletic Director Reginald Ruffin received one of the highest honors presented during the convention, earning the 2025-26 NACDA Athletics Director of the Year Award.

Ruffin was one of just 28 athletic directors nationwide selected for the award and one of only four recipients from NCAA Division II institutions. He was also the lone honoree representing a Historically Black College



Kristene Kelly

and University.

"Receiving the NACDA Division II Athletics Director of the Year Award is truly a humbling honor," Ruffin said. "While my name may be on the award, this recognition belongs to Tuskegee University, our student-athletes, coaches, staff, administration, Board of Trustees, alumni and supporters who believe in our vision."

Clark Atlanta University's Joseph Arnold also represented the SIAC as a featured speaker during two National Association for Athletics Compliance sessions. Arnold, the school's deputy athletic director for compliance and sports administration, spoke on supporting coaches through transitions and addressing student-athlete mental health at smaller institutions.

"Having the opportunity to speak to peers and colleagues, grounded in your own perspective and experiences, especially in this rapidly changing landscape, is always a moment for reflection," Arnold said.

Allen University's Deslyn Haywood was honored as one of two recipients nationally of the 2026 NAAC Rising Star Award, which recognizes emerging leaders in athletics compliance.

Haywood played a key role in Allen's transition from the NAIA to NCAA Division II while overseeing eligibility, financial aid monitoring and student-athlete welfare initiatives.

The SIAC praised all four administrators for representing the conference on a national level and showcasing the leadership present throughout the league.

For Albany State, Kelly's participation highlighted the growing influence of the Golden Rams beyond competition fields and courts.

As college athletics faces challenges ranging from NIL regulations and transfer portal issues to student-athlete welfare and leadership development, Kelly and her peers are helping shape the conversations that will influence the future of collegiate sports.

### From 9A

## MIRACLE

free throws.

Brunson then hit a floater to give the Knicks their first lead of the game with 1:22 left. The teams traded turnovers, after which Stephon Castle hit two free throws to put the Spurs up 106-105 with 30.3 seconds left.

After Brunson failed to hit a short shot, Anunoby blocked De'Aaron Fox's layup attempt, setting up an inbounds play with 5.7 seconds left. Brunson missed a long 3-point attempt, but Anunoby, who was at the 3-point arc across the floor from Brunson, swooped into the paint, outleaped Dylan Harper and tapped the ball home as the sellout crowd roared.

"I don't know if there was a play bigger than (that) in the history of Knicks basketball," Brown said.

Towns, 7 inches taller than Harper, guarded the latter on the ensuing inbounds pass. Harper threw the ball over Wembanyama's head, and Castle, surrounded by Mitchell Robinson and Josh Hart, couldn't corral the ball or get a shot off as time expired.

"We, from the mud, found a way to get it done," Towns said. "As anyone who lives in New York knows, if you want to make it in this city, you have to be OK getting out of the mud. And we did that tonight."

The Knicks flooded the floor as a KNICKS WIN graphic flashed atop the scoreboard. "Just happy that we found a way to come away with a win," Brunson said. "But just there's nothing — there's nothing to celebrate. It's not over yet, not even close."

Brunson finished with 36 points, seven assists and five rebounds. Anunoby had 33 points and four rebounds

after a pregame pep talk from Brown.

"I told OG — as big, as strong, as athletic as he is — he's got to be a monster on the offensive glass tonight," Brown said. "He took on the challenge and he went and won the game for us doing exactly what I called him out for during shootaround today."

Towns added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Wembanyama finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds. Harper scored 21 points off the bench for the Spurs, while Devin Vassell and Fox had 18 points each. Castle contributed 13 points.

Wembanyama (13 points) and Vassell (12) combined for 25 points during the first quarter, when the Spurs shot a blistering 65.2% — and held the Knicks to 29.4% shooting — to take a 41-22 lead.

The Spurs kept the Knicks at bay in the second, and San Antonio led by as many as 29 before ending the half with a 76-49 edge.

Now San Antonio must try to match the 2016 Cleveland Cavaliers, the only team to overcome a 3-1 series deficit and win the NBA Finals.

"I think it's going to go one of two ways," Wembanyama said. "The bad one would be giving up. The good one would be getting stronger through this, getting more together. I know this is what we're going to do."

perienced, but they are gaining confidence with every workout.

And on Tuesday, they looked nothing like a team replacing four starters.

The summer showcase continued Wednesday with games being played at both Lee County High School and Monroe High School as area teams continued preparations for the upcoming season.

### From 9A

## LEE

County played with energy from start to finish despite holding a commanding lead throughout the second half.

Summer basketball results often matter less than development, but Davis has liked what he has seen from his team in recent weeks.

The Trojans may be inex-



# EARTHWEEK

## Diary of a Changing World

By Steve Newman

### Plastic Warming

Airborne plastic particles may be contributing to global warming by absorbing sunlight and trapping heat in the atmosphere, according to a new study published in *Nature Climate Change*.

Researchers found that colored microplastics absorb far more solar energy than previously believed, with darker particles having the strongest warming effects.

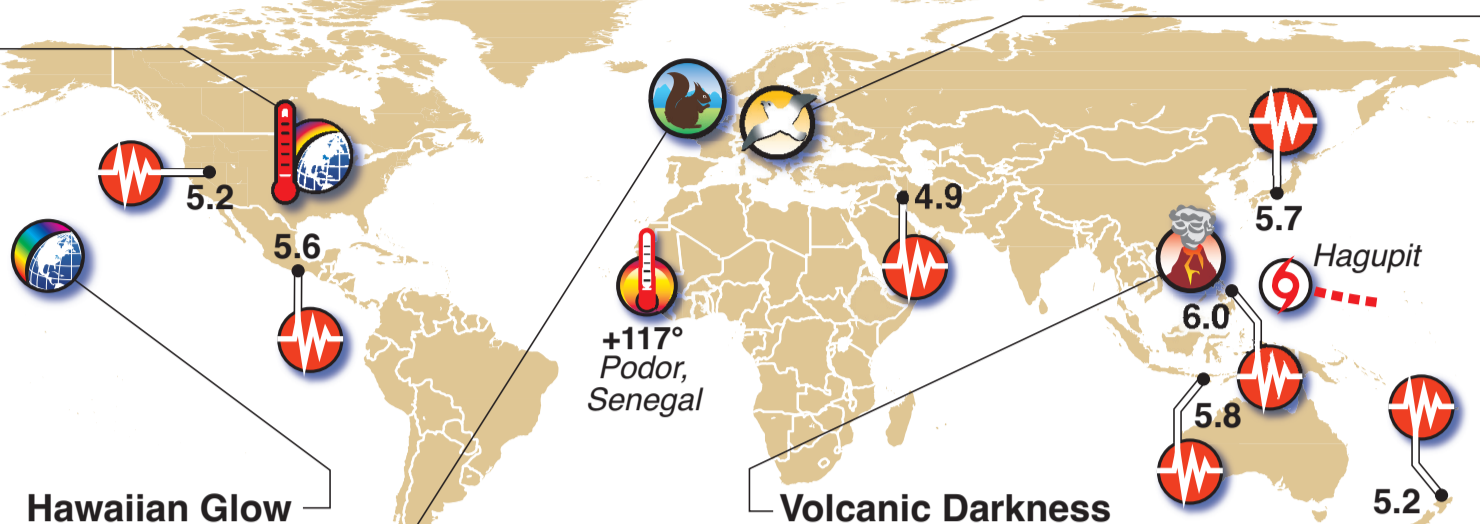
The study estimates that atmospheric microplastics could produce about one-sixth of the warming impact already caused by soot.

Scientists say the tiny particles originate from the breakdown of plastic waste, including packaging, clothing and vehicle tires, before being carried around the globe by wind.

### Earthquakes

A sharp tremor in the Philippines' Eastern Samar province caused scattered damage.

• Earth movements were also felt in islands near Bali, New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, Japan's Nara prefecture, the Iran-Iraq border region, Mexico's Oaxaca state and western Nevada.



### Hawaiian Glow

Cameras pointed toward Hawaii's sunset skies in late April recorded strange green bands caused by a rare atmospheric phenomenon usually hidden from human sight.

Not aurora, the shimmering bands over the Pacific baffled officials before scientists traced the display to a rare atmospheric glow produced high above Earth.

Known as airglow, the phenomenon occurs when oxygen atoms energized by solar radiation slowly release that energy back into the atmosphere as faint green light.

Normally imperceptible to people below, the glow becomes visible through sensitive cameras capable of capturing light too dim for human eyes to see.

### Vanishing Reds

One of Britain's most familiar woodland creatures may be slipping quietly toward extinction in England.

Conservation groups warn that native red squirrels now survive only in scattered northern strongholds after decades of pressure from invasive gray squirrels, introduced from North America in the late 1800s.

Once common across Britain, the reds have steadily retreated as gray squirrels spread squirrelpox, a virus lethal to reds but harmless to the invaders themselves.

Recommended solutions include controlling the gray population and developing a squirrelpox vaccine.

### Volcanic Darkness

A sudden blast of ash from Mayon volcano shrouded towns in darkness and forced evacuations in the central Philippines, though no injuries were reported.

The ash cloud was triggered by a collapse of lava deposits that sent a fast-moving pyroclastic flow down the volcano's slopes, spreading ash across dozens of villages and farms.

The thick ash reduced visibility to near zero and damaged crops and livestock.



Britain's King Charles III supports a charity attempting to save England's endangered native red squirrels. Photo: Save Our Reds

### Bird Bias

Urban birds in Europe appear to flee sooner when approached by women than by men, according to a new study that has left researchers without an explanation.

Scientists measured how close a person could get before birds flew away, using more than 2,700 observations of 37 species in cities across five countries.

Writing in the journal *People and Nature*, researchers said that on average, birds took flight about 3 feet earlier when approached by women, even after they accounted for bird species, habitat and flock size, as well as human height and clothing.

The study's authors say birds may be responding to subtle differences in movement, body shape, scent or other cues, but the cause remains unknown.

### Pacific Cyclone

Tropical Storm Hagupit formed near the Federated States of Micronesia and was predicted to skirt the remote island group of Yap with winds of around 60 mph late in the week.

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## Lamar County man faces life in prison for armed drug distribution

### Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — A Lamar County resident set for trial this week admitted that he possessed firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking at a plea hearing and is facing up to life in prison for his crime.

Gregory Alexander Twymon, 35, of Barnesville, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime before U.S. District Judge C Ashley Royal. Twymon faces a mandatory minimum of five years up to a maximum of life in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release and a



Special Logo

\$250,000 fine. A sentencing date will be determined by the court. There is no parole in the federal system.

"Armed drug traffickers will be brought to justice in the Middle District of Georgia," U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said.

"We thank the Lamar County Sheriff's Office and ATF for helping us hold the defendant accountable and for their ongoing work to uphold the law and make our communities safer for everyone."

"This conviction reflects the hard work and dedication of our investigators, prosecutors, and law enforcement partners who worked tirelessly to hold this offender accountable," Lamar County Sheriff Brad White said. "Illegal drug activity threatens the safety and well-being of our communities, and we remain committed to identifying, investigating and prosecuting those who choose to engage in the distribution

of dangerous narcotics. We hope this outcome sends a clear message that drug trafficking will not be tolerated, and those responsible will be brought to justice."

According to court documents and statements referenced in court, Lamar County Sheriff's Office deputies executed a lawful search of Twymon's Barnesville apartment. Officers located two safes in his bedroom, two cellphones, cash, digital scales and marijuana. Inside the safes, officers found approximately 49 grams of 100% pure methamphetamine, 25 homemade methamphetamine pills, a 9mm pistol with an obliterated serial

number, a .25 ACP pistol, a loaded extended magazine that appeared to have been made from two magazines, and ammunition.

Twymon was being transported to another jail facility when he asked to speak to a detective before leaving. Twymon told the detective that the bulk of the methamphetamine he picks up from a supplier is gone as soon as he gets home, that he only keeps what he wants of the methamphetamine, and that he took the guns from a guy and put them in his safe to keep them off the streets.

A review of Twymon's cellphones contained proof that

he was actively purchasing and distributing methamphetamine, detailed his purchase of the 9mm pistol with the obliterated serial number, and contained text messages about repairing the .25 ACP pistol after it was damaged by a cousin of Twymon's. Twymon now admits that the firearms were in his possession for personal protection and the protection of the methamphetamine.

The ATF and the Lamar County Sheriff's Office are investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Julius Jefferson and Tamara Jarrett are prosecuting the case for the government.

## From 2A LAND

categories.

According to McCormick, residential properties are projected to see an overall gross increase of approximately 6%. Commercial and industrial properties are expected to increase by roughly 20%, while agricultural land values could rise by as much as 83%.

McCormick said much of the agricultural increase is tied to properties enrolled in Georgia's Conservation Use Value Assessment program, which provides preferential tax treatment for qualifying agricultural land. Under Georgia's CUA program, agricultural, forest, and environmentally sensitive lands are taxed based on their productivity rather than fair market value.

The reassessment notices are expected to be mailed by June 19, pending scheduling by the county's printing vendor.

Once notices are mailed, property owners will have an opportunity to re-

view their assessments and appeal values if they believe they are inaccurate.

The update comes as county officials continue efforts to restore confidence in the property tax process following the rollback rate calculation error that led to widespread scrutiny of the county's tax digest procedures.

Earlier this year, Lee County leaders and the Tax Commissioner's Office approved a joint resolution adopting corrected rollback rates after a review conducted under Board of Tax Assessors Chairman Philip Husain identified irregularities in data used during the 2025 tax digest process.

Refund checks began being mailed in June and are being administered by the Lee County Tax Commissioner's Office on behalf of participating local governments.

County officials said the ongoing revaluation effort is intended to ensure property values accurately reflect current market conditions and comply with state assessment standards ahead of preparation of the 2026 tax digest.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Many people are curious about the small machines known as AEDs that can be seen in offices, schools and various public buildings. These devices are lifesaving tools.

AED stands for automated external defibrillator, indicates the American Red Cross. An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It analyzes the heart's rhythm and can deliver an electrical shock (defibrillation), if necessary, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

The device is meant to be user-friendly. Awareness of what an AED is and how to use it could save someone's life. Schools may offer courses on AED use, but certification courses also are available through the Red Cross. Although generally rare, cardiac arrest can occur even in youngsters.

The American Heart Association says there is a higher incidence rate among male basketball and football players compared to other young athletes. Having an AED near sports fields and courts can be crucial for survival.

### 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.

"Y N X J X C X A B N M C X Z R P R M J  
B E I A X D D B R J R L M J S H R P S , B D Z T P S  
Z N X E M J P L B U T A X R T Z Z N X Y M S B J  
Y N B O N B M E Z N X D M E X M D Z N X E ."  
— G M Z X E O G B J J R J

Previous Solution: "I always try to answer genuinely and from the heart. I've never been media-trained, so what you see is what you get." — Naomi Osaka

TODAY'S CLUE: O sjenbe H

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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.

"R B M P V A A M C R J M C C D W V J M Q I W M O  
T I D N N U O Q O V C R D C K E E D I R  
Z B V J O I M W M H M W R T R B M U ' I M O D V W A  
C D N M R B V W A R B Q R V C K W D I R B D O D Y ."  
— R D W U B Q X F

Previous Solution: "Whenever I have to do an impression of anybody, I study them and figure out the way in which I am the same as them." — Kate McKinnon

TODAY'S CLUE: S sjenbe O

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### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Arlington ad valorem taxes for county purposes; and for other purposes.

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Edison ad valorem taxes for city purposes; and for other purposes.

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide a homestead exemption from Calhoun County ad valorem taxes for county purposes; and for other purposes.

## The New Rules of Remodeling

## How to Balance Style, Durability and Cost

FEATURE IMPACT

Homeowners are approaching exterior remodeling with a sharper focus than ever before. Higher material costs, longer project timelines and a growing emphasis on long-term value are reshaping how they make decisions.

The “new rules of remodeling” are clear: Success depends on striking the right balance between style, durability and overall cost of ownership.

Curb appeal still matters, but not at the expense of performance or maintenance demands. Likewise, upfront savings mean little if materials require frequent repair or replacement. The most effective projects begin with thoughtful planning and product selection while keeping an eye on long-term outcomes.

To get a better understanding of these updated guidelines, consider this guidance from the home remodeling experts at Westlake Royal Building Products, a leader in the manufacturing of siding and accessories, trim and moulding, roofing, stone, windows and outdoor living.



Products like TruExterior Lap Siding demonstrate how manufacturers are responding to modern homeowner priorities. Designed to replicate the look of traditional cedar, it delivers the depth and shadow lines associated with classic wood siding, without the vulnerabilities that often come with it.

Its poly-ash composition provides resistance to warping, cracking and splitting while maintaining dimensional stability in varying climates. The material can be installed with standard tools, painted in a wide range of colors and even used in ground-contact applications. These attributes translate to lower maintenance requirements and fewer long-term repair costs.

This combination of aesthetic flexibility and durability directly supports the new remodeling framework. Homeowners no longer need to choose between appearance and performance. They can achieve both while staying within budget.

### Cost and Timing are Still Deciding Factors

Timing and cost efficiency also factor into the equation. Projects that begin with clear planning and reliable materials tend to move more smoothly, avoiding delays tied to redesigns, product substitutions or unexpected maintenance considerations, which can also help keep the project on budget.

Ultimately, the new rules of remodeling are less about tradeoffs and more about alignment. Style, durability and cost are no longer competing priorities. Rather, they are interconnected elements of a successful project.

As the remodeling landscape continues to change, those who approach projects with this balanced mindset will be best positioned to achieve results that look better, last longer and cost less over the long haul. Explore products and design tools to assist with your next project at [westlakeroyalbuildingproducts.com](http://westlakeroyalbuildingproducts.com).

### Planning Takes Precedence

Digital tools are playing a larger role in helping homeowners make informed decisions earlier in the remodeling process. In fact, nearly 30% of homeowners plan to invest more than 10 hours researching before hiring a contractor, highlighting a shift toward more deliberate, front-loaded planning, according to Modernize’s 2025 Homeowner Insights survey. Platforms like Design Canvas reflect this change. The tool allows users to visualize exterior renovations using realistic previews, experiment with materials and color palettes and generate product lists, all before beginning construction.

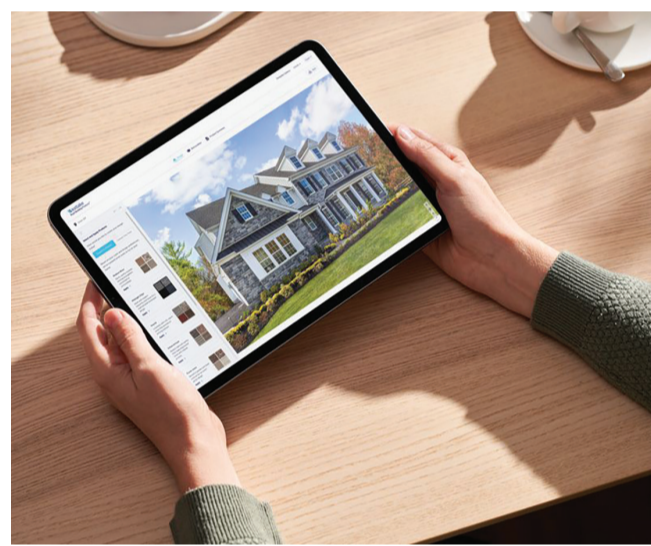
This kind of planning reduces uncertainty and helps avoid costly mid-project changes, which is part of a broader trend: More homeowners are investing significant time toward researching projects upfront to ensure smarter, more efficient execution. Homeowners can now test

design choices, align expectations with budgets and move forward with greater confidence.

“With the launch of our new website and Design Canvas, our goal was to create a seamless and inspiring experience that reflects the innovation and breadth of our product offerings,” said Steve Booz, vice president of marketing at Westlake Royal Building Products. “This is a launch pad where customers can explore everything Westlake Royal has to offer, discover the right products for their next project and bring their visions to life through creativity, education and interactive design.”

### Durability is as Important as Style

Once the homeowner establishes a clear vision, material selection becomes the next critical step. That is particularly true for siding, which plays a central role in both aesthetics and protection.



# Dive In: HOW TO PREP YOUR POOL FOR SUMMER



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

**(Feature Impact)** Summer will be here before you know it, but before you start digging out the bathing suits, beach towels and sunscreen, be sure to take time to prep your pool for the swimming, tanning and splashing to come.

### Deep Clean

Start by giving your pool a good scrub. Remove debris such as leaves, branches, rocks and other items that may have collected over. Then use your cleaner of choice and a hard brush to scour the walls and floor to remove algae, stains and loose dirt.

### Apply an Algaecide

No one wants to swim in green water with slimy surfaces. To prevent algae growth, add an algaecide to the water. These chemical cleaning agents are best used preventatively to keep algae spores from growing and water clear.

### Shock It Up

Shocking a pool is simpler way to describe superchlorination - a process that involves adding a large amount of chlorine to destroy bacteria, algae and other contaminants

that may have formed. As for how much shock to use, usually about 1 pound of shock per 10,000 gallons of water for routine pool maintenance.

### Lessons in (Water) Chemistry

A healthy pool season is all about the right mix of chemicals and pH levels. Before you get into testing mode, you’ll need to have a water testing kit on hand. Begin the process by testing the pH levels of the water and adjust as needed to keep the pH between 7.2-7.8. Keeping the pH levels in this range helps prevent skin irritation and eye discomfort.

### Filter First

As much as you may be ready to dive in after the prep work, you’ll want to run the filter first - for at least one full day. It helps distribute the shock and algaecide throughout the water and remove any lingering bacteria to help ensure your pool stays clear and clean.

Find more tips to get your pool ready for summer at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

**Debbie Fulford**  
Associate Broker, CRS, ABR

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## FISHING & HUNTING SEASON DATES

**Red Snapper (Coastal/Federal):**

July 1, 2026, to August 31

**Shrimp (Cast Netting):**

Reopens July 15

**Alligator:**

Aug. 15 (sunset) – Oct. 6 (sunrise)

## Fish aren't the only things that need cleaning



Special Photo & Logo

Gear like fishing reels must be cleaned regularly.

By Tom Seegmueller  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY**— Although it has been well over a half-century I can still remember my great uncle Rosser Malone handing me a small polished leather case with an Aub Garcia bait casting reel inside.

Maybe, that moment is etched into my memory because he presented me with the gift while I was sitting alone during the wake prior to my maternal grandmother's funeral. To my surprise, the case not only held the shiny new red reel but a tool and the spare parts necessary to maintain it.

My introduction to the great outdoors came during the era when even the greenest tenderfoot knew that a firearm needed to be thoroughly cleaned every time it was used. However, until I saw the spare parts and tool in that reel case, it had never occurred to me that a fishing reel needed cleaning or maintenance.

Proper maintenance of fishing reels will ensure that they not only provide peak performance but will be a lasting investment, a fact highlighted by the fact that I still fish with the red reel I received more than 60 years ago.

Following each fishing trip, especially those in salt water, reels should be rinsed with fresh water. This removes dirt and sand as well as pollutants and salt. Wipe the exterior with a soft cloth and, if necessary, use a mild soap solution.

However, before doing any deep cleaning involving disassembly, refer to the reel's owner's manual for specific instructions or go online to become familiar with the procedure.

Fishing reels are intricate devices composed of numerous synchronized moving parts.

For the best results and least frustration, work on a flat, clean surface with good lighting.

Assemble the necessary tools and materials needed before you begin. This includes having the appropriate degreasers and lubricants to ensure synthetic materials are not damaged during the process.

Soft clothes and Q-tips will be useful for cleaning small parts and tight spaces. A set

of precision screwdrivers and nut drivers are also necessary due to the small size of most parts. Fortunately, proper tools, cleaning supplies, and lubricants are at sporting goods stores and online.

When beginning the process of disassembling a reel, lay out the parts removed in an orderly manner. It is often helpful to use a phone to take a series of pictures during the process, a reminder of how they were installed before removal. This is particularly helpful for those who have to stop the project for even a brief period of time. There's nothing worse than reassembling something only to discover there are a few "spare parts" laying on the workbench when "done."

For those who are not mechanically inclined and fear doing more harm than good in an attempt to clean or repair a reel, an online search can provide information associated with professional reel cleaning and repair services. Most major reel manufacturers offer warranty and repair services if a simple cleaning does not cure mechanical problems associated with a reels.

Even well-maintained reels will not function efficiently if the line stored on them is not routinely replaced. Industry standards recommend changing the line annually or more frequently if it shows signs of wear. Fresh line can mean the difference between a good cast, hook set or even the ability to land a fish.

Allowing the line to run through fingers during a slow retrieve is one way to check for nicks and frayed line that might be hard to see.

Monofilament lines generally require more frequent replacement than braided lines. Twists, curls and kinks in a line are other indicators that the line needs to be replaced. Protecting the line from unnecessary exposure to ultraviolet light by using reel covers or rod lockers can help protect the line from the impact of prolonged UV exposure.

A well-maintained reel not only enhances chances of landing big fish, it can offer the opportunity to use a piece of tackle to build memories through the decades.

# KNIFEMAKER'S CREATIONS A CUT ABOVE

By Tom Seegmueller  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY**— When I showed up at Hank Hammond's shop in Lee County to talk with him about his journey as a knifemaker, I expected to find him working on a new commission. Instead, he was polishing a knife he had made a year earlier for a cowboy in New Mexico.

"He lost it; it fell out of the sheath while he was working," Hammond said. "He found it a couple of months later. I'd already built him another one because he called to tell me it was 'gone for good.' I told him to keep looking because it'll show up on the trail one day after a thousand cattle move over it.

"He found it, but it was rusted up and the edge was roughed up."

The cowboy sent Hammond the knife, and with a little TLC, some buffing, and a new edge the knife was indistinguishable from the new blades on Hammond's bench.

The knife's survival and the willingness of the cowboy to immediately replace it are a testimonial to the quality and durability of the knives that bear Hammond's "Double H" maker's mark.

Sitting in Hammond's shop, two things are immediately apparent. He's a man that enjoys creating things with his hands. And he has a passion for the outdoors. The antlers of elk and deer hanging from the rafters are a testimony to his ability as a hunter. However, while talking to Hammond, it's apparent that much of the satisfaction he derives from hunting comes from sharing the experience with others, particularly his wife, children, and grandchildren.

With this in mind, it is only natural that his knife designs and the knives he builds are refined and functional. The patterns hanging on the shop wall range from small utilitarian blades that could easily dress a quail or do common camp chores to robust blades ready to skin and break down any species of North American game animal, including moose and elk.

It is soon apparent that Hammond is a die-hard elk hunter. "I would easily trade the Georgia deer season that runs from September through December



Staff Photo: Tom Seegmueller

Knifemaker Hank Hammond's work is internationally renowned.

for a week of elk hunting out West," he said.

Hammond has personally harvested and dressed out 19 elk, the largest scoring 364 inches. Perhaps that's why his knife designs are focused on form following function, resulting in a blade that not only looks good but fits the hand naturally and performs in the field when put to the task it was built to do.

"I make hunting knives, standard hunting knives," he said. "My first design over 40 years ago was my personal hunter."

Today many of Hammond's knives are named after creeks and rivers with historical significance to his life and that of his family. These include the Kinchafoonee, Little River, and Keowee.

For southwest Georgians, Hammond's Kinchafoonee is an obvious choice for a knife maker whose shop is a stone's throw from the creek of that name. The Little River and Keowee patterns reference his South Carolina roots.

"The Little River flowed past our family farm in South Carolina," Hammond said. "Lake Keowee was created in the 1970s to serve as the water source used to cool the nuclear power plant built there. The lake covered all but 80 acres of the family's farm.

Asked how his journey as a knifemaker began, Hammond said, "It's the typical knifemaker's story: I thought I could make something better than what I was seeing in gun shops and I've been doing it for 44 years."

During that time, Hammond has made more than 4,200 blades. With that depth of work, his

reputation as a knifemaker has achieved global recognition, and his blades can be found not only in collections but being put to use in hunting camps around the world, a fact that has led to his induction into the Knifemakers' Guild.

The guild was established in 1970 by the premier knifemakers in the country at that time, including renowned makers Blackie Collins, R.W. Loveless and A.G. Russell. Over the decades the guild has become the who's who in the world of handmade knives.

As prestigious as the recognition is, Hammond said he believes that you "keep working and perfecting your craft and maybe your reputation does account for some sales. But most of mine are sold to people that see my knives work and reach out and contact me," he added.

The knifemaker said a typical order often starts with a phone call that goes like this: "You don't know me, but my name is Fred Smith, and you made a knife for my brother in Washington state. He had a knife that I just loved, and you made it. Can you make me one just like it?"

Obviously, with the number of knives Hammond has made, a few additional clues are required to accurately complete the order. Although he creates knives from a variety of materials, including state-of-the-art stainless and Damascus steels, he still believes that there's nothing like a good carbon steel knife blade. This is evident when the conversation turns to vintage knives manufactured by Case and Old Timer.

"I have a soft spot in my heart for carbon steel," Hammond

said. "I do have some really top-notch carbon steel that I build my blades out of.

"But what really pulls at my heart is old vintage files. I've got some I made over here for you look at. They were made from a Nu-Cut carbon file. The files are about this long and that wide and you could beat somebody to death with it," he proclaimed while using his hands to illustrate their robust size.

He showed me the pair made from the same file with matching Siam Rosewood scales (handle material) from Vietnam. The file cuts on the quarter-inch spine of carbon steel blade were visible, sandwiched between the exotic wood. There was no doubt that these were knives that were made to not only be admired but stand up to hard use in the field.

Although made of identical materials, the Flint River Hunter and Kinchafoonee Hunter were designed individually with one focused on skinning and the other for breaking down the carcasses of large game animals. At the same time, either would also perform any camp chore with ease.

"The thing that's so cool about it is that the file work goes through to the handle," Hammond said. "That's what everybody loves."

Each of his knives comes with hand-crafted leather sheaths to protect buyers' investment.

Although Hammond has built a reputation on his hunting knives, he also has other designs, including some very nice fillet knives with smaller patterns similar to trout and bird knives. He says he puts about 30 hours into each of his knives and considerably more time into his custom builds.

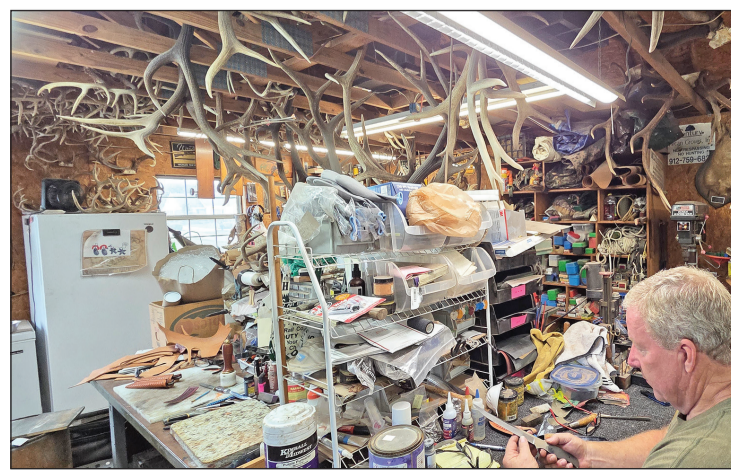
He has a considerable backlog on his custom builds, so buyers should be prepared to wait for the delivery of their dream blade. Hammond's knives can be found on eBay, Instagram at DoubleKnives, or by contacting him directly at Godogs1011@gmail.com.

Special Photo  
Hank Hammond creates special knives in his Leesburg shop.



Special Photo

Hank Hammond shapes a blade in his workshop.



THE ALBANY HERALD

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**Miscellaneous**

**Employer:** Phoebe Physician Group, Inc.  
**Position:** Pediatric Hospitalist Physician  
**Location:** Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia  
**Duties:** As a pediatric hospitalist physician, employee will diagnose and treat medical conditions, diseases and injuries of internal organ systems in pediatric hospital inpatients who do not require surgical intervention. Employee will also order and interpret laboratory tests. Treatment consists of long-term, comprehensive care. Employee will provide medical care consistent with internal medicine.  
**Minimum Requirements:** Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from an accredited medical school in the U.S. (or foreign equivalent). Must have an active or pending Georgia medical license; must have passed all parts of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE); must have certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Completion of a 3 year U.S. residency in pediatrics. Must be board eligible in pediatrics.  
 Resume to: Jenny Sledge, jsledge@phoebehealth.com

**MERCHANDISE**

**Garage Sale**

Moving Sale: Sat June 13th, 8am-12pm. 265 Brenda Lane Albany. Large Variety of Items

**Good Things to Eat**

**BLUEBERRIES U-Pick \$10**  
 We Pick \$20 per gal. 2730 Leary Rd, Albany Mon-Sat 7am-7pm. May 30-July 4 FMI 229-869-1409 Barry

**Miscellaneous for sale**

For Sale Burial crypt G-70 for two Crown Hill Mausoleum. Market value \$8,000. Call 229-881-3417 with offer

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**Volunteers of America Southeast The Millennium Center - Cuthbert, GA**

**Women's Recovery & Substance Use Services Director**

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 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](http://www.voase.org/careers). EOE/Drug Free Workplace/ E-Verify.

**Albany Legals**

**Construction/Service Bids**

**A-571 INVITATION TO BID Phase E Street Resurfacing BID REF. #26-062**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, GA, 31701, until 2:30 PM, July 9, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be at 10:00 AM, June 16, in the Procurement division office. A 5% Bid Bond is required of all bidders. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and [www.albanyga.gov](http://www.albanyga.gov). For additional information contact Destin Adams, Buyer I, [dadams@albanyga.gov](mailto:dadams@albanyga.gov) by Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer

**Debtors & Creditors**

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
 RE: ESTATE NO 2025-ES-024

All Debtors and Creditors of the Estate of Roe Helen Gaiter, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Paul David Boyd, c/o Christopher A. Flowers, 504 N. Jefferson Street Albany, GA 31701

**A-382 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF GANIYU TITILAYO OLADUNJOYE, DECEASED**  
 All creditors of the estate of Ganiyu Titilayo Oladunjoye, deceased, late of Dougherty County,

**Debtors & Creditors**

Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. Busurat K. Oladunjoye, Administrator of Ganiyu Titilayo Oladunjoye, deceased 3907 Edith Drive Albany, GA 31721  
 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-493 NOTICE TO DEBTORS & CREDITORS**

All creditors of the estate of LOUIE LAMB, SR., late of Dougherty County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 18th day of May, 2026 Louie Lamb, Jr. Executor of the Estate of Louie Lamb, Sr., deceased c/o David W. Orlowski 1604 W. Third Avenue Albany, GA 31707  
 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-514 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Bebe Annice Watson of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of May 2026. Bandi Watson Nason, Administrator of the Estate of Bebe Annice Watson c/o S. Tanner Lowe, Esq. 314 W. Residence Ave. Albany, GA 31701  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-515 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Marian Whaley Arnold of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of May, 2026. John Stephen Arnold, Executor of the Estate of Marian Whaley Arnold c/o William D. Moorhead III 314 W. Residence Ave Albany, GA 31701  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-541 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Frank Gerald Story of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 1st day of June, 2026. Paula K. Higginbotham, Executor of the Estate of Frank Gerald Story c/o William D. Moorhead III, Esq. 314 W. Residence Ave Albany, GA 31701  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-541 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Robert Wayne Skaggs of said county, deceased, to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us. This 23rd day of May, 2026. Michael C. Hall, Administrator of the Estate of Robert Wayne Skaggs P.O. Drawer 70639 Albany, Georgia 31708-0639 Hall & Williamson, P.C.  
 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-555 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY: All creditors of the Estate of LINDA R. BAILEY, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward, DECEASED

**A-546 NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GILBERT G. WARD, DECEASED  
 All creditors of the estate of Gilbert G. Ward, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward.  
 This 2nd day of June, 2026. NATHAN C. JOHNSON KELLEY & JOHNSON, LLC Attorneys for the Estate of LINDA R. BAILEY, Deceased  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-496 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF KATHY JEAN HAMRICK, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2026

**A-536 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF KATHY JEAN HAMRICK, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2026

**A-566 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES FREDERICK BLANFORD, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-535 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF LARRY HUNT, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-556 MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

Municipal Communications, LLC is proposing to construct a 199-foot overall height monopole telecommunication structure near 7108 Newton Road, Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia (31° 27' 38.8"N, 84° 15' 0.8"W). Municipal Communications, LLC invites

**Debtors & Creditors**

**A-550 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
 STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Reuben William Schroeder of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 3rd day of June 2026. Mary Lucille Schroeder, Executor of the Estate of Reuben William Schroeder c/o William D. Moorhead III 314 W. Residence Ave. Albany, GA 31701  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-514 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Bebe Annice Watson of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of May 2026. Bandi Watson Nason, Administrator of the Estate of Bebe Annice Watson c/o S. Tanner Lowe, Esq. 314 W. Residence Ave. Albany, GA 31701  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-515 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Marian Whaley Arnold of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of May, 2026. John Stephen Arnold, Executor of the Estate of Marian Whaley Arnold c/o William D. Moorhead III 314 W. Residence Ave Albany, GA 31701  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-541 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Robert Wayne Skaggs of said county, deceased, to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us. This 23rd day of May, 2026. Michael C. Hall, Administrator of the Estate of Robert Wayne Skaggs P.O. Drawer 70639 Albany, Georgia 31708-0639 Hall & Williamson, P.C.  
 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-555 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY: All creditors of the Estate of LINDA R. BAILEY, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward, DECEASED

**A-546 NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GILBERT G. WARD, DECEASED  
 All creditors of the estate of Gilbert G. Ward, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward.  
 This 2nd day of June, 2026. NATHAN C. JOHNSON KELLEY & JOHNSON, LLC Attorneys for the Estate of LINDA R. BAILEY, Deceased  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-496 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF KATHY JEAN HAMRICK, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2026

**A-536 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF KATHY JEAN HAMRICK, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2026

**A-566 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES FREDERICK BLANFORD, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-535 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF LARRY HUNT, DECEASED, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.)** All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 29, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-556 MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

Municipal Communications, LLC is proposing to construct a 199-foot overall height monopole telecommunication structure near 7108 Newton Road, Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia (31° 27' 38.8"N, 84° 15' 0.8"W). Municipal Communications, LLC invites

**Miscellaneous**

comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to [publicnotice@eca-usa.com](mailto:publicnotice@eca-usa.com). Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. 26-000242b/CLS  
 June 13, 2026

**Name Changes**

**A-489**  
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA, In Re: the name change of the child, THIAGO ELIAM VAIL DIAZ, a minor child, Civil Action File No.: SUCV2026000375 VJ. NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF MINOR CHILD. Brenda Aracely Vail Diaz and Rudy Anselmo Che Xol, filed this Petition in the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, on the 23rd day of June, 2026, to change the name of the minor child as follows: Current Name of Child: THIAGO ELIAM VAIL DIAZ, Year of birth: 2025; Proposed New Name: THIAGO ELIAM CHE VAIL. Any interested or affected party has the right to appear and file objections within thirty days as set forth in O.C.G.A. §18-12-1(f)(2) and (3). This 14th day of May, 2026. Brenda Aracely Vail Diaz and Rudy Anselmo Che Xol, Petitioners. By Kimberly D. Lamb Brimberry Kaplan & Brimberry, P.C. P.O. Box 1805 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 436-0537  
 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**Probate Court Administration**

**A-517 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: JOAN DORN TEDESCO**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-126**  
 Christopher Lee Tedesco has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JOAN DORN TEDESCO, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 22, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-500 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF: BARBARA TURNER**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-180**  
 Sharmille "Nichole" Edmonson has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of BARBARA TURNER, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 22, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-500 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF: BARBARA TURNER**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-180**  
 Sharmille "Nichole" Edmonson has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of BARBARA TURNER, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **June 22, 2026**. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102  
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**Probate Court Administration**

## Public Sales/ Auctions

A006 D. Bright  
B024 E. Echols  
B025 W. Shively  
B032 E. Echols  
C004 C. Coleman  
C014 T. Kelly-Kerck  
F003 K. Windom  
G002 E. Mitchell  
G005 M. Parker  
G010 E. Goodwin  
G029 D. McFarland  
H003 K. Lafrenz  
H018 T. Shorts  
H019 S. Beach  
H020 M. Wright  
H037 T. Green  
I002 J. Green  
I019 W. Johnson  
I025 S. Jones  
I034 R. Allen  
J002 M. Milledge  
J006 M. Milledge  
J019 E. Moore  
J021 M. McConnell  
J028 D. McFarland  
J034 M. McConnell  
K005 E. West  
L001 G. Wynn  
L013 L. Milledge  
M027 M. McConnell  
N005 A. Williams

Auction will be held at www.bid13.com and will end on or after 11:00AM on 06/22/2026  
June 6, 13, 2026

**A-542**  
Auction Date: June 24, 2026  
Hickory Grove Storage  
1159 Hwy 82 W  
Leesburg, GA 31763  
The following units at Hickory Grove Storage will be sold to the highest bidder on June 24, 2026 at 10:00am. The auction will be whole bin absolute sale. Buyers will have until Saturday June 27, 2026 at 5:00 pm to remove all property. Units must be left in broom clean condition.

Unit # 1177  
Name: Victoria Whitlow  
Items: Household items

Unit # 6015  
Name: Victoria Whitlow  
Items: Household items

Unit # 6028  
Name: Victoria Whitlow  
Items: Household items

June 6, 13, 2026

**A-547**  
You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicles are currently located at Hook Em Towing and Wrecker Service – 204 Poplar Street Albany, GA 31707. The vehicles subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

Vehicle Make: KIA  
Year: 2017  
Model: CADENZA  
Vehicle ID#: KNALC4J12H5093859  
Vehicle License #: SLE2672  
State: GA

Vehicle Make: KIA  
Year: 2012  
Model: FORTE  
Vehicle ID#: KNAFU4A29C5487905  
Vehicle License #: 4414TX  
State SC

Vehicle Make: NISSAN  
Year: 2011  
Model: MAXIMA  
Vehicle ID#: IN4AA5AP1B8C26678  
Vehicle License #: AAE1NK  
State GA

Vehicle Make: TOYOTA  
Year: 2005  
Model: CAMRY US LE  
Vehicle ID#: 4T1BE32K15U989769  
Vehicle License #: DDJ3059  
State GA

Vehicle Make: FORD  
Year: 2014  
Model: FUSION  
vehicle ID#: 3FA6P0K94ER293268  
Vehicle License #: SFN4578  
State GA

Vehicle Make: FORD  
Year: 2014  
Model: FUSION  
Vehicle ID#: 3FA6P0K9XER119110  
Vehicle License #: CQD7960  
State GA

Vehicle Make: CHEVROLET  
Year: 2015  
Model: MALIBU  
Vehicle ID#: 1G11C5SL0FF312821  
Vehicle License #: SKL1838  
State GA

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:  
Business Name: Hook Em Towing and Wrecker Service Address: 204 Poplar Street Albany, Ga 31707  
Telephone #: 229-496-2011  
June 6, 13, 2026

**A-548**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT**  
You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is: Hook Em Towing and Wrecker Service – 204 Poplar Street Albany, Ga 31707. Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before June 22, 2026. Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's office located at: 225 Pine Ave – Albany, Ga 31701  
Forms may also be obtained online at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

Vehicle DESCRIPTION: GATOR 50-53 EXPRESS (BLACK MOPED)  
Year: UNKN  
Vehicle ID#: L2BB9NCCXR201384

Vehicle License #: UNKN  
State UNKN  
Magistrate Court Case No: 2026-149AV

Vehicle Make: NISSAN  
Year: 2011  
Model: MAXIMA  
Vehicle ID#: 1N4AA5AP1B8C26678  
Vehicle License #: AAE1NK  
State GA Magistrate Court Case No: 2026-132AV

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:  
Business Name: Hook Em Towing

## Public Sales/ Auctions

and Wrecker Service Address: 204 Poplar Street Albany, Ga 31707  
Telephone #: 229-496-2011  
June 6, 13, 2026

**A-404**  
**Public Auction**  
Location:  
**Royal Storage**  
**2801 Palmyra Road**  
**Albany, GA 31707**  
**229-446-2038**  
Date & Time:  
**Tuesday, June 16, 2026**  
**Bids due by 12:00 PM Sharp**  
**Auction by Sealed Bid Only**  
Viewing:  
**Monday, June 15, 2026**  
**9:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
117 Lonnie Green: Boxes, kids battery car, tools, tires & misc.  
324 Ann Hicks: Boxes, furniture, cooler, chest & misc. 329 Ann Hicks: Boxes, dolly, totes & misc.  
331 Janet Jediny: Furniture, refrigerator, exercise bike, boxes & misc.  
740 Baily Earnest: Mattress, boxspring, chair, appliance & misc.  
May 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-558**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**  
You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA § 40-11-19(a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicles are currently located at Professional Locators and Recovery, Inc. 1107 Centennial Ave. Albany, GA 31707. The vehicle(s) subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

2024 Toyota Corolla, Silver, VIN# 5YFB4MDE1RP216047, Tag# P7677665 GA

2017 Honda Civic, Black, VIN# SHHF7K7H53HU234240, Tag# SGV0888 GA

2013 Dodge Dart, Gray, VIN# 1C3CDFBA9DD146703, Tag# FPJY63 FL

2005 Cadillac CTS, Gray, VIN# 1G6DP567950176635, Tag# TLX731 GA

2000 Honda Accord, Gold, VIN# 1HGCG1659YA033572, Tag# TGB8618 GA

2010 Honda Accord, Blue, VIN# 1HGCP2F79AA040003, Tag# TEU0819 GA  
June 13, 20, 2026

**A-533**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:**  
You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (A) 2, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at: Strums Elite Towing & Recovery, 2800 Phillips Drive Albany Ga 31721. Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the business above.

VIN: 2CNDL13F876071216  
Year: 2007  
Make: CHEV  
Model: Equinox\*

Vin: 1G1BL52WXTR156554  
Year: 1996  
Make: CHEV  
Model: Caprice Classic\*

Vin: KMHC74AE5HU197429  
Year: 2017  
Make: Hyundai  
Model: Accent \*

Vin: 1GNEC13Z25R249973  
Year: 2005  
Make: CHEV  
Model: Tahoe\*

Trim: Z71\*  
June 6, 13, 2026

**A-540**  
**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Notice is hereby given that Tony's Towing & Wrecker Service, Albany, Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-11-2, will sell at public auction the following abandoned motor vehicles for towing, storage, and related charges.  
Sale Date: June 23, 2026  
Sale Time: 10:00 A.M.  
Sale Location: Tony's Towing & Wrecker Service, 1541 E Broad Ave Albany, Ga 31705 229-405-3930  
Vehicles:

[2016] [CHRY] [200] VIN #1C3CCCAB1G101152]

[2012] [DODGE] [CHARGER] VIN #12C3CDXHGOC185974]

[2015] [CHEV] [CRUIZE] VIN #1G1PE55B4F207480]

2012 CHEY 200  
VIN #1C3CCB2AC20N1313393

2013 KIA OPTIMA  
VIN # 5XXGM4A71DG153707

2005 Chevy Silverado  
VIN #2GCEK19B15134595

The vehicles will be sold AS IS to the highest bidder. Tony's Towing & Wrecker Service reserves the right to reject any and all bids.  
June 6, 13, 2026

**Foreclosures**

**A-537**  
**MAGISTRATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
Case No: 2026-96 AV  
912 318 4037  
Rusty Moore Body Shop  
288 MacDonald Lane  
Tifton, GA 31794  
rustymoorebodysop@gmail.com, Plaintiff  
vs.  
Vikero Kegler  
1608 W. Highland Avenue  
Albany, GA 31707  
Vehicle Owner  
Motor Vehicle Description: 2007 Honda Accord  
Blue 4 door  
1HGCM56497A008533  
**PETITION FOR ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE LIEN FORECLOSURE**  
NOW COMES PETITIONER, a towing or storage facility, repair facility salvage dealer, and files this petition to foreclose on the above-referenced abandoned motor vehicle.  
Date vehicle was left at repair facility:

## Foreclosures

1/1/2025  
Date information was requested from Department of Revenue or authorized entity (copy of owner information attached): 1/12/2026  
Date and method of first notice was mailed: 1/21/2026.  
The accrued fees allowed under OCGA § 40-11-19, as set forth below, have not been paid.  
PETITIONER PRAYS that the lien be foreclosed and an order be issued to allow for public sale of the vehicle to satisfy a lien for the following amounts:  
Removal (Towing) Fee: \$0.00  
Storage: (At \$50.00 per day for 10 days) \$100.00  
Future Storage Fee: \$50.00 per day from date of filing this action through 25  
Repair Fees (if applicable, with invoice attached): \$ 3000.00  
Cost of Obtaining Owner Information: \$2.00  
Notification/Advertising Fees: \$10.48  
TOTAL: \$3112.48  
PETITIONER ALSO PRAYS for prejudgment interest at the rate of 4% per annum from which the OCGA § 40-11-19 notification was received, 15% attorney's fees (if applicable), and all costs of court.  
Sworn to and Subscribed before me This 23rd day of March, 2026.  
K.Marks  
Notary Public or Clerk  
My Commission Expires:  
Alexis MacDonald  
Plaintiff/Attorney for Plaintiff

**SUMMONS**  
YOU MUST FILE AN ANSWER TO THIS CLAIM NO LATER THAN TEN (10) DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE USING THE STANDARDIZED ANSWER FORM PROVIDED. FAILURE TO FILE A TIMELY ANSWER WILL RESULT IN FORECLOSURE OF THE LIEN AND A COURT ORDER AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF THE VEHICLE PURSUANT TO OCGA 40-11-19.2.  
June 6, 13, 2026

### A-499

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER**  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Willie C. Davis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Suntrust Mortgage, Inc., dated January 22, 2004, and recorded in Deed Book 2737, Page 286, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Trust Bank by assignment recorded on March 31, 2026 in Book 5374 Page 121 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of One Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Nine and 0/100 dollars (\$183,449.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on July 7, 2026, the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 23 of Doublegate Woods Subdivision, Phase 2, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-85, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Trust Bank they can be contacted at (800) 443-1032 for Loss Mitigation Dept. or by writing to 1001 Semmes Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23224, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is WILLIE C. DAVIS or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **2304 Ashford Dr, Albany, GA 31721**.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure.  
Trust Bank as Attorney in Fact for Willie C. Davis.  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road  
Suite 310  
Atlanta, GA 30341  
404-789-2661  
B&S file no.: 26-12179  
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-557**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from JOSEPH A LEWIS to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORP., dated February 21, 2007, recorded February 23, 2007, in Book 3293, Page 135-149, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Two Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Nine Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$251,900.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to TBW Mortgage-Backed Trust Series 2007-2, TBW Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-2, U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Dougherty County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in

## Foreclosures

July, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS ALL OF LOT 166, DOUBLEGATE, INC. SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 51 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-26), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. THE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS 2209 W. DOUBLEGATE DRIVE, ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING OF STREETS IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA. THE BEING KNOWN AS 2209 WEST DOUBLEGATE DRIVE, ALBANY, GEORGIA - 31721.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **2209 W DOUBLEGATE DR, ALBANY, GA 31721**.  
The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is JOSEPH A LEWIS, ESTATE AND/OR HEIRS-AT-LAW OF JOSEPH A LEWIS or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) purchaser's tendering to Rubin Lublin, LLC, anti-money laundering information as required pursuant to the FinCEN Real Estate Report Rule. Failure to provide information, could result in rescission of the sale.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: NewRez LLC, F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC, D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, Loss Mitigation Dept., 75 Beattie Pkce Ste, 300, Greenville, SC 29601, Telephone Number: 800-365-7107. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.  
TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST SERIES 2007-2 TBW M O R T G A G E - B A C K E D PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-2, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE  
as Attorney in Fact for JOSEPH A LEWIS  
THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
Attorney Contact: Rubin Lublin, LLC  
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992  
Case No. SHP-26-02286-2  
rslaw.com/property-listing  
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-534**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
By virtue of a power of sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Kenshuna Spicer to Flint River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. dated May 11, 2005, recorded on May 13, 2005 in Deed Book 2971, Pages 275-279 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed has been given to secure that certain Promissory Note dated May 11, 2005 between Kenshuna Spicer and Flint River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. in the original principal amount of Fifty-One Thousand, Seventy and 67/100 Dollars (\$51,070.67), as well as all extensions, renewals, and modifications thereof, together with any and all other indebtedness, of any type or description, then or thereafter owing by Kenshuna Spicer, which will be sold by the undersigned, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, before the courthouse door in Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as all of Lot 29, Woodland Oaks Subdivision, Section one according to a map or plat of said subdivision as recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide C-51B in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This property is known as **905 Pinedale Court, Albany, Georgia** by the current numbering system of the City of Albany.  
Notice is given that Flint River Habitat for Humanity, ATTN: Teresa Stanfield, 2815 Old Dawson Road, Albany, Georgia 31707, telephone number (229) 446-8199, is the entity with authority to negotiate, amend, and modify the terms of the above-referenced Security Deed.  
The indebtedness secured by the aforementioned Security Deed has been and is hereby declared immediately due and payable in full because of the failure of Kenshuna Spicer to make timely payments in accordance with its terms.  
Kenshuna Spicer remaining in default, this sale shall be made for

## Foreclosures

the purpose of paying such indebtedness, as well as all expenses of this sale, including attorneys' fees.

The above-described property will be sold as the property of Kenshuna Spicer, her heirs, successors or assigns and will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning and subdivision ordinances and/or regulations; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or an inspection of the property; all liens for solid waste and the like; all real property ad valorem taxes or assessments, which may constitute liens upon said property; all liens which, under applicable law, would take priority over the Security Deed described above; and all easements, restrictions, rights-of-way, security deeds or other encumbrances of record which have priority over the referenced Security Deed.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
Flint River Habitat for Humanity, as Attorney-In-Fact for Kenshuna Spicer  
DREW ECKL & FARNHAM, LLP  
By: DAVID W. ORLOWSKI  
Georgia Bar No. 554325  
Attorneys for Flint River Habitat for Humanity  
Post Office Box 607  
Albany, Georgia 31702-0607  
(229) 431-3036  
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-560**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOUGHERTY COUNTY**  
Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Bennie Harris Russell to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Flagship Financial Group, LLC, its successors and assigns dated 11/25/2016 and recorded in Deed Book 4374 Page 252 Dougherty County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Rocket Mortgage, LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$184,664.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on July 7, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: The land referred to herein below is situated in the county of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and is described as follows: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 74 in the Second Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 32 of Gillonville Forest Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 125, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-35), in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Parcel ID: 074-2/00000/121  
Commonly known as **706 White Oak Dr, Albany, GA 31721-9013**  
However, by showing this address no additional coverage is provided  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property is commonly known as **706 White Oak Dr, Albany, GA 31721-9013** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Estate/Heirs of Bennie Harris Russell or tenant or tenants.  
Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.  
Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd. Coppell, TX 75019 1-888-480-2432  
Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. Rocket Mortgage, LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Bennie Harris Russell Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400, 1006-1677A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-543**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Anthony Demetrius Byrd to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC, D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL as Attorney in Fact for Anthony Demetrius Byrd  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
1544 Old Alabama Rd  
Roswell, GA 30076  
www.foreclosurehotline.net  
EXHIBIT "A"  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND ALL OF LOT 126 OF AUDUBON SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 147, (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE A-92), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.  
KR July 7, 2026  
Our file no. 25-19548GA  
25-19548GA  
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-564**  
**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
[REF. O.C.G.A., Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]  
TO: JAMES BRADSHAW III;

## Foreclosures

SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC., its successors and assigns, dated July 23, 2021, recorded in Deed Book 4863, Page 34, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 5257, Page 136, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL by assignment recorded in Deed Book 5276, Page 240, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$164,500.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, the following described property:  
SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default having been made of the terms of the Note and Security Deed. The terms remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the total debt, including all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law which includes, but is not limited to, attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.

MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Mortgage Solutions Financial Servicing, a division of Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, 7450 Campus Dr. Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, 1-866-552-6118.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

Upon information and belief, said property is more commonly known as **412 Forest Glen Dr, Albany, GA 31707**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1,

**Foreclosures**

5, 2022 in the original principal amount of \$9,000,000.00 (the "Note"); as assigned to Saluda Grade Mortgage Funding LLC, pursuant to that certain Assignment of Commercial Mortgage, Security Agreement, Fixture Filing and Assignment of Leases and Rents, dated as of May 5, 2022, recorded November 27, 2023, in Deed Book 5145, Page 339, aforesaid records; and as assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1 ("Lender") pursuant to that certain Assignment of Security Deed/Mortgage, recorded January 2, 2024, in Deed Book 5154, Page 104, aforesaid records (the "Last Assignment"); which Last Assignment as affected by that certain Affidavit Related to Title Made Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-2-20, recorded September 23, 2025, in Deed Book 5337, Page 22, aforesaid records; which Security Deed as affected by that certain Default Judgment Final Order recorded May 6, 2026, in Deed Book 5379, Page 299, aforesaid records; there will be sold at public outcry by Lender as attorney-in-fact of Grantor to the highest bidder for cash between the legal hours for sale before the Courthouse door in Dougherty County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in July 2026, the following described property (the "Premises") to wit: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 415, FIRST LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION AT THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ENGLISH ROAD AND THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GORDON AVENUE, AND RUN THENCE NORTH 70 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GORDON AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 525.79 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF A 100 FOOT GEORGIA POWER COMPANY EASEMENT TO AN IRON PIN AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 70 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GORDON AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 382.02 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE WEST LINE OF A 50-FOOT DRAINAGE EASEMENT, AS SHOWN ON A MAP OR PLAT OF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES, SECTION 1, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 333 AND 334, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA; RUN THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EASEMENT RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 702.10 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE CONTINUE THENCE ALONG SAID EASEMENT RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE SOUTH 37 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 129.73 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO AN IRON PIN ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ST. ANDREWS DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT OF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES SECTION 1; RUN THENCE SOUTH 30 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 12 FEET TO A SET RAILROAD SPIKE; RUN THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 200.84 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; RUN THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 145.41 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 44 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 932.35 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF ENGLISH ROAD; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREE 20 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 361.86 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE NORTH 30 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED GEORGIA POWER COMPANY 100-FOOT EASEMENT A DISTANCE OF 998.19 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GORDON AVENUE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AS SET FORTH ON PLAT OF SURVEY OF WINDOVER APARTMENTS PREPARED BY MALCOLM BUMSED, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1691, DATED MAY 20, 1988. Property commonly known as: 2304 W. GORDON AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA, 31707. The indebtedness evidenced by the Note is due and payable and remains unpaid. The Security Deed therefore has become and is now foreclosable according to its terms. Accordingly, the Premises will be sold at public outcry pursuant to the terms of the power of sale provided in the Security Deed. The Premises will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis without recourse against Lender and without representation or warranty of any kind or nature whatsoever by Lender with respect thereto. The proceeds of the sale are to be applied first to the expenses of the sale and all proceedings in connection therewith, including attorneys' fees (notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees having been given), then to the payment of all sums secured by the Security Deed, and the remainder, if any, will be paid to the person or persons legally entitled thereto, all as provided in the Note and Security Deed. The Premises shall be sold as the property of Grantor, subject to all restrictions, easements and other matters of record that are prior to the Security Deed and to which the Security Deed is subject and to any unpaid city, county and state ad valorem taxes or assessments relating to the Premises. The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Saluda Grade Alternative Mortgage Trust 2021-RLT1, as agent for Lender, 8180 E. Keiser Boulevard, Anaheim, California 92808; (914) 261-1349. Please understand that the secured creditor is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Premises is Grantor, WT 2304 W Gordon, LLC,

**Foreclosures**

or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 2304 W. GORDON AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA, 31707. **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1** as Attorney-in-Fact for **WT 2304 W Gordon, LLC** William. O Tate McCalla Raymer Leibert, Pierce, LLP 1544 Old Alabama Road Roswell, Georgia 30076 (678) 281-6473 william.tate@mccalla.com June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-568 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY** Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Commercial Deed to Secure Debt, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing and Assignment of Leases and Rents from WIL 1401 Whispering Pines LLC, a Georgia limited liability company ("Grantor"), to and in favor of Pacific Private Money, Inc., a California corporation, dated May 11, 2022, and recorded May 16, 2022 in Deed Book 4976, Page 210, Dougherty County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), securing that certain Commercial Promissory Note dated May 11, 2022 in the original principal amount of \$2,500,000.00 (the "Note"); as assigned to Saluda Grade Mortgage Funding LLC, pursuant to that certain Assignment of Commercial Mortgage, Security Agreement, Fixture Filing and Assignment of Leases and Rents, dated as of May 24, 2022, recorded November 22, 2023, in Deed Book 5145, Page 278, aforesaid records; and as assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1 ("Lender") pursuant to that certain Assignment of Security Deed/Mortgage, recorded January 16, 2024, in Deed Book 5157, Page 1, aforesaid records (the "Last Assignment"); which Last Assignment as affected by that certain Scrivener's Error Affidavit, indicating the assignee originally and incorrectly identified in the Last Assignment, Saluda Grade Alternative Mortgage Trust 2021-RLT1, should have instead been Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1, recorded February 8, 2024, in Deed Book 5163, Page 161, aforesaid records; there will be sold at public outcry by Lender as attorney-in-fact of Grantor to the highest bidder for cash between the legal hours for sale before the Courthouse door in Dougherty County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in July 2026, the following described property (the "Premises") to wit: ALL OF LOTS 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63 AND 65 OF WHISPERING PINES SUBDIVISION WHICH IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 23 IN THE OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING IMPROVED PROPERTY HAVING LOCATED THEREON A MULTIPLE APARTMENT COMPLEX KNOWN AS WHISPERING PINES APARTMENTS; TOGETHER WITH ALL GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES, HEATING, PLUMBING AND MR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, STATIONARY EQUIPMENT, TREES AND SHRUBBERY, SWIMMING POOL AND SWIMMING POOL EQUIPMENT. Property commonly known as: 1401 WHISPERING PINES ROAD, ALBANY, GA 31707. The indebtedness evidenced by the Note is due and payable and remains unpaid. The Security Deed therefore has become and is now foreclosable according to its terms. Accordingly, the Premises will be sold at public outcry pursuant to the terms of the power of sale provided in the Security Deed. The Premises will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis without recourse against Lender and without representation or warranty of any kind or nature whatsoever by Lender with respect thereto. The proceeds of the sale are to be applied first to the expenses of the sale and all proceedings in connection therewith, including attorneys' fees (notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees having been given), then to the payment of all sums secured by the Security Deed, and the remainder, if any, will be paid to the person or persons legally entitled thereto, all as provided in the Note and Security Deed. The Premises shall be sold as the property of Grantor, subject to all restrictions, easements and other matters of record that are prior to the Security Deed and to which the Security Deed is subject and to any unpaid city, county and state ad valorem taxes or assessments relating to the Premises. The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Saluda Grade Alternative Mortgage Trust 2021-RLT1, as agent for Lender, 8180 E. Keiser Boulevard, Anaheim, California 92808; (914) 261-1349. Please understand that the secured creditor is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Premises is Grantor, WIL 1401 Whispering Pines LLC, a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 1401 WHISPERING PINES ROAD, ALBANY, GA 31707. **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1** as Attorney-in-Fact for **WIL 1401 Whispering Pines LLC** William. O Tate McCalla Raymer Leibert, Pierce, LLP 1544 Old Alabama Road Roswell, Georgia 30076 (678) 281-6473 william.tate@mccalla.com June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-559** GA2500293552 Notice Of Foreclosure Sale Under Power Dougherty County, Georgia Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Josh Hopewell, Sole Ownership to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., As Grantee, As

**Foreclosures**

Nominee For Colony Bank, dated 09/30/2024 and recorded 10/04/2024 in D2024005670, in Book 5233, Page 293-306, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC by assignment recorded on 09/22/2025 BK: 5336 PG: 219 DOC# D2025-005355 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$216,015.00, with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on 07/07/2026, the following described property: All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land Lying And Being In Land Lots 34 And 35 In The Second Land District, Dougherty County, Georgia, And Being All Of Lot 24 Of Byron Lake Estates, Section III, According To A Map Or Plat Of Said Subdivision As Same Is Recorded In Plat Book 3, Page 230, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-3), In The Office Of The Clerk Of Superior Court Of Dougherty County, Georgia. This conveyance is made subject to all zoning ordinances, easements and restrictions of record affecting said bargained premises. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fee having been given). The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC they can be contacted at 866-978-2622 for Loss Mitigation Dept. or by writing to Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC 9726 Old Bailey Rd Ste 200, Fort Mill, SC 29707 to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure. Said property will be sold on "as-is" basis and subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Josh Hopewell, Sole Ownership or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **4805 Millbrooke Road, Albany, GA 31721**. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Josh Hopewell, Sole Ownership, Sokolof Rentulla, LLP c/o First American Title Insurance Company 4795 Regent Blvd, Mail Code 1011-F Irving TX 75063 866-429-5179 GA2500293552 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-561** NOTICE OF SALE GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY. By virtue of a power of sale contained in that certain Security Deed from EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., dated February 23, 2011, and recorded in Deed Book 3786, Page 154 et seq., in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having originally been given to secure that certain Promissory Note in the original principal amount of NINETEEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$19,000.00) of even date therewith, as well as all extensions, renewals and modifications thereof, together with any and all other indebtedness, of any type or description, then or thereafter owing by EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., there will be sold by the undersigned, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, before the courthouse door at Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 420 in the First Land District, Dougherty County, Georgia and being part of Lot 34 of Southern Nut and Fruit Company Subdivision "B," according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Deed Book 18, Page 371, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the northwest corner of said Lot 34 and run thence south 88 degrees 30 minutes east along the north line of said Lot 34 a distance of 100 feet to a point; run thence south 01 degree 30 minutes west a distance of thirty (30) feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, which point of beginning is located on the south right of way line of Howard Drive; run thence south 88 degrees 30 minutes east along the south line of said Howard Drive a distance of 140 feet to a point; run thence south 01 degree 30 minutes west a distance of 308 feet to a point; run thence north 89 degrees 09 minutes 17 seconds west a distance of 140.01 feet to a point; run thence north 01 degree 30 minutes east a distance of 309.60 feet to the point of beginning; said property being described according to a plat of the property of Ronald P. Tucker and Effie Callahan Tucker, dated November 17, 1992, by Malcolm Burnsed, Registered Land Surveyor. **THE STREET ADDRESS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF OF ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT NUMBERING SYSTEM OF STREETS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA IS 2320 HOWARD DRIVE, ALBANY, GEORGIA 31721.** The indebtedness secured by the aforementioned Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared immediately due and payable in full because of the failure of EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to maintain payments upon said

**Foreclosures**

indebtedness owing to the ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC. in accordance with its terms. Said indebtedness remaining in default, this sale shall be made for the purpose of paying such indebtedness, as well as all expenses of this sale, including attorneys' fees. The above-described property will be sold as the property of EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER and will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning and subdivision ordinances and/or regulations; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or an inspection of the property; all real property ad valorem taxes or assessments, which may constitute liens upon said property; all liens which, under applicable law, would take priority over the Deed to Secure Debt described above; and all easements, restrictions, rights-of-way, security deeds or other encumbrances of record which have priority over the referenced Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party presently in possession of said property is THE ESTATE OF EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER, and/or a tenant or tenants. Please be further advised that the entity which has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of your Notes, Security Deed, and related documents, is: ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC. Post Office Box 71026 Albany, Georgia 31708 Tel: (229) 391-1635 ATTN: Kenneth Knight Please note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of such loan. THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., as Attorney-in-Fact for THE ESTATE EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER MOORE, CLARKE, DUVALL & RODGERS, P.C. By: D. BRADLEY FOLSOM Attorneys for ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC. Post Office Box 4540 Valdosta, Georgia 31604-4540 (229) 245-7823 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-549** NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Chandravadan Kuntawala to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated December 17, 2021 and recorded on December 22, 2021 in Deed Book 4920, Page 76, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Three Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Two Hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$363,200.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, recorded in Deed Book 5325, Page 42, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 34 IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 3 OF C. R. HODGES ESTATE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 79, (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE 8-73), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. **Said property may more commonly be known as 518 Byron Plantation Rd, Albany, GA 31721.** The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPA CITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, Selene Finance LP 3501 Olympus Boulevard 5th Floor, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75019 877-735-3637. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are – Chandravadan Kuntawala and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPA CITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST as Attorney-in-Fact for Chandravadan Kuntawala Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee,

**Foreclosures**

FL 32312; (850) 422-2520 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

**A-539** NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM GEORGIA, CALHOUN COUNTY All persons having of record in the county in which the land is located any right, title or interest in or lien upon the following described property, yo-wit: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel E010 007, lying and being in the 4th Land District, City of Edison, Calhoun County, Georgia, being City Lot 124, described in Deed Book 178, Page 29, the description contained therein being incorporated herein by this reference, known as 101 First Avenue. TAKE NOTICE THAT: The right to redeem the hereinabove described property will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 15 day of July, 2026. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5th day of November, 2024 and is recorded in the office of Clerk of Superior Court of Calhoun County, Georgia in Deed Book 230, Page 668. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 15 day of July 2026 by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law at the following address: Donnell Bryant, 315 Summerset Loop, Blakely, GA 39823 Please be governed accordingly. Donnell Bryant June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**A-573** NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from MALCOLM WHITLOCK AND LINDA WHITLOCK to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., dated November 19, 2018, and recorded on November 30, 2018, in Deed Book 4558, at Page 103, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy and no/100 Dollars (\$137,270.00), with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded in Deed Book 5124, at Page 250, in aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as has been or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in August, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including, but not limited to, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 4, IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS ALL OF LOTS 85 AND 86 OF BRENTWOOD PARK, INC. ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 89 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-30), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OR SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Said property may more commonly be known as 2715 Abbey Ln, Albany, GA 31721. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-pay-

**Foreclosures**

ment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 75 Beattie Place, Greenville, SC 29601; telephone: (800) 365-7107. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Linda Whitlock aka Linda Whitlock, Malcolm Whitlock and/or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as Attorney-in-Fact for Malcolm Whitlock and Linda Whitlock Contact: PADGETT LAW GROUP, 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; telephone: (850) 422-2520 25-009672 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

**Calhoun Co. Legals**

**A-497** IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE ESTATE OF DEANNA DIANNE PIETRAS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026P24 NOTICE TO HEIRS TO: ALL HEIRS AND INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE ESTATE OF DEANNA DIANNE PIETRAS, DECEASED You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the Probate Court of Calhoun County, Georgia, seeking to Probate Will in Solemn Form and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed seeking administration of the above estate. All heirs at law of the said decedent are hereby required to show cause, if any they have, or before the 26th day of June, 2026, why said petition should not be granted. All-heirs are further notified to make themselves known to the Court and to file any objections in writing within the time prescribed by law. This 19th day of May, 2026. LARRY MELVIN KING II, Petitioner c/o G. Keith Murphy, Attorney for Petitioner. 185 East Broad Street Norman Park, Georgia 31771 706-897-5168 Probate Judge of Calhoun County, Georgia P. O. Box 87 Morgan, Georgia 39866 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026

**A-503** IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CALHOUN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Willie Frank Shedrick, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026P21 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE To whom it may concern: DAVY SHEDRICK has petitioned for DAVY SHEDRICK to be appointed administrator of the estate of WILLIE FRANK SHEDRICK deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before June 15, 2026. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing. Annie Doris Holder Judge of the Probate Court By: Annie Doris Holder Calhoun County Probate Judge 31 Court Square, Suite A P.O. Box 69 Morgan, GA 39866 229-849-2115 May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2026



**Got a Great Local News Story?**  
 Tell us about it today!  
 Call Carlton Fletcher 229-888-9300 or carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Release Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Patti Varol

- |  |  |                                      |                                |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | 4 Running with a mic, maybe                                  | 35 Pic filing                        | 47 Pi, for one                 |
| 1 Sign of puppy love?  | 5 Some penalty units: Abbr.                                  | 36 Warning sound                     | 49 "I don't believe that!"     |
| 9 Folded dish  | 15 Evidence that may not be fully reliable                   | 37 Pop duo ___ & AJ                  | 51 Selling point? gear         |
| 19 Evidence that may not be fully reliable                   | 16 Mottled   | 38 Finds an extra                    | 53 Lens covers?                |
| 17 Mud slingers?   | 18 Shiver  | 39 Dish often served "al forno"      | 55 Capital city of Hyogo       |
| 19 Deuce follower  | 20 Level   | 40 Subordinate                       | 56 Hubbub                      |
| 22 Teatime bite  | 23 Pacific nation whose national sport is rugby              | 43 Worship of entities known as kami | 59 Parlor piece, informally    |
| 23 Pacific nation whose national sport is rugby              | 25 Server reset?   | 44 Forwarded                         | 61 Greta of "The Morning Show" |
| 27 Pants, informally   | 28 "That's ___ from me"                                      | 45 Coffee grounds?                   |                                |
| 29 Couple  | 29 Day on 10-Down  |                                      |                                |
| 34 Scamp   | 35 A couple  |                                      |                                |
| 38 Place that may have a "no phones" rule                    | 39 Beer and skittles   |                                      |                                |
| 40 Kick  | 41 Couple  |                                      |                                |
| 41 Couple  | 42 Org. preceded by the Cipher Bureau                        |                                      |                                |
| 42 Org. preceded by the Cipher Bureau                        | 43 Vane dir.   |                                      |                                |
| 43 Vane dir.   | 46 Country whose motto was "Workers of the world, unite!"    |                                      |                                |
| 46 Country whose motto was "Workers of the world, unite!"    | 48 Best  |                                      |                                |
| 48 Best  | 50 Walks down the aisle, casually                            |                                      |                                |
| 50 Walks down the aisle, casually                            | 52 Rafael with a Golden Slam                                 |                                      |                                |
| 52 Rafael with a Golden Slam                                 | 54 Clucks  |                                      |                                |
| 54 Clucks  | 57 Light color   |                                      |                                |
| 57 Light color   | 58 "Point taken"   |                                      |                                |
| 58 "Point taken"   | 60 Nickname for the Southern city whose motto is "Resurgens" |                                      |                                |
| 60 Nickname for the Southern city whose motto is "Resurgens" | 62 Iroquois nation   |                                      |                                |
| 62 Iroquois nation   | 63 "Farewell, mes amis!"                                     |                                      |                                |
| 63 "Farewell, mes amis!"                                     | 64 Amplify, in a way   |                                      |                                |
| 64 Amplify, in a way   | 65 "This ends now"   |                                      |                                |

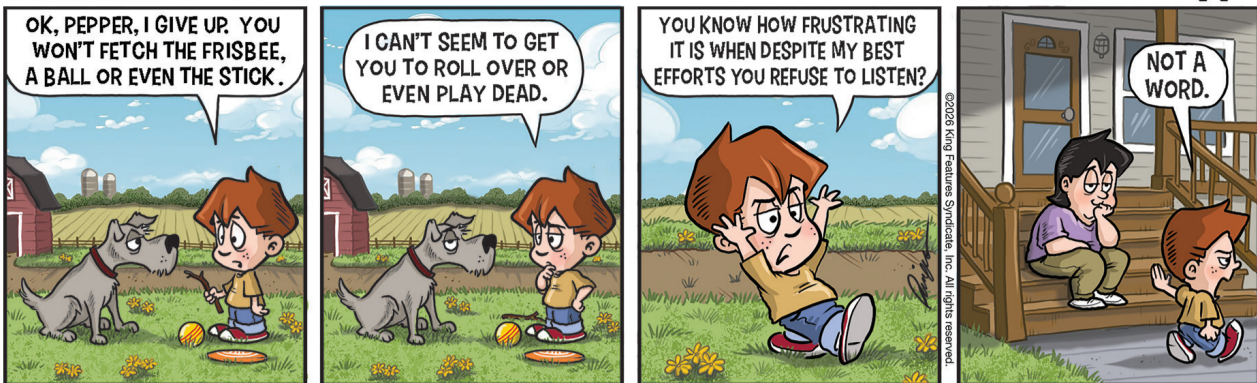
**ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:**

E	N	O	D	E	H	E	M	I	S	O	D	E	R	
L	O	L	N	E	I	B	V							
F	I	N	V	L	O	H	L	I	L	E	D			
I	N	I	L	S	S	L	T	V	D	V	N			
S	E	H	S	N										
E	S	S	V	S	N	O	N	D						
A	D	V	E	L	S	N	I	O						
D	W	I	T	O	S	O	M	L	O	N	Y			
N	O	H	L	I	E	T	V	D	N	O	L			
E	N	O	C	S	W	I	H	S	N	I	D	V		
H	O	W	E	H	L	S	V	S	I	S	I	V		
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L	E	T	E	W	O									

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15								16						
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35			</											

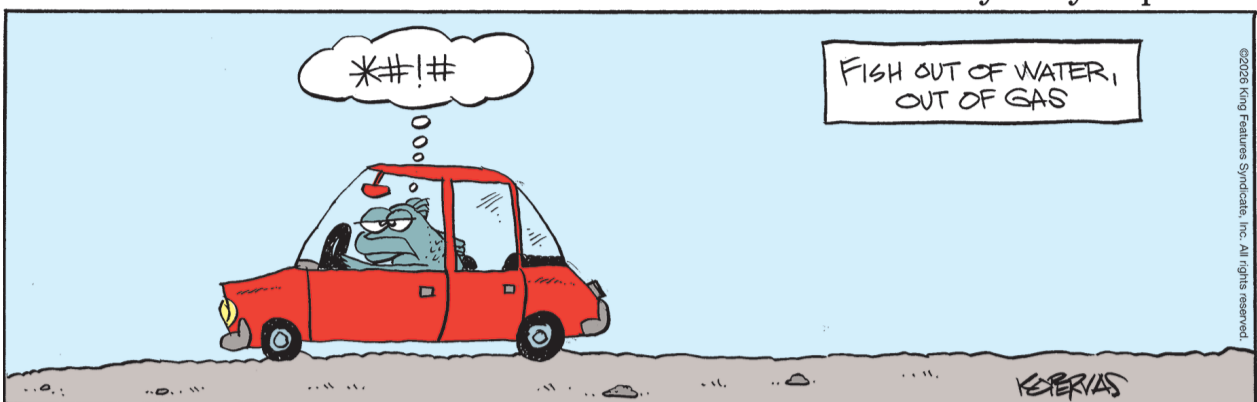
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



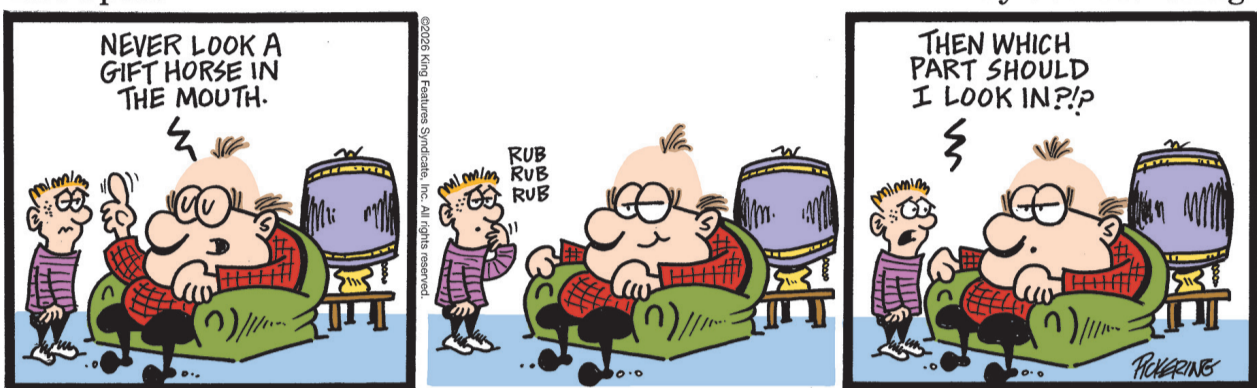
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



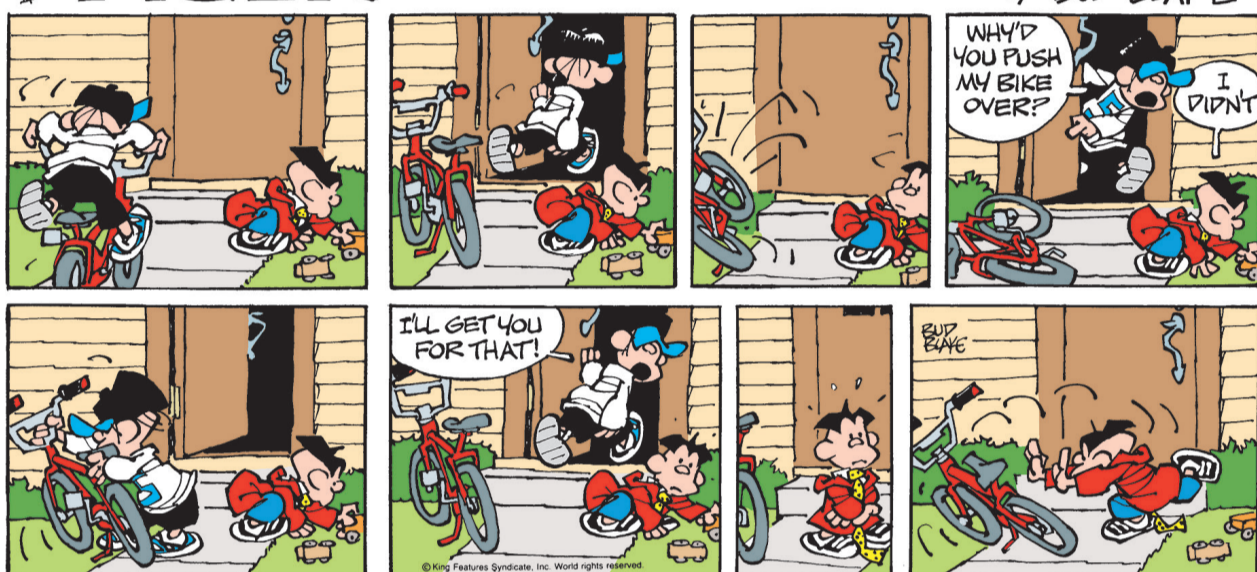
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



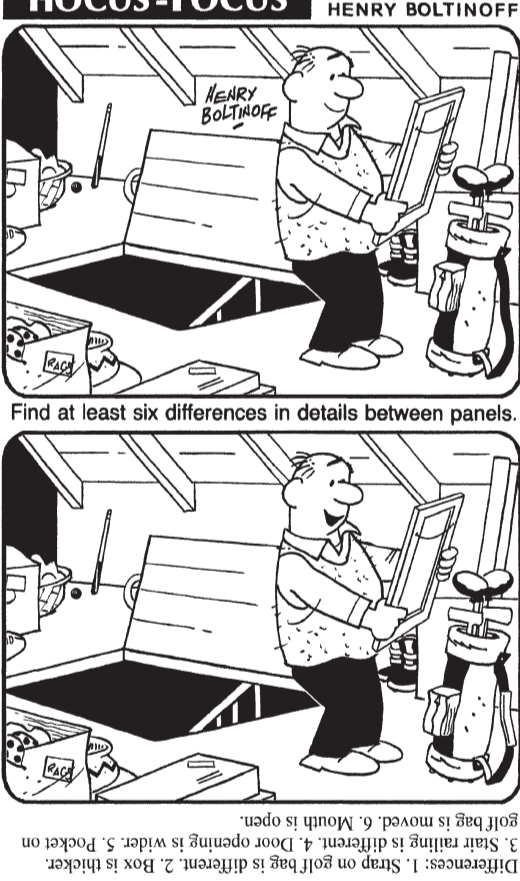
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



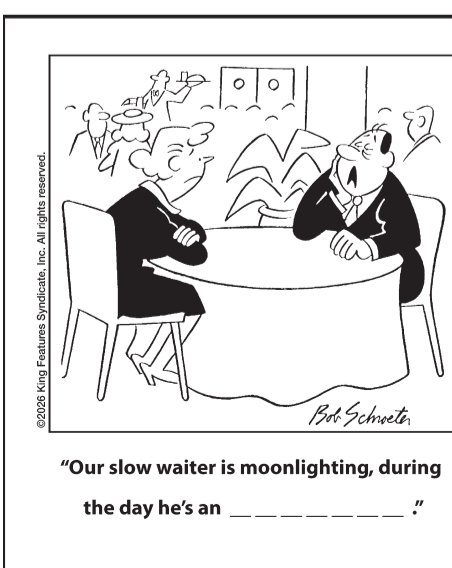
## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals Y

M UBNRQ ICVJYMPRH PBJ  
VCIBFFCPQ JOYJ JYMRBV JB  
YPHBPC CRZC. OC QMQP'J  
ZNMJ FC UCRR.

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## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Part **MOULDE** \_\_\_\_\_

Perform **CANTE** \_\_\_\_\_

Keen **AGREE** \_\_\_\_\_

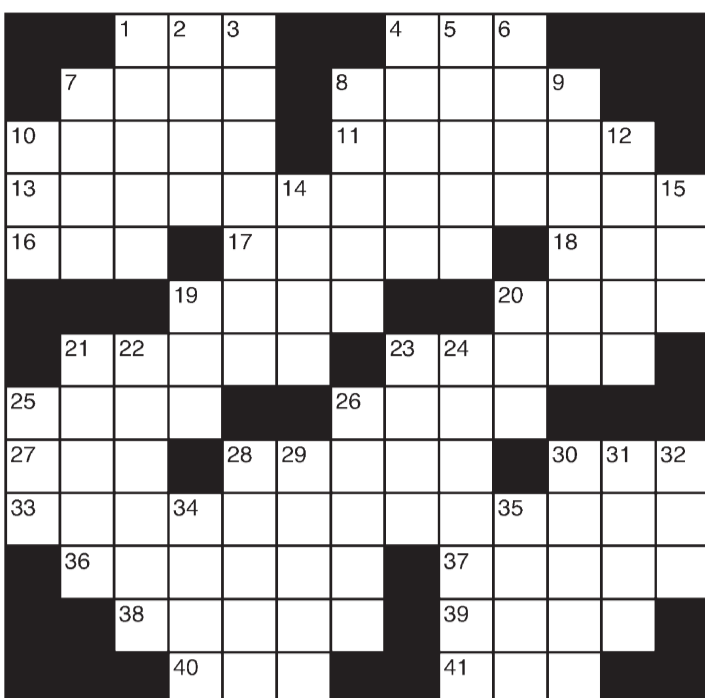
Lift **SHOTI** \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY'S WORD** \_\_\_\_\_

# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Center
- 4 Solo in space
- 7 Lawn mower brand
- 8 Spoils, with "on"
- 10 Wanderer
- 11 Beethoven's Third
- 13 Time management aids
- 16 Citric beverage
- 17 Got up
- 18 Mosquito barrier
- 19 "— chic!"
- 20 Feel sorry for
- 21 Mom's sister, informally
- 23 "Time in a Bottle" singer
- 25 Impudent
- 26 Owl call
- 27 Solid-rock insert
- 28 Spine-tingling
- 30 Lupino of film
- 33 Commuters' buys
- 36 Turned to mush
- 37 Lounges
- 38 Egypt's neighbor



- 39 Sloth's home
  - 40 Ballpark fig.
  - 41 Even so
- ## DOWN
- 1 Bro
  - 2 Russian river
  - 3 Tattoos, e.g.
  - 4 Circle dances
  - 5 Expiate
  - 6 Dresden denial
  - 7 Frog's kin
  - 8 Apollo's birth-place
  - 9 Picturesque

- 10 Secret protection doc.
- 12 Mountain crest
- 14 Quarry
- 15 Farm pen
- 19 Stick with a kick
- 20 Cauldron
- 21 Greek storyteller
- 22 Faraway orb abbr.
- 23 Business
- 24 Author's payment
- 25 Actress
- 26 "Papa" of classical music
- 28 Molts
- 29 Traction aid
- 30 Archipelago part
- 31 Editing mark
- 32 Ninny
- 34 Verifiable
- 35 Harboring a grudge

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who is the long-time host of the reality show "Survivor"?
2. MOVIES: What is the song playing when the lead characters dance the twist in "Pulp Fiction"?
3. U.S. STATES: The first president, George Washington, was born in which colony that would later become a state?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country controls Easter Island?
5. MYTHOLOGY: To which mythological character is the Parthenon dedicated?
6. LITERATURE: Which war is the background for Anthony Doerr's novel "All the Light We Cannot See"?
7. MATH: What is the sum of the first five prime numbers?
8. INVENTORS: Which inventor developed more than 300 products from peanuts?
9. MUSIC: Who won Album of the Year at the 2026 Grammys?
10. HISTORY: In what year did U.S. women earn the right to open credit cards in their own names?

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## FiveSpot™

Running errands

C	H	A	S	E

Pursue

Attain

Moved quickly

Inelegant

Below

Go to the nearest whole number

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsuzzle.com 02643

## AUDITOR

Today's Word

3. Eager; 4. Hoist

1. Module; 2. Enact

solution

SCRAMBLERS

R	O	U
N	D	U
D	E	R
C	R	U
D	E	D
H	A	C
S	E	A

solution

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

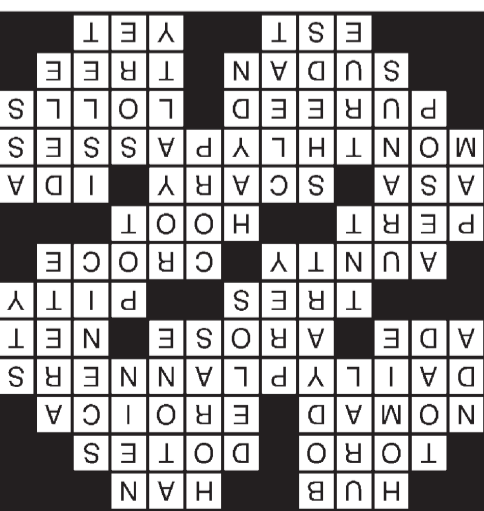
Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

answer

I would certainly not recommend that tailor to anyone else, he didn't suit me well.



Solution time: 24 mins.

## King Crossword

Answers

- Trivia Answers
1. Jeff Probst
  2. "You Never Can Tell," Chuck Berry
  3. Virginia
  4. Chile
  5. The Greek goddess Athena
  6. World War II
  7. 28 (2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11)
  8. George Washington Carver
  9. Bad Bunny
  10. 1974

# TV-What to watch

## Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

RELEASE DATE—Sunday, June 14, 2026

Edited by Patti Varol

**"IF YOU ASK ME" BY ZHOUQIN BURNIKEL**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Fellow student
- 5 Inner ears?
- 9 Wrap (up)
- 12 Braid
- 17 Crowning point
- 18 Critter who snoozed and lost
- 19 Shared intimacies, briefly
- 21 Impressionist Monet
- 22 Trick question?
- 25 Take care of
- 26 Forever and ever
- 27 Open question?
- 29 Cheese in some bagels
- 32 Catch
- 34 Don vestments
- 35 Fuzz on a rock
- 36 Mountain climber
- 40 Biggest holiday in Vietnam
- 41 Quaint contraction
- 45 Started a fresh pot
- 47 Get on in years
- 48 Sleeve
- 50 Bakery serving slices
- 52 "Pass"
- 53 Good question?
- 57 Historical period
- 58 Bridal boutique array
- 60 Group with Mind Games competitions
- 61 Needs some ice, perhaps
- 63 Corporate title abbr.
- 64 Take offense to
- 67 Put two and two together
- 69 Late bedtime hr.
- 70 Feline with a striped coat
- 72 Watch a friend's monstera, say
- 74 Ring-shaped island
- 76 Buy high and sell low, e.g.
- 77 Double-cross
- 78 Lady Justice's garb
- 81 Flood barrier
- 82 Take out of a sack
- 84 Checks for fit
- 86 Intense anger
- 87 Gotcha question?
- 92 Rummage sale label
- 93 Picturesque caves
- 95 Julius Erving, to fans

- 96 Hi-\_\_\_ photo
- 97 Wee
- 99 Billionth; Pref.
- 100 West of old Hollywood
- 102 Museum guides
- 105 "Songversation" singer India \_\_\_
- 106 Accordion features
- 109 Replayed tennis serve
- 110 Repeats verbatim
- 112 Leading question?
- 117 Harbor fleet
- 118 Dish with bubbling broth
- 119 Quick question?
- 125 Vidalia bulbs
- 126 Within reach
- 127 X-rated material
- 128 Clever notion
- 129 Crop threats
- 130 Cap'n Jazz genre
- 131 Pointillism marks
- 132 Corkboard pin

**DOWN**

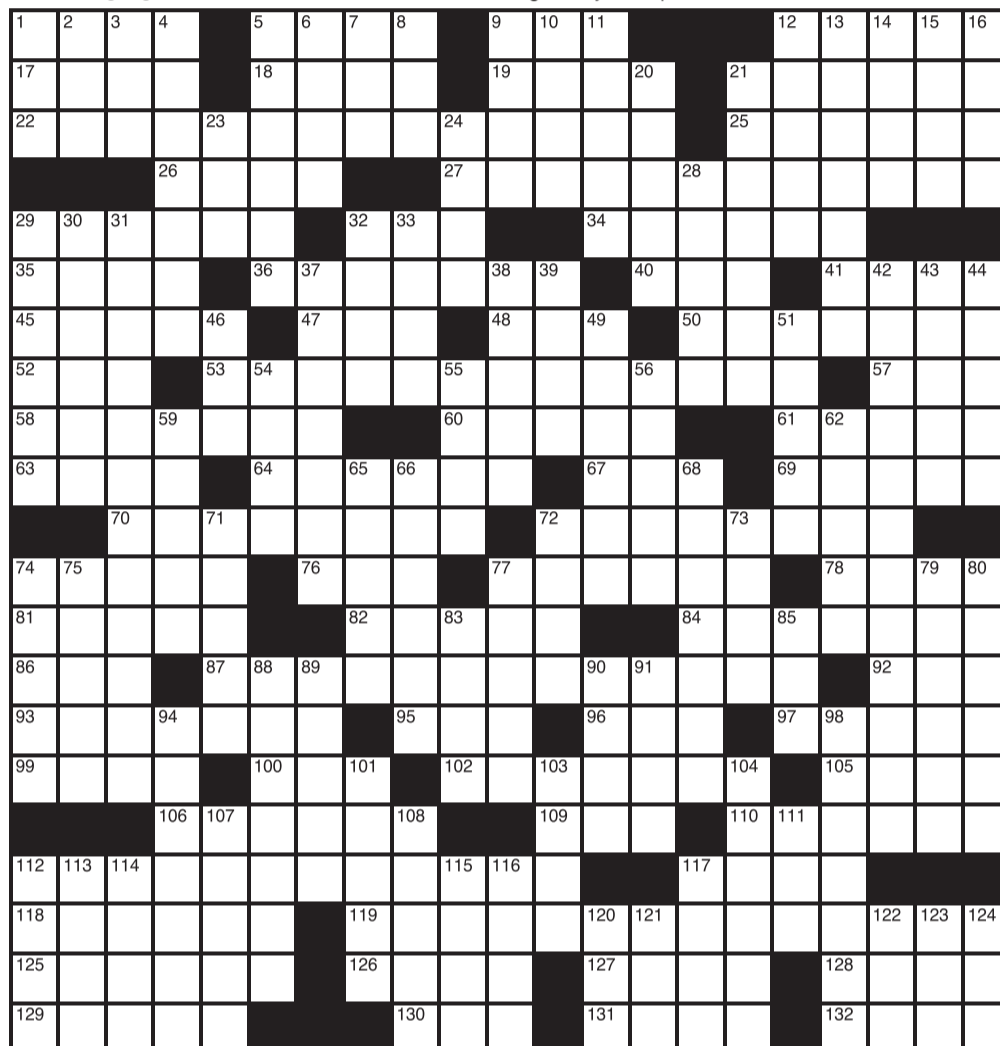
- 1 Campaign funding org.

- 2 \_\_\_ mode: hybrid setting
- 3 Ostrich's shorter cousin
- 4 Drop, as an album
- 5 Casual slacks
- 6 Grains in a crumble
- 7 Texter's "Gimme a sec"
- 8 "Understand?"
- 9 Bridge distance
- 10 Provocative
- 11 Forgo
- 12 Backup strategy
- 13 Stickers in glucose monitoring kits
- 14 Automaker headquartered in Ingolstadt
- 15 Inactive
- 16 Shirts with slogans
- 20 Barely sufficient
- 21 Like a kitchen during the dinner rush
- 23 Obedience school attendee
- 24 "Allow me"

- 28 French kin of a dosa
- 29 "Mamma Mia!" star Seyfried
- 30 Submarine trackers
- 31 Burning question?
- 32 Weary sound
- 33 Entreaty
- 37 "Gnarly" and "Gabriela" girl group
- 38 Diamond side
- 39 "\_\_\_ Ares"
- 42 First question?
- 43 Major artery
- 44 Involuntary twitch
- 46 Bad-mouth
- 49 Mrs. Pepper's partner on "Blue's Clues"
- 51 Community spirit
- 54 Tesla, for one
- 55 Leonardo's group, for short
- 56 Storm tracker
- 59 Like week-old mantou
- 62 Join forces
- 65 Wash vigorously

- 66 Merited
- 68 Genealogy research aid
- 71 Sound sheepish?
- 72 Simon of "Hot Fuzz"
- 73 Banks on many covers
- 74 Make straight
- 75 \_\_\_ cotta
- 77 Bluegrass strings
- 79 Water polo shot stopper
- 80 Right features of every square
- 83 Frequent fier?
- 85 Org. with complex schedules
- 88 Brief periods of time
- 89 Calculus pioneer Newton
- 90 First Nations people of Canada
- 91 Season that begins on Ash Wednesday
- 94 Leader's position

- 98 Outfit sometimes worn by Xi Jinping
- 101 Slater of "Wicked"
- 103 "Pinocchio" goldfish
- 104 Exercises that work quads and glutes
- 107 Penn State's Nittany \_\_\_
- 108 Bridal wear in Bangladesh
- 111 "How gross!"
- 112 Strike forcefully
- 113 Sharpen, as skills
- 114 Soul icon
- 115 Stack of paper
- 116 Greek dish similar to shawarma
- 117 Threaded fastener
- 120 Capital of Amer.
- 121 Texter's qualifier
- 122 Nutrition fig.
- 123 Suggestion, casually
- 124 Tibetan source of butter



6/14/26

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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**

- 1 developing (9)
- 2 they make a diamond sparkle (6)
- 3 tightfisted (10)
- 4 traditional bacon's skin (4)
- 5 actor La Salle (4)
- 6 rock rabbit (4)
- 7 Haitian island (7)

**SOLUTIONS**



Thursday's Answers: 1. REARRANGE 2. VANILLA 3. LENNON 4. RECOLLECT 5. EARLOBE 6. ARNO 7. ECLIPSE

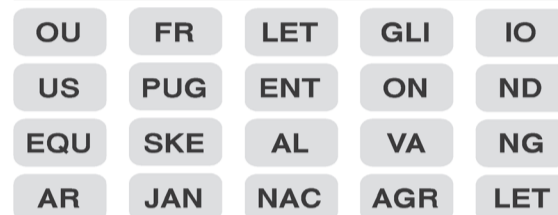
## 7 LITTLE WORDS

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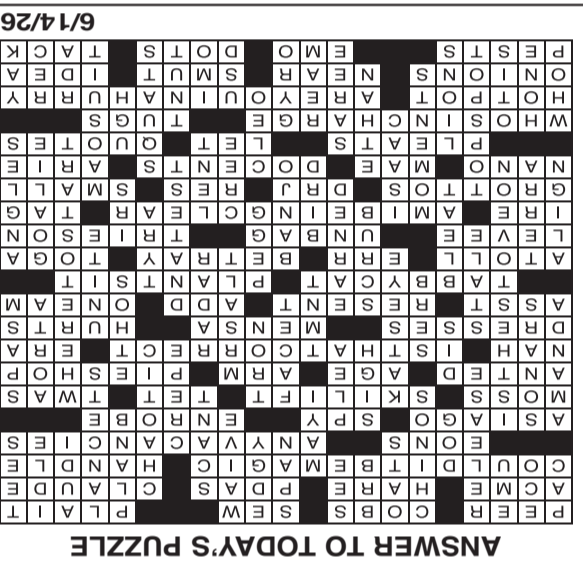
**CLUES**

- 1 habitual (8)
- 2 like nerves on edge (8)
- 3 bad place to run (7)
- 4 Jeeves, for one (5)
- 5 up for a fight (10)
- 6 resembling wings (4)
- 7 "bare-bones" Olympic sled (8)

**SOLUTIONS**



Friday's Answers: 1. UNFOLDING 2. FACETS 3. UNGENEROUS 4. RIND 5. ERIQ 6. PIKA 7. TORTUGA



## What to watch SATURDAY

June 13, 2026

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

### UFL Football: United Bowl ABC, 3 p.m. Live

The United Bowl, the United Football League's championship game, is contested today at Audi Field in Washington, D.C.

### NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: MillerTech Battery 250

The CW, 4 p.m. Live

Catch Justin Allgaier, Sheldon Creed, Jesse Love, Corey Day and other emerging stars of the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series in action at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pennsylvania.

### MLB Baseball FOX, 7 p.m. Live

Viewers will see either the Houston Astros at the Kansas City Royals or the Philadelphia Phillies at the Milwaukee Brewers for FOX's Saturday regional MLB game.



'Texas Two-Step'

EIKE SCHROTER, HALLMARK MEDIA

### Wild Spring BBC America, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Predation," the season of spring is a time of abundance for the world's predators as their prey welcome new life, become more active and emerge into the open in search of their own sustenance.

### Texas Two-Step Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. Original Film

Olivia (Heather Hemmens) returns to Texas to help her aunt with her country music bar

that's fallen on hard times and reconnects with Luke (Brendan Penny), her childhood sweetheart turned cowboy, and her passion for a little old Texas two-step dancing.

### The Jealous Bride Lifetime, 8 p.m. Original Film

When bride-to-be Meg (Amber Stevens West) is shaken by the return of a woman from her fiancé Josh's (Michael Xavier) past, her rising jealousy draws her into a dangerous psychological spiral, one that tests her control, her faith and everything she holds dear.

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Babette's Feast TCM, 10 p.m.

Regarded today as a Danish masterpiece of culinary cinema, this 1987 Foreign Language Oscar winner is a simple drama that follows two humble and extremely restrained sisters living in a seaside village who have devoted their

lives to their religion and helping the poor, bypassing their own personal joys and plenty of suitors. Many years later, an old suitor sends Babette, a Parisian who's lost her family and her way of life, to the sisters, where she seeks a humble job as their housekeeper. After working for the sisters for years, Babette wins the French lottery and asks the sisters if she could prepare a lavish dinner for them and the town's congregation. Her gesture is not apparent until the end of the film.



NORDISK FILM

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'The Dark Knight Rises' WARNER BROS.

**Heist** (2015, Action) Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Robert De Niro **VH1, 6 p.m.**

**It Ends With Us** (2024, Romance) Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni **FX, 7 p.m.**

**Sing 2** (2021, Children) Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon **NICK, 7 p.m.**

**Sixteen Candles** (1984, Comedy) Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall **Sundance, 7:45 p.m.**

**A Working Man** (2025, Action) Jason Statham, David Harbour **MGM, 8 p.m.**

**Coco** (2017, Family) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Freeform, 9:20 p.m.**

**Pretty in Pink** (1986, Romance-comedy) Molly Ringwald, Jon Cryer **Sundance, 9:45 p.m.**

**The Suicide Squad** (2021, Action) Margot Robbie, Idris Elba **TNT, 10 p.m.**

**Checkmate** (2025, Suspense) Joyce Glenn, Dorien Wilson **Lifetime, 10 p.m.**

**F9 The Fast Saga** (2021, Action) Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

**Tammy** (2014, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Susan Sarandon **CMT, 10:45 p.m.**

**The Dark Knight Rises** (2012, Action) Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway **Paramount, 11 p.m.**

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



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# What to watch SUNDAY

June 14, 2026

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

## Collector's Call

MeTV, 6:30 p.m.

Among the spectacular pieces featured in Garner Holt's collection (he's a manufacturer of animatronic figures for medical, military and entertainment uses) are a Dumbo vehicle from the aerial ride named after the cartoon elephant, a turtle from Disneyland's original Submarine Voyage ride, a pirate-ship-themed car from the Peter Pan attraction and a toboggan-shaped Matterhorn ride vehicle. Disney-park expert and collector Joel Magee joins Lisa to set a value on Garner's 900-piece collection and makes a bid to trade one of his own treasures for something he's got his eye on.

## MLB Baseball: Texas at Boston

NBC, 7 p.m. Live

Sunday Night Baseball is at Boston's legendary Fenway Park for the finale of a three-game series between the Texas Rangers and the Red Sox.



'Grantchester'

KUDOS AND MASTERPIECE

## Patience

PBS, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 2 of the drama begins with "Vampire," in which a photographer is found dead with a stake through his heart, and Patience (Ella Maisy Purvis) and new detective Frankie Monroe (Jessica Hynes) seek a logical answer to the mystery.

## Grantchester

PBS, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama's final season begins in the transformative summer of 1963. Alphy's (Rishi Nair) drive-in fundraiser turns deadly when a sponsor is found murdered and multiple suspects confess.

## This Land

CNN, 9 p.m.

The series examining the expansion of the United States through history continues with two episodes. See how the Lewis and Clark expedition opened routes to the Pacific Northwest, and how the Texas Revolution and the Mexican-American War shaped the border of the American Southwest.

## Property Brothers: Under Pressure

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

A couple is ready to buy a home, but they're clashing over her desperation to end the hunt and his careful restraint. With stakes rising and options narrowing, Jonathan and Drew help navigate the hunt to find a balance of ambition and peace of mind in the Season 1 finale "Enough Already."

## Best of the World With Antoni Porowski

Nat Geo, 9 p.m. ■ Series Finale

Two back-to-back episodes conclude the four-part series. First, Antoni Porowski (*No Taste Like Home*, *Queer Eye*) takes viewers to his hometown of New York City, showing us the ultimate places to go, stay, eat and explore. "As a son of Polish immigrants, to see elements of Polish cuisine incorporated into a Michelin-starred restaurant — I've never seen anything like it before," he tells. The final episode follows Porowski on an inspiring journey in London.



UNITED ARTISTS

**The Secret of My Success** (1987), starring Michael J. Fox stars as a kid from Kansas who moves to New York City to conquer the business world. When the job he thought he had is eliminated, he goes to work for his inept uncle (Richard Jordan), where he hilariously maneuvers his way from the mailroom to the boardroom in weeks.

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Ladder to the Top Movie Theme

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM puts the attention on what it takes to climb the business ladder. Billy Wilder's 1960 comedy **The Apartment** (pictured) sets the pace following insurance worker C.C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon), who lends his apartment to his superiors (for their illicit affairs) in hopes of getting a promotion. The film won a Best Picture Oscar and clocks in at No. 80 on the American Film Institute's Top 100 list. Fred MacMurray and Shirley Maclaine also star. Following is

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# What to watch MONDAY

June 15, 2026

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

## 2026 FIFA World Cup

FOX &amp; FS1, beginning at noon Live

Four matchups are on the World Cup docket today: Spain vs. Cabo Verde (Group H) in Atlanta on FOX, Belgium vs. Egypt (Group G) in Seattle on FOX, Saudi Arabia vs. Uruguay (Group H) in Miami on FS1 and IR Iran vs. New Zealand (Group G) in Los Angeles on FS1.

## Sullivan's Crossing

The CW, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "We Can Work It Out," a casual outing takes a dramatic turn after Maggie (Morgan Kohan) agrees to let Liam (Marcus Rosner) try to cheer her up.

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Star of the Month: Marilyn Monroe

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Turner Classic Movies' monthlong Monday night celebration of legendary actress Marilyn Monroe continues tonight, starting with **Bus Stop** (1956), a film that follows two Montana-based cowboys, Beaugard Decker (Don Murray) and Virgil Blessing (Arthur O'Connell), who meet a beautiful café singer named Chérie (Monroe). Chérie wants to make it big in Hollywood, and naive rodeo cowboy Beaugard is determined to lasso a new wife. After numerous tussles (and a literal kidnapping), Beaugard learns how to respect Chérie, which is all she really wanted in the first place. Monroe earned her first of two Golden Globe nominations for Best Actress in a Comedy or Musical for the role. Next is the unforgettable **The Seven Year Itch** (pictured), a 1955 romantic comedy in which Monroe innocently befriends a neighbor (Tom Ewell) who is



'Little Singles'

TLC

## World War II With Tom Hanks

History, 8 p.m.

In "Operation Torch," American and British forces engage in fierce tank battles against German Gen. Erwin Rommel in North Africa. Then, in "Secrets and Lies," the hidden battle of espionage, deception and codebreaking rages, resulting in the British deciphering Germany's Enigma Code and gaining crucial intelligence.



20TH CENTURY FOX

trying to resist his urges while feeling bored after seven years of marriage. Monroe escapes his clumsy advances unscathed, and Ewell's Richard gets back on the straight and narrow. Lastly, the night concludes with **Niagara** (1953), which was the first of three films that year that ultimately cemented Monroe as a sex symbol. This was one of her more dramatic roles, playing an unrepentant femme fatale set on having her husband (Joseph Cotten) murdered by her lover during a trip to Niagara Falls.

## Little Singles

TLC, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

Living in an average-size world comes with daily challenges, from accessibility and social stigma to dating and self-confidence. In TLC's new relationship series, a vibrant, tightknit group of little people who met at a little people convention embarks on a shared getaway where they can live freely without judgment, and where friendships deepen and sparks fly. What begins as a carefree getaway among friends quickly evolves into a chosen-family experience. With a mix of personalities, relationship histories and different forms of dwarfism, the group explores what love, honesty and truly belonging really mean.

## Lethally Blonde

Investigation Discovery, 10 p.m.

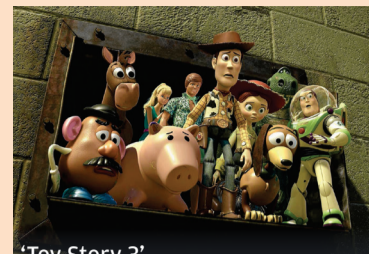
The lure of social media fame pulls a young woman into the dark side of cosplay in the new episode "Dressed to Kill." Driven by the attention and money that come with being an online celebrity, she enters a world of sexual exploitation, online trolls and homicide.

## The Last Twins

PBS, 10 p.m.

Discover the extraordinary story of Erno "Zvi" Spiegel, an unsung hero of the Holocaust who risked everything to protect dozens of young boys, many of them twins, targeted for brutal medical experimentation in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Through courage, compassion and ingenuity, Spiegel shielded these children from unimaginable harm. When liberation came, Spiegel led the boys on a harrowing journey across Europe, ultimately bringing them home.

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Toy Story 3'

DISNEY

**Toy Story 3** (2010, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 6:55 p.m.**

**Superman** (1978, Adventure) Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman **Sundance, 7 p.m.**

**Texas Two-Step** (2026, Romance) Heather Hemmens, Brendan Penny **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

**Top Gun** (1986, Action) Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis **CW, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**F9 The Fast Saga** (2021, Action) Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez **VH1, 8 p.m.**

**The Pastor Who Preys** (2026, Suspense) Amanda Nicholas, Daniel Stine **LMN, 8 p.m.**

**Miss You, Love You** (2026, Drama) Allison Janney, Andrew Rannells **HBO, 9:15 p.m.**

**Gremlins** (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates **CMT, 9:30 p.m.**

**National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight **FX, 10 p.m.**

**The Jealous Bride** (2026, Suspense) Amber Stevens West, Michael Xavier **Lifetime, 10 p.m.**

**Gladiator II** (2024, Historical drama) Paul Mescal, Denzel Washington **MGM, 11 p.m.**

**Cast Away** (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt **AMC, 11:25 p.m.**

From the editors of



TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Grown Ups 2'

TRACY BENNETT

**The Longest Yard** (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Chris Rock **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

**Avatar: The Way of Water** (2022, Science fiction) Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana **Freeform, 6:45 p.m.**

**Avengers: Endgame** (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans **TNT, 7 p.m.**

**ZOMBIES 3** (2022, Adventure) Milo Manheim, Meg Donnelly **Disney, 7 p.m.**

**Resurrection Road** (2025, Action) Michael Madsen, Malcolm Goodwin **Starz, 7:50 p.m.**

**The Little Boy Who Went Missing** (2026, Suspense) Laurie Fortier, Britton Webb **LMN, 8 p.m.**

**London Has Fallen** (2016, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart **BBC America, 8:45 p.m.**

**Grown Ups 2** (2013, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kevin James **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

**Turbulence** (2025, Suspense) Hera Hilmar, Jeremy Irvine **Encore, 9 p.m.**

**Alien: Romulus** (2024, Science fiction) Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson **FX, 10:30 p.m.**

**Straight Outta Compton** (2015, Biography) O'Shea Jackson Jr., Corey Hawkins **MGM, 10:45 p.m.**

**Unstoppable** (2010, Action) Denzel Washington, Chris Pine **AMC, 11 p.m.**

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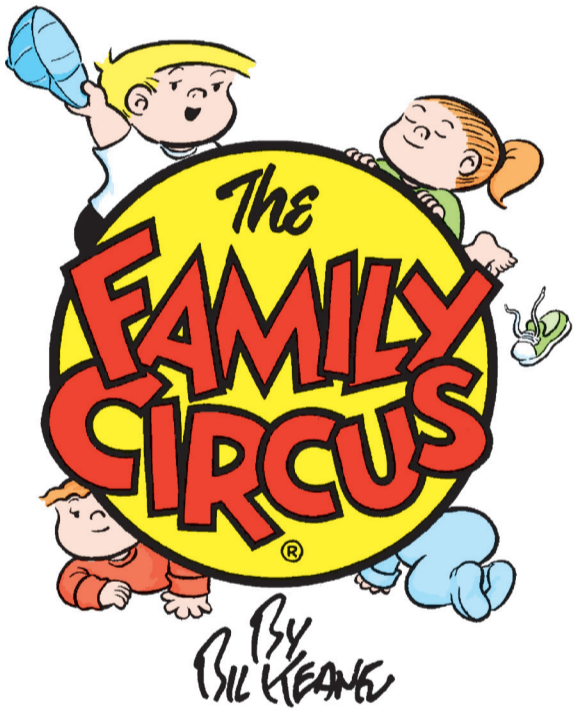
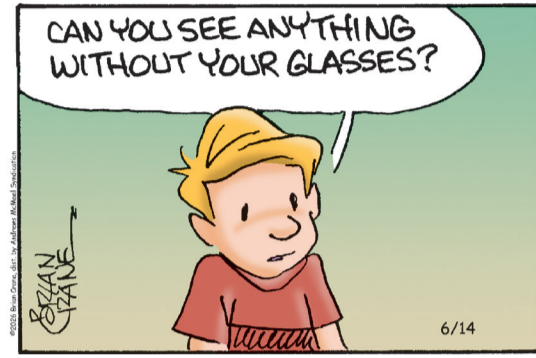
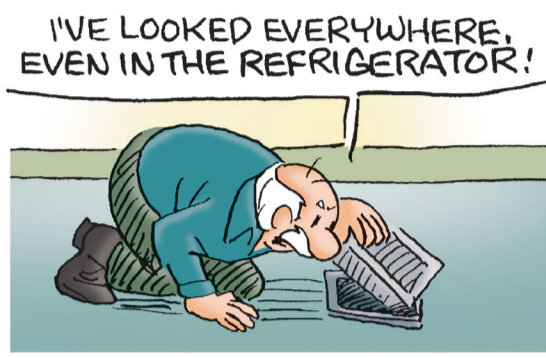
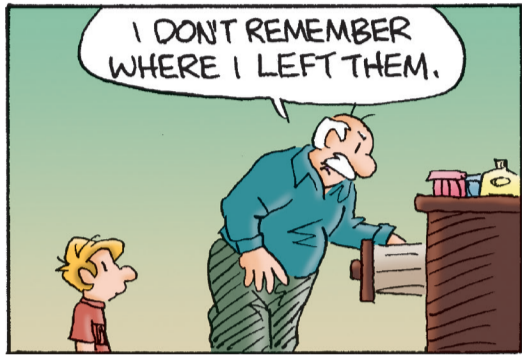
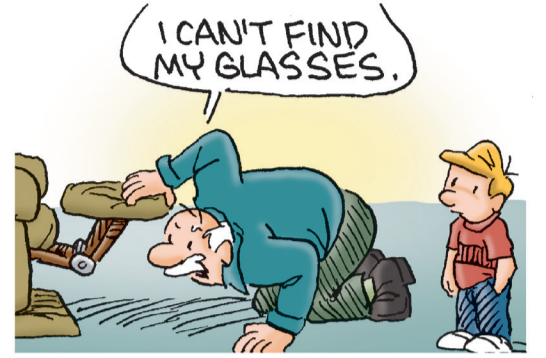
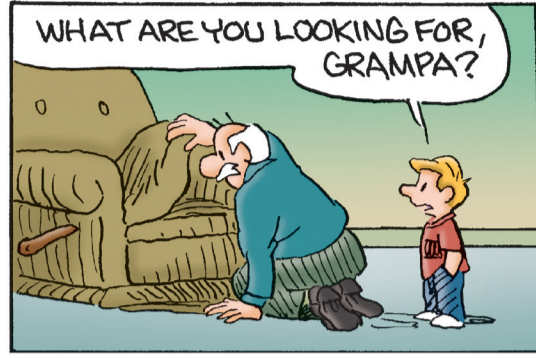
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# TV - What to watch

# The Albany HERALD Weekend Comics

JUNE 13-14, 2026



**What's the Meaning of This?**  
By Billy

With the kids home from school for the summer, Daddy received some expert help at the drawing board...

**Myth:** An unmarried lady.

**Tension:** What an Army Sergeant Says!

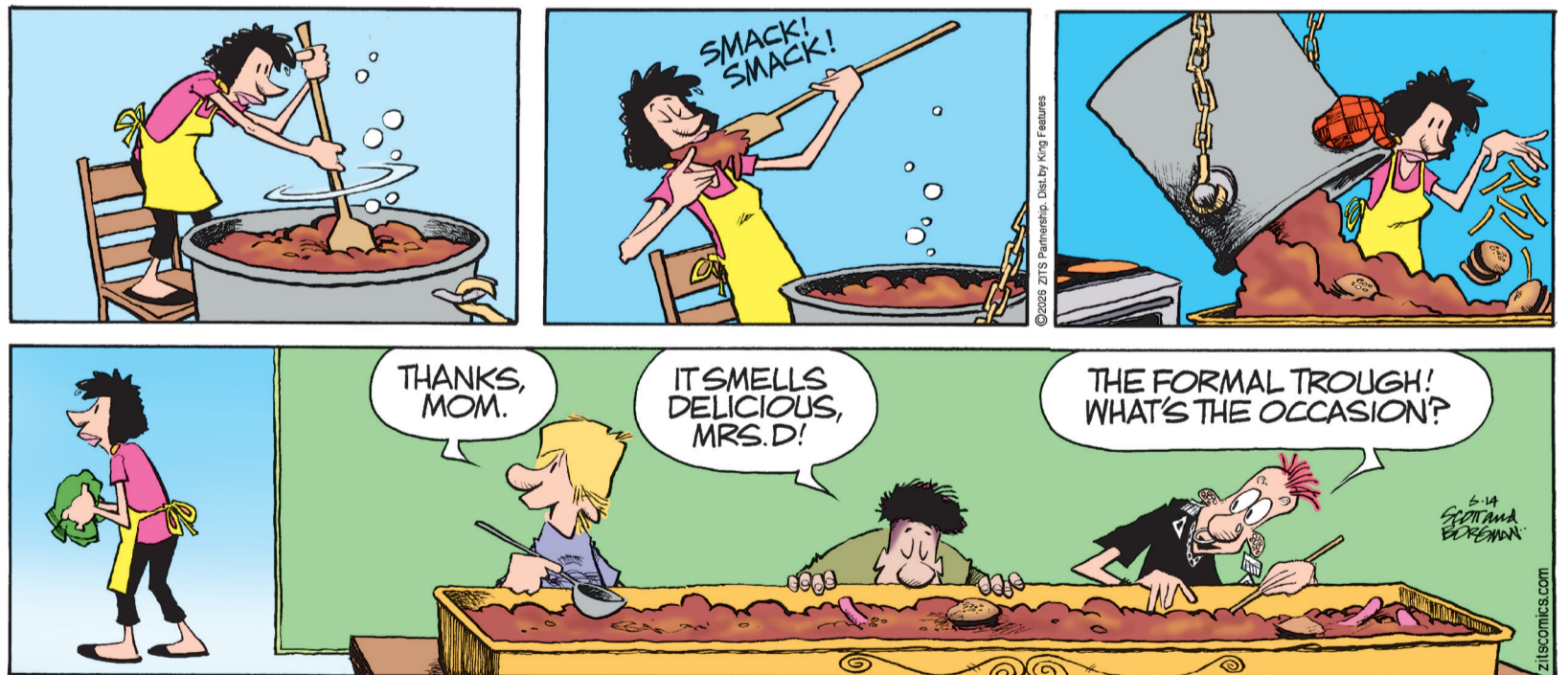
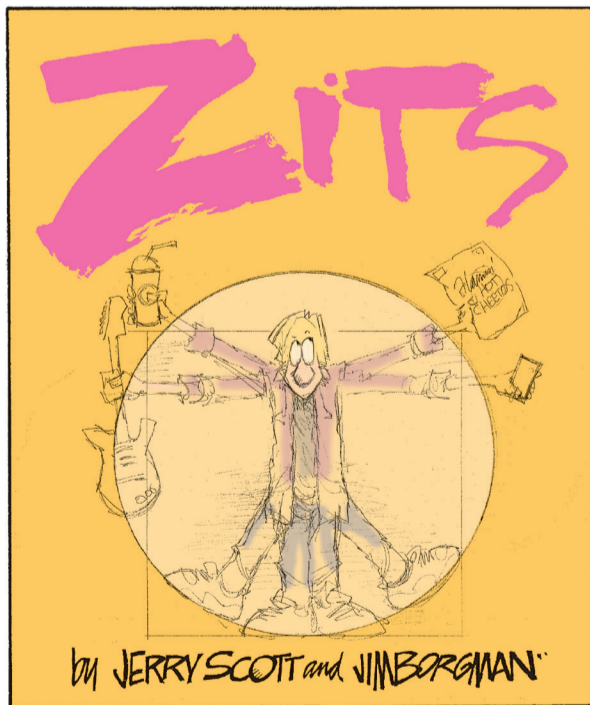
**Malady:** a tune

**Prism:** Where they send convicts

**Rink:** What a bell does

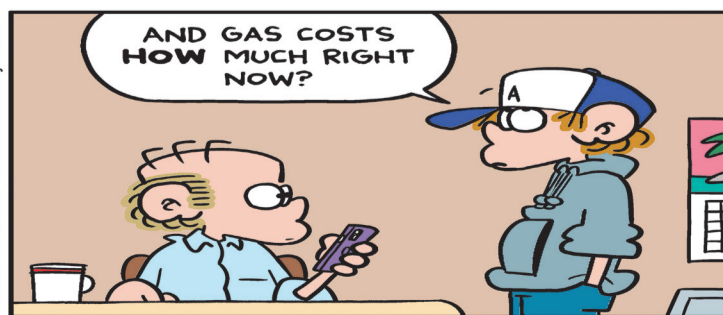
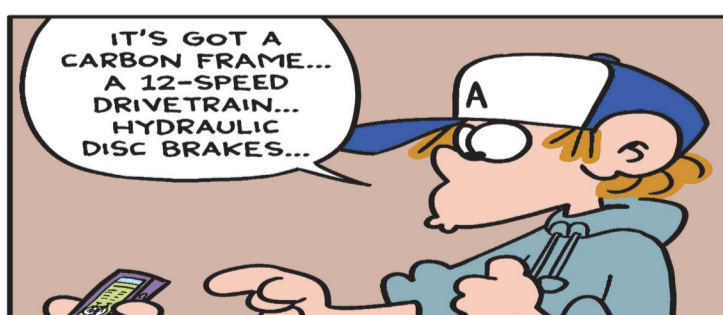
**Isolate:** Beginning of an excuse

**Sorcerer:** Goes under a cup



## FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



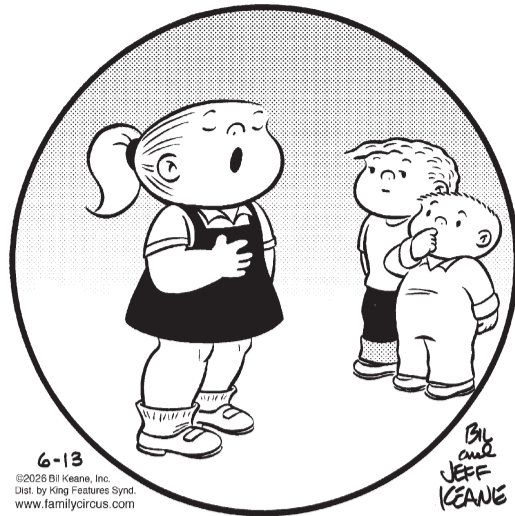


**CLOSE TO HOME** John McPherson



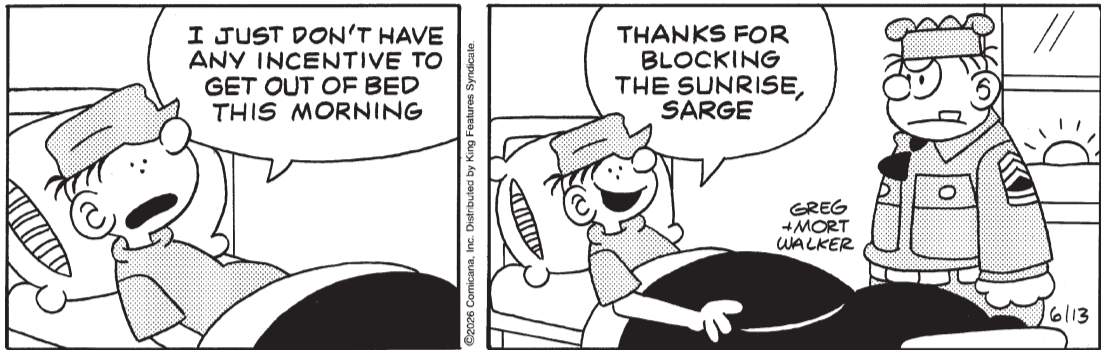
"In the event that you fall into enemy hands, comrades, our scientists have created these cyanide gummies in the shape of little hitmen."

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** Bill Keane

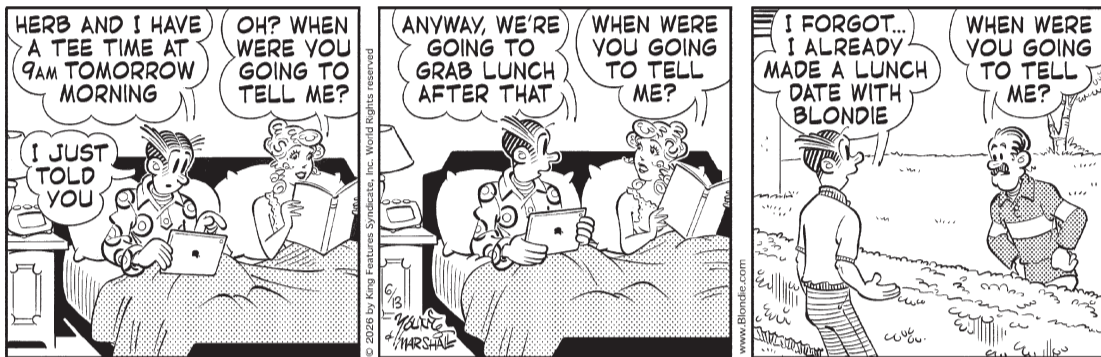


"I pledge deletions to the flag..."

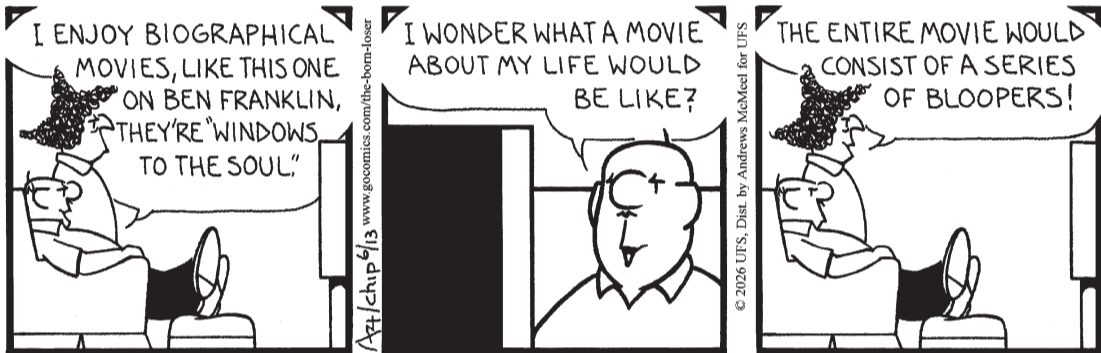
**BEETLE BAILEY** Mort & Greg Walker



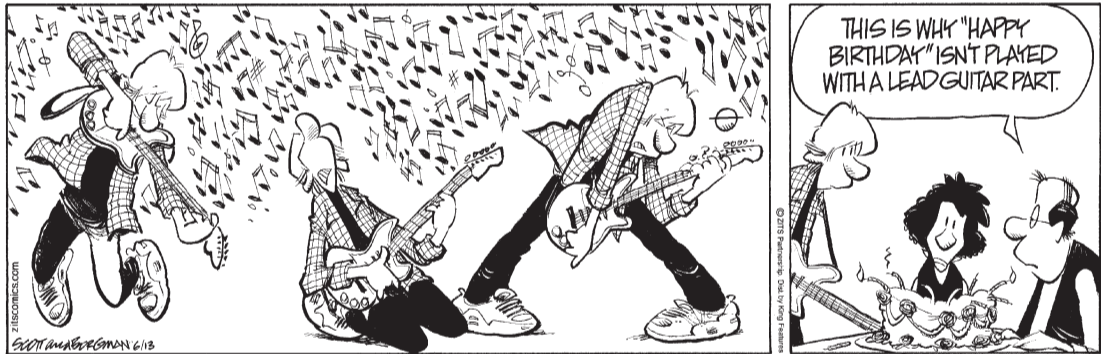
**BLONDIE** Dean Young & John Marshall



**THE BORN LOSER** Art & Chip Sansom



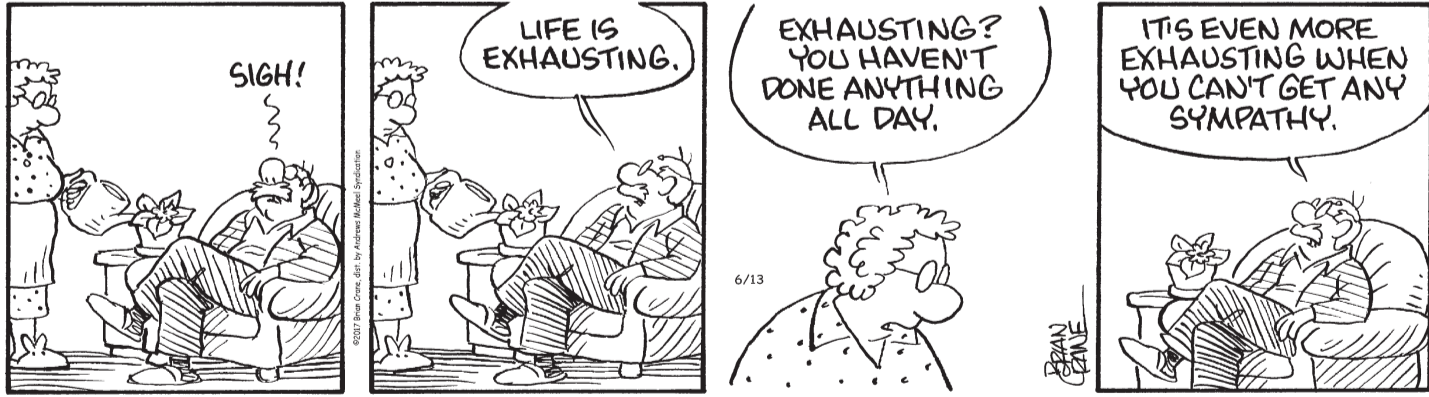
**ZITS** Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**GARFIELD** Jim Davis



**PICKLES** Brian Crane



**SUDOKU**  
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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

**F  
I  
J  
O  
B**

**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:**  
Lie down on the job

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Make a solemn promise
- 4 — and void
- 8 Scull
- 11 Lyricist — Gershwin
- 12 Birthright seller
- 13 Gumbo ingredient
- 14 Transgress
- 15 Throw
- 16 Slight mistake
- 17 Emissary
- 19 A condiment (2 wds.)
- 21 Cereal plant
- 23 Cheer from the stands
- 24 Or else
- 29 Mineral
- 32 Singer — McCartney
- 33 — of March
- 34 Furious
- 35 Goof

**DOWN**

- 1 Word on a card
- 2 First (Abbr.)
- 3 Dwindle

**36 Place for a patch**

**37 Sharp tooth**

**38 Likewise not**

**39 Move around**

**41 — — Ain't Got You"**

**43 Time per.**

**44 Spanish artist**

**48 Bicycle part**

**52 Genesis man**

**53 Car for VIPs**

**55 The "I"**

**56 Cornbread**

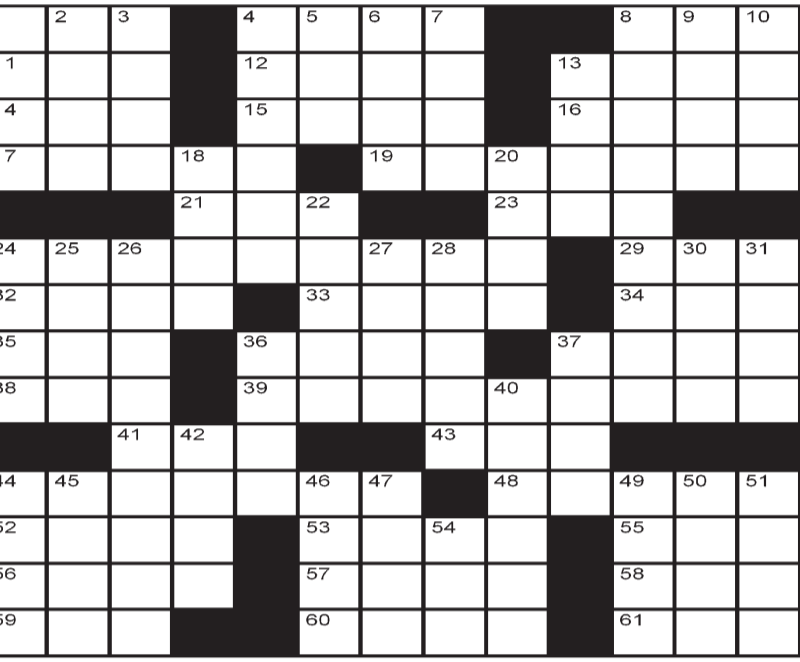
**57 "Oh, woe!"**

**58 Sea eagle (Var.)**

**59 Cakes and —**

**60 British retreat**

**61 — West of old movies**



**TODAY'S SOLUTION:**

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

**4 Delicious drink**

**5 "Born in the —"**

**6 Girl**

**7 Stringed instrument**

**8 Tulsa resident**

**9 Seed cover**

**10 Engrossed**

**13 Mountain in Greece**

**18 Holiday song**

**20 God of war**

**22 Bale binder**

**24 Candid**

**25 Source of poi**

**26 Powerful storm**

**27 Notion**

**28 Clairvoyants**

**30 Chimed**

**31 Boundary line**

**36 Actor — Kristofferson**

**37 Visage**

**40 Rest**

**42 Notoriety**

**44 "— Don't Preach"**

**45 "American —"**

**46 Wood strip**

**47 Unctuous**

**49 Judge**

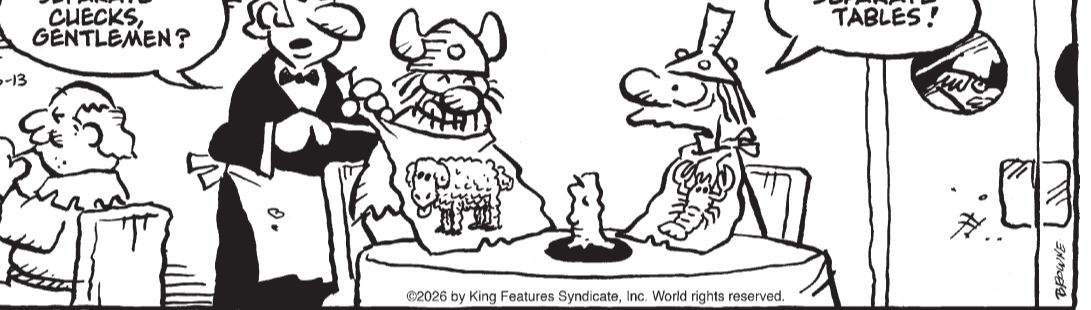
**50 Taj Mahal site**

**51 Sole**

**54 Damage**

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**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** Chris Browne



**PEANUTS** Charles M. Schulz



**POOCH CAFE** Paul Gilligan



**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

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

**UNBALL ONYX ROLLER PENS** Solution: 10 letters

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

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Absorb, Black, Books, Brand, Bright, Caps, Clean, Clear, Clip, Colors, Comfort, Conical, Copy, Create, Crisp, Draw, Environment, Fine, Flow, Glide, Grade, Graph, Grip, Hand, Ink, Line, List, Mark, Matte, Metal, Micro, Neat, Notes, Office, Pack, Pages, Paper, Point, Print, Refill, Roller, School, Sharp, Sleek, Smooth, Student, Supplier, Teacher, Thin, Tips, Vibrant, Write

**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Smudge-free

ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

THAT'S QUITE A COFFEE CUP.

YEP, I JUST BOUGHT IT.

IT HOLDS FOUR POTS OF COFFEE.

THAT IS... ALARMING.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN FINISH THAT.

YOU GIVE ME TOO LITTLE CREDIT.

PSSSH.

THEN WHY ARE YOU STALLING?

I'M LETTING THE FIRST CUP SETTLE.

6-14

HARRELL

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON

THERE WAS A LOUD POP IN HIS BACK, HE SCREAMED, AND HE'S BEEN FROZEN LIKE THAT FOR HALF AN HOUR! HE'S LITERALLY STUCK IN LIMBO DOING LIMBO.

6-14

McPHERSON

THE BORN LOSER®

by Art & Chip Sansom

WHY THE LONG FACE, GLADYS?

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING IN LIFE.

NONSENSE! OF COURSE YOU HAVE, MY DEAR!

YOU'VE RAISED TWO CHILDREN—THAT'S A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT!

GEE, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... WAIT A MINUTE...

YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE TWO KIDS—WILBERFORCE IS MY ONLY CHILD!

I'M COUNTING BRUTUS AS YOUR SECOND CHILD—HE CLEARLY QUALIFIES!

6-14

Art & Chip Sansom

Jeff MacNelly's

Shoe

By Ben Lansing & Susie MacNelly

CHECKMATE!

EASY SPARE!

BIRDIE PUTT.

I'M ALL IN.

KIDS THESE DAYS...

ALL THEY DO IS PLAY GAMES.

6/14

Susie MacNelly Lansing

WIZARD

HELLO! I'M FRANK, THE WIZARD OF WISE, HERE TO SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN... A LIBRARIAN!

DON'T CRY OVER SPILLED MILK. SAVE THOSE TEARS FOR SPILLED BEER!

THE EARLY BIRD... HAS MORNING BREATH!

ERNIE! PLEASE! ALLOW THE WIZARD TO FINISH. HAVE PATIENCE! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT...

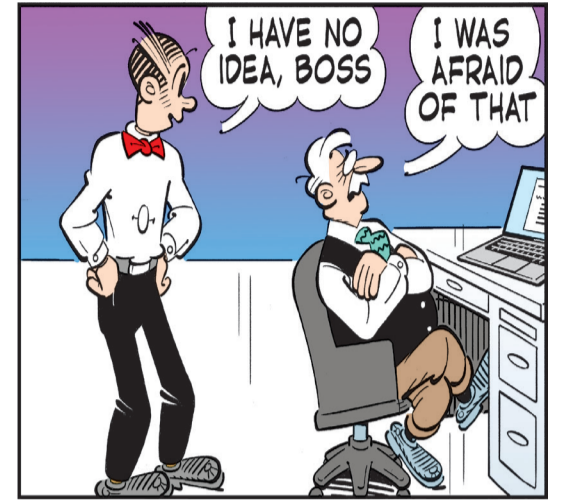
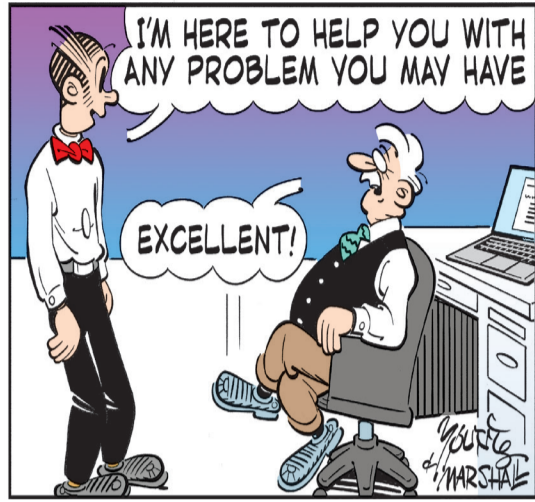
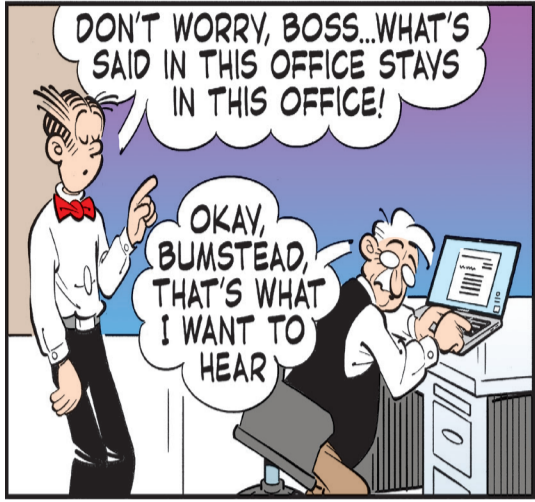
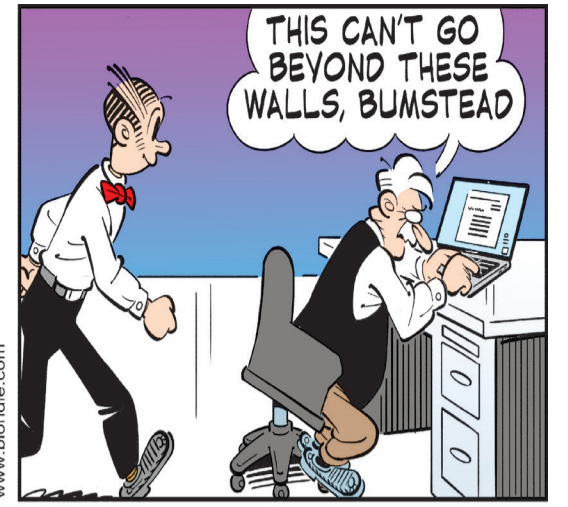
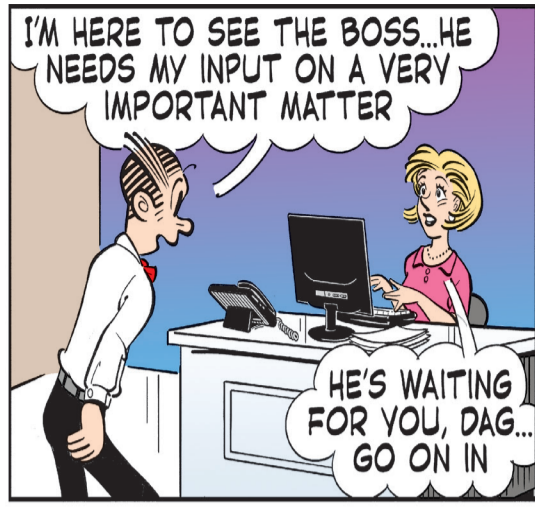
GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO... CAN MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT!

6/14

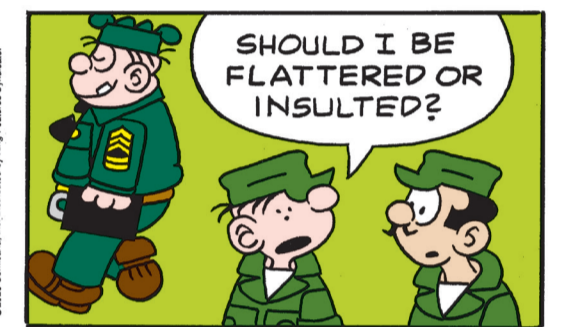
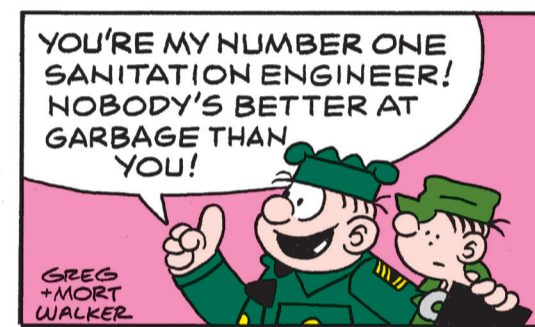
THINES

# BLONDIE

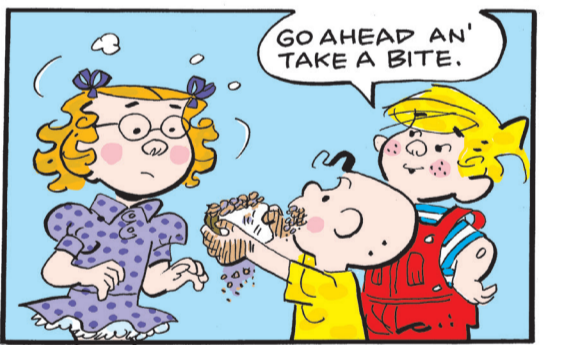
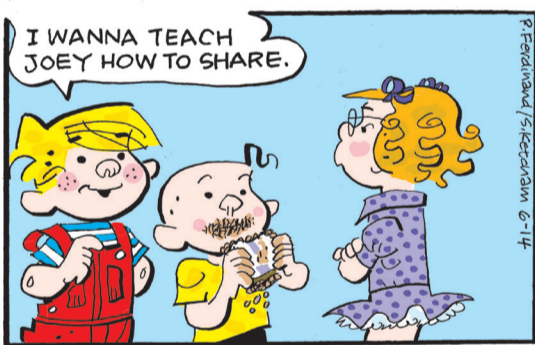
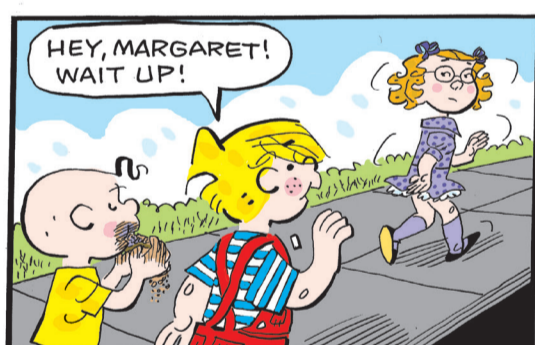
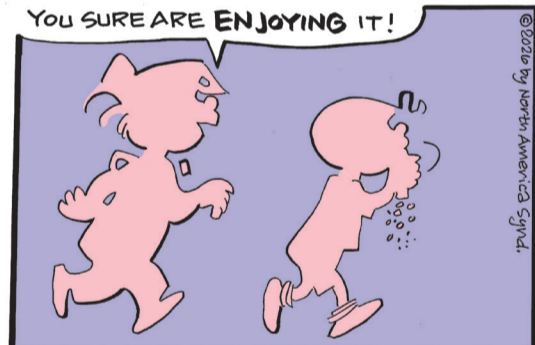
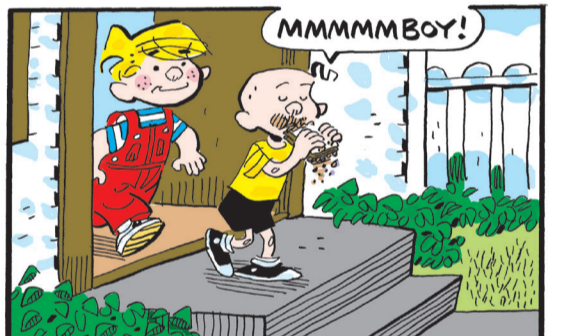
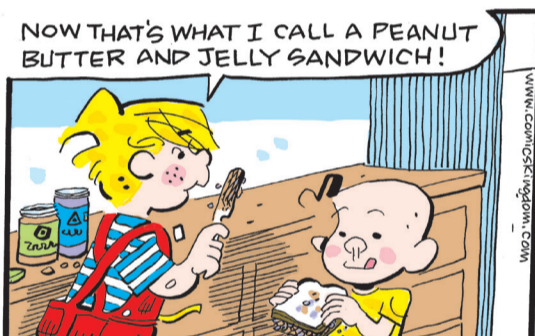
BY JEAN YVES & JOHN MARSHALL



## Mort Walker's beetle bailey

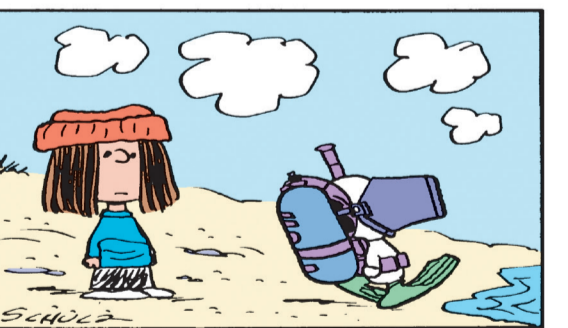
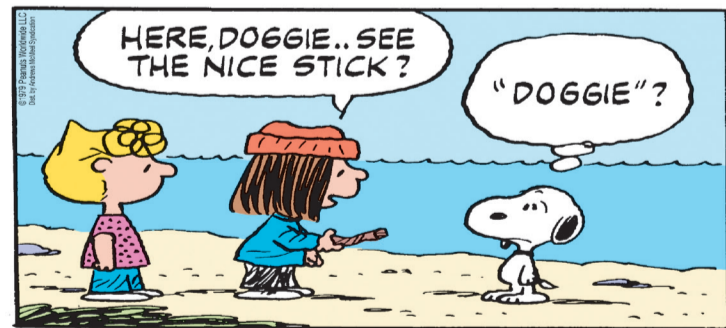
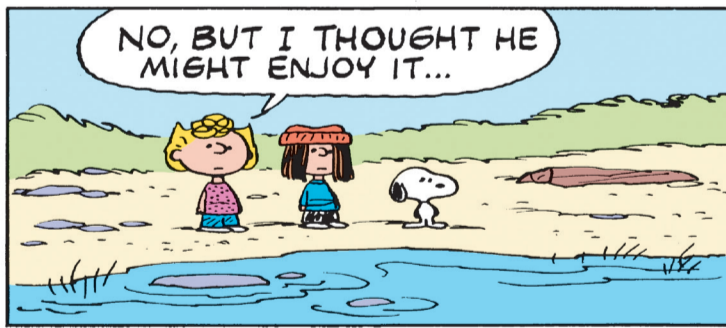


## Nanki Ketchum's Dennis the Menace GULP!



### CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

