

Perspectives
Sean Dietrich
• Page 6A

The Albany HERALD



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Anti-tax • Page 4A
Sims opposes measure

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WEEKEND

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

Phoebe welcomes family medicine residency Class of 2029



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital officials welcomed the largest ever class of family medicine resident physicians at its traditional White Coat Ceremony Wednesday.

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital officials welcomed the largest ever class of family medicine resident physicians at its traditional welcome ceremony Wednesday. This year, the Phoebe Family Medicine Residency is expanding from eight to 12 residents per class, and the community rolled out the welcome wagon for the newest residents during the annual White Coat

Ceremony.

The incoming class, most of whom recently graduated from medical school, was introduced during the ceremony, marking the beginning of their three-year residency training at Phoebe. Throughout the program, the residents will work alongside experienced faculty, complete rotations across multiple specialties, and care for patients in both hospital and clinic settings.

As part of their training experience, residents will now practice at the new Phoebe Family Residency Clinic that recently opened on the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital campus. The relocation from Phoebe Northwest brings clinic and hospital-based learning together in a single setting, creating a more connected and efficient experience for the residents, as well as their patients, while encouraging closer collaboration

See **PHOEBE**, 2A

Dougherty sheriff's summer camp celebrates 30th year



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Students participate in indoor activities Wednesday at the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office's Youth Summer Camp. The camp is being held at the Robert Cross Middle School campus.

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – The Dougherty County Sheriff's Office welcomed nearly 400 youngsters, double the usual number, for its annual Youth Summer Camp program this year that is celebrating its 30th year of offering learning, sports and other activities.

The boost in numbers came after Albany State University cancelled the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) this year due to the loss of funding, eliminating for this year at least the long-running program that traditionally had served 500 or more youngsters with summer activities.

While in a typical year the sheriff's program might have had 150 participants, this year it had 800 applicants, and the biggest attendance for a single day topped 360.

The Dougherty County Commission increased its funding for the sheriff's program to

See **CAMP**, 2A



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

After a successful stint with the city of Albany's Albany Works program, Debra Wiley was selected to lead the city's new Department of Community Care.

For Community Care Department head Debra Wiley, strength is in the collective

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Talk to Debra Wiley for any period of time about her role as director of the city of Albany's Department of Community Care, and one theme is bound to surface.

The power of unity, of the collective.

Wiley, a long-time educator who also owned her own business for a period, began her service with the city as head of its Albany Works program, which sought to help individuals in the community find job opportunities after release from the judicial system. The hope was that Albany Works would help lessen the recidivism rate that plagues law enforcement and the judicial system.

"Ms. Wiley started working with us in the Albany Works program, and her work led us to expand her role to help find wraparound services that would help impact the court system, veterans and the homeless," Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs said. "Those issues are becoming pervasive in the community, and the goal of the Department of Community Care is to address them in a way that can hopefully bring about positive change."

Wiley said her primary goal in the almost yearlong existence of the department has been to secure funding through grants and private philanthropy that will, primarily, impact the issues of homelessness, recidivism and veterans' care. But the ultimate goal, she says, is to create a collective atmosphere in the community that will lead to a more collaborative effort to address the concerns.

"We have so many nonprofits and other groups in our community that address the issues that have become major concerns, but what we need is a collective, a united effort to work on these issues together," she said. "We're going to be stronger together; we need a native approach that will allow us to combine our resources."

"We have a wonderful city, and we've already gotten involvement from organizations like Sherwood's Hope Center, Mt. Olive Church, Goodwill Industries and individuals like

See **WILEY**, 2A

Bringing (positive) changes to the Herald's Squawkbox

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY -- Here's a trivia question for regular contributors to The Albany Herald's Squawkbox feature: When did the feature first run in the paper?

We'll take a "Jeopardy!" theme moment for you to think about it.

Dun-da-dun-dun dun ... dun ... dun. Boom-boom. Time's up.

The first Squawkbox ran in The Albany Herald on Sept. 11, 2001. That's right, on 9-11. And while the powers that be at The Herald at that time worried that there might not be enough contributions to keep running the feature daily as readers got used to it -- they

even had a backup ready for such an occurrence -- they need not have worried.

As we continue to deal, each

See **SQUAWKBOX** 2A



Special Illustration

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

- 250th America Anniversary 1C
- Classifieds 2B-4B
- Comics..... 8B-12B
- Crosswords.....5B, 9B-10B
- Obituaries 11A
- Perspectives 6A
- Sports 9A-10A
- Squawkbox 3A
- TV Guide 6B-7B
- Weather 3A

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Albany Civil Rights Institute to host Freedom School summer camp

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany Civil Rights Institute will host the Freedom School summer camp, a program designed to inspire young scholars through literacy, leadership, and cultural affirmation, officials announced.

Rooted in the legacy of the civil rights movement and inspired by the 1964 Freedom Summer, officials with the CDF Freedom Schools program noted that the summer camp provides more than academic enrichment: It creates a movement for educational equity, justice and hope.

Through a research-based, multicultural curriculum, schol-

ars will experience a literacy-rich environment that celebrates their identities, strengthens their reading skills, and connects learning to civic engagement and social action. The program's holistic model also emphasizes family involvement, servant leadership, and health and wellness.

Forty scholars in grades K-12

will set up camp Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning through July 24. Each day begins with Harambee, a joyful gathering that builds community and reminds scholars of their shared strength and purpose.

With caring mentors, culturally relevant books, and engaging enrichment activities,

the Freedom School summer camp will help children grow as confident readers and leaders.

"The CDF Freedom Schools Program is not just about education; it is about liberation, equity and hope." Craig E. Moore, executive director of the ACRI, said.

By selecting the Albany Civil Rights Institute as a grantee,

that mission will come to life as scholars are encouraged to dream boldly, lead courageously, and embrace their heritage.

For more information about the Freedom School Summer Camp, contact Summer Camp Director Kay Eady at (229) 881-5763. ACRI hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

From 1A

WILEY

(Albany City Commissioner) Chad Warbington. That's the kind of support that can build partnerships that allow us to have a greater impact."

Jacobs agreed that such partnerships will determine just how much the Community Care department is able to move the needle toward finding help for those who need it most.

"When you deal with issues like this — homelessness, recidivism, veterans care — it cannot be a one-person or a one-agency approach," the city manager said. "It's got to be a partnership, people working together."

"These issues touch a growing portion of our population,

and with the economics of our country right now, I'm afraid things are not going to get better anytime soon. That old saying about many of us being one missed paycheck away from finding ourselves in these circumstances is absolutely true."

Wiley is an Albany native who attended Albany High School before a rezoning in the city led to her finishing high school at Westover High. She initially "took the professional route" and studied business at Darton College (now Albany State University's West Campus). She opened her own nail tech/massage therapy business for a period before taking her life in a different direction.

"I'm a lifelong learner, so I went back to school, graduated from Albany State and served a Fellowship at the University of Cincinnati," Wiley said.

What followed was 32 years in the education field, teaching at "HBCUs, tech schools and PWIs (predominantly white institutions)," and serving as a consulting program manager before taking the Albany Works position.

Intent upon expanding her role as a "service leader," she helped a large number of individuals through Albany Works and was happy to expand her role as head of the Community Cares department.

"With this new department, we have a heavier lift," Wiley said. "We have a small department but get some help from internships at Albany State and Albany Technical College. We've developed a strategy of engagement, always trying to impact the individual first. If we can do that, it will help make families stronger. When

families are stronger, the community is stronger."

The key, Albany's Department of Community Care director says, is to help the individuals and programs in the region see the humanity of those in need.

"By working together, we as a community can help individuals in crisis see that they can deal with these issues they face, mental health and spiritual needs," she said. "We can't continue to criminalize homelessness. After all, it costs more to incarcerate an individual than it does to house them."

"That's why building a collective is so important. We need everyone working together: churches, community organizations, the government, the school system and our leaders. When we maximize all our assets, that's when we'll see real change."

From 1A

SQUAWK-BOX

of us in his or her own way, with what has become an ideologically divided country, many contributors have used the Squawkbox to offer their take on what's wrong or right in the country, of course proving -- at least in their own minds -- that their way is the right way.

With that in mind, The Herald, as part of The Georgia Trust for Local News, is altering the way the Squawkbox is present-

ed. No, contributors still won't have to reveal their identity (a detail that, when planning of the feature was initially discussed, made me oppose the feature, though I was the only one), but restrictions now will be placed on content.

To wit:

Contributors should have something to say about life in Albany, Dougherty County and southwest Georgia. We definitely do want to hear it. The Squawkbox is, after all, a space for community voices: praise, frustration, questions, and everything in between.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Keep it local. Submissions should focus on issues, people and places in Albany, Dougherty County and southwest Georgia. We are not the right venue for commentary on national politics or public figures outside our community.

Be civil. Personal attacks, profanity, and hate speech will not be published. Criticism is welcome; name-calling is not.

Stick to the facts. Submissions must not contain false statements of fact about identifiable individuals or organizations. We cannot publish content that is defamatory or exposes the Albany Herald to legal liability.

The Albany Herald reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity, and to decline any submission at its sole discretion. Submission does not guarantee publication.

There you have it. Sure, it will be hard to refrain from calling the president -- or the enemies of the president -- names, and while we all think we have the solutions that will make things right with the world, let's focus on our own little part of the world for a change.

Trust me, there's plenty going on around here -- and plenty of characters who deserve closer scrutiny -- to keep this feature going for another 25 years. Let's focus on them and on issues that impact us here in southwest Georgia.

As an additional note, we'll mention here that The Albany Herald's office will be closed Friday so that the newspaper's staff can enjoy the Independence Day holiday. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and the July 6 editions of the paper will be published. Now whether the post office ... well, never mind there.

Everyone have a great holiday, and let's all remember what we're celebrating.

From 1A

CAMP

\$75,000 for 2026 in order to increase the number of participants. The no-cost camp was open to youngsters ages 5 through 14 and provided breakfast, lunch and a snack each day.

"What was important to the county is we knew there was going to be a decrease in services," Commissioner Clinton Johnson said. "We weren't trying to take over anybody's program, we just wanted to reach at-risk kids. My hope was the sheriff was already doing it, so we expanded it."

"There was no need to start something new when you've got somebody who's already doing it. We provided a safe place for the kids and kept them off the streets."

The Youth Summer Camp is a legacy of former Sheriff Kevin Sproul, who started the program three decades ago. This year's month-long program is wrapping up, with an awards and field day held on Thursday of this week ahead of the final day of activities on Tuesday and a trip to Rigby's Water World in Warner Robins on Wednesday.

While students participated in sports, the summer program, held at Robert Cross Middle School, also emphasized keeping them academi-

cally engaged to avoid learning loss from their time out of school.

"What it does is, once they're out of school, it helps them remember what they already learned," Cassandra Kinsler, founder of the nonprofit group Dedicated Opinionated Purposeful Educated (DOPE) that is in charge of organizing activities, said. "It helps them for next year."

All of the instructors are education majors at colleges including Albany State University, Edward Waters University, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Southern University, Kennesaw State University, Tuskegee University and Valdosta State University, she said.

"We have art, music and also PE and leadership; all of these are classes as electives, along with academics," Kinsler said.

The camp also gives the future teachers hands-on experience before entering the classroom, she said.

For Leesburg Police Department Cpl. Anthony Bell, a former Albany Police Department officer, the camp was different than it was during his time as a participant but also familiar. Initially, the camp was known as C.H.A.M.P.S. Camp, named after the statewide Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety curriculum taught to fifth-graders.

"With the NYSP closing, we were able to come in and close the gap," Kinsler said. "A lot of kids didn't have a camp to come to that was free"

The Leesburg Police Department provided snacks for the program, and about 157 students from Lee County attended the camp, along with a sprinkling of youngsters from five other counties.

Students are not allowed to use their phones during the camp, sheriff's Capt. Ronnye Nelson said.

"We get them outside," he said. "The biggest thing is getting them outside."

Some of the groups and organizations that provided activities and programming include the Flint River Quarium, Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Dougherty County District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Leadership Albany Class of 2026.

"It was a team effort to make this camp work," Nelson said. As has been the case for each camp since the death of sheriff's Capt. Ted Thomas in September 2024, this year's program was dedicated to his memory.

"This is something he really cared about," Nelson said. "Ted was one of those guys who believed every kid deserves a safe haven every summer."

From 1A

PHOEBE

with specialists and faculty.

The larger incoming class reflects the continued growth of the residency program aimed at addressing the ongoing shortage of physicians in rural and underserved areas throughout Georgia. By expanding local training opportunities, Phoebe strengthens the pipeline of physicians who are more likely to establish their careers in the region. Since launching in 1993 as southwest Georgia's first residency program, PFMR has remained a key part of Phoebe's long-term investment in graduate medical education.

"Family medicine is the foundation of strong, healthy communities, and each of these residents has chosen a path that puts people at the center of care," Dr. Estrellita Redmon, president of Phoebe Physicians, said. "As they begin this journey, we are not only investing in their growth as physicians but in the future of healthcare across southwest Georgia. We are proud to walk alongside them as they develop their skills, their confidence, and their purpose."

Members of the PFMR Class of 2029 include:

Dr. Ali Annooz — Al-Nahrain University College of Medicine

Dr. Evan Dilican — Ross University School of Medicine

Dr. Zeba Ejaz — American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Dr. Clive Keago — Ross University School of Medicine

Dr. Samuel Kouatcheu — Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Jae Lee — Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Dr. Etera Maxim — Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion Israel Institute of Technology

Dr. Stephen Meyers — Mercer University School of Medicine

Dr. Saurabh Saxena — Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today and tomorrow are two very high-risk days. Use caution in every aspect of life, table important activities, start nothing, meet no one new. When the fail is just about guaranteed, hold your actions for better odds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let emotions drive action when the stars are this far below the waterline. Especially, don't work on or talk about joint finances or shared resources. Less action when odds are worst makes for fewer problems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A transitory feeling could lead to an issue in a relationship under these very poor stars. Best times to deal with relationship matters are when stars are excellent, stars like this weekend's typically bring poor results.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let today's problems upend your confidence — it might seem like an obstacle course just to get basic stuff done through the weekend, but Monday and beyond offer much more support from the Universe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Creatives could be frustrated with their output today and tomorrow. Even with added focus and intuitive power, the Universal stars just aren't helping to bring positive and satisfying outcomes. Don't blame yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a perfect weekend to stay close to home — it could feel right instinctively, plus Universal stars are so poor that nothing is likely to go smoothly anyway. If you're out and about, allow extra time and avoid risks of any kind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mouth closed, fingers off devices today — whatever you're considering saying is likely far better left unsaid through Monday at least. Great progress can be made starting next week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't make a major purchase today or tomorrow no matter what the offer is. When Universal day scores are this low, you're unlikely to have any satisfaction in perfor-

mance, reliability or longevity. Wait until Monday or later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You could be more empathetic than usual through the weekend, but stars are so poor that you probably should consider if someone could be working you. Don't make any snap decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Build yourself some space and grace for the weekend if you can. The combo of very poor Universal stars and a deep inward orientation could make handling daily life more challenging than on normal days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your closest and most aligned friends could have near-mystical powers to help you. Put one foot in front of the other today and tomorrow. Almost no one is likely to thrive under this weekend's dark stars, just get through them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pull out your best self-care hacks and tread lightly and carefully out in the world. Have reasonable expectations. Less info could be better to give than more. Monday should bring you out of darkness and more into the light.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Whew! 2026

so far could have been a real bear, but shifting stars are bringing you into what should be easier times for the rest of the year. July brings something potentially wonderful — something that could set you firmly on your right path and bring growth, peace, and abundance. Do all necessary homework though to be sure before you jump. If everything checked out, sidestep some temporary 'buyer's remorse,' it shouldn't last. You could be deeply convinced of something in August, but there's no guarantee you're right. August then brings some charisma, artistic grace and additional cash flow. Month-end, stay wise and don't do the obviously foolish thing that's tempting you in a bad moment. September could bring a sweet surprise. October can bring you wisdom and clarity.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1895 - The first U.S. passenger train to use electric locomotives, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's Royal Blue, has its inaugural run from Washington D.C. to New York City

1950 - The U.S. decides to send troops to fight in the Korean War

1957 - Hurricane Audrey kills over 400 people when it makes landfall near the Texas and Louisiana border

1974 - U.S. President Richard Nixon visits the Soviet Union

1976 - A flight from Tel Aviv-Athens-Paris (Air France Flight 139) is hijacked by the PLO and redirected to Entebbe, Uganda

1977 - France grants independence to Djibouti

1980 - 81 people are killed when Aerolinee Itavia Flight 870 explodes in mid-air while flying from Bologna, to Palermo-Italin

1991 - Two day after declaring independence, Slovenia is invaded by Yugoslav starting the Ten-Day War

1994 - Sarin Gas is released in Matsumoto, Japan by the members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult who kill seven and injure 660

2013 - NASA launches the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph to observe the Sun

2015 - 510 people are injured from a midair explosion due to flammable powder at a recreational water park in Taiwan

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

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

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Albany's "leadership" is involved in criminal activity and will be reported to state officials. Giving away taxpayer money for a destined-to-fail "virtual" site that any seventh-grade kid with a laptop could have done is not anyone's idea of being fiscally conservative with others' money. Actions like that will come home to roost.

Franklin Graham and the other pastors of "super churches" are about as far from being Christians as anyone could get. People who blindly follow them are paving their own pathway to hell. Watch Danny McBride's "Righteous Gemstones" for a picture of what these "religious groups" are really like.

If the U.S. had no immigration, there would be no America.

"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past." -- George Orwell, "1984"

Sorry, Fletch, not buying it. The UGA-Florida "Lindsay Scott" game was a great one for UGA fans, but nothing is sweeter than a national championship.

Democratic party agenda: Socialism, corruption, fraud, open borders, inflation, men in women's sports, child trans surgery, defund police, high crime, high taxes.

If cornbread is Georgia's official state bread, why aren't all of the restaurants in All-Benny serving it?

Our choices for governor have gotten worse than it was four years ago. Where are the quality people to run our government?

One thing about robo-taxis: It's hard to mug the driver or carjack the cab.

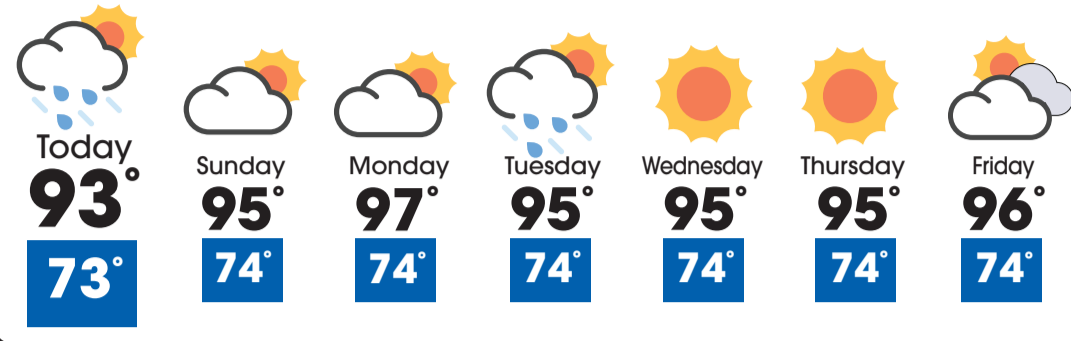
Happy 4th of July all you Americans. If we all could just remember that we're Americans first, not pawns used by politicians, we'd have a much more prosperous country. Have fun at the fireworks!

Republicans are the elite they pretend to hate.

Now the "can't-hit disease" has affected Drake Baldwin. I think it's a virus brought to America by \$20 million no-hit bench warmer Ha San Kim and washed up at 28 Austin Riley. Without Ozzie and Harris, the Braves would already be out of first place in the East. It's coming.

"A man who tells the truth doesn't mind being questioned. A liar does."

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Simple Saturday columns treat basic technique and logical thinking.

The best things in life aren't things, and they may not be free

NORTH			
♠ A Q 9 6	♥ J 10	♦ Q 6	♣ A K 5 2
WEST			
♠ 8 2	♥ 9 8 7 4	♦ A 8 4 3	♣ J 10 3
EAST			
♠ K J 5 3	♥ K 6 2	♦ 7 5	♣ Q 9 8 6
SOUTH			
♠ 10 7 4	♥ A 5 3	♦ K J 10 9 2	♣ 7 4
North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		
Opening lead - ♠ 9			
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC			



Frank Stewart

delusion. South should let East's king of hearts win, preserving an entry to his hand. (After he took the ace, he needed a crystal ball to succeed.) South wins the next heart in dummy and forces out the ace of diamonds. He wins four diamonds, two hearts, two clubs and one spade.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: SA Q 9 6 H Q J 10 D Q 6 C A K 5 2. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one spade and he rebids two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Slam is possible. Partner has minimum opening strength but at least six diamonds. If he has K5,A65,AJ10953,76, slam will depend on winning one of two finesses. Bid three clubs, forcing. If partner then bids 3NT, raise to 4NT (quantitative) or, if you're inclined to gamble, bid 6NT.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

Today's West led a high heart against 3NT, and South was pleased with the free finesse, especially when East's king covered dummy's queen. South took his ace and led a diamond to dummy's queen and a second diamond.

THIRD HEART

West won and led another heart, marooning South in dummy. He took the third heart and the A-K of clubs and exited with a club, but West took the jack, cashed the 13th heart and led a spade. East got a spade and his queen of clubs for down one.

The "free finesse" was a costly

Advice Columnist

Agnostic uncomfortable when asked for prayers

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I have many friends who are religious, mostly devout Catholics and born-again Christians. I do not personally hold religious beliefs. Decades ago, I was deeply Christian, but my thinking has shifted to believe there is likely no God watching over us.

I do respect other people's beliefs and would never try and push my point of view on them. What I'm wondering is how to respond when people ask me to pray for them or otherwise agree that "God has a plan" or something similar. I don't share the fact that I'm not a Christian anymore, because it seems to upset people. So how do I respectfully respond without denying my own beliefs?

— Not Religious

Dear Religious: Sometimes, when people ask for prayers, they preface with the phrase "if you're the praying type," or something of the sort. You might borrow and amend it in response to your friends by replying to their requests with "I'm not the praying type but..." and then offer what support you feel comfortable giving. This could, of course, prompt questions about what kind of type you are. You could then choose to share how your thinking has changed, or you could choose to focus on sharing what you do hold dear when faced with life's uncertainty. What they're looking for is a word of encouragement and support. It doesn't have to be spiritual.

Dear Eric: I recently read the question from "Perplexed in PA" about the shared care of the mother between Perplexed and a sibling. Perplexed is wanting to go to Europe on vacation,

but mom only wants the two children caring for her. One possibility to explore is to see if there is a care facility nearby that could do respite care during the vacation period, whether that's an assisted living facility or a foster care home.

This could give Perplexed the opportunity for the vacation, and the sister to have some "time away" from caregiving for mom, as she already does 24/7 care for her medically fragile husband.

Such a solution would give mom a new perspective on her care. Obviously, mom needs to be given the options in this situation and allowed to make her own decisions, but those options can be framed in such a way that mom has to decide the option within the framework of allowing her children their autonomy as well. My wife and I took in her mom when she could no longer take care of herself, and we had a weekend away about once a month, plus a bit longer vacation each year. It took a while to find the right situation that met her needs.

If Perplexed's mom is in a health care system, a social worker may be able to make some recommendations of a few facilities that could potentially help.

— *Been There, Done That, Became the Favorite Son-in-Law*

Dear Been There: Thank you for this great suggestion. Respite care may be an option that empowers everyone involved.

Dear Eric: I would like to offer a suggestion for "Grieving Daughter and Mom", who was afraid her son, who suffered from alcoholism, would make a scene at her father's funeral.



Eric Thomas

My husband and I went to a local funeral home, and this funeral home offered their staff member to essentially be a security guard for our son's funeral because of my concerns related to my parents and their own substance use issues and what they may do during the service. This staff member was a quiet, gentle giant that our friends and relatives didn't know of or about.

I would suggest to this mother to rely on extended relatives, funeral home staff, church members or even consider outsourcing the handling of any concerns.

The son from today's column should not feel like a burden and shouldn't be treated as such. He should be surrounded by loved ones who will and can also give him the space to grieve, because that is his right, too.

I like the suggestion of having the son come to the viewing early, but he may feel singled out and isolated. Having someone to "suss out" a grandson who may be "under the influence" before even entering the services, away from the mother, can be helpful. Having a separate room to have this man handle his emotions may be helpful too.

— *Help for Grieving*

Dear Grieving: Thank you for this suggestion. Your letter reminds me of the resourcefulness and the breadth of experience that many funeral directors have. Raising this concern to the funeral director is a great option as that person may have encountered a similar situation and be fully prepared to help walk the family through it with sensitivity to the needs of all involved.

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Bartender and Mixologist Day
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day
- Decide to be Married Day
- Global Smurfs Day
- Great American Backyard Campout
- Great American Picnic Day
- Happy Birthday to You Day
- Helen Keller Day
- Industrial Workers of the World Day
- International Ragweed

- Day
- National Bingo Day
- National Celebrate Your Marriage Day
- National Haskap Berry Day
- National HIV Testing Day
- National Ice Cream Cake Day
- National Indian Pudding Day
- National Orange Blossom Day
- PTSD Awareness Day
- Sunglasses Day

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Freddie Powell Sims releases statement against local legislation

Staff Reports

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ATLANTA — Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, D-Albany, has released a statement opposing recent local legislation brought forth for the 12th Senate District:

“Property taxes, the major source of public revenue, support public safety through our fire and police departments, emergency medical services and 9-1-1 operations,” Sims said in the statement. “These taxes also support the maintenance of roads, bridges, sidewalks, streetlights, drainage operations, improvement of wastewater systems and water treatment networks. Property taxes continually

support public health services (biological and medical), especially when related to viral infections, such as influenza and COVID-19, just to name a few.

“Government operations such as bookkeeping, administrative services, court records, elections and tax offices depend heavily upon property taxes. Parks and recreation, along with access to the latest media devices, use this same source of public funding. Public libraries connect seniors, children and others to a limitless digital world of knowledge far beyond their boundaries.

“Undeniably, the loss of property tax revenue for education will be the greatest edu-

cational injustice for Georgia’s children and communities. Without a well-educated workforce community, supported by property taxation, communities collapse, cease to exist and lose their identities, as well as their wealth.

“Every day, local governments are charged with providing public safety services and a quality education for their citizens. As a State Legislator, one of my most focused responsibilities is to ensure that the 13 counties in District 12 are equipped to do both. This bill goes against the legislator’s most basic principle of caring for all constituents, instead of a select few.

“The Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (L-HOST) rais-

es prices for every Georgian at the cash register and beyond. To be perfectly clear, revenue collections through L-HOST will vary from the tiniest municipalities to the largest ones. Municipalities with less retail traffic may not generate enough sales tax revenue to provide substantial property tax relief. The primary disadvantages of L-HOST are higher sales taxes. Homeowners may save on property taxes only to spend more on sales taxes.

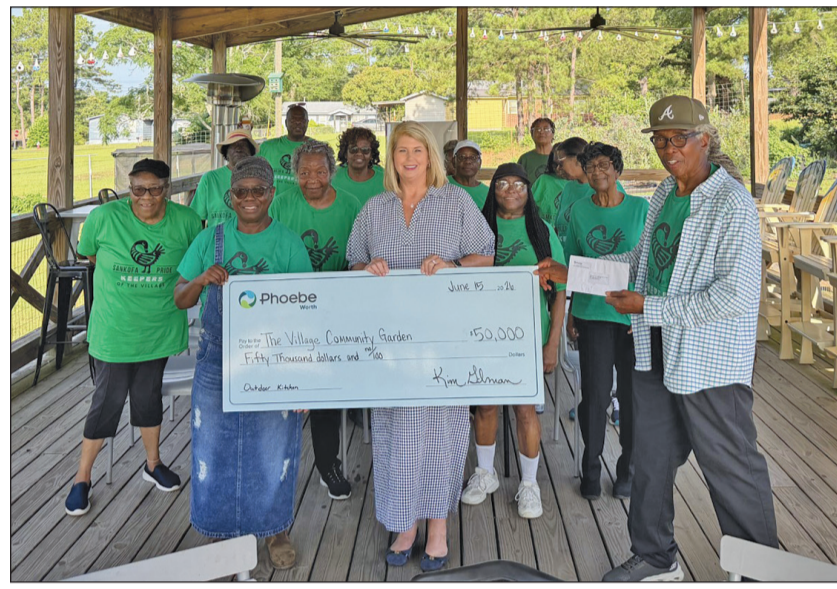
“In the name of affordability, we cannot pass legislation that kills jobs, raises grocery prices and wreaks havoc on Georgia families’ budgets in all tax brackets. Instead,



File Photo

State Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, with her successor Edward Brown, is speaking out against local legislation for the 12th Senate District.

Georgia must find a more equitable, less intrusive way to manage runaway property taxes while continuing to provide the services needed for the public good.”



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Worth President Kim Gilman presents the hospital’s donation to Village Community Garden Founder Sam X and garden volunteers.

Phoebe Worth helps dream community kitchen become reality

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

SYLVESTER -- Phoebe Worth Medical Center is strengthening its support of The Village Community Garden in Sylvester with a \$50,000 donation toward a major expansion project. The contribution will help fund construction of a demonstration kitchen that will host healthy cooking classes and other free community events while also providing space and support for local food producers looking to launch or grow their businesses.

“Like Phoebe Worth, The Village Community Garden has become an integral part of our community and a point of pride for those of us who live in Worth County,” Phoebe Worth President Kim Gilman said. “By partnering with outstanding service organizations like the garden, we can broaden our reach in the community and help folks in our area sustain healthy lifestyles.”

Sam X and Eda Garcia, married artists and community activists, founded the garden more than a decade ago. It’s a major component of Southern Sky Center for Diverse Arts and Culture, a nonprofit the couple established as an advocacy project to support and celebrate the Southern experience and other diverse cultures.

“Phoebe Worth plays a very important role here at the garden,” the artists said. “They’ve been with us from Day 1. From the moment we said we wanted to do a garden, Kim said they wanted to be involved.”

In addition to supporting the garden financially, Phoebe Worth provides experts once a month to speak on important health and wellness topics at the site. Employees from departments throughout the hospital volunteer monthly. And Phoebe has provided in-kind services such as signs that explain the health benefits of various crops grown in the garden.

“Sam is so tied into the community,” Gilman said. “The garden is extremely popular, and we’re proud to support it.”

The kitchen — a 40-foot by 80-foot facility that will include one wall that can be opened to a covered area where people can sit and watch food be prepared — will provide additional opportunities for community outreach and education.

“We need this kitchen to teach people how to cook the food we give away,” Sam X said. “I’ll give you an example. When we try to give away zucchini, there are a lot of people who don’t take it because they say they don’t know how to cook it.”

As co-chairs of the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce’s Agriculture Tourism Committee,

Sam X and Garcia are already focused on helping local farmers and producers find markets and grow their business. They say they believe the kitchen can take those efforts to a new level.

“We hope this will be a conduit for entrepreneurs,” Garcia said. “We want to use the kitchen to support them by teaching them how to seek funding for their projects, how to package and market their products and how to connect with consumers. It could really make a difference for individual families and for our community’s economy.”

Phoebe Worth team members say they’re excited about the impact the kitchen will have on the community’s health.

“We know providing access to fresh produce and teaching people healthy ways to prepare it will help people with diabetes, hypertension, obesity and other conditions,” Gilman said. “Addressing diabetes is one of our Community Health Needs Assessment priorities, and the work that will be done at the kitchen will help us address that.”

In addition to the Phoebe Worth donation, the garden received a \$250,000 state grant to fund the design and construction of the kitchen. State Rep. Bill Yearta, the former long-time mayor of Sylvester, worked with the Georgia House Appropriations Committee, the speaker of the house and the governor a couple of years ago to secure the grant through the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

“The community garden is a great public/private partnership,” Yearta said. “What Sam is doing out there has been recognized by a lot of people, and that’s certainly well-deserved. People are learning to grow their own fruits and vegetables and prepare it and eat healthy, and that’s so important.”

Sam X said he is grateful for all the support he has received, not just from Phoebe Worth and the state of Georgia, but from the city of Sylvester and Worth County. He also has strong partnerships with Fort Valley State University, the state 4H program and many other organizations and individuals. He encourages anyone who wants to volunteer to simply stop by the garden at 201 Paulk Street in Sylvester.

“We’re out here every day; just show up and sign up,” he said.

As more people get involved, the garden continues to grow, and the new kitchen allows him to offer new services, Sam X says he is excited about being able to help more people and bring more cultures together.

“The dream is coming true,” he said.

Comedian Sheryl Underwood brings her ‘I Need a Job’ tour to Albany venue

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Comedy fans can start planning ahead for an unforgettable night of comedy as powerhouse entertainer Sheryl Underwood brings her “I Need A Job” standup tour to the Albany Municipal Auditorium.

Joined by fellow comic Kyle Erby, the tour stop is scheduled for Aug. 29. Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. online at ticketmaster.com or at the Georgia’s Own Credit Union Box Office located at the Albany Civic Center.

Unapologetic, razor-sharp, and fiercely funny, Underwood is celebrated for her unique ability to talk about “quantum physics and twerking” in the same sentence. Drawing on her career as one of the few black women to command the male-dominated stand-up scene, her live sets deliver a perfect mix of cultural ob-



Special Illustration

Sheryl Underwood will bring her highly anticipated stand-up tour to the Albany Municipal Auditorium on Aug. 29. Tickets go on sale Friday.

ervation, bold commentary on modern relationships, and empowering “real talk.”

Fresh off her standout, show-stealing performance at “The Roast of Kevin

Hart,” which earned her a standing ovation and an upcoming Netflix special, Underwood is at the top of her game and ready to get real with southwest Georgia.

Georgia is losing farmland fast. A new state program aims to help save it

By Emily Jones

WABE/Grist

ATHENS -- Russ Moon grows corn, soybeans and strawberries and raises cattle on his family farm in Madison County, outside of Athens. His family has worked that land for four generations, around 100 years. And he said he wants to keep it that way, and pass the farm on to his kids one day.

“Selling the land is really not an option,” he said. “I intend on remaining in agriculture for as long as possible.”

But Moon has watched more housing and development come to the area over the years. It’s appealing to many, he said, to live near the University of Georgia in Athens and also enjoy the bucolic rural setting. Other farms around him have already sold, he said, and he’s worried that if left unchecked, the development rush will fundamentally change his community.

Moon said he’d only sell if he has to. But someday his kids could find themselves forced into the decision. Farming can be an unstable business, subject to weather and changing crop prices and global markets.

“There may be a day where they have to sell, but I don’t want the land to be developed,” he said. “That’s my desire, that’s my family’s desire.”

In an effort to help farmers like Moon, Georgia’s legislature created a new program a few years ago meant to protect farms. The Georgia Farmland Conservation Fund will help farmers sell development rights while keeping their land. The first applications are now in, and property owners will find out in August if they’ve been selected to receive some of the \$2 million allocated for this first round of funding.

Funding conservation The fund coordinates federal, state and local match



Photo Courtesy of Russ Moon

The Georgia Farmland Conservation Fund will help farmers sell development rights while keeping their farmland. Here, the irrigation system at Russ Moon’s family farm near Athens is shown.

funding for conservation easements, and creates an advisory council to review and approve proposals.

Easements allow landowners like Moon to sell the future development rights for their property to outside organizations, like land trusts. The landowner receives an upfront payment, half of which comes from state funds under the new Georgia program. The rest could come from a land trust, local government or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which allocates \$450 million annually to match dollars in state conservation programs.

The landowner can continue farming, grazing livestock, growing and harvesting timber, or however else they use their land. They can even sell the land — just not to a developer who will turn it into housing, a strip mall or an industrial site.

“It’s a compelling alternative to our farming landowners that are feeling a lot of financial crunch and are just being inundated with offers for selling out,” Katherine Moore, president of the Georgia Conservancy, which advocated for the new state fund, said.

Though this is a new program for Georgia, it’s not a new idea. Some 30 states already have what are known as Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement programs, though the amount

of funding varies a great deal from state to state. Texas allocates \$2 million annually, while Florida set aside \$300 million in 2022 and \$100 million in 2024.

Georgia’s law, modeled after these initiatives, was adopted in 2023. The state legislature passed the initial round of funding in 2024, and the first round of applications closed May 20.

“It is unprecedented for Georgia to have such a program, which is a little wild when you think that, you know, agribusiness in total is our No. 1 economic engine in the state,” Moore said.

Balancing business Even though agriculture is Georgia’s leading industry, farmers face mounting pressure to sell to developers for housing, warehouses, data centers and other uses. The state could lose some 800,000 acres of farmland by 2040, according to the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

“That means 10% of our farmland will be gone in the next 15 years or so,” state Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper said. “And that’s a staggering statistic.”

It’s a concern not only because farms provide food and jobs and are a big part of the state’s economy, but also because farming is a way of life in much of Georgia. State leaders often tout the booming economy, proudly calling Georgia the No. 1

state to do business. But that gives Moon pause.

“The whole time we keep being the No. 1 place to do business, we’re hurting our No. 1 industry,” he said.

And then there are the potential climate impacts. Converting farmland to other uses can increase greenhouse gas emissions, according to the American Farmland Trust. Topsoil is often removed, releasing the carbon that’s stored in it.

Residential development and industrial operations often produce more emissions than farming does. Conservation easements, on the other hand, can encourage farming and management practices that sequester more carbon, and they often protect non-agricultural land adjacent to fields — like woods and wetlands.

Some of Moon’s land is already in a conservation easement, which he entered into directly with a land trust in 2019. He said he hopes that getting more farmland into conservation can help maintain some balance before it’s too late.

“Once you develop a piece of property, you’re never gonna — it’s never gonna go back,” he said. “You lose farmland; it’s gone forever.”

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.

SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX

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Atlanta is bragging about an 8% drop in crime since the FIFA Soccer tournament started. They just forgot to mention the huge increase in street police presence that came with the soccer play.

The U.S. mail service in Albany must be at the bottom in the country. I was out of town Saturday and arrived back Monday. I'd left an outgoing letter in my mailbox with the flag up on Saturday. I got home late Monday. I had mail in my mailbox for two different people on a different street. I had mail for another on my street. Yes, my mailbox flag was pushed down, but they failed to take my letter for mailing.

Maybe Trump should call the Pool Geeks. They cleared up the algae in my pool, and it has stayed clear.

Democrats bemoan the fact that Elon Musk proves free-market capitalism is the best system for wealth creation and for spreading benefits widely across society.

What Trump lovers don't get is that Jones is not going to kiss Jackson's behind to show "Republican unity." Unlike Kemp and the president's other toadies, Jones took exception to the mud slung at him during the election. Any right-thinking person would.

The Republicans in the Georgia legislature did the right thing in turning down the opportunity to mess with the state's districts. It would have come back to bite them had they carried through. Their "we're concerned about the citizens" excuse is another lie, but at least Georgia leaders are not as gullible as those in Tennessee and Louisiana.

It certainly was a horrible thing with the guy shooting in the middle of a family gathering in Lee County, but video being shown with 30 or 40 people standing in the front yard, he may have been trying to scare some people. If he had been trying to kill people with that AR-15, he would have killed a lot of people. I believe he was trying to scare them, not kill them.

Rather than increasing our property taxes yet again, Albany taxpayers would be better served by the city and county actually collecting fines for the hundreds of junk, inoperable cars in yards all around the city. It is against code to make your lawn an auto junkyard, and until a few years ago it was well-monitored. Not sure what happened under Lorenzo and Bo, but today our city is leaving thousands of dollars uncollected and junk cars rotting everywhere.

Cario's city manager has a lot of strange things happening to him, and no one has been charged. Someone shooting at him, with no witnesses; his home is burned, no one is caught. Cario may have a Jussie Smollett on their hands.

Burt Jones' love for Trump may have been the deciding factor in his gubernatorial showdown with Jackson. Had he "read the room," he'd have known dragging around the rotting carcass of the president was not a smart move. It's just like it was during George W's lame-duck years.

Heard thinks he got a "mandate" in the election, but his share of the 4 or 5 percent of voters who cast ballots was more about voting against his opponent.

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Term limits? Here's how to do them right

It comes, it goes, but seldom a month goes by without the notion of "term limits" popping up in the American political discussion.

At the moment — and since Sheldon Whitehouse proposed legislation for it in 2023 — that discussion has mostly revolved around the Supreme Court, whose justices remain in office, according to the Constitution, "during good Behaviour," generally understood as "for life absent impeachment or voluntary retirement." Whitehouse wants non-renewable 18-year terms.

Really, though, term limits are a perpetual panacea.

Congressional candidates talk about them a lot — usually when promising to serve no more than X terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, and right up to the point where they decide to seek their X+1th terms "due to popular demand."

The president is already limited

to two four-year terms. That limit required a constitutional amendment to implement, as would House or Senate term limits and, arguably, Supreme Court term limits. Some would like to see the presidential version changed to a single six-year term.

I'm skeptical that term limits, as envisioned by their promoters, would do much to restrain or improve the quality of government, and as a political matter, their opponents aren't wrong when they point out that "We already have term limits, they're called elections."

At the state level, in Missouri I watched what happened after legislative term limits became law. Instead of one person sitting in a state house or senate seat forever, we got a "ladder and rope" system with politicians climbing the ladder

from local office all the way to state senate (and possibly the executive branch), term-limiting out and moving up to the next rungs, while throwing down ropes and pulling hand-selected proteges behind them and into the offices they vacated. Different faces, same ideas ... and a more difficult system for outsiders to break into at all than if vacated seats became "open" in any real sense.

But if we want to give term limits a real try, I have some ideas on the matter.

First, the limit should be one term. Second, the term should be fairly short — say, two years. Third, once a person has been elected to a particular office, that person becomes ineligible for election to any other office, and for employment by any branch of the govern-

ment in question ... ever, for life.

That may sound extreme, but let's look at the impact on the federal government (because it happens to be so, I'm treating local, state, and federal governments as separate governments), and include cabinet appointees and Supreme Court justices (even though they're appointed rather than elected).

That comes to 561 people (435 US Representatives, 100 US Senators, one president, one vice president, 15 cabinet secretaries, and nine Supreme Court justices).

With a population of 340 million, the US could fill each of those offices about 610,000 times. Single two-year terms and lifetime bans afterward wouldn't lead to a labor shortage.

What it would lead to is more difficulty building perpetual political machines and an entrenched political class. Which is why politicians would hate it.



KNAPP

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Looking back at the primaries, ahead to Election Day

The primaries are over and it's time to analyze the results. Before I begin, it is important you know that Donald Trump has not commented on this column or its author. That is because he doesn't know either exists. For that, let us give thanks.

Billionaire healthcare executive Rick Jackson handily dispatched Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in a mud-slinging contest called the Republican primary runoff for governor. Jackson spent more than \$100 million of his own money in the campaign. That will buy you a lot of mud. Jones spent some \$30 million. All of this for a job that pays \$180,000.

Jones was endorsed early and often by Trump but lost anyway. In a pivot worthy of a flamenco dancer, the president now appears to be taking credit for Jackson's win against the guy he had endorsed. On Truth Social, Trump said, "Congratulations to Rick Jackson, who very successfully campaigned on being 'Trump,' and won. He will be your next governor of Georgia." In a later post, he added: "Rick Jackson ran a great Trump campaign. Very smart." One thing you can say about billionaires, they do stick together.

Usually after a hard-fought

campaign, the loser will graciously accept defeat and pledge fealty to the winning opponent. I can't wait to see how this one turns out. Jackson and Jones were up-close-and-very-personal in their attacks on each other. Kissing and making up will require some major doing.

Jackson will now face Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms in November. I quit making political predictions after I publicly declared that an obscure Republican state senator from Bonaire would never beat an incumbent Democratic governor. And we all know how that turned out. But Keisha Lance Bottoms? That's the best the Democrats can offer?

It is certainly not because of her record as mayor of Atlanta, which was lousy. Her mishandling of the riots in the city in 2020 brought her scorn from both sides. So after one term in office she bailed out and joined the Biden Administration as national director of nothing worth mentioning. And now she is back and wants us to believe she can govern the great state of Georgia?

For most of the millions he spent on advertising, Jackson

appeared like a glowering grump whose rare smiles came across as sneers. Not a guy you would want to hang out with. Then somebody got the idea to humanize him with his grandkids telling granddad to lighten up, shed the power suit and get a pickup truck and a dog. All of which he does and looks awkward doing it. But it works. Whoever thought of that idea deserves a raise.



YARBROUGH

In the race for lieutenant governor, state Sen. Greg Dolezal defeated state Sen. John Kennedy, who ran a lackluster campaign in the Republican primary runoff and will now face Democratic state Sen. Josh McLaurin in November. Dolezal's campaign produced the most bizarre ad of them all, depicting Muslims terrorizing Georgians and declaring he would "keep Georgia sharia free." What a crock.

All a lieutenant governor in Georgia does is make committee assignments and preside over debates in the Senate and be prepared to step in if the governor conks out. He has as much to do with sharia law as I do with Chinese aviation.

Brian Kemp found out being the state's most popular political figure goes only so far. The governor's support of his boyhood buddy, Derek Dooley, son of legendary UGA football coach Vince Dooley, instead of U.S. Rep. Mike Collins for the Republican nomination to oppose incumbent Democrat U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, as well as his last-minute endorsement of Jones, made no difference. Republican voters rejected them both. It didn't help that Dooley admitted he didn't vote in 2016 or 2020.

I don't know Mike Collins, but I knew his dad, Mac, a member of Congress who I worked with in the runup to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. He was a good man. I'm not so sure about Junior. He is currently under investigation by the House Ethics Committee and the Office of Congressional Conduct for misuse of taxpayer funds. He also had to fire a crude and arrogant staff aide that he should never have hired in the first place for some very inappropriate remarks.

Well, there you have it, boys and girls. The primaries are over and now it is on to November. Cue the mud machines, crank up the hyperbole and let the games begin.

COLUMNIST ■ SCOTT LUDWIG

Riddle me this, Batm ... umm, Fat Man

I read a comment once that said any journalist who posed one simple question -- "WTF?" -- to the President of the United States deserves a Pulitzer Prize. I can't argue with that.

Why no one has done that to this point remains a mystery, but my guess is that it has to do with the usual array of responses from Donald Trump when he's posed with a question that he simply will not, cannot, or simply doesn't have the capacity to answer.

Here's a few you've probably heard:

-- You're a terrible/horrible reporter.

-- You're stupid (or dumb with a B. Most people don't know that.)

-- Your newspaper/station is all fake news.

-- Quiet, piggy.

If I ever get a chance to ask Trump a question, I'm not going to waste the opportunity. In fact I have already prepared a list of questions, although I know full well that (a) he won't answer them, (b) I'll never have another chance because there's no doubt that I'd be barred from future press conferences, (c) it would be worth it just to hear his blathering response, and (d) it's a long shot, but who knows -- it might even win a Pulitzer.

Here's that list. The questions,

although in no particular order, could change at any time. That's because Trump is always up to something that needs either an explanation or a psychologist (sometimes both):

-- Do you have dreams when you're falling asleep in public? And if so, do you dream about things such as Elon Musk in a spaceship or Marco Rubio wearing Florsheim Oxford clown shoes?

-- Do you think it's fair to take credit for ending a war that you are responsible for starting? And, how do you count it if you lose?

-- What do UFC fights on June 14 have to do with America's 250th anniversary? And since we're on the topic, can you remember who won the main event?

-- Would you debate Rachel Maddow or Jimmy Kimmel -- your choice -- if the debate was held in an octagon on the White House lawn with Dana White as the moderator?

Reflecting Pool?

-- Do you and Pete Hegseth ever talk or compare notes before speaking to the press, or do you both just wing it?

-- If you could only pick one on the many things you've managed to sweep under the rug as your best job of making us look the other way, which would it be: Your plans for health care, the wall, lowering grocery prices, your promise not to start any wars, paying for the ballroom exclusively with donations, or the full release of the Epstein files?

-- Since you added all of that tacky gold décor to the Oval Office, I have to ask if you've ever heard the phrase "white trash," and if so, do you know what it means?

-- Do you spend more time watching Fox News, fixing your hair, or coming up with more ways to blame Joe Biden for everything? And how do you find time for anything else?

-- Is the person who does J.D. Vance's eye makeup the same person who makes your face orange?

-- Who do you think would win a cage match between Lindsey Graham and Steven Miller? And would you be willing to take on the winner? You still have that octagon, right?



LUDWIG

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany
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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —
LOCAL NEWS

**TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE**

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."
1 John 4:15

COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

Lousy customer service leaves a fowl taste

I like my chicken fried.

— Zac Brown Band

I'm not going to unfairly paint an entire local industry with a tainted brush, but with a very few exceptions, the experiences Tara and I have had are similar to many others' ... or at least according to social media posts and angry words of mouth.

And before I get into this, let me say from the get-go that I understand that we all have bad days, that the aggravations of life can put a damper on everything that gets in our way on a given day. And, typically, when that happens most of us can get a bit testy — a case of the "mullygrubs," we used to say — frequently to the point that even those we love risk a glare or harsh words if they offer even a harmless comment.

(And, yes, that happens with even the most seemingly calm, cool and collected among us. Which is why I frequently see Alan and Kathryn either a) hiding their childish glee or b) rolling their eyes on the other side of the divider between our desks after my curse-filled outbursts when my damned computer acts up again. No user-error involved, of course.)

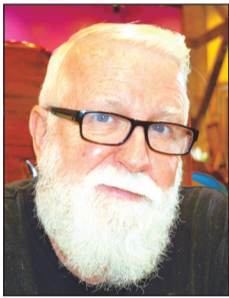
But what has the Fletchers' "that-was-the-last-straw" dander up has to do with a local restaurant ... or, more accurately, with people who work at a local eating establishment,

I'm not going to name this particular establishment, but I will note that its primary catchphrase has to do with the unsavory act of placing one's fingers in their mouth to lick off what sometimes is an abundance of grease. And its "secret recipe" is closely guarded by a man of high military rank.

The restaurant — which many of the sharper among you may have guessed — primarily sells chicken, much like 40 to 50 other establishments around here. Albany, one would think, has followed the slogan of another yardbird seller and is busy "eatin' more chikin."

And with so many recipe-specific franchises — as well as ones that are not of the fast-food variety — selling essentially the same product, logic would suggest that owners and employees of chicken-dominant establishments would take advantage of a stellar national marketing campaign and offer the kind of customer service that would encourage customers to come back for more.

Not this local establishment ... which, incidentally, is strategically located at a prime northwest Albany location.



FLETCHER

Tara and I, by the way, are frequent friers (ahem) at this restaurant because a) we love their chicken and b) it's "right down the street." I guess I should amend that statement: Tara and I WERE frequent buyers at this frankly costly establishment. After our last experience there, we've vowed to never give the colonel and his army any more of our money.

It started a couple of months ago when Tara ordered a big ole bucket of chicken online ... you know, to get our food quicker and for the "convenience." But when Tara arrived at the establishment and went inside to get the food, she was told they were "out of chicken" and wouldn't have any ready for about 25 minutes.

She cancelled the order. The next time Tara went to get us some of these special-herbs-and-spices-infused legs and thighs, she decided to give the drive-thru a go. Mistake. After sitting for 35 minutes in a snail-like caravan of customers, Tara finally got to the speaker to order.

You'll never guess ... "We're out of chicken; we'll have some ready in 30 minutes or so."

Strike two. Last week, I guess to prove the point that some people's short-term memory capability is sorely lacking, Tara went back to the same restaurant. This time there was a new wrinkle.

After following the slow-moving flock ahead of her and finally reaching the order walkie-talkie, Tara gave her order, pulled up and paid for her chicken.

"Can you pull over there? We'll have your order ready in a jiffy," she was told.

A "jiffy," it turns out, is forty-five minutes. When a fuming Tara was delivered her order ... with no apology for the wait, no concern for her inconvenience, she was incensed. When she finally got home and explained to me why a four-piece meal took more than an hour to get ready, we exchanged a few not-so-customer-friendly words and made a promise to each other not to give this poorly-managed establishment another penny of our money.

Some may say we're overreacting, but when a restaurant takes a period of time during which a good country cook could wring a chicken's neck, pluck it, gut it, flower it up and fry it to delicious golden brown, our last frayed nerve gave out.

I told Tara I planned to reach out to this establishment's corporate offices and share my complaints, and I probably will. I do know for a fact, though, that when I eat fried chicken in the future, I will not be licking my fingers when I'm through.

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

What politicians really mean

Welcome to election year. I know, if you live in Georgia, this is old news. Y'all have been to the polls more often than some folks take a shower. I can never keep track if it's a primary election, a general election, a jungle primary, a jungle gym, a primary runoff, a water runoff, an election to fill an unexpired term, a SPLOST, an E-SPLOST or a SPLISH-SPLASH.

I've had the privilege of meeting a few hundred politicians, from U.S. presidents all the way up to county coroners. Many of them are well-qualified. But there are a few who get on my nerves. So it is time for another edition of "What Politicians Say and What They Really Mean."

When an embattled elected official says, "I am resigning to spend more time with my family," they really mean, "I'm quitting before I get voted out."

A few weeks later, when the same politician hurriedly accepts an offer to be a commentator on the "Outrage of the Day" cable show, the press release says, "It was a difficult decision, but after talking it over with my family, we agreed I should accept this opportunity." Translation: "Wow, this worked out just as I had hoped. Now, I can make twice the money, and I won't have to mingle with those annoying taxpayers."

When you see an ad with a candidate saying, "You should vote for me because the president loves me," it will be followed by an opposing candidate claiming, "Actually the president loves me even more." Translation: neither of them has had an original thought since 2015.

When a candidate says, "I will spend as much money as it takes to win this election," beware. Let's do the math: If I'm spending \$50 million of my own money to win a job that pays \$185,000 a year, should you trust me with your tax dollars?

When a prospective candidate says, "People are begging me to run, but I haven't yet decided," here is the translation: "I wish someone would beg me to run, and better yet, send me some cash."

When a politician is confronted about a nasty com-

mercial attacking his opponent, the usual answer is, "Oh, I had nothing to do with that ad. Some political action committee is putting that out there. I have no control over them."

Translation: "Truly, I am not responsible for the content of that ad. In fact, I had requested something even nastier, using some A-I on my opponent's yearbook picture to make him look like a meth addict."

When a candidate denies living out of state, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, things can get interesting. The candidate will say, "Here, I'll prove it. All of my records that haven't been redacted will show I spent the night in the state one night in 2019." Translation: "It was at a Red Roof Inn, but that counts, right?"

When a politician is accused of being "owned" by lobbyists, the response is usually filled with denial. "That is preposterous," the candidate will say. "I cannot be bought." Translation: "I am not for sale. However, I can be rented for a few days."

When a candidate is on the campaign trail, kissing hands and shaking babies (wait, I got that mixed up), and is asked about being accessible if they're elected, they will say, "I promise you that I will make regular visits to the district, holding frequent town hall meetings." Translation: "See you again in four years, suckers."

That same candidate will pledge to always state their position on every issue clearly. But just wait. Despite being elected by, and paid by, the citizens, that candidate is well-versed in the old "sidestep." You know, either answering questions with lengthy word salads or refusing to comment at all. Try that in the real world. "Mr. Fancy pants, did you take money out of the company safe?" "Uh, no comment, sir." Welcome to the unemployment line.

This reminds me of a politician who held court at my family's country store one day. After making several ridiculous promises, he asked, "Are there any questions?" An elderly gentleman said, "I have one. Who else is running?"

COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

How to find inner peace ... Step 1: Break three ribs

I'm pleased to report that, as far as we know, I'm not dead. I make this statement because a lot of messages have been arriving in my inbox asking questions like:

"Why hasn't Sean been writing lately?" And, "Where is the daily column?" And, "Is Sean dead? Did he get hit by a Mack truck? Where the [bleepity bleep] is he?"

The fact is, I am still in a somewhat conscious state. Although over the past two weeks I have often wished I wasn't. Namely, because I have been recovering from three broken ribs.

How I broke my ribs is not important. But I will simply add here, as a public service announcement: Whenever your sister, wife and two nieces beg you to ride a tube towed behind a fast pontoon, your best bet is to stick with the Mack truck.

When your ribs are broken, everything hurts. Walking hurts. Breathing hurts. Using the remote control hurts. Even the act of drinking a beer hurts. Which is why you must drink two.

For the first stretch of rehab, I was forced to sleep in an upright posture. Which is difficult inasmuch as this position goes against everything your body wants during the sleep process.

While sleeping, your body wants to shift around, roll over, stretch out, and most importantly, retrieve stolen blankets from your wife, who clutches the covers in a death-grip fetal position. But with injured ribs, you don't move. If you move even slightly, your ribcage feels like it's being picked apart by baby vultures.

With wounded ribs, simply rising to use the restroom in the middle of the night is a harrowing task. First, you must use your abdominal muscles to thrust yourself out of the bed. This abdominal flex pulls your thorax. You moan and wince beneath your own body weight and stagger to the bathroom.

In the bathroom, you are faced with even more physical challenges such as: remembering to put the toilet seat down, which you accidentally forget to do. And as a result, late one night, you are awakened by yells coming from the bathroom because your wife has unwittingly fallen into the toilet. After which she storms into the bedroom, cussing. And this is how you break three more ribs.

In short, you sleep poorly. You wake up each morning tired. You crawl out of the bed, you hobble into the kitchen, make coffee, and try with all your fortitude not to cough, clear your throat, or — God help you — blow your nose. Which might kill you.

The broken ribs changed my morning routine. After making coffee, I'd wander onto the porch to wake up, rub sleep from my eyes, gently collapse in a chair, and fight away my three dogs, none of whom understood why I was suddenly uninterested in tug-of-war with disgusting chewed-up toys.

Mostly, I'd just sit, trying to find the elusive Comfortable Position. I'd remain in one place and simply watch the lake.

I'd just sit, watching the sun-

rise. Watching clouds. Occasionally playing my fiddle, music bouncing across the lake like the sound of a wounded cat looking for its mother.

During those first few mornings, I realized something important about myself. I learned that I work too much.

I've been working since I was 14. Which I realize is nothing extraordinary. But for most of my life, I've tried to be productive. And I have been, mostly. Even so, at which point in life did I shift from being productive to seeking approval?

How long have I been looking for validation from my work instead of from who I am? How many years have I been striving to become somebody instead of enjoying being who I already am? When did I lose touch with myself?

Moreover, when did all this technology take over my life? When did my life become nothing but glowing screens and nonstop digitization? What happened to that young man I used to be, who used to pass entire weekends reading books, spoon-feeding himself peanut butter, going barefoot, and leaving toilet seats down?

Since I started writing professionally, I have given my all to my work. I am not proud of how hard I've worked; I'm moderately embarrassed. Because my life has become all about output.

I have seldom taken breaks. I have even pulled over on the sides of major highways, in the middle of the night, in far-flung states, whipped out my laptop, and worked on a book project deadline until 1 in the morning. And for what? Why? When do I rest? Do I even deserve rest? And if so, why don't I take it?

Believe me, I'm not complaining about my life. I love my life. I grew up as an underprivileged kid. I have known want. I have nothing to complain about.

Still, for too many years I've tried so hard to be productive that I forgot to just be. I come from a family of workaholics. I've been unintentionally trying to win their approval even though most of them are dead from overwork.

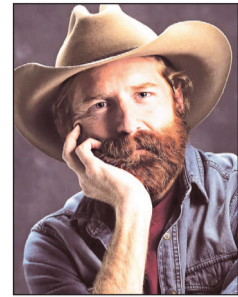
So my morning routines shifted into just sitting. No writing. No working. No laptops. No phones. No texting. No emails. No thinking. Just watching.

And as I embraced this new peaceful regimen, my days became less notable. One day blended into another. I became unproductive and unprofessional. Editors were emailing angrily. Friends didn't understand. My dogs stared at me with chew toys dangling in their mouths, silently judging me.

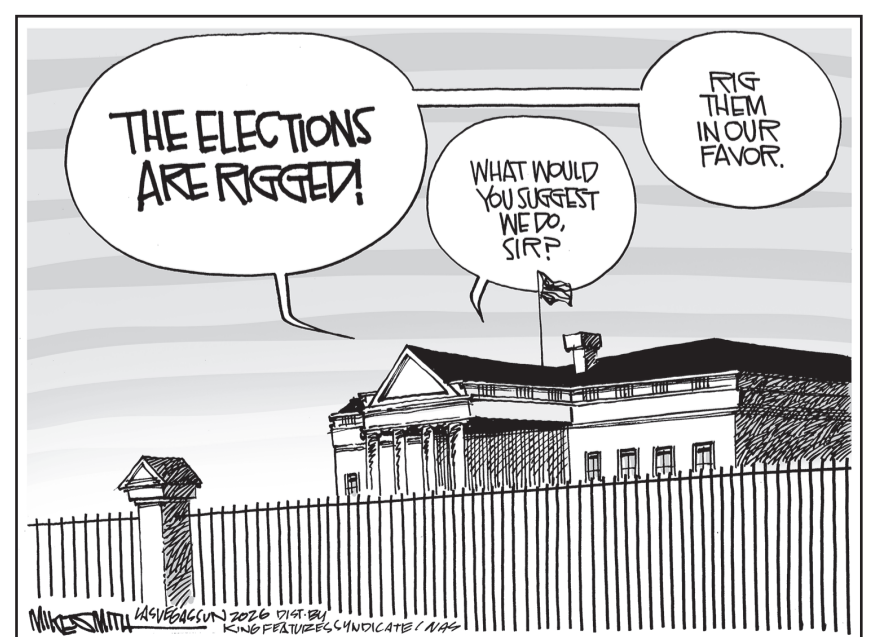
Even so, I found myself having long thought-conversations with myself again. I caught myself going on long walks only to realize that I'd accidentally left my phone at home.

I rediscovered daily naps. I rediscovered the ancient craft of porch sitting. I rediscovered crossword puzzles, cryptograms, solitaire and going barefoot. And over time, I began to heal. Little by little. I am healing.

And I'm not talking about my ribs.



DIETRICH



Researchers at UGA address growing concerns of Vidalia onions

By Maria Lameiras
UGA/CAES

ATHENS -- A framed clipping from the March 17, 1989, edition of The Statesboro Herald hangs on the wall of Chris Tyson's office at the University of Georgia's Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center (VOVRC).

The photo shows an older man wearing large, black-framed glasses, a plaid flannel shirt and a camouflage bucket hat. He stands in a field of young onions, peering down at one in his hand. The caption reads: "Herbert Deal, who has farmed in Bull-och County for 50 years, still keeps a concerned eye out for grandson Lemuel Deal Jr.'s crops. Here, he examines Vidalia onions to check for freeze damage."

The man is Tyson's great-grandfather, a Vidalia onion grower, decades before his great-grandson became the area onion agent for University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

Tyson grew up in Statesboro, within Georgia's strictly regulated, 20-county Vidalia onion-growing region, where several family members farmed onions in the 1980s. While his family stopped farming in the 1990s, the experience left Tyson familiar with the crop. He wanted a career in agriculture but did not initially plan to work with onions.

He earned a bachelor's degree in agriscience and environmental systems from the UGA Tifton campus in 2006, then began his extension career working with peanuts and cotton in Worth County. In 2012, he became the Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in Tattall County, neighboring Toombs County and the city for which the famous onions are named.

"Because Vidalia onions are such a niche crop grown in a very specific way, growers really depend on local, unbiased research," Tyson said. "A



Special Photo: UGA/CAES

UGA Extension specialists are looking for ways to improve cultivation of Vidalia onions.

lot of what we do here can't just be looked up in a book. The way we grow Vidalia onions is different from onions anywhere else in the world, and we're constantly looking for ways to make them even better."

According to UGA Extension's Vidalia Onion Production Guide, the Vidalia onion industry began in 1931 when a grower named Mose Coleman planted the first short-day onions in Toombs County. The mild onions quickly became popular with customers, even during the Great Depression, when \$3.50 for a 50-pound bag was a considerable sum.

Other growers took interest, and the industry grew steadily for decades. Production skyrocketed in the 1970s and 1980s, and the industry gained formal recognition with the Georgia Vidalia Onion Act of 1986 and a federal marketing order in 1989. These measures defined the growing region and established a trademark for Vidalia onions to ensure authenticity.

Since then, the industry has shifted from many small growers selling to centralized packers to a few large-scale

producers. Total acreage today is comparable to past decades, but most onions are grown by large operations supplying retail markets. Smaller growers remain, often serving niche or local outlets such as roadside stands or specialty shops.

The onions' mild sweetness largely results from the sandy soils and high rainfall of southeast Georgia. Sandy soil doesn't retain sulfur well, and sulfur is responsible for onions' pungency. With less sulfur available, the onions develop a sweeter flavor. The defined growing region was established to protect those growing conditions and product integrity.

While onions are grown across the United States and around the world, cultivation practices vary widely. Unlike most onion-producing regions, where onions are direct-seeded, Vidalia onions are typically grown from transplants. Growers raise seedlings in dense seed beds before transplanting young onions into production fields. About 95% of Vidalia acreage uses this method.

The approach serves two purposes: increasing plant survival and helping seedlings

compete against intense weed pressure in south Georgia.

"You can grow enough plants in 1 acre of seed bed to transplant onto 20 acres," said Tyson, who earned a master's degree in plant protection and pest management from CAES in 2017. "The primary reason we use that system is weed control. It's very difficult to grow onions direct-seeded here because of the weeds we have in our environment."

Stanley Culpepper, a professor of crop and soil sciences and UGA Extension weed specialist, said weed control is far easier in transplant systems than in direct-seeded onions.

"We have very good herbicide programs available for transplant production, and because transplants are more established, they can tolerate more aggressive treatment," Culpepper said. "Seeded onion production, on the other hand, is the most difficult weed management challenge I encounter among the more than 35 crops that I work with."

"The onion seedling is extremely weak and tiny — you almost have to get on your knees to see it at three weeks of age. Herbicides that work well on transplants would of-

ten kill seeded onions outright. Thus, a completely different weed management program approach is required for seeded production."

To address rising labor costs, limited worker availability and pressure to use inputs more efficiently, Extension Precision Agriculture Specialist Luan Oliveira and his team are developing field-ready technologies that could help growers maintain productivity while reducing labor demands and production risk.

Supported by the Vidalia Onion Committee, the team is evaluating precision tools that match management decisions to real field variability and reduce reliance on manual processes. Researchers are currently testing different mechanical transplanters against traditional hand-transplanting systems.

"One of our research topics was verifying the impacts of inefficiency in manual transplanting," Oliveira said. "Preliminary results show that inconsistencies in commercial fields can cost up to 1,000 pounds per acre in yield reduction."

The team is also testing ultra-high-precision sprayers capable of applying herbicides close to the onion plants without touching them. Preliminary results show chemical inputs can be reduced by 58% while maintaining the same level of weed control.

Ted McAvoy, a horticulture professor and vegetable production Extension specialist, is part of a team at CAES studying how mechanized harvesting affects onion quality after harvest.

"The cost of hand labor, limited worker availability in a compressed harvest window, and safety concerns about physical labor in April and May heat are all pushing the industry to seriously explore mechanization," McAvoy said.

One complication is curing, a recommended practice that allows onions to dry in the field to extend storage life but may actually increase bruising risk. Research also shows that bruising susceptibility varies by variety.

"We're identifying traits associated with lower bruising — high firmness, small bulb size, flat shape and increased sweetness — so we can predict how new varieties might perform mechanically," McAvoy said.

Economists involved in the project are evaluating the financial implications of mechanization, including how many acres growers must harvest before equipment investments pay off.

"Ultimately, research showing bruising can be managed, combined with a clear economic case, is what will move the industry from skepticism to adoption," McAvoy said.



Special Logo

PruittHealth expands home health presence in south Georgia

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

NORCROSS -- PruittHealth has announced the addition of four home health offices in south Georgia, reinforcing its commitment to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to patients across the state.

This strategic acquisition broadens PruittHealth's reach within the state and strengthens its position as a leading provider of home health services, enabling the organization to serve even more families throughout Georgia. The acquisition includes the Community Health Services of Georgia home health locations in Vidalia and Albany, as well as the Georgia Home Health Services locations in Valdosta and Tifton.

With this expansion, PruittHealth now operates 15 home health offices in Georgia, adding 36 counties to its service area and bringing its total reach to 109 counties statewide.

"We are excited to welcome these new teams and communities into the PruittHealth family," Neil L.

Pruitt Jr., chairman & CEO of PruittHealth, said in a news release. "Expanding our home health footprint allows us to better meet the needs of patients across Georgia by delivering high-quality care directly in the home."

The acquired locations will operate under the PruittHealth brand PruittHealth @ Home and integrate into organization's statewide network, leveraging established clinical protocols and resources. PruittHealth will continue to partner with local health care providers to ensure optimal patient outcomes and enhance collaborative care in each community.

Founded in Georgia in 1969, PruittHealth provides an expansive network of post-acute health care and senior services with more than 190 locations, offering skilled nursing and senior living services, home health care, hospice and palliative care, veterans care, therapy, pharmacy, and infusion services. Based in Georgia, the organization's 16,000 employees serve approximately 26,000 patients daily across multiple states, including Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.



GEORGIA GROWN A PROGRAM OF THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER TYLER J HARPER



Special Logo

Ag commissioner launches 'Meet Me at the Market'

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper has announced the launch of "Meet Me at the Market," a new statewide campaign that spotlights the impact of farmers markets on Georgia's top industry — agriculture — and the communities they serve. The campaign aims to unify and elevate farmers markets across Georgia while amplifying their impact as essential community resources.

"We're excited to launch our 2026 Georgia Grown Farmers Market campaign, 'Meet Me at the Market,' highlighting Georgia Grown certified farmers markets in every corner

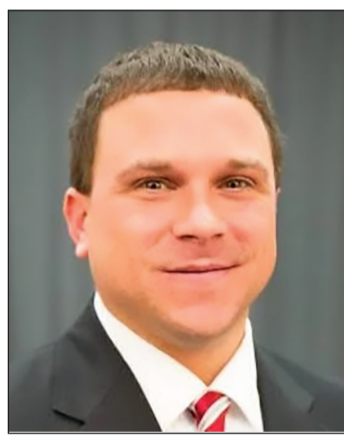
of our state," Harper said in a news release. "With fresh produce like iconic Georgia peaches and world-famous Vidalia onions in season now, there's no better time for Georgians to visit their local farmers market and support local agriculture."

"Meet Me at the Market" is designed to showcase Georgia's network of farmers markets through Georgia Grown signage, social media promotions, special 'Market Days,' and comprehensive communications support. The campaign aims to spotlight the unique offerings of each market and inspire Georgia consumers to shop locally.

This year, 10 farmers markets have been selected as

Spotlight Markets. The Spotlight Markets include:

Amicalola Regional Farmers Market – Dawsonville
Cartersville Farmers Market – Cartersville
Freedom Farmers Market – Atlanta
Forsyth Farmers' Market – Savannah
The Grant Park Farmers Market – Atlanta
Peachtree Road Farmers Market – Atlanta
Piedmont Park Green Market – Atlanta
Unearthing Farm & Market – Atlanta
WayGreen Local Fare Market – Waycross
West Georgia Farmers Cooperative Farmers Market – Columbus, LaGrange, and



Tyler Harper

West Point

Interested persons can explore the full list of Georgia farmers markets at gagrown-farmersmarkets.com. To be featured on the list, markets must submit a completed Georgia Grown Farmers Market Registration Form.

Urologist Michael Stotzer joins Southwell staff

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON -- Southwell has announced that Dr. Michael Stotzer has joined the Tift Regional Urology staff.

A board-certified urologist, Stotzer will work alongside fellow urologist Dr. Jeff Peters and nurse practitioners Allen Pate, and Jody Seagraves.

Stotzer's services include:

Diagnosis and treatment of conditions involving the male and female urinary tract and the male reproductive organs;

Medical management to minimally inva-

sive surgeries'

Expert, compassionate care.

After earning his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Stotzer completed his urology residency training at Wayne State University in Detroit. He has 26 years of experience in providing surgical and non-surgical treatments for both common and complex urologic conditions, including urological cancer care.

Interested persons should talk to their provider about a referral or call (229) 391-3535. Tift Regional Urology is located in Tifton at 1815 Old Ocilla Road.

Welcome
Michael Stotzer, MD
Board Certified in Urology
TIFT REGIONAL UROLOGY

Special graphic

Dr. Michael Stotzer has joined the Tift Regional Urology staff, Southwell officials announced.

Scaled-back ballot QR Code bill headed to governor's desk

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers dialed back a controversial change that would have mandated hand recounts of the two top-ticket races in every election before local officials could certify the results.

The hand-count provision was added by Senate Republicans over the weekend to a measure extending the state's self-imposed deadline to stop using ballot QR codes to tally votes, prompting outcry from Democrats, local election officials and other advocacy groups.

The revised measure, which passed out of both chambers largely along party lines, limits the use of hand recounts to only the governor's or lieutenant governor's race, and implements them only when the leading candidate's margin of victory falls within half a percent of the candidate in second place. The state will reimburse counties for the cost of conducting a hand recount.

The bill also allows the state to continue using QR codes to tally votes until 2028, meaning they will still be in place for this year's midterms, and

mandates additional post-election audits on certain statewide contests and establishes a special committee to help select the state's next voting system.

An amendment added by Covington Rep. Tim Fleming, the Republican nominee for secretary of state, instructs the committee to narrow their focus to hand-marked paper ballot systems, which would represent a shift away from Georgia's current system that uses voting machines to mark ballots.

Sen. Max Burns, a Sylvania Republican who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate, told lawmakers the language "ensures that Georgia moves forward, that our elections are safe and secure, that we are prepared for not only 2026 elections but also for '27 and '28 and beyond."

Speaking to reporters after the bill passed, Burns added that the hand-count provision was aimed at boosting voter confidence in the machine-tallied election results, despite the fact that studies have shown hand-counts of ballots are less accurate than ballots counted by machines.

"We're not using the hand count as the primary meth-

od of determining election results," he said. "When the machine tabulation suggests that a race is very close, we then say 'review it,' take a second count, and evaluate it."

But Democrats questioned the measure's reliance on hand recounts, citing high labor costs and the potential for human error. They also pushed unsuccessfully to have the bill changed to guarantee that a member of the minority party would have a seat on the special committee that will help choose the state's next election system.

Rep. Jasmine Clark, a Lilburn Democrat who is running for Congress, accused Republicans of acquiescing to a small but vocal group of conservative activists who have continuously cast doubt on Georgia's election integrity in the years since President Biden's 2020 victory in Georgia.

"You just cannot build a healthy democracy by catering to people who will just never accept the results of an election if it does not favor them," she said.

Fair Fight Action CEO Lauren Groh-Wargo echoed Clark's sentiments, criticizing the use of ballot hand counts and ar-

guing that Republicans were "giving conspiracy theorists outsized influence over how Georgia's elections are run."

Opponents of ballot QR codes had long hoped that Georgia might find a way to phase out voting machines this year and replace them with hand-marked paper ballots, which they say can be more easily verified by voters. Voter GA cofounder Garland Favorito, who has been one of the main proponents of switching to hand-marked and hand-counted ballots ahead of the midterm elections, said he had conflicting feelings about the version of the bill that crossed the finish line.

"It's a mixed bag," Favorito said, arguing that the bill takes "steps in the right direction, but it doesn't ensure that the 2026 elections are going to be secure."

The last-minute addition of the hand-counting provision also risked compromising the support of the Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials, which had initially supported the bill but reversed its stance after mandatory hand counts for the top two races in every election were added to the



Special Photo: Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder
Sen. Max Burns discusses his election bill in a House Committee on June 23.

legislation.

Joseph Kirk, the Bartow County elections director and president of the association, said he was glad to see the hand-recount provision scaled back in the final version, arguing that small discrepancies in vote totals can easily undermine voter confidence.

"When you see small changes in results, the question is why," he said. "And most of the time when you're hand-counting, that's an issue with people that are doing the count."

He added that local officials may still have to adapt to some new audit and recount procedures for the midterm

election, but said the bill is ultimately a "clear path forward" for election administrators.

Gov. Brian Kemp announced the special session in May, calling lawmakers back to the Capitol to address the QR code issue, to redraw the state's political maps, ratify the recent gas tax suspension and consider local tax referendums. However, Republican lawmakers in both chambers ultimately backtracked on their plans to redistrict, and Democrats successfully blocked the tax measures.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk for his signature.

Georgia DOT awards resurfacing, construction projects

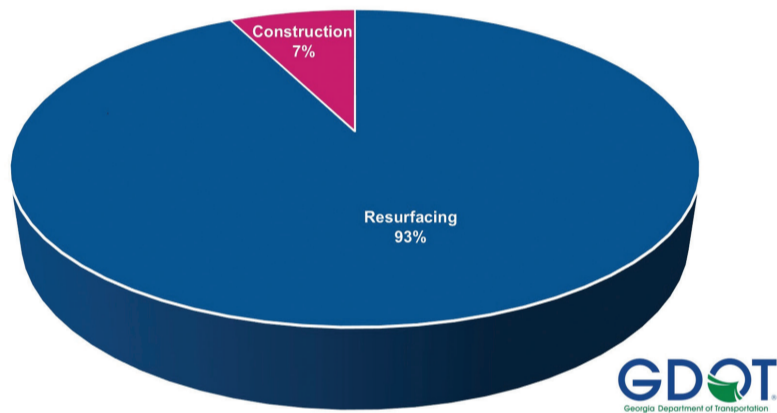
Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded a total of six projects valued at approximately \$14.3 million at the monthly State Transportation Board meeting held in May. Contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidders on May 29.

The largest single investment resurfacing project, valued at approximately \$4.8 million, proposes 5.86 miles of milling, inlay, and plant mix resurfacing on U.S. Route 27/State Route (SR) 1 beginning north of Willis Drive and extending north of Fernwood Drive in Troup County. This contract and four other resurfacing projects total approximately \$13.2 million and represent 93% of the total funds awarded.

The largest and only construction contract, valued at approximately \$1.1 million, proposes 0.18 mile of construction of a bridge and



Special Illustration: Georgia DOT

The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded a total of six projects valued at approximately \$14.3 million at the monthly State Transportation Board meeting held in May.

approaches on Lower Pateville Road (County Road 11) over Swift Creek tributary in Crisp County. This contract represents the remaining 7% of the total funds awarded.

The award announcement list for May includes deferred projects. Bids for design-bid-build projects were received on May 15, and contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidders on May 29.

The supplemental award announcement includes previously deferred projects that have now been awarded. Contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidder on May 28 and June 2.

The May awards bring the total construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2026, which began on July 1, 2025, to approximately \$2.4 billion. This total includes TIA, design-bid-build, and locally

administered projects. Fiscal Year 2026 will conclude on June 30. Contractors and consultants, including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), registered small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses interested in bidding on projects or performing work must prequalify with Georgia DOT. To learn more, visit <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/DBE.aspx>.

Administration backs away from immigration detention facility in Social Circle

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The federal government has halted plans to convert a warehouse into a massive immigration detention center that would have overwhelmed services in the tiny town of Social Circle.

The city of about 5,500 east of Atlanta announced the decision by the Department of Homeland Security, attributing the information to multiple agency sources and to U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, a Republican who represents the area.

Collins' office did not immediately respond to queries seeking confirmation. But U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) media representatives offered an indirect response to an email query by Capitol Beat, saying Homeland Security "is moving swiftly to utilize existing detention space with our state and county partners."

ICE is under new leadership after Todd Lyons stepped down in May as acting director.

The agency, now led by David Ventrella, said in its response that "Heinous criminals, once arrested, should be removed at lightning speed, not

housed on American soil at the taxpayer's expense."

Collins is running for U.S. Senate, aiming to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff in November.

Both Ossoff and fellow Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock heralded the policy reversal in Social Circle, attributing it to their own efforts as part of a public pressure campaign.

"Officials in the Trump administration got nervous because the people stood up and began to speak out," Warnock said in a call with reporters.

The 1 million-square-foot facility would have held as many as 10,000 detainees, tripling the population of Social Circle.

That would have overwhelmed local water and sewer systems, according to an engineering analysis for the city. The analysis estimated that an infrastructure expansion capable of serving the facility would have cost \$44 million and taken more than two years to build.

In the meantime, the federal government planned to truck in water and haul out the byproducts of wastewater treatment, according to a March 24 letter that Warnock and Ossoff sent to the leaders of Homeland Security

and ICE. This would have increased local traffic and damaged the roads, the senators wrote.

Their letter also raised safety concerns for the city with 15 patrol officers. The ICE warehouse is less than 1,000 feet from a subdivision and within a mile of an elementary school.

The federal government bought the warehouse for more than \$128.5 million, The Covington News reported in February.

Warnock said the amount was twice the market value, labeling the purchase "waste, fraud and abuse."

ICE said the agency paid fair market value after preparing an appraisal that it said was independently reviewed.

Social Circle said in its announcement that it was unclear whether the government would sell the property or transfer it to a different agency.

The federal government does not pay property taxes, so the purchase was a blow to Social Circle's finances.

"The city is hopeful that the property will ultimately return to the local tax base and once again contribute to the economic vitality and long-term success of the Social Circle community," the city's announcement said.

ICE did not answer Capitol Beat's question about that issue.



The University of Alabama, Special Logo

Southwest Georgia students recognized by colleges, universities

By Carlton Fletcher

carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

University of Alabama – President's, Dean's Lists

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 14,306 students enrolled during spring semester 2026 at the University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). Local students honored include:

Elizabeth Pierce of Albany - Deans List
Sarah Sternberg of Albany - Deans List
Chanse Taylor of Baconton - Deans List
Macy Wiggins of Dawson - Deans List
Joshua Barnes of Leesburg - Presidents List
Joshua Stokes of Leesburg - Deans List

Maryland Global Campus – Dean's List

ADELPHI, Md. — More than 20,000 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade-point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC. Area students honored include:

Kristina Akins of Leesburg
Inza Diarrassouba of Albany
Kaleatrice Ford of Albany
Crystal Guillory of Albany
Katelyn Haines of Albany
Jeffrey Hartman of Albany
Allen Janis of Albany
Tiffany Joiner of Leesburg
John Miller of Leesburg
Mason Mims of Albany
Alejandro Nanez of Leesburg

Samford University – Dean's List

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Samford University recognized 2,408 students named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. Among those honored as Anna Kimsey of Albany.

University of Arkansas, Little Rock – Dean's List

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Shane Fisher of Albany has been named to the Dean's List

for the spring 2026 semester at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Dean's List recognized more than 1,800 students with superior academic performances at the end of the semester. To be on the Dean's List, UA-Little Rock students must earn at least nine credit hours and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

University of Arkansas – Chancellor's List

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The University of Arkansas is recognizing students for earning a place on the spring 2026 Chancellor's List, the university's highest semester academic honor for undergraduates. Kathy Goodpasture of Albany joins a select group of students who have achieved a 4.0 grade-point average for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours of coursework required for graduation.

Georgia College & State University – Graduates

MILLEDGEVILLE — A number of local students participated in Georgia College & State University's spring 2026 commencement ceremonies recently. Among the graduates were:

Emma Sinderson of Leesburg, bachelor's candidate Special Education major in the John H. Lounsbury College of Education.

Bentley Savelle of Leesburg, bachelor's candidate Theatre major in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Courtney Cook of Poulan, master's candidate Curriculum and Instruction major in the John H. Lounsbury College of Education.

Sam Orndorff of Leesburg, master's candidate Health & Human Performance major in the College of Health Sciences.

Kamryn Lane of Leesburg, master's candidate Middle Grades Education major in the John H. Lounsbury College of Education.

Lamarshia Holley-Hurley of Albany, master's candidate Secondary Teacher Education major in the John H. Lounsbury College of Education

Ragen Singleton of Camilla, specialist candidate Teacher Leadership major in the John H. Lounsbury College of Education.



Special Photo: Braves.com

Reynaldo López returns to the Atlanta Braves' starting rotation as the club looks to halt its recent slide. The 2024 All-Star is expected to provide much-needed stability to a rotation that has struggled to pitch deep into games during the Braves' recent slump.

Braves looking to halt slide

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

ATLANTA — It wasn't long ago the Atlanta Braves looked poised to run away with the National League East. Now they're simply trying to stop the bleeding.

A club that built a commanding 9 1/2-game lead atop the division has watched that cushion shrink to just 4 1/2 games after dropping 10 of its last 13 contests, including a three-game sweep in San Diego that exposed many of the issues plaguing Atlanta over the past month.

The Braves opened a three-game series in San Francisco on Friday hoping to reverse the slide before Philadelphia

can make the division race even tighter. "It's not going to last," Braves manager Walt Weiss said. "We're struggling a little bit on both sides, with pitching and scoring runs."

That's the troubling part for Atlanta. The problems aren't confined to one area.

The offense that ranked among baseball's most dangerous through mid-May has become one of the league's least productive. Injuries have played a significant role, particularly the prolonged absences of Ronald Acuña Jr. and catcher Drake Baldwin.

Through May 18, the Braves owned a .765 OPS, ranking among the National League's best offensive clubs. Since

Baldwin strained his left oblique the following day, Atlanta's OPS has fallen to .680, tied for the fourth-lowest mark in the majors during that span.

Baldwin hasn't yet rediscovered his timing since returning from the injured list.

The reigning National League Rookie of the Year is just 1-for-31 with 19 strikeouts since homering in his first plate appearance after returning June 16.

"We have the personnel," Weiss said. "It's the same personnel that was really good the first couple months. They're going to come around."

Atlanta's inability to capitalize with

See **BRAVES**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whiffield

Westover's Amarise Idlett prepares to pass the ball as Westover head coach Derek Pace watches from the sideline during Tuesday's game against Berrien. The Lady Patriots beat Berrien soundly before losing to Perry by one point.

Westover girls earn split at Monroe playdate

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The Westover Lady Patriots flexed their offensive firepower in one game and battled to the final possession in another Tuesday afternoon, splitting a pair of summer basketball contests at Monroe High School's final home playdate of the summer.

Westover stormed past Berrien 54-19 before seeing a late lead slip away in a one-point loss to Perry in the day's final matchup.

The Lady Patriots wasted little time taking command against Berrien.

Rising sophomore Amarise Idlett buried an early 3-pointer to ignite a 7-0 run and set the tone for the afternoon. Westover attacked on both ends of the floor, forcing turnovers and turning defensive stops into easy scoring opportunities.

Idlett, fellow sophomore Ja'Niyah Brown and rising senior Sydney Donaldson spearheaded the charge as the Lady Patriots steadily widened the gap. By halftime, Westover had built a commanding 29-10 advantage.

Any hopes of a Berrien comeback quickly disappeared after the break.

Donaldson drilled back-to-back 3-pointers to push the lead to 37-10 as the Lady Patriots continued to overwhelm Berrien with their speed, defensive pressure and balanced scoring attack.

Westover never looked back, cruising to the 35-point victory.

The second game of the day proved far more challenging.

Facing a talented Perry squad, the Lady Patriots battled through a competitive contest and carried a lead into the closing stages before Perry rallied late to steal a one-point victory.

"We dwindled a lead late in the game," Westover head coach Derek Pace said. "We missed a few easy opportunities, had unforced errors and poor defense late. We lost by one to a good, young, well-coached Perry team."

While the loss was disappointing, Pace said the summer schedule has revealed encouraging signs about the development of his team.

The Lady Patriots have spent June building chemistry, gaining experience and learning how to compete together, and Pace believes those efforts are beginning to pay off.

"It has been exciting to see the growth," Pace said. "This group has put in the work all summer and it's starting to show. They're playing harder, communicating better and gaining confidence. I can't ask for more than that."

As summer workouts continue, Westover hopes Tuesday's combination of a dominant victory and a hard-fought loss will provide valuable lessons heading into the upcoming season.

The Lady Patriots showed they can overwhelm an opponent when everything is clicking. Against Perry, they were reminded how thin the margin can be between winning and losing when facing quality competition.

Dougherty girls show fight in summer playdate

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Most coaches don't walk out of a gym encouraged after watching their team lose twice in the same afternoon.

Dougherty girls basketball coach Ervin Josey did exactly that Tuesday.

The Lady Trojans dropped a 39-29 decision to Monroe and then suffered a heartbreaking sudden-death overtime loss to Miller County. Still, Josey left Monroe High School convinced his team is moving in the right direction as the summer schedule nears its conclusion.

"This month of June has really taught me a lot about the type of players we have and the foundation we're building," Josey said. "I truly believe these girls are going to be ready when the season arrives."

That confidence has been built throughout a productive summer. Even after Tuesday's setbacks, Dougherty sits at 9-3 heading into Saturday's trip to Florida State to close out the month.

The Lady Trojans' first challenge came against a Monroe team fresh off a 3-1 weekend at the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Live Period at LakePoint Sports Complex in Emerson.

The Lady Nadas were without leading scorer Kie'Aundria Acree and head coach Jennifer Acree, who were attending a college visit at Rutgers University, but Monroe still found enough offense to pull away.

After the teams were tied 2-2 early, Monroe seized control behind the shooting of Taylor McKinzy.

Her first 3-pointer gave Monroe a 9-2 advantage, and another from beyond the arc just before halftime pushed the Lady Nadas' lead to 27-14.

Dougherty refused to go away.



Staff Photo: Joe Whiffield

Monroe finished Tuesday's action 2-0 and continued building momentum heading toward the end of its summer schedule.

Rising sophomore Reginae Hill buried a long 3-pointer midway through the second half to trim the deficit to 33-25. Dariona Simmons and T.K. Harris helped fuel the comeback effort as the Lady Trojans matched Monroe's intensity and briefly threatened to make things interesting.

Monroe answered behind the play of Maleyah Hines, Mariah Toye and Glendalys Harvey to secure the 39-29 victory.

"Against Monroe tonight, our girls competed hard and played well enough to stay in the game," Josey said. "We matched their intensity, but consistency has to become who we are. We missed too many easy opportunities around the basket, and that made the difference. Staying the course is what we're going to hang our hat on throughout the preseason."

If the Monroe game showed Dougherty's competitiveness, the second game of the day showed the Lady Trojans' resilience.

After moving to Monroe's auxiliary gym, Dougherty and Miller County battled through a back-and-forth contest that neither team could control for

long.

A late jumper by Simmons gave Dougherty a brief lead before the Lady Pirates answered. The game then took an unusual turn when coaches serving as officials disagreed on a foul call. Following a lengthy discussion, former Calhoun County girls coach Cornelius Walker, now the head coach at Westside-Macon, stepped in to officiate the remainder of the contest.

The teams remained deadlocked entering the final seconds. With the score tied 25-25, Dougherty's Joniyah Jones banked in a basket to give the Lady Trojans a 27-25 lead.

For a moment, it appeared Dougherty had stolen the victory.

Instead, Miller County answered with a basket as the buzzer sounded, forcing sudden-death overtime.

The Lady Trojans had the first opportunity to score in overtime but came up empty. Moments later, a foul sent Miller County to the free-throw line, where the Lady Pirates converted the game-winning point.

"Against Miller County, it was another good, competitive game," Josey said. "Once

again, we struggled to finish around the basket for some odd reason. Sometimes those types of games happen. What I loved most was that our girls continued to fight until the final buzzer, and I applaud them for their newfound effort and commitment."

While the ending was disappointing, Josey believes the bigger picture remains bright.

"I'm really excited about where we are," Josey said. "We still have plenty of work to do, but I love the direction we're headed. These young ladies are learning, competing, and growing together, and that's what June basketball is all about."

Monroe, meanwhile, completed a successful final home playdate of the summer with a 44-15 victory over Berrien.

The Lady Nadas raced to a 19-2 halftime lead and never looked back. With Acree unavailable, Monroe received valuable contributions from younger players, including Thomasville transfer Justyce Cole and incoming freshman Gloria Parker of Radium Springs Middle School.



Staff Photo: Joe Whiffield

Westover hosts football OTAs

Westover's Braylon Burton turns upfield after making a reception during Tuesday's OTA (Organized Team Activities) session at Westover High School. The Patriots hosted Dougherty, Monroe, Mitchell County and Randolph-Clay in one of the final summer workouts before the annual GHSA "dead week." Westover head coach Corey Joyner praised the level of competition, noting improvements by Monroe under new head coach Bo Daniels, Dougherty's defense under its new coordinator, and Randolph-Clay under veteran coach Charles Truitt. Joyner said the Patriots continue to focus on developing depth while instilling toughness and physicality in their younger players as they prepare for the opening of the 2026 football season in August. Teams will return to practice following the Fourth of July holiday weekend.



NFL denies Sorsby's draft petition

Field Level Media

Brendan Sorsby's path to the NFL hit another dead end on Tuesday when the league denied his petition for entry into the supplemental draft.

In a letter to Sorsby published by ESPN, the league informed Sorsby his petition was incomplete or intentionally vague, failing to "demonstrate accountability for your conduct or indicate whether, or how, you would adhere to the League's rules and policies governing the integrity of competition."

Sorsby was ruled ineligible by the NCAA for violating rules relating to gambling. NFL counsel Lawrence P. Ferazani Jr. stated in the letter that the league was dismayed by Sorsby failing to accept "responsibility for your actions" and trying to avoid consequences first through litigation and then by attempting to enter the NFL supplemental draft.

Sorsby transferred from Cincinnati to Texas Tech for the 2026 season before his plans imploded when his gambling violations were exposed, including allegations of placing



Special Photo: Nathan Giese/Avalanche-Journal

Brendan Sorsby saw his hopes of entering the NFL through the supplemental draft come to an end Tuesday when the league denied his petition, citing concerns about accountability related to gambling violations that resulted in his NCAA ineligibility.

bets on Indiana games while he was with the Hoosiers.

The NFL said a review of the case and public record contributed to its decision and was necessary because Sorsby did not address the context or details of his NCAA banishment.

In a response the NFL surely anticipated based on their previous courtroom entanglement, Sorsby attorney Jeffrey Kessler told ESPN the NFL

was in violation of the "CBA and the law."

Kessler has a history of winning in head-to-head courtroom contests with the NFL and is an expert in union-related matters. He led the NFLPA in matters involving Tom Brady's "Deflategate" suspension, represented several Saints players punished in the "Bountygate" case and won prominent sports law cases as a lead attorney in

House vs. NCAA and 23XI Racing/Front Row Motorsports vs. NASCAR.

Among the league's findings stated to Sorsby in the correspondence Tuesday: "You knowingly engaged in repeated and significant violations of NCAA rules designed to preserve the integrity of athletic competition. Reported conduct includes placing wagers on your own team and teammates and, to avoid detection, establishing or funding accounts in the names of intermediaries who placed bets on your behalf. There are also reports that you may have violated state criminal law."

Ferazani reminded Sorsby that commissioner Roger Goodell views entry into the league as a privilege "that carries with it significant responsibilities, including accountability. By all accounts, you are a talented player with the potential for future success. We encourage you to focus on preparing for possible entry into the NFL through the 2027 NFL Annual Draft."



Special Photo: Mark J. Rebilas-Imagn Images

Atlanta Falcons tight end Kyle Pitts agreed to a three-year, \$54 million contract extension Tuesday that keeps the former first-round draft pick under contract through the 2028 season. Pitts earned second-team All-Pro honors last season after posting career highs of 88 receptions and five touchdowns.

Falcons sign Kyle Pitts with \$54M deal

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Falcons agreed to a three-year, \$54 million deal with tight end Kyle Pitts on Tuesday that includes a reported \$36 million fully guaranteed, Pitts' agents told ESPN.

The \$18 million average annual value is the third-highest in NFL history for a tight end behind San Francisco 49ers star George Kittle (\$19.1 million AAV) and Arizona Cardinals standout Trey McBride (\$19 million).

The new deal runs through the 2028 season and replaces the \$15.045 million franchise tag Atlanta placed on Pitts earlier in the offseason. The two sides had until July 15 to work out a deal.

Pitts, 25, was a second-team All-Pro last season when he had 928 receiving yards while establishing career highs of 88 receptions and five touchdown passes in 17 games.

He was a Pro Bowl choice as a rookie in 2021 when he had 68 catches for a career-best 1,026 yards and one touchdown.

In five seasons with the Falcons, Pitts has 284 receptions for 3,579 yards and 15 scoring catches in 78 games (72 starts).

Pitts was the fourth overall pick in 2021 out of Florida.

Earlier this month, the Falcons locked up receiver Drake London with a four-year, \$141 million extension through the 2030 season.

NCAA set to eliminate redshirt seasons

Field Level Media

The days of college athletes taking a traditional redshirt season appear to be coming to an end.

The NCAA Division I cabinet voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a new eligibility model that would give athletes five years of eligibility while eliminating the redshirt system that has been a staple of college sports for decades.

The proposal, which is expected to be finalized following the conclusion of the Division I cabinet's meetings Wednesday, would fundamentally change how eligi-

bility is measured in Division I athletics.

Under the new age-based model, an athlete's five-year eligibility clock would begin when he or she turns 19 years old or enrolls in college, whichever comes first.

The change is designed to simplify an eligibility system that has grown increasingly complicated in recent years through the use of medical hardship waivers, COVID-era exemptions and legal challenges that have allowed some athletes to compete well into their mid-20s.

Rather than athletes using a redshirt season to preserve

eligibility, they would simply have five years in which to compete.

The NCAA hopes the change will reduce the growing number of requests for additional eligibility and medical redshirt waivers that have become commonplace across college athletics.

If approved, the new rule would affect all Division I athletes who still have eligibility remaining after the 2025-26 academic year.

However, the proposal would not apply to athletes whose eligibility expired this past season after competing four full years without taking a

redshirt season.

That exclusion is expected to generate legal challenges.

According to NIL attorney Darren Heitner, athletes who exhausted their eligibility under the current system could challenge the decision in court if they are denied the opportunity to compete under the new format.

The proposal marks the latest significant change in an era of rapid transformation across college athletics, where NIL opportunities, the transfer portal and a growing number of legal challenges have reshaped the landscape.

Moving the Chains: Premature speculation

By Scott Ludwig

MagicLudwig1@gmail.com

The orange and blue confetti was still falling from the rafters of San Antonio's Frost Bank Center when the initial reports came out.

According to the prognostication 'experts' - what they call themselves rather than just admitting your guess is as good as theirs - the San Antonio Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder are the early co-favorites to win the 2027 NBA Championship.

Never mind that the New York Knicks just beat the Spurs for the fourth time in games - twice on their own home court - for this year's title. In a convincing fashion, incidentally, overcoming double-digit deficits in all four of their wins.

So, for crying out loud, why not give the Knicks an opportunity to just enjoy their victory - and maybe a moment or two to take it all in? Seriously, is any of that too much to ask? Besides, can't we just let baseball have its moment in the sun before its

eclipsed by the NFL in a few months?

Apparently, it is too much to ask, because the 'writing heads' have already started expressing their collective doubts that the Knicks - or for that matter any team other than the Spurs or Thunder - can win it all next year.

There's a slight problem with that, because any or all of the following could happen between now and next year. Players could get traded. Players could demand to be traded. Players might get hurt and miss games. Play-

ers might hold out for more money; they'd miss games as well. Some coaches will be fired, and other coaches will be hired. Teams could even relocate to another city. Or country, for that matter.

In other words, just about anything could happen. So why, pray tell, are these predictions made so soon?

I'll tell you why. It's because it gives the 'talking heads' something to argue and scream about for the next five months or so, at which point the NBA will begin a new season and do it all over again.

And who, pray tell, is responsible for allowing these talking heads to do what they do - even if what their opinions rank a notch above putting a deposit down on a house you can't afford because you might have the winning lottery ticket on the 'that makes total sense to me' scale?

Well, if you bothered to read anything with a title similar to 'Early Line on the 2027 NBA Crown,' I hate to be the one to tell you: the guilty party is you.

So if that's the case, I have two words for you, which are the same two words I would say to you if I saw you hitting yourself on the head with a hammer:

STOP IT!

There, I said it. Stop being an enabler. Join me in ending the senseless stream of nonsense about what might happen, could possibly hap-

pen, or absolutely won't happen. Because, as I've already implied, your guess is indeed just as good as theirs.

I can remember when Joe Lunardi made his March Madness prognostications near the end of the current regular season. Now he's making them for the following season an entire year in advance, starting with the morning after the winning team cuts down the net while One Shining Moment is still playing in the background.

Once again, anything could happen between now and then. In fact, perhaps even more so at the collegiate ranks, now that NIL, the transfer portal, and everything else the NCAA is messing up has come into play, turning 'student-athletes' into free agents always on the lookout for more money and greener pastures.

While I'm on the subject, there's one more topic I can't let slide by, and that's Mel Kiper's mock NFL drafts. Why is it that we're inundated all year long with Kiper hypothesizing 'this team is selecting that player,' and then once the draft is completed we never see any kind of 'report card' showing how he did? I guess those reports are out there somewhere; maybe they're on the NFL's version of the dark web - if there is such a thing.

Getting back to college basketball, according to the first and second edition of ES-



Scott Ludwig

PN's 'Way-Too-Early Top 25' released initially on the night of the championship game - and then again just three weeks later - there was 'massive player movement' as 'more than 2,700 players entered the transfer portal, more than 90 of the top 100 transfers committed quickly and another 60 players entered the NBA draft.' It was, in their words, 'a whirlwind.'

So given all that, why does ESPN even go to the trouble of mentioning anything about it in the first place?

Maybe you weren't paying attention earlier, because I already mentioned why. They do it because people are giving them the time of day - which they don't deserve.

So we can begin by doing our part. Just in case you missed what that is, the first time, here it is again:

STOP IT!

All you're doing is encouraging them.

From 9A

BRAVES

runners on base has only magnified the slump. During the past 13 games, the Braves have hit just .154 with runners in scoring position.

Pitching has presented another challenge.

The starting rotation has struggled to provide length, forcing the bullpen to shoulder an increasingly heavy workload. Braves starters have completed six innings only five times over the past 25 games, leaving Weiss with difficult decisions late in games as relievers accumulate innings.

Seeking stability, Atlanta returned 2024 All-Star Reynaldo López to the rotation for Friday's series opener against the Giants after his brief stint in the bullpen.

"We feel like maybe we need a little help in the rotation," Weiss said.

The Braves also strengthened the bullpen by activating Tyler Kinley from the injured list and recalling veteran Ian Hamilton from

Triple-A Gwinnett.

The club remains optimistic All-Star reliever Robert Suarez will avoid a trip to the injured list after experiencing soreness in his right forearm.

Despite the recent struggles, there are reasons for optimism.

Former Georgia Tech star Joey Bart delivered his first home run since joining the Braves, and Atlanta expects Acuña to return sometime after the All-Star break. If Baldwin regains his form and the rotation begins working deeper into games, the pieces remain in place for the Braves to regain the form that made them one of baseball's best teams during the season's first two months.

For now, though, the margin for error has grown much smaller.

What once appeared destined to become a comfortable march toward another division title has suddenly become a race the Braves can no longer afford to take for granted.

This article contains information provided by Mark Bowman,Braves.com.

HVAC Systems Under Stress

What Happens When Summer Temperatures Surge

FEATURE IMPACT

Stretches of scorching summer days may leave you and your family feeling like you just can't quite get (or stay) cool. If you find yourself resigned to cooler rooms or leaving ceiling fans on constantly, it might be time to check your air conditioner.

Extreme heat is no longer rare for many parts of the country. According to recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 13 million households reported being uncomfortably hot for an extended period.

Not all air conditioning systems perform the same when temperatures spike. While most systems can keep up on typical summer days, prolonged heat can expose performance gaps, leading to uneven cooling and higher energy use. The difference often comes down to how the system is designed.

To better understand whether your HVAC system can stand up to summer, consider this information from the experts at Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US (METUS), a world leader in residential air conditioning units with sophisticated, durable systems that deliver quiet operation and energy-efficient performance.

Why Some Homes Stay More Comfortable Than Others

Not every home experiences summer heat the same way. Factors such as home layout, sun exposure, insulation, and HVAC system design can all influence how effectively a home maintains comfort during prolonged periods of high temperatures.

For example, upstairs bedrooms, rooms with large windows, and spaces exposed to direct afternoon sun often have different cooling demands than other areas of the home. Systems that provide more precise temperature control and flexibility can help address these differences and deliver more consistent comfort throughout the house.

Signs Your System May Be Struggling

As summer temperatures rise, there are often clear signs that an HVAC system may be struggling to keep up with demand. One of the most common indicators is a system that seems to run constantly during the hottest parts of the day, yet fails to deliver the level of comfort homeowners expect.



Homeowners may also notice persistent warm spots in certain rooms, increased indoor humidity, or weaker airflow from vents. In some cases, increased noise from vents or equipment may signal the system is working harder than usual to maintain airflow and cooling performance.

Another warning sign often appears on monthly utility statements. A noticeable increase in energy use during peak summer months can indicate the system is consuming more power to maintain comfort under challenging conditions.

What Makes the Difference in Extreme Heat

Not all HVAC systems are built the same. Modern system design plays a critical role in how well a home stays comfortable during prolonged high temperatures. Zoned Comfort Solutions from Mitsubishi Electric include ducted and ductless options designed to deliver reliable comfort, efficiency, and control in demanding conditions like summer heat surges, along with important features like:

- Cooling performance designed to maintain comfort even during extreme outdoor temperatures
- Precise temperature control that helps deliver more consistent comfort throughout the home
- Quiet, efficient operation that delivers strong performance with less noise and energy use
- Flexible installation options for homes with existing ductwork and homes without ducts, plus room additions, garages, sunrooms, and other hard-to-cool spaces

Evaluating whether your current system is designed to handle sustained high temperatures can help prevent discomfort and avoid rushed decisions during the hottest days of the year. To learn more, visit MitsubishiComfort.com.



Simple ways to breathe new life into a foyer

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

A foyer may not garner as much attention as a kitchen, living room or formal dining space, but the entryway to a home is the first place residents see upon arriving home and it's also where guests begin to form their impression of a home. That makes a foyer an important, if easily overlooked, space in a home. Homeowners hoping to give their entryways a little something extra can consider these simple means to breathe new life into a foyer.

• **Add seating.** If a foyer is large enough to accommodate one or two armchairs, such an addition can immediately

contribute to a welcoming and comfortable ambiance. Upholstered chairs can offer some color and provide a space for residents and guests to put on and remove their footwear.

• **Make a statement with lighting.** Foyer lighting is meant to make an entryway warm and welcoming, but it also can be used to make a statement. An impressive pendant light fixture in the foyer can make a strong first impression on guests and establish a vibe residents can keep in mind when addressing other interior spaces throughout the home.

• **Conquer clutter.** Foyers big and small can feel a little claustrophobic if there's

too much going on. Though furnishings like seating and console tables can dress up a space, make a concerted effort to ensure they don't become dumping grounds for outerwear and unread mail. In addition, designate an ideally concealed space to store footwear if the foyer will serve as residents' primary entryway.

• **Add some artwork.** If an existing foyer lacks personality, some simple artwork can add a pop of color without overstimulating residents and guests. Artwork can be hung above a console table to create a calm and welcoming vibe. Homeowners can even utilize artwork to change the vibe in the entryway so it reflects the seasons, hanging a picturesque winter landscape painting or print when the weather is cold and some bright and breezy beach art come the summertime.

• **Incorporate plants into the entryway.** Plants can add vibrancy and a pop of color to an entryway. Plants also can brighten up the space. If the foyer tends to be a bit dark throughout the day, consider faux plants so residents and guests are not greeted with withered, sun-starved greenery upon entering the home.

A foyer is easily overlooked when designing a home's interior. But an inviting entryway can set the tone for other interior spaces in a home.

Special Photo: MCC

Homeowners hoping to give their entryways a little something extra can consider a few simple means to breathe new life into a foyer.

What is the 3-5-7 rule?

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Home design trends come and go, but one that has inspired a legion of committed followers is the 3-5-7 rule. The 3-5-7 rule is a formula for interior decorating that encourages homeowners to group furnishings in odd numbers. The intention behind such groupings is to ensure homes feel balanced and intentional without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. Adherents to the

3-5-7 rule feel that odd-numbered groupings allow for an ideal blend of scale and height that creates a natural rhythm within interior spaces. Some even insist that odd groupings appear more curated. Size can come into play when pivoting to the 3-5-7 approach to interior design. Three large furnishings can be arranged (i.e., sofa, area rug and a large piece of wall art), five mid-sized items (chairs, coffee table, etc.) and seven small pieces (candles, framed photos, etc.).



Special Photo: MCC
Home design trends come and go, but one that has inspired a legion of committed followers is the 3-5-7 rule.

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Southwest Georgia Outdoors



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)



albanyherald.com/outdoors

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026 1B



A sinkhole at Hilsman Park in Albany developed after recent heavy rains.

Staff Photo: Tom Seegmueller

Dougherty County's underground topography impacts the land above

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Driving past Hilsman Park last week, I glanced over to see how much water had collected there as a result of the previous night's storm. Instead of the typical pool of water surrounded by wading birds, I saw a sinkhole surrounded by traffic barriers and sections of chain-link fence.

Closer inspection revealed "No Trespassing" signs and caution tape. A visit to the city of Albany website revealed a public notice stating: "On Thursday, June 11, Hilsman Park on N. Van Buren Street was closed temporarily due to a sinkhole. The city of Albany has fenced in the impacted area and reached out to a company to assess the sinkhole on Friday, June 12. Residents are urged to stay out of the park while it is closed. Updates will be provided as they are made available."

Eighty years ago, the same thing occurred at the site when the lake at Hilsman Park mysteriously disappeared overnight. According to legend, even the ducks that swam in man-made lakes were gone when the sun rose the next day. From that point on, the depression was simply known as the "Lime Sink."

Over the decades, the Lime Sink has been a popular site for picnics, pick-up football games, and late-night assignments. It was also considered the best seat in Albany for the city's Fourth of July celebrations. Residents and visitors from neighboring communities would arrive early in the afternoon to spread blankets, enjoy a picnic and some cold beverages prior to the fireworks display in order to stake out a prime spot for the festivities.

An aerial view of the city indicates that Hilsman Park isn't the only natural depression in the city. Hugh Mills Stadium, which was dedicated in 1936 after being constructed in a naturally occurring amphitheater, is another such location.

During a championship football game between Warner Robins and Dougherty High in the 1980s, heavy rains flooded the field. The stadium's antiquated drainage system was unable to handle the rapidly accumulating rainfall. Spectators and players still recall referees having to rapidly break up tackles to not only prevent the possible drowning of the downed ball carrier but to also



Special Photos
Radium Springs has an extensive history in Albany.

prevent the ball from floating away before the yardage of the play could be marked.

Assistant City Manager Bruce Maples, who was then an engineer with Keck & Wood, was part of the team called in to identify the problem. In an attempt to install a new drainage system and pumps, the engineers discovered part of a cavern system in the field's northern end zone.

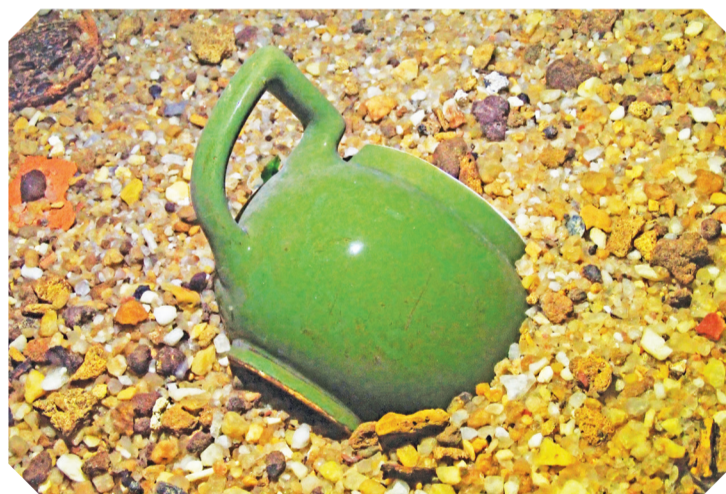
"The system was redesigned to reroute the drainage through a series of pipes into a catch basin and, in turn, drain it into the main cavern," Maples said during a tour of the cavern several years ago.

Further exploration and research at the site concluded that the cavern system beneath the stadium is part of the same subterranean network responsible for draining the lake at Hilsman Park and the sinkhole that is visible today.

These occurrences are not new. Historical accounts indicate that sinkholes in Albany have been claiming lakes and ponds since a pond at the intersection of Broad and Jackson streets disappeared due to a sinkhole shortly after the War Between the States. The city attempted to seal the basin with clay, only to have that disappear into the netherworld.

Not willing to accept defeat, the Albany City Commission used bricks to cover it, creating one of the city's earliest sewer systems.

While the limestone banks of the Flint River may appear solid, they are in reality a founda-



tion more similar in structure to cottage cheese. An aerial view or topographic map of the region shows a surface pock-marked with lime sinks, springs and sumps.

These geological surface features are the visible evidence of the karst limestone formations common to the Coastal Plain. The process begins when rainwater containing carbon dioxide absorbed from the atmosphere creates a weak acid solution. Over time, this solution percolates through the cracks and gaps found in the limestone, gradually dissolving the rock along these pathways of least resistance.

Almost a century later, Mickey Marbury teamed with his son, Rich, and Spencer Walden to create a subdivision with two man-made lakes, featuring lakefront homes. Many naysayers ridiculed the idea. After stripping 12 feet of topsoil away, the project's crew chief suddenly saw the warning signs that a sinkhole was about to swallow the bulldozer into a rapidly growing void.

An engineer who had scoffed at the project joyfully proclaimed, "I knew it wouldn't work."

Others who had scoffed at

the idea of building a lake instead of homes began referring to the site as "Marbury's Mudcap" or "Walden's Wethole."

Undeterred, Marbury had tons of Bentonite trucked in from Alabama to seal the entire lake bottom as well as plug the hole was securely sealed, the developers created an island known as Duck Island near Lake Loretta's northern shore. The lake's depth was kept shallow to reduce pressure on the sealed bottom.

After the six-month battle and a \$25,000 price tag, work on the second lake was never completed, creating another of Albany's dry lakes. To put this decision into perspective, inflation alone would push the price tag past \$35 million. However, a standard had been set.

As a result, developers still roll the dice in an effort to create a lakefront view. Sometimes they succeed and other times a neighborhood park or holding pond is built on the site of another failed water feature.

Throughout the history of Albany, news accounts and family legends recount disappearing chimneys, roads and landscape. One of the most

spectacular examples occurred when a sinkhole opened up behind the Albany Museum of Art's previous location at the intersection of Slappey Drive and Second Avenue.

In the early '70s, a sinkhole was discovered between the museum and Eugemar Park. The city immediately began attacking the rapidly growing chasm with a mixture of clay and concrete, finally stopping the crater's expansion mere feet from the museum's back door.

The capacity of water to travel through the porous substrate below the city was dramatically highlighted during the historic floods of 1994 and 1998. The rainfall from Tropical Storm Alberto was responsible for more than 300 sinkholes in and around Albany. The extent of the subterranean system beneath the city is one reason flood dikes are not a reasonable solution to flooding in Albany.

Not only do sinkholes pose threats to existing highways, businesses and homes, they ultimately create an added cost or an associated fear of building in the region. During construction on Albany State University's main campus, pilings were known to disappear into the subterranean abyss.

The most obvious examples of this corrosion and erosion on the surface of the region are the limestone banks of the Flint River and local creeks. Radium Springs offers a glimpse at the subterranean effects of the process. Radium is Georgia's only first-magnitude spring with a flow rate reaching 70,000 gallons per minute.

Archaeological artifacts provide evidence that the springs have been a focus of human interest for thousands of years. Commercial development of the spring began in 1916 when W.E. Hickey began buying up the property surrounding the spring. His efforts would culminate with the creation of the casino built by Barron Collier in the 1920s.

For three-quarters of a century, visitors enjoyed swimming and playing on the surface of the 68-degree water flowing from a cavern into the springs' boil, which is now bordered by field stone walls and walkways. The advent of self-contained underwater breathing apparatus, or SCUBA, gear, led more adventurous visitors to begin exploring areas 18 feet beneath the Casino's floor.

Early exploration proved to be a deadly endeavor, with the cave system claiming several lives before exploration was prohibited without permission. At one point, a gate with a skull and crossbones served as a caution to those tempted to test the depths of the cavern.

However, in the early 1980s, Paul Delaoch and Sheck Exley led a series of exploratory dives mapping the cave's interior. They would eventually create and publish a map documenting 1,532 feet of submerged passages reaching more than 1,208 feet from the springs' boil. Some of the passages were at depths approaching 100 feet. Approximately 45 feet from the cavern's entrance, the divers discovered a conical pile of rubble containing debris that had been discarded into a lime sink above them.

In 2017, divers extended their safety lines another 400 feet, extending exploration to 1,608 feet from the entrance. In 2025, a team of divers from Karst Underwater Research entered the spring to inventory the unique species living there. In an unmapped passage, they discovered a high concentration of blind salamanders. The cave also is home to Dougherty Plain cave crayfish, American eels, and Redeye chub.

During their 16-hour study of the biological inhabitants of the spring, they explored several hundred feet of unmapped passageways and found further evidence of surface infiltration.

For decades, the free-flowing waters of Radium Springs were considered evidence that the region is sitting on top of an unlimited source of fresh water. The assumption gained greater traction in 1881 when John Porter Fort drilled the first successful artesian well in the state in northwest Dougherty County. Fort hit water that flowed from the well at the amazing rate of 7 gallons a minute.

However, we now know the toll that urban, industrial and agricultural water use has placed on the system of aquifers below our feet. That fact was made obvious when the crystal blue waters at Radium have quit flowing on a routine basis.

Today the spring is a sentinel of the aquifer's health. Flow rates, water quality, as well as the accumulation of surface debris on the cave floor serve as indicators of how our actions on the surface of the limestone foundation of the region impact what lies below.

THE ALBANY HERALD

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Cemetery Lots for sale

For Sale: 5 burial plots in Riverside Cemetery. \$2500 text 770-883-5145

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Miscellaneous for sale

For Sale: 1 Burial Plot in Riverside-Oakview Cemetery. \$550. Call 229-439-4728 or 229-886-1359

JOBS

Full-Time

IRRIGATION TECH needed for a small irrigation co. Must have driver's license and be willing to learn. Call Tommy at 229-603-1373.

Full-Time

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. EOE/Drug Free Workplace/ E-Verify.

Fire Fighting Pilot for Thrush Aircraft, LLC in Albany, GA. Pilot fixed-wing aircraft as Pilot in Command to deliver newly manufactured aircraft to international customer locations worldwide, including pre-flight planning, route analysis, weather evaluation, fuel planning, & compliance with applicable aviation regs & operational procedures. Provide ground & flight instruction to customer pilots on aircraft operations, including simulator training, aircraft systems, standard & emergency procedures, & specialized operational training programs such as aerial firefighting, mountainous terrain operations, & train-the-trainer instruction. Req: 5 years of experience in Fire Fighting Piloting. Mail resume to Thrush Aircraft, LLC at 300 Old Pretoria Rd, Albany, GA 31721.

VEHICLES

Miscellaneous

Employer: Phoebe Physician Group, Inc.
Position: Medical Technologist
Location: Albany, Georgia
Duties: Provide laboratory information based on the performance of analytical tests on human body substances; correlate and interpret test data to detect evidence of or prevent disease or impairment and to promote and monitor good health; monitor quality assurance and maintain laboratory instrumentation including all documentation; follow established guidelines and protocols to provide requested clinical information to physicians, nurses, and other relevant health care personnel; and perform phlebotomy duties as needed.
Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in medical technology (or foreign equivalent) plus 1 year experience in clinical laboratory in similar discipline. Clinical laboratory scientist certification through CGFNS and medical laboratory scientist certification by one of the following: ASCP, AMT, NCA or AAB.
Resume to: Kiaris Kennon at kkennon@phoebehealth.com

Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids

A-596
 INVITATION TO BID
 Storm Drainage Improvements
 Shannon Pond
 BID REF. #27-001
 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 15, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be at 10:00 AM, June 23, 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. For additional information contact Ricky Gladney, Buyer I, rgladney@albanyga.gov or Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
 June 27, 2026

A-606
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 Downtown Event Planning Services
 PROPOSAL REF. #27-002
 Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 5:00 PM, on July 20, 2026. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 10:00 AM on June 29, in the Procurement division office. Proposal documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Destin Adams, Buyer I, at dadams@albanyga.gov.
 Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
 June 27, 2026

Corporations

A-593
NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCORPORATE
 Notice is given that Articles of Incorporation which will incorporate Land Partners Real Estate, Inc. will be delivered to the Secretary of State

Corporations

for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 1136 Dawson Road, Albany, GA 31707, and its initial registered agent at such address is Patrick Holden.
 June 20, 27, 2026

A-605
NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION: UNITED FAMILY PROPERTIES, INC.
 Notice is given that a notice of intent to voluntarily dissolve UNITED FAMILY PROPERTIES, INC., a Georgia corporation with its registered office at 1501 3rd Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707 USA, has been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code.
 June 27, July 4, 2026

Debtors & Creditors

A-599
NOTICE GEORGIA DOUGHERTY COUNTY
 NOTICE is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Ruth Pearl Robinson, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 Jacqueline Delwana Lamar
 Executrix of the Estate of Ruth Pearl Robinson
 c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC
 P.O. Box 352
 Albany, GA 31702
 (229) 430-9989
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

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.
 Shawndra Everett, Executor of the Estate of Gilbert G. Ward, Estate 113 SE Rosewood Drive Albany, Georgia 31705
 or
 MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C.
 2829 Old Dawson Road
 Post Office Drawer 71727
 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727
 (229) 888-3338
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

A-607
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBBIE ANN HORNE, DECEASED
 All creditors of the estate of Robbie Ann Horne 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 Robbie Ann Horne.
 This 23rd day of June, 2026.
 Leonard E. Horne, III, Administrator of the Robbie Ann Horne Estate 1312 7th Avenue Albany, Georgia 31707
 or
 MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C.
 2829 Old Dawson Road
 Post Office Drawer 71727
 Albany, Georgia 31708-1727
 (229) 888-3338
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

A-595
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Kenderson Hill 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 17th day of June 2026.
 Tango Hill, Administrator of the Estate of Kenderson Hill c/o William D. Moorhead III, Esq. 314 W. Residence Ave Albany, GA 31701
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

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-597
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Charlsie R. Little 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.
 James F. Little, Executor of the

Debtors & Creditors

Estate of Charlsie R. Little c/o John M. Moorhead, Esquire 314 W. Residence Avenue Albany, Georgia 31701
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 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-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-528
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 State of Georgia,
 County of DOUGHERTY
 Estate No. 2026-ES-090
 All creditors of the Estate of Paul David Boyd, 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.
 Joshua Cunningham
 Administrator of the Estate of Paul David Boyd
 c/o Christopher A. Flowers.
 504 N. Jefferson Street
 Albany, GA 31701
 June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

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.
 This 6th day of June, 2026.

Virgil Gaiter
 Administrator of the Estate of Roe Helen Gaiter
 114 Kindred Way
 Glen Burnie, MD 21061

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 Administrator with Will Annexed of said estate.
 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-562
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 All creditors of the Estate of Bettie Jean Richardson, 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.
 This 5th day of June, 2026.
 Sherman Willis, Attorney for Harriet Loretta Richardson
 Executor of the Estate of Bettie Jean Richardson
 GARDNER WILLIS PLAIRE & WILSON, LLP
 P.O. Drawer 71788
 Albany, Georgia 31708-1788
 229-883-2441
 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-600
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA,
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 All creditors of the Estate of June Marie Glover 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 us.
 This 19th day of June, 2026.
 Steven R. Glover,
 Administrator of the Estate of June Marie
 256 Martindale Dr.
 Albany, GA 31721
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

A-601
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA,
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 All creditors of the Estate of Bobby Frank Glover deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their

Debtors & Creditors

demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.
 This 19th day of June, 2026.
 Steven R. Glover,
 Administrator of the Estate of Bobby Frank Glover
 256 Martindale Dr.
 Albany, GA 31721
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

A-581
STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF CALHOUN
 All creditors of the estate of PAMELIA JORDAN MAYNE deceased of Calhoun 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 me.
 This 8th day of June, 2026.
 Leslie Patricia Mayne 1924 Mantricate Circle Tallahassee, FL 32303
 Willis A. DuVall
 P. O. Box 128 Edison, GA 39846
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Divorces

A-580
Dougherty County Superior Court
STATE OF GEORGIA
 Petitioner: Stephanie Shedrick V.
 Respondent: Roger Shedrick
 Civil Action Case Number: 26-CV-260-4

NOTICE OF SUMMONS
 TO: Roger Shedrick, Respondent Named Above:
 This notice has been published to let you know that a Complaint For Divorce case was filed against you in Superior Court on March 19, 2026. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on April 17, 2026. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 2713 Westgate Dr. Albany, GA 31707. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Complaint for Divorce.
 This the 17th day of April, 2026.
 Judge Joseph W. Dent
 Dougherty County Superior Court
 State of Georgia
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Juvenile Court

A-579
PUBLICATION DOUGHERTY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
IN THE MATTER OF: J.H. a.k.a. B.G.H. B/F DOB: 07/28/2024
To: Leon Wilkerson, Leon McClinton, R.J. EJ, all unknown biological fathers, putative fathers, legal fathers, or any other individuals alleging custody or any other individuals who might be the father of a female child J.H. a.k.a. B.G.H. B/F, born to Elizabeth Ann Hicks on 07/28/2024.
 A petition was filed in this Court by Social Services Case Manager Vontrea Stephens, on the 4th day of March 2026. The Petition alleges the above-referenced child to be dependent according to Georgia law and seeks termination of your parental rights, if any. You may obtain a copy of the Petition, which sets forth the specific allegations in detail, from the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, 225 Pine Avenue, Room G-7, Ground Floor, Albany, Georgia, 31701, phone 229-431-2162.
By authority of an Order for Service by Publication by the Judge of said Court approved on the 11th day of May, 2026, you are commanded to appear in the Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, located at 225 Pine Avenue, Room G-7, Ground Floor, Albany, Georgia, 31701, within sixty (60) days of said Order for Service by Publication and at 9:00 a.m. to then and there make defense to allegations of the petition, and to show cause why the prayers of the petition should not be granted, and why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law. The hearing is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.
 You or any other interested party may file a written objection or answer on or before the date and time for the hearing stated above by filing the same at the office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and the Petitioner's Attorney, William Godfrey
 Be advised that any biological father who is not the legal father of this child shall lose all rights to this child and shall not be entitled to object to the termination of his rights unless within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice, he files a petition to legitimate the child pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22 and (2) notice of the filing of the Petition to legitimate with the Dougherty County Juvenile Court.
 Witness the Honorable Valerie Brown Williams Judge of said Court this 11th day of June, 2026
 /s/ Tequila B. Woods
 Tequila B. Woods, Clerk
 Dougherty County Juvenile Court
 Dougherty Judicial Circuit
 William Godfrey
 Special Assistant Attorney General
 Post Office Box 2321
 Albany, Georgia 31702
 Phone (229) 573-7225/wjgodfrey@wjgodfrey.com
 Georgia Bar Number 076119
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Name Changes

SUCV2026000559
NOTICE PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Notice is hereby given that Lee Richard Purvis filed his Petition to the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 10 day of June, 2026, praying for a change of name from Lee Richard Purvis to Garren Lee Wright, Jr. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with the Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said Petition.
Lee Richard Purvis
 Petitioner
 Walter H. Burt, III
 Attorney at Law
 511 Pine Avenue Albany, GA 31701
 (229) 436-8462
 whburt3@gmail.com
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

A-575
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: NAME CHANGE PETITION: FILED ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIN BROOKE PURVIS
CIVIL ACTION NO.:
SUCV2026000560
NOTICE PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
 Notice is hereby given that Christin Brooke Purvis filed his Petition to the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 10 day of June, 2026, praying for a change of name from Christin Brooke Purvis to Christin Brooke Wright. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with the Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said Petition.
 Walter H. Burt, III Attorney at Law 511 Pine Avenue Albany, Georgia 31701
 (229) 436-8462
 E-MAIL: whburt3@gmail.com
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Probate Court Administration

A-585
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: JIMMY E. MARTIN
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-207
Genelle Denise Martin has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **JIMMY E. MARTIN**, 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 **July 13, 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 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

A-536
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: KATHY JEAN HAMRICK
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-149
John Clark has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the 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 **July 13, 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 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

A-535
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: LARRY HUNT
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-191
TO: GWENDOLYN W. BRASWELL AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Bobbi Porto has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the 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 **July 13, 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-589
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: MICHAEL TODD GADSON, SR.
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-211
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT
 The Petition of **Frances Chapman Blanford** for a year's support from the estate of **JAMES FREDERICK BLANFORD**, Deceased, of Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before **July 9, 2026**, 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleading/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 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

Probate Court Administration

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-538
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: STELLA PETE
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-193
Reve Pete has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **STELLA PETE**, 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

Probate Court 12 mth Support

notified to show cause, if any, on or before **July 20, 2026**, 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleading/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 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Probate Court Wills

A-569
CASE NAME: DENNIS ORRIN GILLETLY
CASE NO: 2026-ES-101
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: DANIEL BRENDAN GILLETLY (SON OF DECEASED), EDWARD M. BACARFI, and ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before **July 6, 2026**.

Be notified further: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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.

Leisa G. Blount
Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-587
CASE NAME: LARRY LEE LANE
CASE NO: 2026-ES-128
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: JENITA LANE (DAUGHTER OF LARRY LEE LANE) and ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before **July 20, 2026**.

Be notified further: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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.

Leisa G. Blount
Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Public Sales/ Auctions

A-612
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: A-1 Wrecker Service, 213 7th Ave, Albany, GA.

Make: Chevrolet
Year: 2001
Model: Silverado 1500
Vin ID: 2GCEC19V211258656
License: PD855
State: GA
Case #: 2026-180AV

Make: Ford
Year: 1997
Model: Explorer
Vin ID: 1FMDU32EXVUC91876
License: TBB676
State: GA
Case #: 2026-179AV

Make: Ford
Year: 2005
Model: Expedition
Vin #: 1FMPU13525LA25340
License: SLK6867
State: GA
Case: 2026-178AV

Make: Subaru
Year: 2017
Model: WRX
Vin ID: JF11VA1E67H9800054
License: RNM5111
State: GA
Case #: 2026-177AV

Make: Hyundai
Year: 2023
Model: Sonata
Vin ID: KMHLD24JA3PA312562
License: NONE
State: GA
Case #: 2026-176AV

Make: Nissan
Year: 2017
Model: Altima
Vin ID: 1N4AL3AP0HC173414
License: NONE
State: GA
Case #: 2026-175AV

Make: Lincoln
Year: 2015
Model: MKC
Vin ID: 5LMCJ1A96FUJ33711
License: NONE
State:
Case #: 2026-174AV

Make: BMW
Year: 2007
Model: 5 Series

Public Sales/ Auctions

Vin ID: WBANE75357CM46009
License: TEM7197
State: GA
Case #: 2026-173AV

Make: Honda
Year: 2002
Model: Accord
Vin ID: 1GYS4PKL2NR285536
License: ASIA
State: GA
Case #: 2026-172AV

Make: Buick
Year: 2006
Model: LaCrosse
License: SFL0075
State: GA
Case #: 2026-171AV

Make: Hyundai
Year: 2012
Model: Genesis
License: NONE
State:
Case #: 2026-170AV
Make: Honda
Year: 2012
Model: Shadow RS
License: NONE
State:
Case #: 2026-182AV

Make: Volkswagen
Year: 2014
Model: Jetta
License: CMS3608
State: GA
Case #: 2026-183AV

Make: Kia
Year: 2011
Model: Optima
License: SJL0071
State: GA
Case #: 2026-184AV

Make: Nissan
Year: 2008
Model: Maxima
License: R5X5947
State: GA
Case #: 2026-185AV

Make: Dodge
Year: 2013
Model: Durango
License: E21663
State: GA
Case #: 2026-181AV

Make: Nissan
Year: 2015
Model: Sentra
License: DFF4907
State: GA
Case #: 2026-188AV

Make: Nissan
Year: 2013
Model: Murano
License: S2531973
State: GA
Case #: 2026-187AV

Make: Toyota
Year: 2008
Model: Yaris
License: GJN304
State: GA
Case #: 2026-186AV

Make: Acura
Year: 2007
Model: TL
License: SLM5153
State: GA
Case #: 2026-189AV

Make: Toyota
Year: 2008
Model: Yaris
License: SDQ4281
State: GA
Case #: 20026-192AV

Make: Honda
Year: 2008
Model: Element
License: P7597157
State: GA
Case #: 2026-193AV

Make: Nissan
Year: 2009
Model: Murano
License: SJA 4502
State: GA
Case #: 2026-197AV

Make: Kia
Year: 2014
Model: Sorento
License: TGN5930
State: GA
Case #: 2026-190AV

Make: Ford
Year: 2007
Model: Edge
License: 5552242
State: NH
Case #: 2026-191AV
June 27, July 4, 2026

A-494
Public Auction
Location:
Royal Storage
2801 Palmyra Road
Albany, GA 31707
229-446-2038
Date & Time:
Tuesday, July 07, 2026
Bids due by 12:00 PM Sharp
Auction by Sealed Bid Only
Viewing:
Monday, July 06, 2026
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Unit 735 Alvin Davis Jr: Sectional couch & end tables
June 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-577
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 Dougherty 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: PAINT PRO TOWING, LLC
Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before: Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's Office or online at: www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

1.) 2022 Nissan Altima
Vin # 3N1AB8CV7NY271707
Case # 2026-161AV

2.) 2000 Dodge Dakota
Vin # 1B7FL26X5Y559450
Case # 2026-163AV

3.) 2008 Chevrolet Equinox
Vin # 2CNDL23F986066498
Case # 2026-162AV

4.) 1995 Buick Roadmaster
Vin # 1G4BT52P45R412763
Case # 2026-164AV

5.) 2016 Ford Fusion
Vin # 3FA6P0H70GR228362
Case # 2026-141AV

6.) 2009 Ford Crown Vic
Vin # 2FAHP71V29X139651

Public Sales/ Auctions

Case # 2026-139AV
7.) 2016 Chevy Malibu
Vin # 1G11CS5A6GF119203
Case # 2026-140AV

8.) 2003 Chevrolet S-10 Truck
Vin # 1GCCS19X638173024
Case # 2026-142AV

9.) 1999 Ford Crown Victoria
Vin # 2FAFP71W0XX147826
Case # 2026-143AV

June 20, 27, 2026

A-591
UNKNOWN VEHICLES STRUMS ELITE TOWING & RECOVERY

You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions will be filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty 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: Strum's Elite Towing & Recovery
2800 Phillips Dr
Albany Ga 31721
Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein contact us at 229-319-5924

VIN: 2C3CDZBT4KH661546
Year: 2019
Make: Dodge
Model: Challenger

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

VIN: JTDDBU4EE1BJ094928
Year: 2011
Make: TOYT
Model: Corolla

VIN: 1GNEC13Z25R249973
Year: 2005
Make: CHEV
Model: Tahoe

VIN: KMHCT4AE5HU197429
Year: 2017
Make: HYUN
Model: Accent

June 20, 27, 2026

A-578
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:

You are hereby, 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: 5XYKTDA28BG065957
Year: 2011
Make: KIA
Model: Sorento*

June 20, 27, 2026

A-594
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 Dougherty 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: Strum's Elite Towing & Recovery
2800 Phillips Dr
Albany Ga 31721

Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition.

VIN: 1C4HJXEN1JW304448
Year: 2018
Make: JEEP
Model: Wrangler
Case 2026-146AV

VIN: 5XYKTDA28BG065957
Year: 2011
Make: KIA
Model: Sorento
Case 2026-144AV

June 20, 27, 2026

Foreclosures

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 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

Foreclosures

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 forecloseable 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-RTL1, 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, or 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-567
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 WT 2304 W Gordon, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company ("Grantor"), to and in favor of Pacific Private Money, Inc., a California corporation, dated May 03, 2022, and recorded May 10, 2022 in Deed Book 4973, Page 228, Dougherty County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), securing that certain Promissory Note dated May 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

Foreclosures

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 forecloseable 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-RTL1, 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, 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-569
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 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 County, Georgia, 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 Bailes 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 Remtulla, LLP c/o First American Title Insurance Company

Foreclosures

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-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 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 25-009677

June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-583 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, TAX DIRECTOR OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, P.O. BOX 1827, ALBANY, GA 31702, 229-431-2130 Petitioner,

vs. PART OF LAND LOT 362, 2ND LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, CALVARY ROAD, ALBANY, GEORGIA, PATSY WILSON PAULK, OR HER ESTATE AND ANY OF HER RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, WHOMSOEVER, WHOSE NAMES AND/OR ADDRESSES ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, CIVIL ACTION FILE NUMBER SUCV2026000564 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR IN REM FORECLOSURE

To Whom It May Concern, and to those Respondents named above: Take notice pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 48-4-78(f), that Shonna Colley Josey, solely in her capacity as the Tax Director for Dougherty County, Georgia filed the above-styled petition on June 11, 2026, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Albany, Georgia, seeking authority to conduct an in rem foreclose for failure of the payment of ad valorem taxes due for the years 2014 through 2025 in the amount of \$4,206.58 (amount includes principal amount of taxes owed and any accrued interest and penalties as of April 21, 2026) for real property located at the address identified above. The applicable parcel identification number is 00316/00001/10B.

A legal description of the property which is the subject of the action is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference incorporated herein. This 15th day of June, 2026, PAGE, SCRANTOM, SPROUSE, TUCKER & FORD, P.C. By: S/Stephen G. Gunby Stephen G. Gunby Ga. Bar No.: 315212 Attorneys for Dougherty County Tax Director P.O. Box 1199 1111 Bay Avenue, Third Floor Columbus, Georgia 31901 (706) 243-5630 sgunby@pagescrantom.com EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in Part of Land Lot No. 362, Second Land District, Dougherty County, Georgia designated on the Tax Maps of Dougherty County, Georgia as Parcel ID 00316/00001/10B. As of 2026, said parcel is bounded on the north and west by property currently owned by Industry Service and Development Company and David L. Keenan and on the east and south by property currently owned by Rajahn Hassan. An accurate description of the subject property is not available but includes all land contained within the above-identified parcel number and not taxed under a separate parcel number by the Dougherty County Tax Department.

June 20, 27, 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

Foreclosures

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-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 Truist 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 entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Truist 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.

Truist 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-534 NOTICE OF SALE

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY. By virtue of a power of sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Kenschuna 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 had been given to secure that certain Promissory Note dated May 11, 2005 between Kenschuna 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 Kenschuna Spicer, there 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 Kenschuna Spicer to make timely payments in accordance with its terms. Kenschuna Spicer 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 Kenschuna 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

Foreclosures

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 Kenschuna 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) 431-3038

June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-543 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY 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., 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, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including some that go beyond the typical one-to-four family residence) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. If applicable, as part of this Rule, buyers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable.* This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

*The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

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

Foreclosures

of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

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-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: 074-200000/121 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. 1006-1677A

June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-602 STATE OF GEORGIA CALHOUN COUNTY

ESTATE NO. 2026P21 TO ALL DEBTORS AND CREDITORS WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK

All debtors and creditors of WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK deceased, late of said county, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. This day 19th of June, 2026. /s/ Davy Sheddick Administrator of the Estate of WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK c/o AMOS JOHN SHEFFIELD Attorney at Law 94 Court Square Blakely, Georgia 39823 (229) 724-4471 Phone (888) 420-5792 Fax amos@pataulalaw.com

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Foreclosures

OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)

Take notice that: **The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after July 23, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being a part of Lot 84 of Palmyra Pecan Groves Subdivision "C", according to the plat of the subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 15, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as Tract 2 in that certain Warranty Deed from James Kirk to Arxy LLC dated 5/10/2017 and recorded in Deed Book 4415, Page 106-107, incorporated herein by reference. The described property is known as 505 Sixteenth Avenue according to the present system of numbering of streets in the City of Albany, Georgia; and also being known as tax parcel number 000LL - 00001 - 012 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 1, 2023, and is recorded at Deed Book 5122, Page 166 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

Generational Wealth Legacy, LLC c/o John Coleman, Esq. Coleman Law, LLC Trinity Title Building 437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030 404.974.4537 Please be governed accordingly. June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-565 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:EMILION CAPITAL, LLC OR ITS UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS OR SHAREHOLDERS; GLOBAL GROUP PROPERTIES, INC A/K/A GLOBAL-GROUP PROPERTIES, INC.; CITY OF ALBANY; ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 517 PARK LANE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)

Take notice that: **The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after July 23, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being lots 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Block B in Rawson Park Subdivision and being on the north side of park avenue according to plat of same recorded in Deed Book 15, Page 55 in the office of the clerk of the superior court of Dougherty County, Georgia; being commonly known as 517 Park Lane according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 000CC 00008 002 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements. The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 1, 2023, and is recorded at Deed Book 5122, Page 175 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

Generational Wealth Legacy, LLC c/o John Coleman, Esq. Coleman Law, LLC Trinity Title Building 437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030 404.974.4537 Please be governed accordingly. June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

Calhoun Co. Legals

A-602 STATE OF GEORGIA CALHOUN COUNTY ESTATE NO. 2026P21

TO ALL DEBTORS AND CREDITORS WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK

All debtors and creditors of WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK deceased, late of said county, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. This day 19th of June, 2026. /s/ Davy Sheddick Administrator of the Estate of WILLIE FRANK SHERDRICK c/o AMOS JOHN SHEFFIELD Attorney at Law 94 Court Square Blakely, Georgia 39823 (229) 724-4471 Phone (888) 420-5792 Fax amos@pataulalaw.com

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

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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.

" T N T JZS MBI VU OQZYNGCV YG JZCCU GS Z QIRZJU ZSL YZQF ZEGMY BGVYATSR YAZY B CIZQ, T AZDI YG LG YAZY, OICTGL. " - FISLCTJF QZVZC

Previous Solution: "Democracy is something that you have to learn ... What's natural to people is monarchy. Go to any playground." - Fran Lebowitz

TODAY'S CLUE: 3 sjenbe r

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CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

" W V MWIP VMY WIVYSQWYX DNSK XNSPL HYL V NI VMY SOAWN. VMYSY OSY O BNV ND UYSLNIOB WVZ VSO VWL GNIQZYA WIO UYSLNIOBL QNWGY. " - VYSSZ RSNNL

Previous Solution: "If I can use my platform to carry on a legacy and talk about something that's real, I have to do that, period." - Kendrick Lamar

TODAY'S CLUE: H sjenbe W

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES SOLUTIONS

1 like Dickens "Expectations" (5) _____

2 the "C" in UNESCO (8) _____

3 Seles or Bellucci (6) _____

4 baffled (7) _____

5 F1 star Max (10) _____

6 to the point (9) _____

7 with heavy steps (10) _____

GR	ST	MON	CU	ST
RAL	PER	GLY	APP	PLO
EN	ENT	ED	ICA	LTU
UMP	DDIN	EAT	TIN	VER

Thursday's Answers: 1. NEIGHBORS 2. CASTING 3. AMETHYST 4. CELEBRATING 5. CLAVICLE 6. CERULEAN 7. DARINGLY 6/26

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES SOLUTIONS

1 Sinatra or Reagan (5) _____

2 topping off the battery (8) _____

3 Wynton Marsalis, for one (9) _____

4 stoic Aurelius (6) _____

5 it protects a knight's heart (11) _____

6 it's 9 on the Mohs scale (8) _____

7 dark spot on the moon (4) _____

MPE	NAN	CUS	GI	TPL
ATE	BR	CH	RE	TER
CY	DUM	COR	MAR	NG
UN	AR	EAS	TRU	MA

Friday's Answers: 1. GREAT 2. CULTURAL 3. MONICA 4. STUMPED 5. VERSTAPPEN 6. PERTINENT 7. PLODDINGLY 6/27

9/28/26

O	L	N	S	D	V	L	N	E	H	V	W	L	V	T	S	
K	E	W	O	G	O	V	N	I	V	A	N	T	M	O	A	V

Super Crossword

U2

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sleep out in a tent
 - 7 Nutrition std.
 - 10 Fishing throw
 - 14 Apaca's kin
 - 19 "Moonlight" actress Harris
 - 20 Suffix of element
 - 21 Analogy words
 - 22 Ancient Athens or Sparta, e.g.
 - 23 Construction vehicles with lifting beds
 - 25 Chooses a finger over a pacifier
 - 27 Before, in verse
 - 28 "The Raven" writer
 - 29 German art songs
 - 30 Qatari capital
 - 31 1920s-'30s American mobster
 - 36 Young lady
 - 38 "Ball ..."
 - 39 Slugger
 - 40 Plant swelling
 - 42 How food is often fried
 - 44 Title dragon of a '70s kids' show
 - 50 Silly sorts
 - 53 French suffix with jardin
 - 54 Neighbor of Venus
 - 56 Fish-tailed males of myth
 - 57 Hi-tech "appt. book"
 - 58 Radical type names
 - 60 1040 org.
 - 62 Suffix with ball or bass
 - 63 Roman 901
 - 66 Northern French river
 - 68 Roofing piece
 - 70 Essential (to)
 - 72 Still-bristled bath item
 - 74 Dazed from a heavy blow
 - 76 Incentive
 - 77 GI no-shows
 - 79 Small needle cases
 - 80 Suffix with Canton
 - 81 Turkey Day vegetable
 - 82 GI R&R center
 - 83 Racecar fuel
 - 85 Articulate
 - 87 River crafts
 - 89 "Cool beans!"
 - 91 Get weary
 - 92 No-bake pie base
 - 96 Some heirs' cash sources
 - 99 Concerning kidneys
 - 6 According to
 - 100 Brooklyn art institute
 - 102 Granola bit
 - 103 Big bush bird
 - 104 Apiece
 - 107 Brand of popcorn with peanuts
 - 114 Part of UTEP
 - 116 Deep and hoarse, as a voice
 - 118 — de toilette
 - 119 Hugs, in a love letter
 - 120 "Painful to face the reality"
 - 122 Speechless from shock
 - 126 Very mad
 - 127 Actor Liu of "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"
 - 128 Mined matter
 - 129 Séance state
 - 130 Stocking fiber
 - 131 Paddock part
 - 132 Cozy gunk
 - 133 Alternatives to Cokes
 - 1 With 122-
 - 2 Down, rodent with a bark-like cry
 - 3 Ready
 - 4 Ankle bone
 - 5 Eurasian mountains
 - 6 Horse to bust
 - 7 Sevens-card poker variety, e.g.
 - 8 Marisa of film
 - 9 Vinyl albums, in brief
 - 10 Booming
 - 11 Liquor
 - 12 Russia's Gorbachev
 - 13 Tears into
 - 14 Scannable ID
 - 15 Headed to
 - 16 U.K. "Inc."
 - 17 South's aid
 - 18 Great
 - 19 As originally placed
 - 20 "Minions" leader in "Despicable Me"
 - 21 Fresno-to-L.A. dir.
 - 22 Gossipy tidbit
 - 23 Pertaining to an arm bone
 - 24 Got the gold
 - 25 Gorbachev's fed.
 - 26 Half of sei
 - 27 Jay-Z's genre
 - 28 "Of course!"
 - 29 Nashville awards org.
 - 30 Great elation
 - 31 Rebuke to "Brute"
 - 32 Ballet attire
 - 33 Entered stealthily
 - 34 Wed again
 - 35 Anomalous
 - 36 Affixes to a corkboard, e.g.
 - 37 Cargo weight
 - 38 Relatives, informally
 - 39 Test out
 - 40 Frau's "Alas!"
 - 41 Pulverize
 - 42 Prefix with biology
 - 43 Tiny role
 - 44 Wheel middle
 - 45 Verbs' counterparts
 - 46 Spherical bacteria
 - 47 Improves superficially, with "up"
 - 48 Filmmaker
 - 49 Premiering
 - 50 24/7 sources of \$20 bills
 - 51 See 46-Down
 - 52 Inits. at Indy
 - 53 Half of sei
 - 54 Jay-Z's genre



1. **Disclosure Day** (PG-13) Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor
2. **Obsession** (R) Michael Johnston, Inde Navarrette
3. **Scary Movie** (R) Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans
4. **Backrooms** (R) Chiwetel Ejiofor, Renate Reinsve
5. **Masters of the Universe** (PG-13) Nicholas Galitzine, Camila Mendes
6. **Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu** (PG-13) Pedro Pascal, Brendan Wayne
7. **Michael** (PG-13) Jaafar Jackson, Nia Long
8. **BTS World Tour Arirang in Busan** (NR) BTS, j-hope
9. **The Furious** (R) Miao Xie, Joe Taslim
10. **Stop! That! Train!** (R) Brock Hayhoe, Paul Scheer

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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: V equals S

U P S Y M V S S V N Q S X P M Y O
E S B W W Z K L X S B Y F O S X X P S
L E O S X N S Q G S W W M V P M X,
M K E Z "P N U B F N E Y B G W S!"

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

STICKERS

by Terry Stickers

Below are four squeeze puzzles. Can you find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end, one back-end? Here's an example of how it works:

fire P R O O F read

- 1) death ___ torch
- 2) thunder ___ lock
- 3) general ___ shape
- 4) feather ___ wise

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Differences: 1. Label is different. 2. Bow tie is missing. 3. Sign is smaller. 4. Napkin holder is missing. 5. Ear is smaller. 6. Sign is shorter.

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Hold responsible	_____ M _____	Knife's edge	_____ D _____
2. Bowling score	_____ K _____	Zebra's mark	_____ P _____
3. German river	_____ I _____	Swiss river	_____ O _____
4. Excuse	R _____	Spring or Fall	S _____
5. Milk container	_____ R _____	Ohio city	_____ N _____
6. Skirt fold	_____ T _____	Beg	_____ D _____
7. Spiritual quest	_____ R _____	Actor	_____ L _____
8. Ms. Degeneres	E _____	Actor Woody	A _____
9. Out of date	_____ A _____	Shoulder wrap	_____ O _____
10. Irish greenery	_____ O _____	Shrewd	_____ E _____

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Even Exchange

ANSWERS

1. Blame, Blade	6. Feast, Head
2. Strike, Stripe	7. Prayer, Player
3. Rhine, Rhine	8. Elbow, Ellen
4. Reason, Season	9. State, Stale
5. Canton, Canton	10. Clover, Clever

Sticklers Answer

- 1) death BLOW torch
- 2) thunder HEAD lock
- 3) general SHIP shape
- 4) feather EDGE wise

When I see something really cute and get the urge to embellish it, I cry "How adorable!"

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Fun Fact

In 1867, on Coney Island, New York, an immigrant named Charles Feltman invented the first "hot dog bun," enabling beachgoers to enjoy his "Frankfurter" sausages without needing plates or silverware. Over the next 60 years, Feltman's "hot dog" stand grew into Feltman's Ocean Pavilion, serving up to 40,000 hot dogs each day.

Source: www.feltmansofconeyisland.com

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Keep Journalists On Their Beat

Release Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- 1 Early revolutions
- 11 Exam with a max score of 180
- 15 Only shopped at farmers markets, perhaps
- 16 Set in stone
- 17 Help in obtaining top-shelf products
- 18 "Educated: A Memoir" writer Westover
- 19 Homes for some queens
- 20 Instrument invented by Hermes
- 21 Bamia or sambar
- 22 Frosted
- 23 "Fore!" site
- 24 Bundles
- 26 Earring parts
- 28 Ending of "Oedipus"
- 31 Put on a bashful front
- 35 Overdrive
- 37 Line for waiters
- 39 Cannes Film Festival prize
- 40 Prankster with opposable thumbs
- 41 Aisha of "Archer"
- 42 Oman neighbor
- 44 Go, to the dogs
- 46 General concern
- 47 Material for some biodegradable bags
- 51 Kitchen work
- 53 St. ___ Fresh Skin Apricot Scrub
- 55 "Brave" studio
- 56 Zest source
- 57 "Great, now we're pouting"
- 59 Smell
- 60 Messages that something's gone wrong
- 61 Word in skin care ads
- 62 One who has seen it all

DOWN

- 1 Paper used in origami
- 2 Unfinished story, perhaps
- 3 "Still Me" memoirist Christopher
- 4 Wore a long face
- 5 Addresses with dots
- 6 Org. with many excellent drivers
- 7 Big scoops
- 8 "... somehow nothing has changed"
- 9 Huntington Beach landmark
- 10 Item that's often turned in
- 11 "Our food's getting cold!"
- 12 One who might crunch numbers for fun
- 13 Orchard unit
- 14 Spring break?
- 23 Trifled (with)
- 25 Running back
- Jeanty who was runner-up for the 2024 Heisman Trophy
- 26 Tough puzzles
- 27 Nurse
- 29 Thick hair
- 30 Like some indie movies
- 31 Cal. entry
- 32 Roland Garros surface
- 33 "I can't wait for an answer!"
- 34 Left empty-handed, in a way
- 36 Fortnite streamer, e.g.
- 38 Little dude
- 43 Psychologist who created a notable hierarchy
- 45 New team member
- 47 Suddenly come up with
- 48 Radiate
- 49 Some stable parents
- 50 Iron
- 51 Nudge
- 52 Wheels
- 54 VIP member?
- 55 Formal agreement
- 58 Scan that may diagnose a torn ACL
- 83 Mine vehicle
- 85 Mass transit option
- 86 American Eagle Outfitters loungewear brand
- 87 Home of Jupiter
- 89 Uses a prayer mat, e.g.
- 91 Much of the heart
- 92 Powerfully built
- 93 Gorillagram costume
- 95 Blesses
- 96 Bluetooth device's lack, often
- 97 Bare-bones
- 99 Sneak around
- 101 Composer Bach
- 104 "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie
- 105 "Very funny"
- 107 Large lump
- 110 Declare
- 111 For nothing
- 113 Eager
- 114 Sign of things to come
- 115 Last name of sisters Rooney and Kate
- 116 Meshes in the kitchen
- 117 Dominate
- 118 In the know about
- 119 Crush it on the runway, say
- 120 "Circles Around This Town" singer Morris
- 121 Smidgens
- 122 Hushed "hey!"
- 9 "She loves me, she loves me not" piece
- 10 Lakers legend Shaquille
- 11 Like ground turkey
- 12 "100%!"
- 13 Insist on a debate, perhaps
- 14 Sunless glow-ups
- 15 Wicked
- 16 Cultivate
- 17 Ruckuses
- 20 Spice native to Mesoamerica
- 30 Senegal neighbor
- 32 "Stay in your lane"
- 34 Clickable link
- 35 Carbonara ingredient
- 36 Browser units
- 37 Pizzazz
- 39 "Shake a leg!"
- 41 Editorial essays, or what 3-, 8-, 13-, 48-, and 56-Down are
- 42 Tawdry
- 43 Houston pro
- 45 Single-celled creature
- 47 Barefaced
- 48 Memorization aid in math class
- 51 "Whatever"
- 53 Kaplan prep course subj.
- 56 Cultural movement of the 1960s and 1970s
- 57 Fairbanks resident
- 59 Grade
- 62 CNN anchor
- 64 Luau instrument, informally
- 66 Dried plums
- 67 Koyukon
- name of North America's tallest peak
- 69 Play parts, or plays a part
- 70 Gobbles (down)
- 71 Exist
- 75 Take stock?
- 77 Work (out)
- 79 Lingerie fabric
- 80 Some gym tops
- 82 Recolled
- 84 Works (out)
- 86 Camera setting
- 88 "Victory is mine!"
- 90 Prefix with Pen
- 91 Desert deceptions
- 94 Sustain
- 97 Lionhearted
- 98 Rocky of "Project Hail Mary," for one
- 100 Joyful holler
- 101 Preserves
- 102 Like some coffee tables
- 103 Jewish wedding dance
- 104 Declare
- 106 Oaxaca water
- 108 Team that shares an arena with the Liberty
- 109 Binding loop
- 112 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

By Zhouqin Burnikel ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

RELEASE DATE — Sunday, June 28, 2026

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

WRITE-UPS BY EMET OZAR

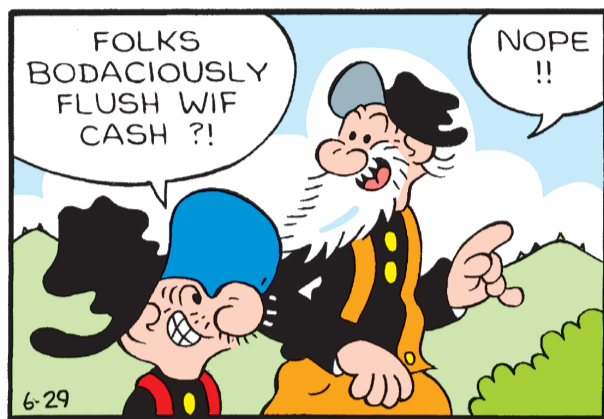
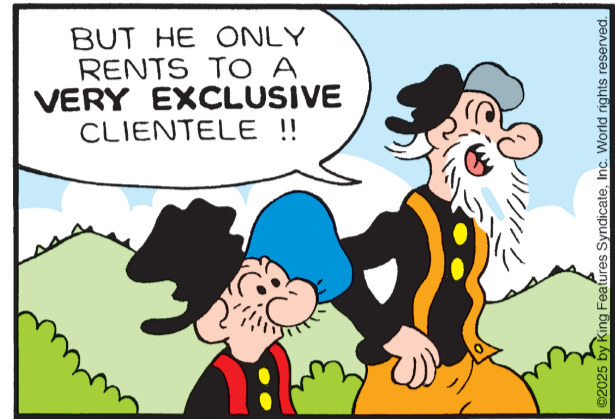
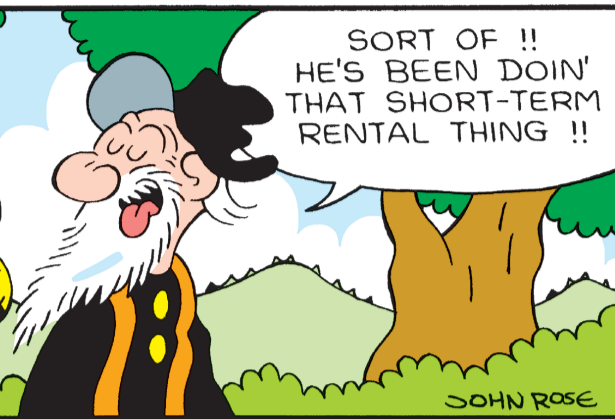
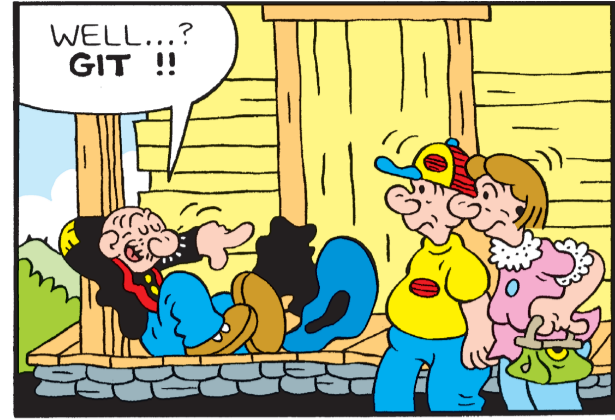
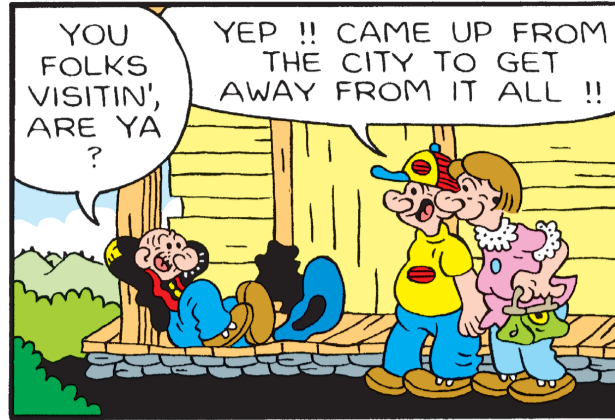
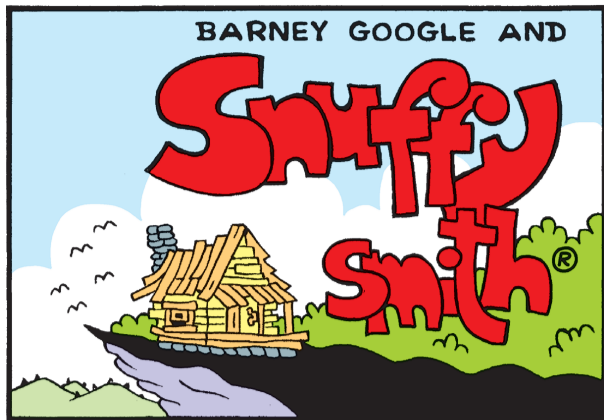
ACROSS

- 1 Dragon roll wrap
- 5 X-ray specs?
- 9 Sea anemone, e.g.
- 14 Spanakopita cheese
- 18 Equally matched
- 19 Awards achievement completed by Steven Spielberg in 2026
- 20 Thin layer
- 21 Keen
- 22 Suggestions, for short
- 23 Fizzy beverage
- 24 Chilling
- 25 K, in the NATO alphabet
- 26 Give up
- 27 Layer
- 28 Rogan josh bread
- 29 Gets a whiff
- 31 Caramel candies
- 33 Feathery pen
- 35 Kaplan prep course subj.
- 36 Up in the air, briefly
- 38 Biceps exercise
- 40 Falcons city
- 44 Mysterious to many
- 46 Marimba player
- 49 Black eyes
- 50 Ecological community
- 51 FYI part
- 52 Fly
- 54 Whack, as a fly
- 55 Without a partner
- 56 1492 ship
- 58 Damage
- 60 Pre-1991 atlas initials
- 61 Teased
- 63 Escapes the notice of
- 65 Lyric poet of Lesbos
- 67 Corrupt
- 68 Landscaping tools
- 69 Off course
- 70 "That's impossible for us"
- 71 Missing class
- 72 Prepare to play
- 73 Canadian prov.
- 74 Empire Builder operator
- 76 Small sip
- 78 Target of a brood parasite such as the cowbird
- 81 Best___ plans
- 83 Mine vehicle
- 85 Mass transit option
- 86 American Eagle Outfitters loungewear brand
- 87 Home of Jupiter
- 89 Uses a prayer mat, e.g.
- 91 Much of the heart
- 92 Powerfully built
- 93 Gorillagram costume
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6/28/26

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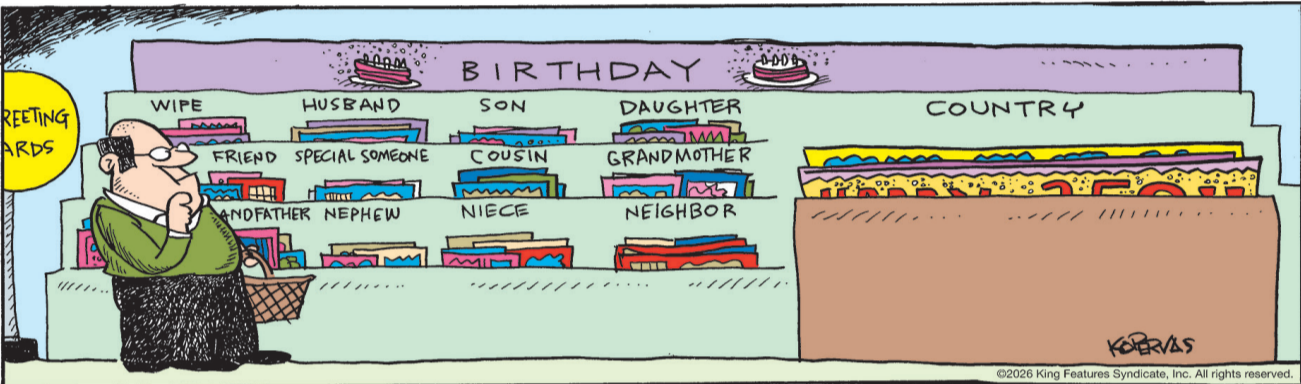
TV-What to watch



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



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What to watch SATURDAY

June 27, 2026
All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

MLB: N.Y. Yankees at Boston ABC, 1 p.m. Live

The N.Y. Yankees face Willson Contreras and the Red Sox at Boston's Fenway Park for the third of four games in this AL East rivalry series.

The American Revolution PBS, beginning at 1 p.m.

The PBS America @ 250 celebration continues with an encore of *The American Revolution* documentary series by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. The first three installments air today, with the final three episodes airing tomorrow.

2026 FIFA World Cup FOX & FS1, beginning at 5 p.m. Live

The final day of group stage action has matches from Groups J, K and L with Panama vs. England (FOX), Croatia vs. Ghana (FS1), Colombia vs. Portugal (FOX), Congo DR vs. Uzbekistan (FS1), Jordan vs. Argentina (FOX) and Algeria vs. Austria (FS1).

NASCAR O'Reilly Series: Pit Boss/FoodMaxx 250 The CW, 5:30 p.m. Live

Justin Allgaier, Sheldon Creed, Jesse Love, Corey Day and other stars of the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series compete on the road course at California's Sonoma Raceway.

Wild Spring BBC America, 8 p.m. ■ Series Finale

As regions around the world head into springtime, the warmer months bring with them a whole new set of rules. In the animal kingdom, there is one overarching rule: survive.



A Castle of Our Own Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

When an overworked architect takes an unexpected summer trip, a sandcastle contest and a contractor help her reconnect with her daughter, rediscover joy and find love she never saw coming. Stars Erica Cerra and Brennan Elliott.

Craig Ferguson: American on Purpose CNN, 9 p.m. ■ Series Finale

Craig Ferguson's exploration of what it

means to be American through humor, history and personal reflection concludes with a look at the immigrant experience. Ferguson connects with fellow naturalized citizens, including musician KT Tunstall and author Salman Rushdie.

House Hunters HGTV, 10 p.m.

Identical twins and their husbands have a confusing and complicated home search in the new episode "Twins Reunite in Dallas." The twins have reunited after 40 years apart, but opinions are divided on buying adjoining properties or living under one roof.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Bullitt TCM, 3:45 p.m.

This 1968 action crime thriller from director Peter Yates is highlighted by one of the screen's most iconic car chases, made all the more thrilling by Oscar-winning editing and Oscar-nominated sound, as it tells its tale of San Francisco police detective Frank Bullitt (Steve McQueen) investigating the murder of a witness he was assigned to protect. Robert Vaughn, Jacqueline Bisset, Don Gordon, Robert Duvall, Simon Oakland



and Norman Fell costar in the film, which is further enhanced by a cool, jazz-inspired score by Lalo Schifrin.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



Jaws (1975, Suspense) Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw **Encore, 6 p.m.**

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (2006, Comedy) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly **Comedy Central, 6:30 p.m.**

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back (1980, Science fiction) Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Saving Private Ryan (1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Single Black Tenant (2026, Suspense) Tia Mowry, Natasha Burnett **Lifetime, 8 p.m.**

He's Just Not That Into You (2009, Romance-comedy) Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston **Bravo, 9 p.m.**

Monsters University (2013, Children) Billy Crystal, John Goodman **Freeform, 9:25 p.m.**

Superman II (1980, Adventure) Christopher Reeve, Margot Kidder **Sundance, 9:45 p.m.**

Don't Trust the Girls Upstairs (2026, Suspense) Remo Ma, Garfield Wilson **Lifetime, 10 p.m.**

Father of the Bride (1991, Romance-comedy) Steve Martin, Diane Keaton **TBS, 10:15 p.m.**

There's Something About Mary (1998, Romance-comedy) Cameron Diaz, Matt Dillon **E!, 10:30 p.m.**

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



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What to watch SUNDAY

June 28, 2026

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

NASCAR Cup Series: Toyota/Save Mart 350

TNT & truTV, 3:30 p.m. Live

TNT Sports opens its NASCAR Cup Series schedule with the Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway in California. It's the starting race of this year's NASCAR In-Season Challenge, a 32-driver, five-race tournament with the winner earning a \$1 million prize following the Brickyard 400 on July 26.

Collector's Call

MeTV, 6:30 p.m.

Host Lisa Whelchel heads to Malta, Illinois, to meet Josh Holbrook, who runs a pizza parlor in a former elementary school, which also houses his exhaustive collection of vintage pop culture



CHRIS REARDON

artifacts and memorabilia. Kate Martin is along to appraise Josh's collection, including wax-museum figures of Laverne and Shirley and Archie and Edith, plus life-size Simpsons figures aboard an actual McDonald's Playland train, and an Ultimate Warrior figurine that might — or might not — be worth a small fortune.

BET Awards

BET, 8 p.m. Live

Actor and comedian Druski hosts this year's celebration of Black culture live from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. For 25 years, the BET Awards have recognized artists, creators and leaders across music, television, film, sports and more, delivering iconic performances, unforgettable tributes and moments that resonate far beyond the stage.

Patience

PBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "The Magpie," a businessman is shot in a packed boardroom, and a dead magpie points the investigation into the world of magic. Can Patience's (Ella Maisy Purvis) neurodivergent mind see what others miss?

From

MGM+, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Season 4 of the paranormal thriller about the mystery of a nightmarish town that traps all those who enter wraps up. Harold Perrineau, Catalina Sandino Moreno and Hannah Chermay star. The series will return for a fifth and final season.

Grantchester

PBS, 9 p.m.

Alphy (Rishi Nair) finds himself adrift until a mysterious case forces him back to work in this new episode.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'This Means War'

KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Encino Man (1992, Comedy) Sean Astin, Brendan Fraser **CMT, 6 p.m.**

Mulan (1998, Children) Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy **Freeform, 6:10 p.m.**

The Running Man (2025, Action) Glen Powell, William H. Macy **MGM, 6:45 p.m.**

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (2024, Comedy) Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder **TNT, 7 p.m.**

Armageddon (1998, Science fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton **ABC, 7:30 p.m.**

Apollo 13 (1995, Historical drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill, Amy Adams **TNT, 9:15 p.m.**

Sixteen Candles (1984, Comedy) Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall **Sundance, 9:45 p.m.**

She's the Man (2006, Romance-comedy) Amanda Bynes, James Kirk **El, 10 p.m.**

The Silence of the Lambs (1991, Suspense) Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins **MGM, 10:55 p.m.**

The Patriot (2000, War) Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger **BBC America, 11 p.m.**

This Means War (2012, Action) Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine **FX, 11 p.m.**

Good Burger (1997, Comedy) Kel Mitchell, Kenan Thompson **VH1, 11:30 p.m.**

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

CATCH A CLASSIC

Humphrey Bogart Icon-a-Thon

MOVIES!, beginning at 3:35 p.m.

Named the greatest male film star of all time by the American Film Institute, Humphrey Bogart is best known for being the tough guy with a soft spot, a classic world-weary, cynical antihero. The five movies in today's Bogart tribute show his versatility in the world of film noir — from playing a hard-boiled loner to a romantic with a bruised heart. In 1947's **Dark Passage** (pictured), Bogart is Vincent Parry, a man wrongly convicted of murdering his wife, who breaks out of San Quentin, gets his face surgically altered and fights to expose the real killer with the help of artist Irene (Lauren Bacall, Bogart's wife) before the law catches up with him. Bogart and Bacall starred together again in 1948's **Key Largo**, where Bogart is a burned-out war



WARNER BROS.

veteran who stops at a Key Largo hotel to honor a dead comrade, only to find himself held hostage by a vicious gangster with a hurricane bearing down. Next up, Bogart plays a supporting role to George Raft in 1940's **They Drive by Night** as a beat-down trucker grinding through long nights, a loan shark and lousy pay just to survive. Rounding out the evening are the 1945 film noir **Conflict**, costarring Alexis Smith, and the 1953 adventure comedy **Beat the Devil**, which flips Bogart's usual tough-guy persona on its head in a self-mocking performance.

500+ MOVIES

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What to watch MONDAY

June 29, 2026

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

Disney Celebrates America: The Pursuit of Happiness

ABC, 8 p.m.

In this two-hour coast-to-coast event, Disney Parks and attractions are the portal through which America's greatest stories, triumphs and traditions are celebrated. From Main Street, U.S.A. and its turn-of-the-century nostalgia to Tomorrowland where the nation lifts its gaze to the future, each stop will play host to true tales of American "firsts." The special is hosted by 20/20 co-anchor Deborah Roberts and national correspondent Will Reeve.

World War II With Tom Hanks

History, 8 p.m.

The Allies use their success in Africa to launch an invasion of the island of Sicily in 1943 and begin a campaign on the Italian peninsula. Allied air forces challenge the German Luftwaffe's superiority with strategic bombing raids on industrial and civilian infrastructure.

Maine Cabin Masters

Magnolia Network, 9 p.m.

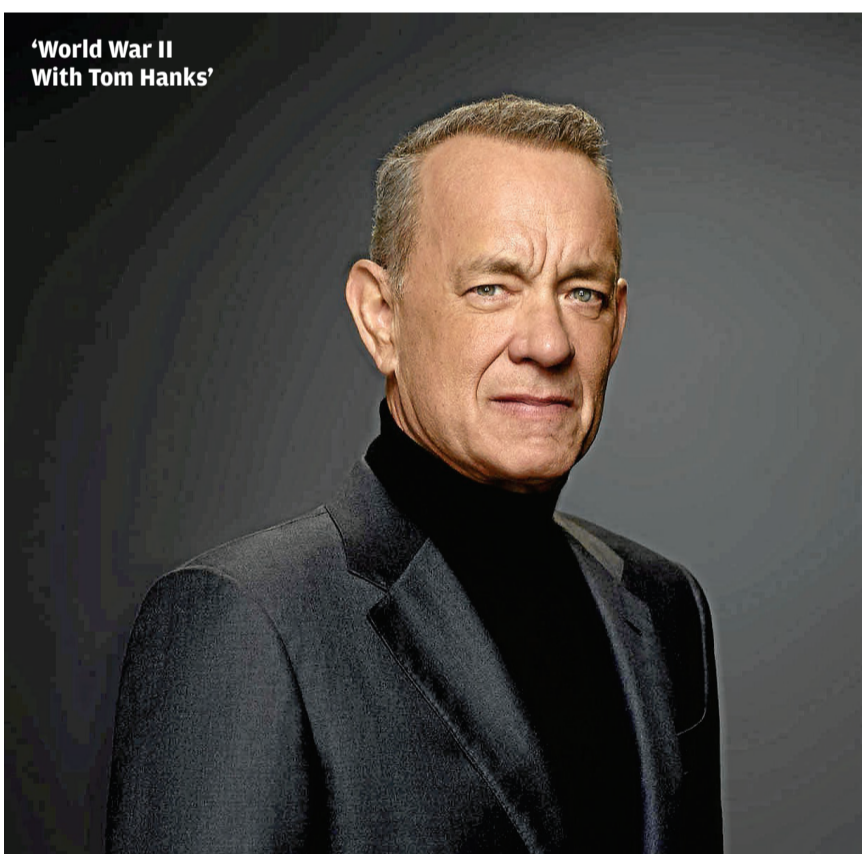
In the new episode "Team Building a Forever Home," Chase and the team tackle a build for a longtime subcontractor and his growing family that includes the ultimate backyard playground.

Declarations:

Black Americans and the Revolutionary War

PBS, 10 p.m.

America's Founding Fathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," yet these truths weren't evident to the Black population at the dawn of the American Revolution. This documentary follows the stories of enslaved and eventually freed Black Americans who believed, exercised and fought for the tenets of democracy for themselves, their families and their community.



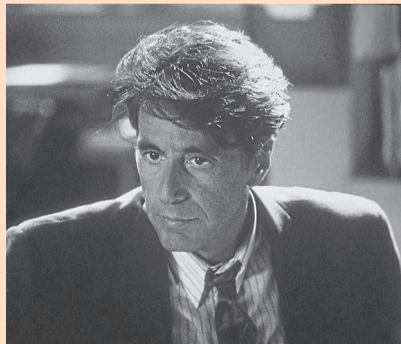
HISTORY

CATCH A CLASSIC

Al Pacino Icon-a-thon

MOVIES!, beginning at 10:55 a.m.

When many people think of Al Pacino, they envision criminal characters like Michael Corleone, but tonight's triple feature highlights Pacino fighting systems outside the world of crime, be they the scales of justice, the chaos of showbiz or the cutthroat world of corporate capitalism. In 1979's **And Justice for All**, Pacino delivers an Oscar-nominated performance as an idealistic defense attorney pushed to his breaking point by a corrupt and dysfunctional legal system. Forced to defend a judge he despises on a sexual assault charge, his moral dilemma builds to one of the most explosive courtroom climaxes in cinematic history. In a rare comedic turn in the 1982 comedy **Author! Author!**, Pacino plays a stressed Broadway playwright desperately trying to keep his production



ANDY SCHWARTZ

on track while raising a chaotic household of five children as a single father. The Pacino lineup concludes with a master class in ensemble acting: 1992's **Glengarry Glen Ross** (pictured), adapted by David Mamet from his Pulitzer Prize-winning play and costarring A-listers like Jack Lemmon, Alec Baldwin and Kevin Spacey. Pacino stars (in another Oscar-nominated role) as the smooth-talking apex predator of a failing real estate office who seduces desperate clients into buying worthless land while he navigates the pressure of his collapsing workplace.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'The House Bunny'

MELINDA SUE GORDON, SMPSP

Tommy Boy (1995, Comedy) Chris Farley, David Spade **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

Descendants 3 (2019, Children) Dove Cameron, Sofia Carson **Disney, 7 p.m.**

Captain America: Civil War (2016, Action) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr. **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Finding Faith (2025, Drama) Paula Patton, Nadine Velazquez **LMN, 8 p.m.**

I, Robot (2004, Science fiction) Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan **TNT, 8 p.m.**

The Rock (1996, Action) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **SYFY, 8:15 p.m.**

Old School (2003, Comedy) Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell **Paramount, 8:30 p.m.**

Weapons (2025, Horror) Josh Brolin, Julia Garner **HBO, 9:45 p.m.**

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck **MGM, 10:35 p.m.**

Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor **FX, 11 p.m.**

Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

The House Bunny (2008, Comedy) Anna Faris, Colin Hanks **VH1, 11 p.m.**

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

500+ MOVIES

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What2Watch All Month Long!

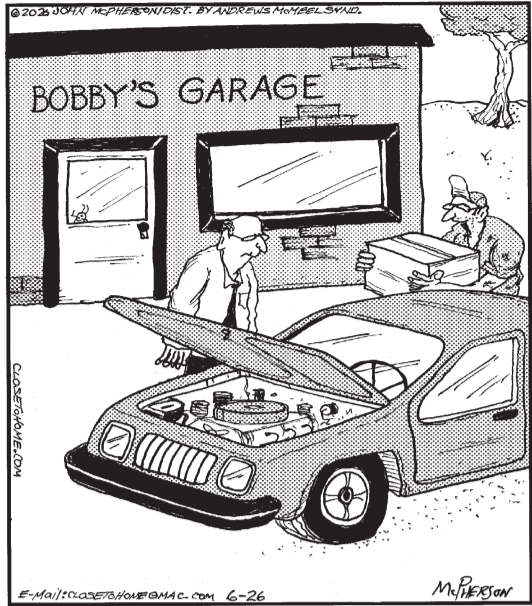
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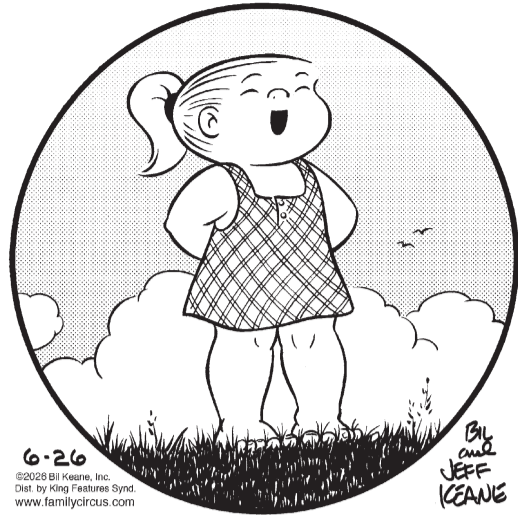
TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"We can't find the parts to fix your A/C system, but I've got a great deal on deodorants here."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"The grass is flossing my toes."

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- 1 Carrefour's country
- 6 Cuticle oil spot
- 10 Trellis part
- 14 "Snowy" bird rarely found in snowy places
- 15 Hindu mentor
- 16 Pixar film set partially in the afterlife
- 17 Inner self, to Jung
- 18 Soup noodle
- 19 Bicycle attachment
- 20 Hours at an art gallery?
- 23 Munich article
- 24 Memoji platform
- 25 Factory that produces bad vibes?
- 32 Irrefutable point
- 33 Fad
- 34 Trout's team, on scoreboards
- 35 Concise concession
- 37 Part of some uniforms
- 38 Judicial pauses
- 40 Mum's mum
- 41 Word in a Samin Nosrat cookbook title
- 43 Burden
- 44 Admit to wearing a dental prosthetic?
- 49 Broadcast
- 50 Ivy in New Haven
- 51 Process of detachment, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 58 Slam dance
- 59 Viola clef
- 60 Getty Images download
- 61 Otherwise
- 62 Standard choice
- 63 Took effect
- 64 Shredded side
- 65 School founded in 1440
- 66 Clear one's name, perhaps?

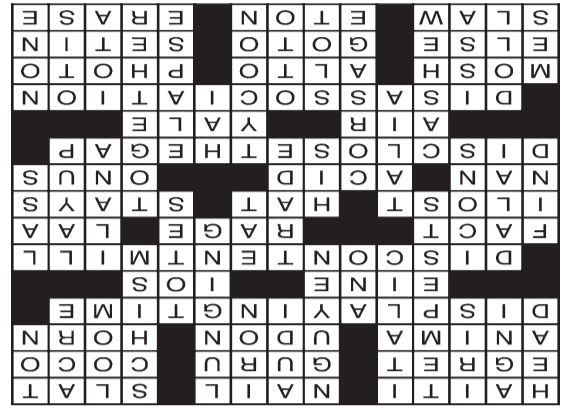
DOWN

- 1 Eye site
- 2 Hindu god of fire
- 3 Eye piece
- 4 Storms
- 5 Bold alternative
- 6 "The Sympathizer" Pulitzer winner
- 7 German auto
- 8 Nutrient in beans and rice
- 9 Putting one foot forward, in a way
- 10 Doctrinal rupture
- 11 Arachne's device
- 12 Land division
- 13 Boatload
- 21 "It's ___-brainer!"
- 22 "For sure!"
- 25 Start of a Tibetan religious title
- 26 Taskbar lineup
- 27 Swap
- 28 Consume
- 29 Glazer of "Broad City"
- 30 Easy bucket
- 31 Miss

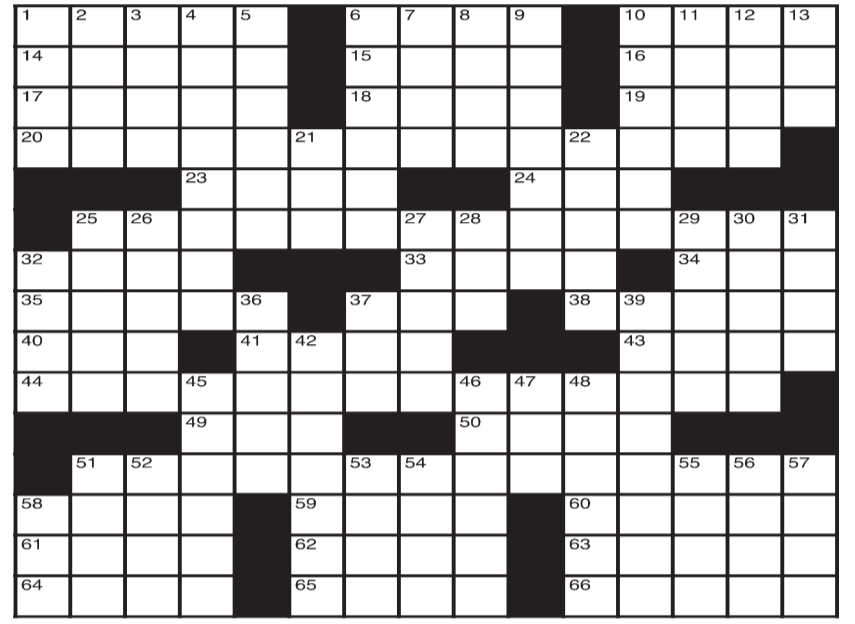
- 32 Happen across
- 36 "The Godfather" actress Shire
- 37 Third-person possessive
- 39 As one
- 42 Boutonniere partner
- 45 Nut used to make cheese or butter
- 46 Titan of industry
- 47 Japanese assent

- 48 Pass
- 51 Barbie or Ken
- 52 Rae of "Barbie"
- 53 Opening at the post office
- 54 Springfield Elementary bus driver
- 55 Wee bit
- 56 Elevator name
- 57 ___ of the above
- 58 Mayo o diciembre

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



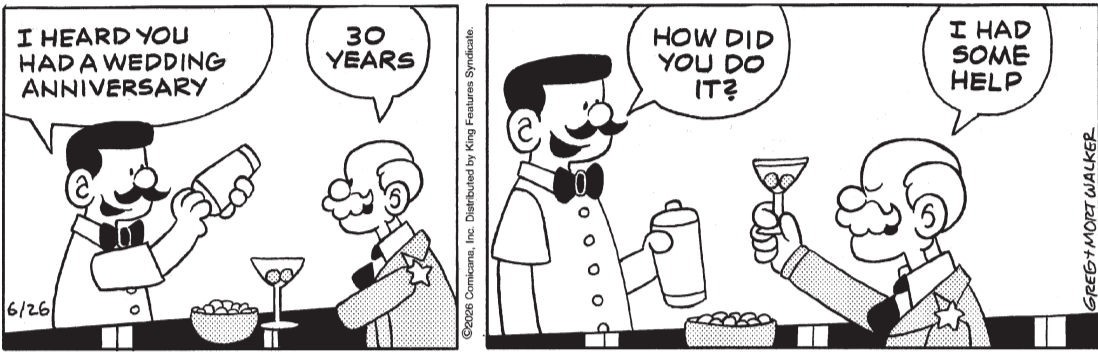
06/26/26



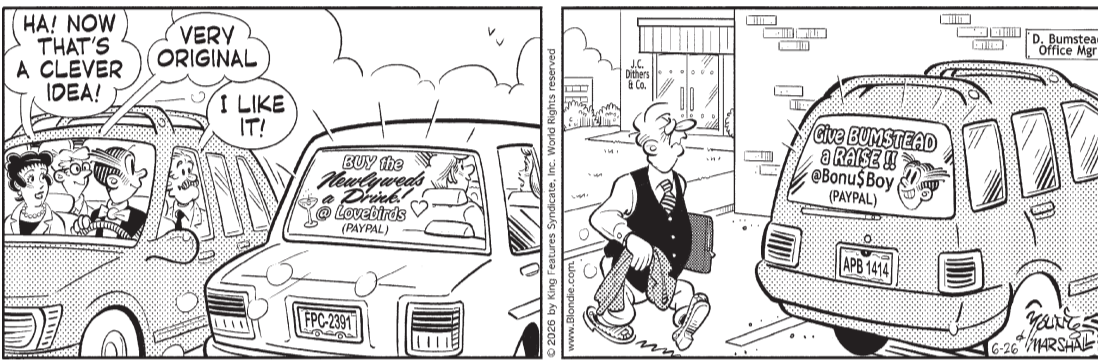
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06/26/26

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



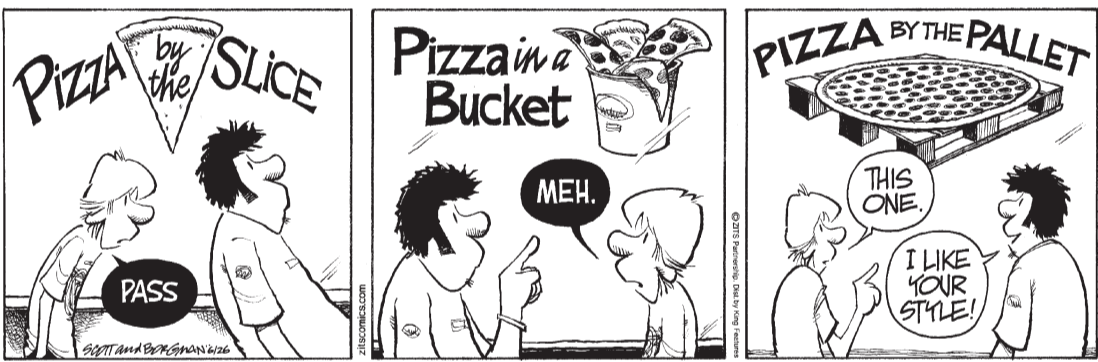
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



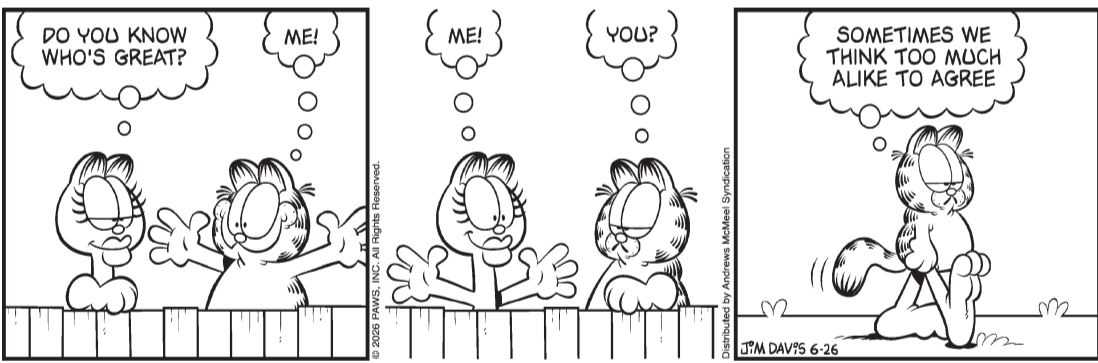
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



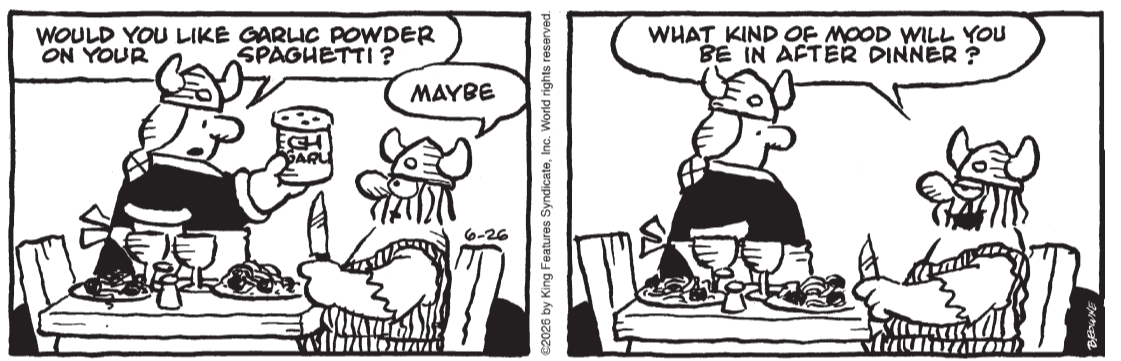
GARFIELD Jim Davis



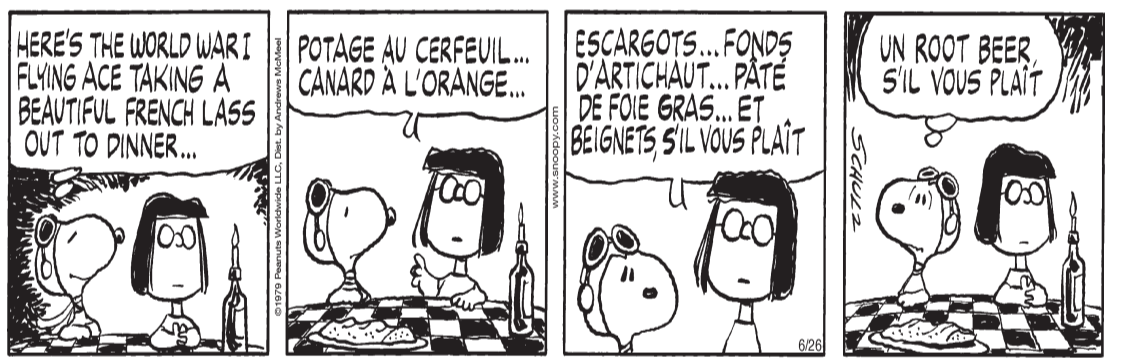
PICKLES Brian Crane



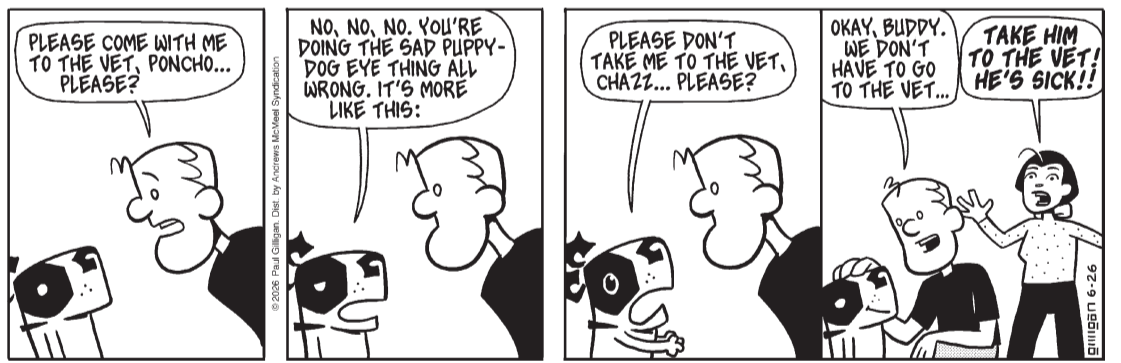
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

THE BAILIQUE ARCHPELAGO

Solution: 6 letters

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

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6/26

Acai, Amapá, Beekeeping, Biomes, Boats, Canal do Norte, Canoes, Cassava, Climate, Crustaceans, Dance, Delta, Ecotourism, Egrets, Faustino, Harvesting, Healthcare, Hydro, Ilha, Macapá, Meio, Mosquitoes, Nesting, Ocean, Orchids, Palms, Papaya, Pará, Rays, Residents, Schools, Snakes, Songs, Tapioca, Tidal, Tropical, Vegetation, Waters

TODAY'S ANSWER: Brazil

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

PENTHOUSE
 HOG

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Living high on the hog

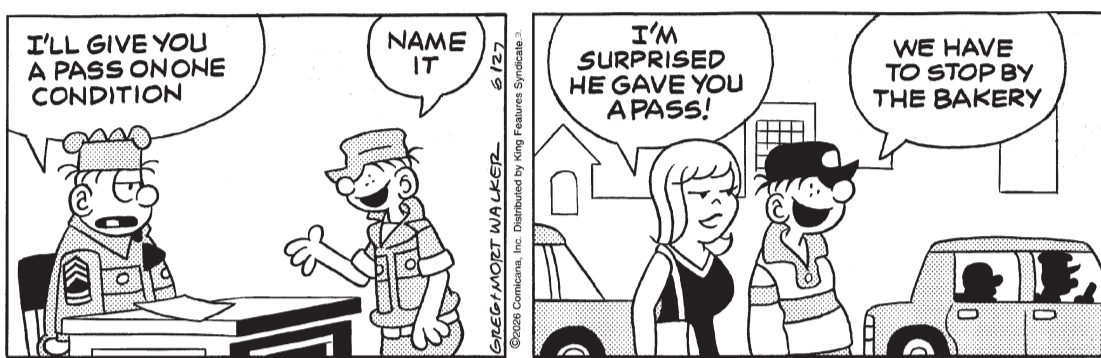
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



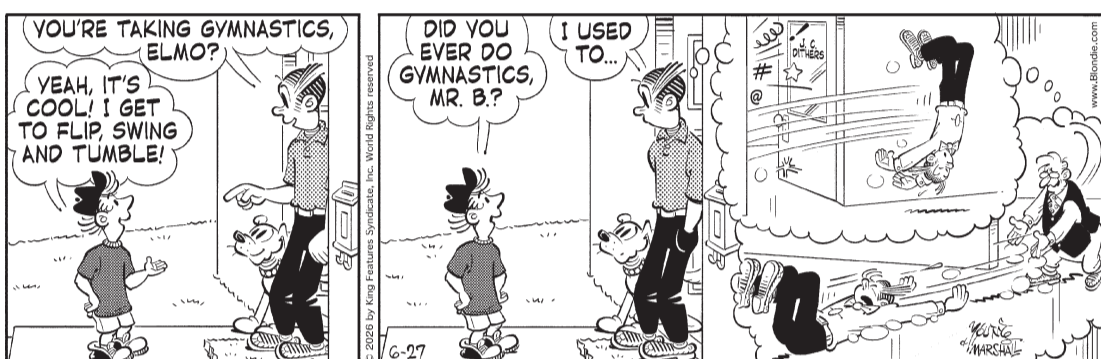
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Santa's helper
 - 4 Thick slice
 - 8 Custard
 - 12 "The — of the Roses"
 - 13 Facilitate
 - 14 Lasso
 - 15 Big bird
 - 16 Mine passage
 - 17 English river
 - 18 Assoc.
 - 20 Ate a lavish meal
 - 22 Twitch
 - 23 Kindled
 - 24 Enter uninvited (2 wds.)
 - 28 Certain kind of error
 - 31 — even keel
 - 32 Parrot
 - 34 Poem
 - 36 Clever fellow
- DOWN**
- 1 Fleecy animal
 - 2 Tibetan monk

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

- 3 Thwart
- 4 Spooky gathering
- 5 Youngster
- 6 Seemingly (2 wds.)
- 7 Kind of palm or nut
- 8 Cold
- 9 Troublemaker
- 10 Vaulted church area
- 11 Require
- 19 Endorse
- 21 Island in a stream
- 24 Show of respect
- 25 Indigo
- 26 DDE, familiarly
- 27 Aerie
- 29 Weak
- 30 Valhalla VIP
- 33 Fire result
- 35 Tip
- 38 Agent (Hyph.)
- 40 Moved like a fluid
- 41 Male animal
- 43 Overacted
- 45 Out-and-out
- 47 Health resorts
- 48 Theater area (Abbr.)
- 49 Learning
- 50 Hawaiian goose
- 52 — Peppermint Patties
- 55 Depot (Abbr.)
- 57 Tofu source

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18		19		20		21				
22				23						
24	25		26	27		28		29	30	
31			32	33				34		35
36			37					38		
39		40	41		42		43			
44			45			46				
47	48	49		50		51			52	
53				54		55			56	57
58				59					60	
61				62					63	

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

~~LEAST~~

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: Last but not least

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.

IT MIGHT BE PURLOINED Solution: 10 letters

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

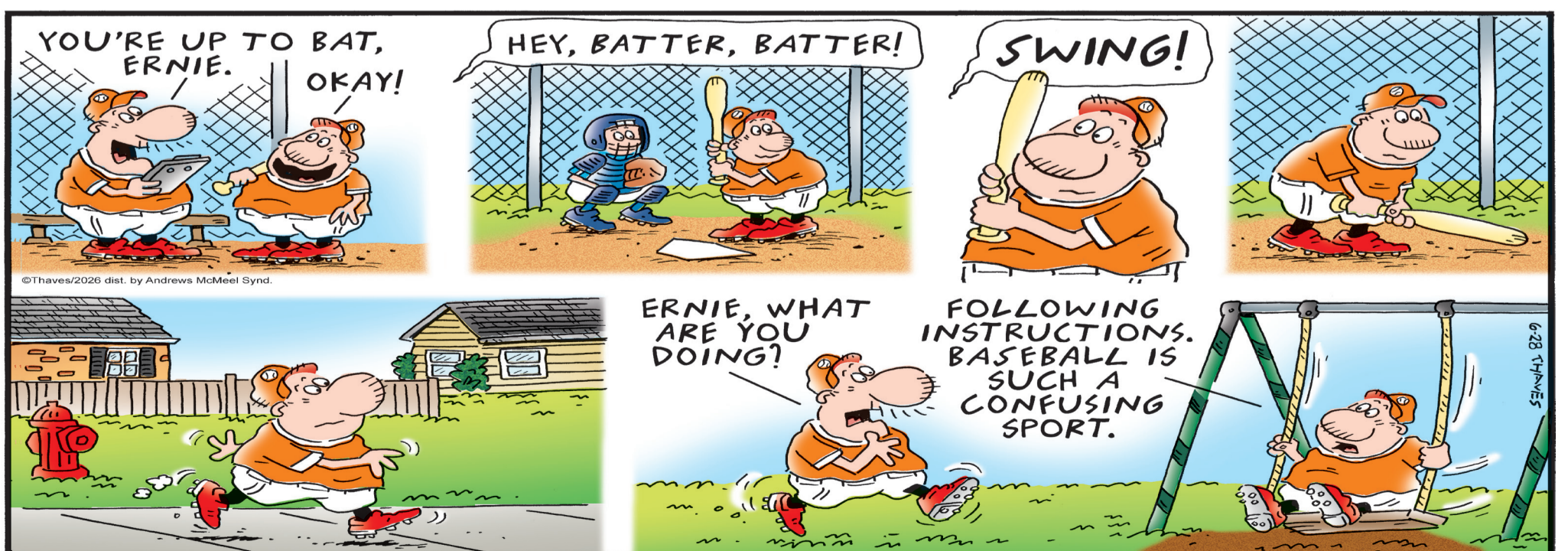
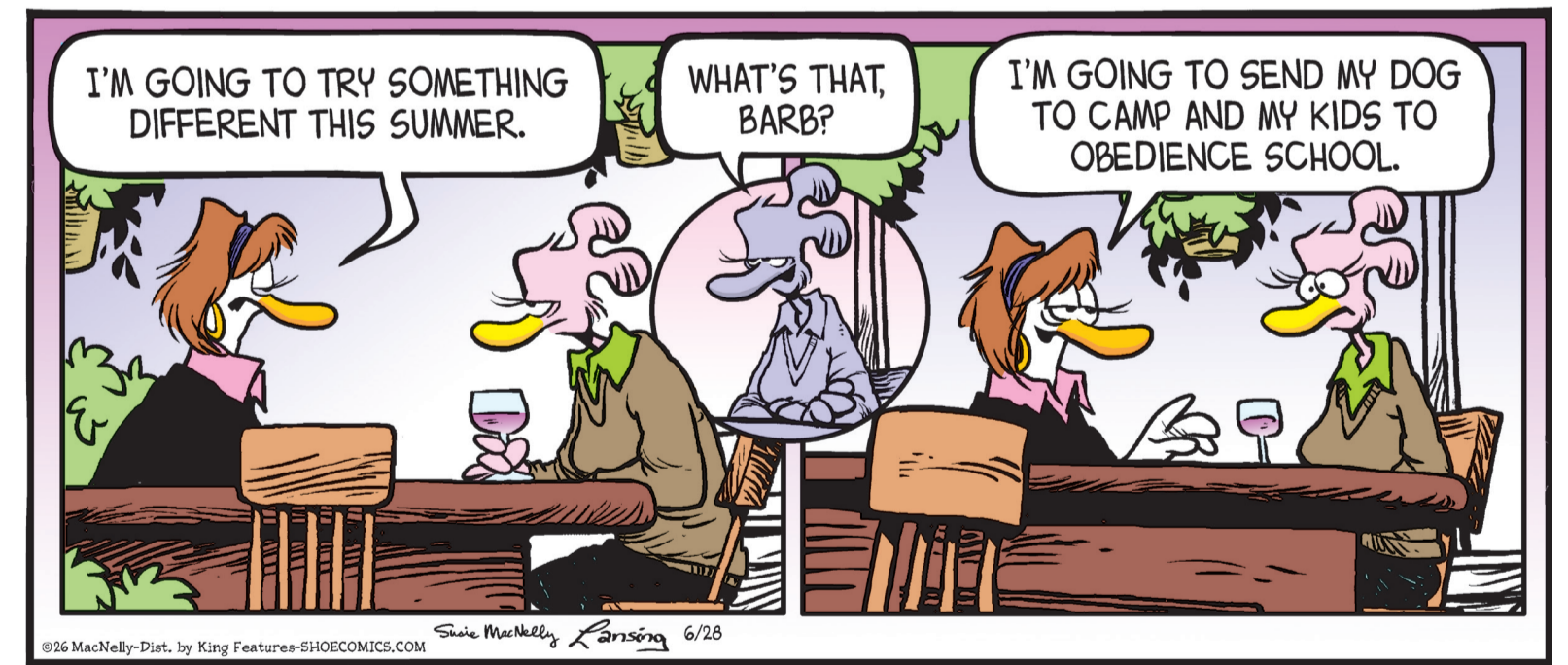
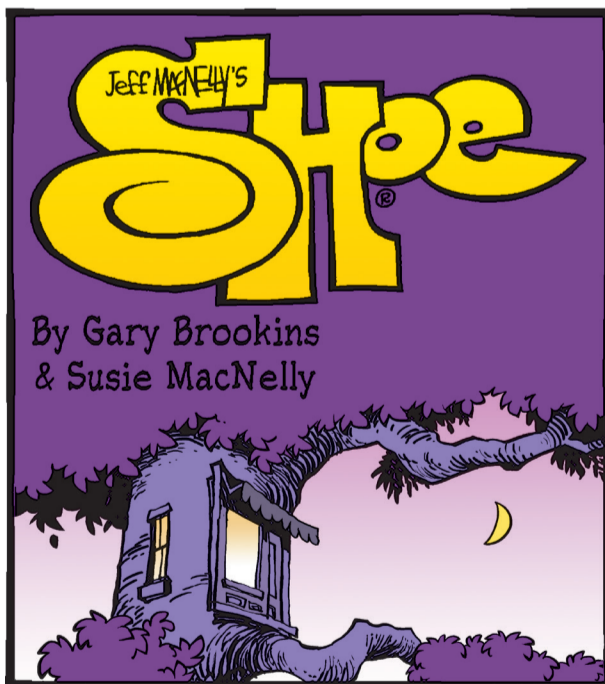
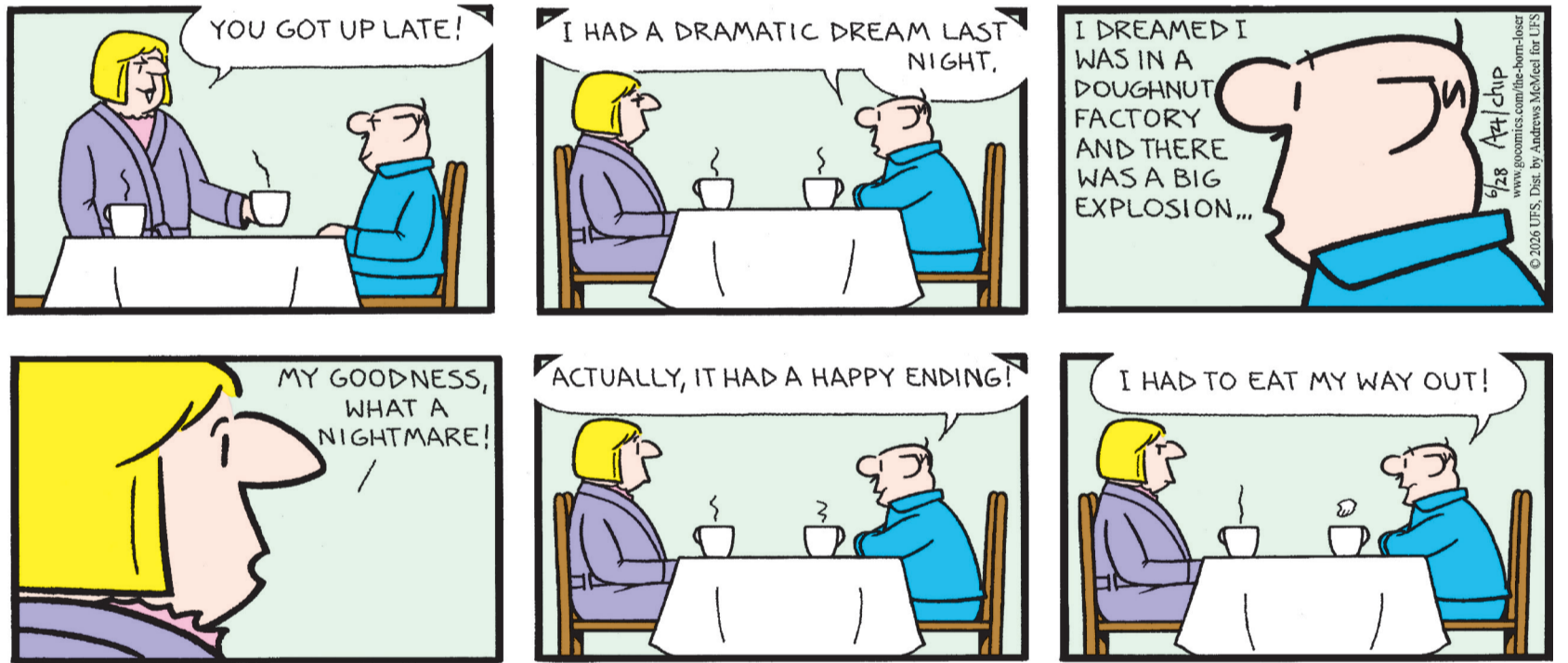
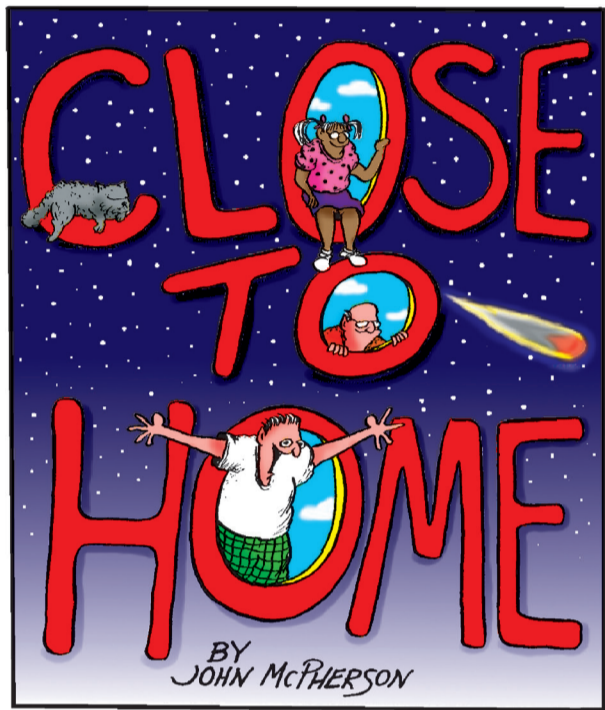
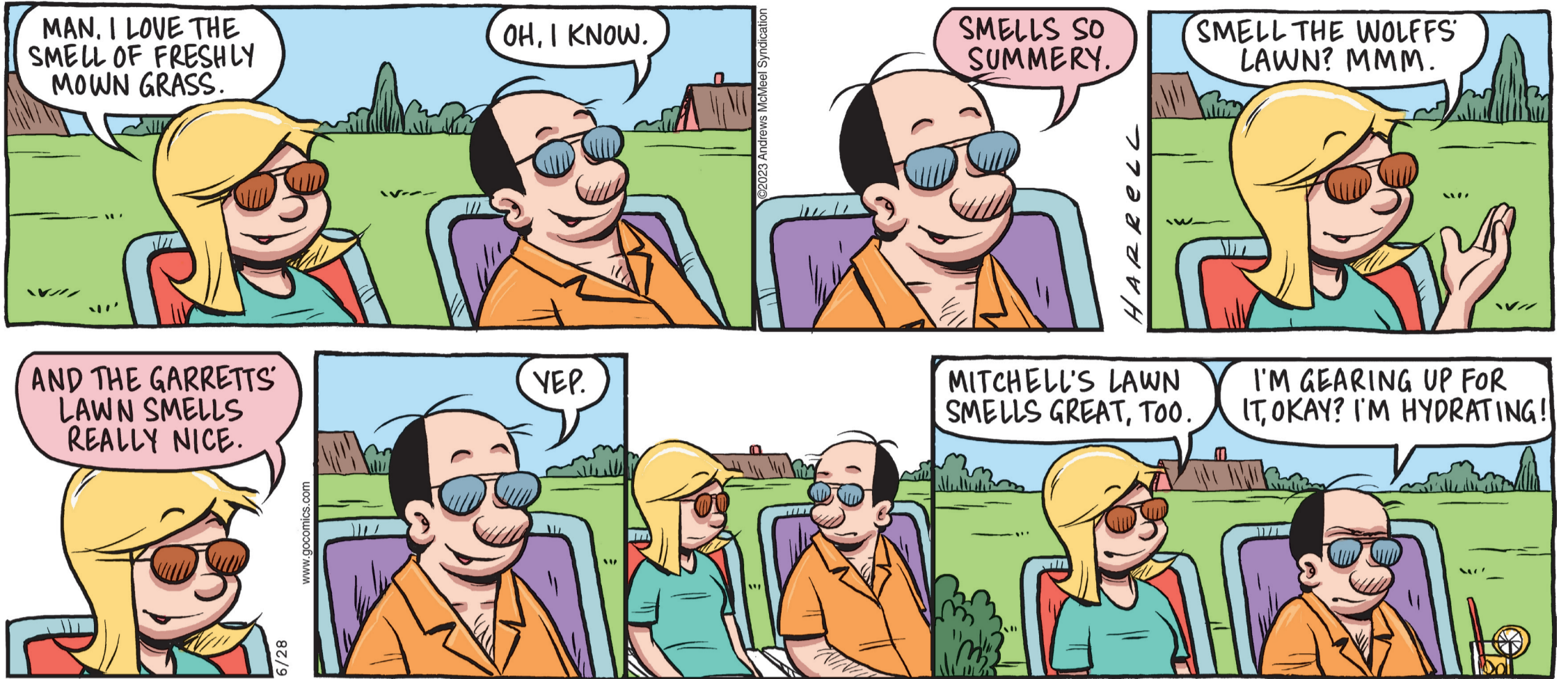
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Abduct, Access, Alarm, Barrier, Bestow, Block, Bolt, Breach, Camera, Cash, Caution, Code, Control, Copy, Cyber, Divert, Donate, Fence, Filch, Gate, Give, Guard, Heist, Hide, Keys, Lift, Lose, Money, Monitor, Password, Protect, Purchase, Purse, Safe, Seize, Sensor, Shelter, Shield, Shop, Sneaky, Steal, Surveillance, Swipe, Take, Theft, Trust, Video, Wallet, Watch

TODAY'S ANSWER: Wrongfully

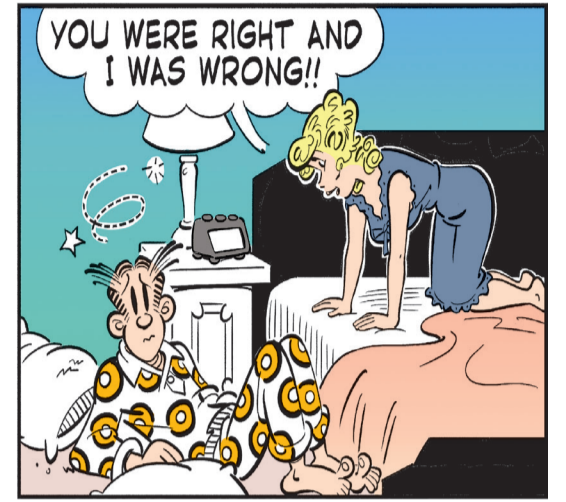
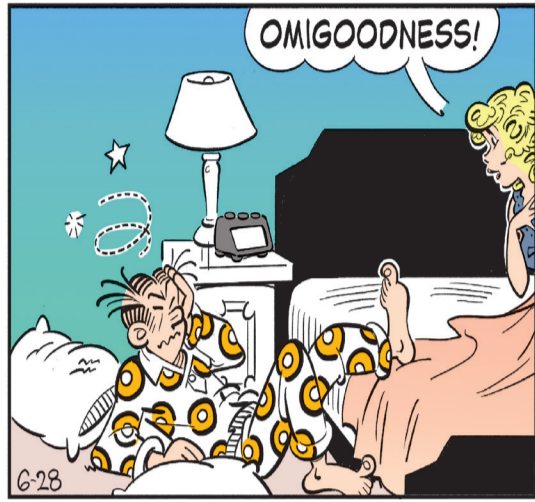
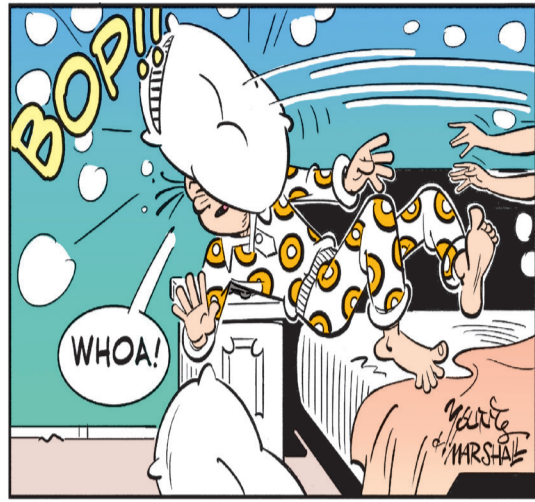
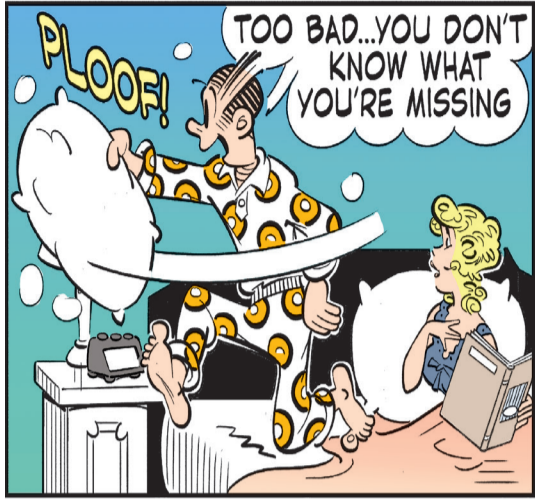
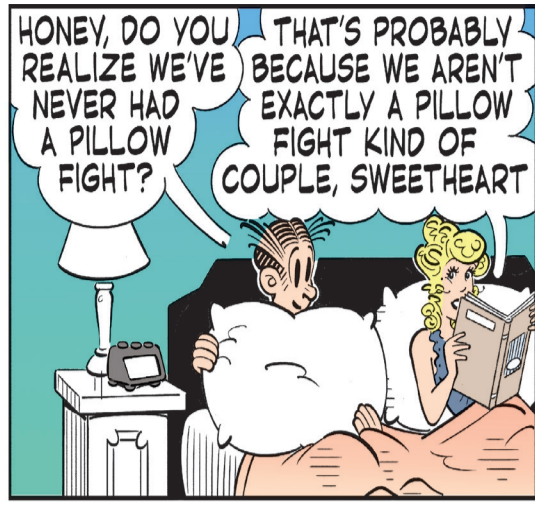
ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

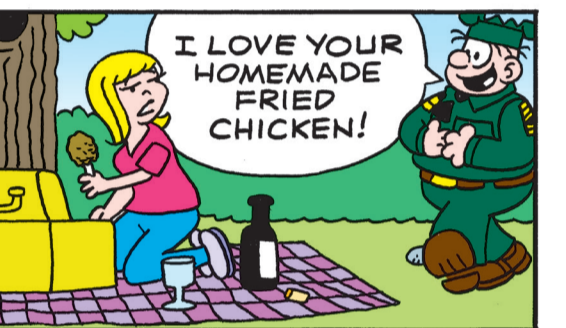
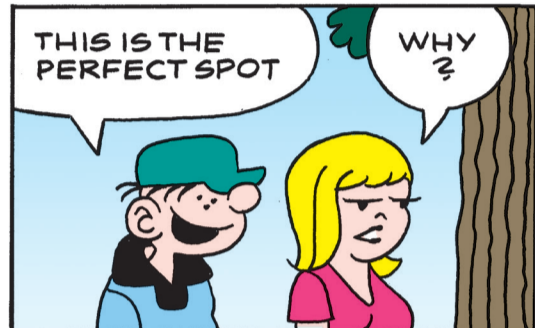


BLONDIE

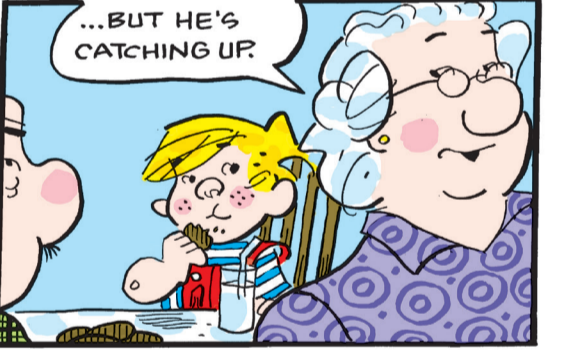
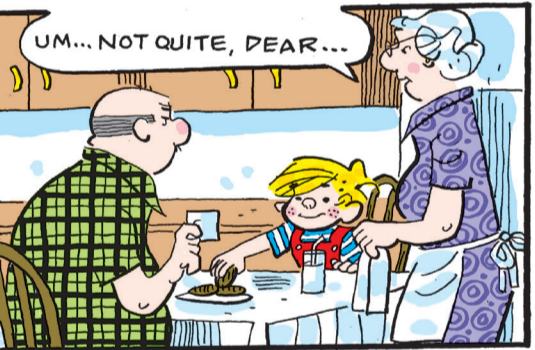
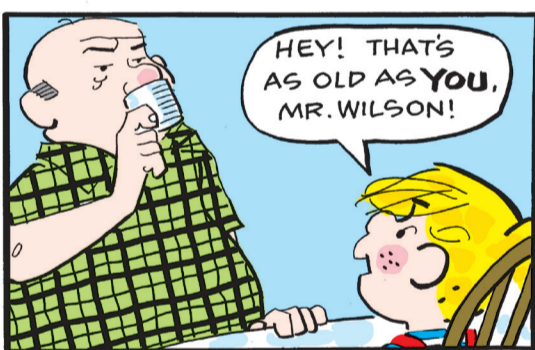
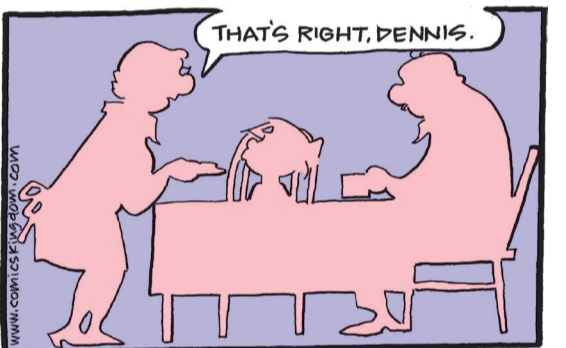
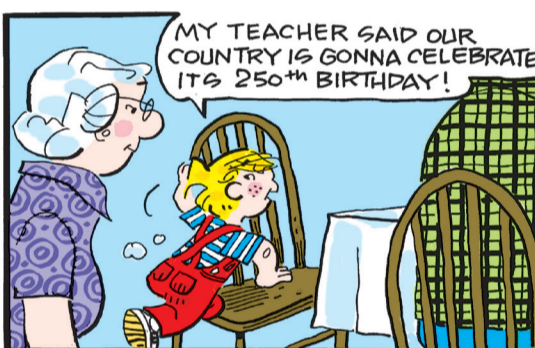
BY DEAN KURTZ & JOHN MARSHALL



Mort Walker's beetle bailey



Hank Ketchum's Dennis the Menace OLD GLORY



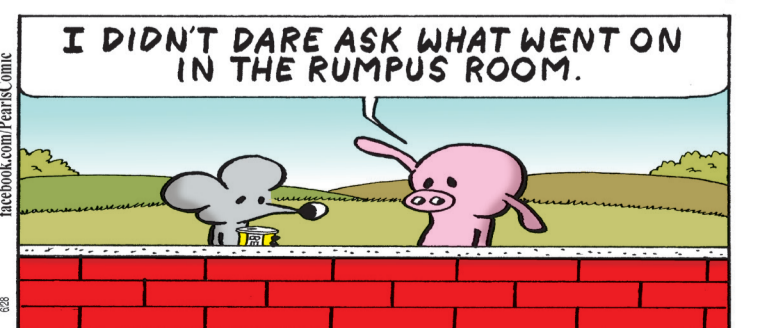
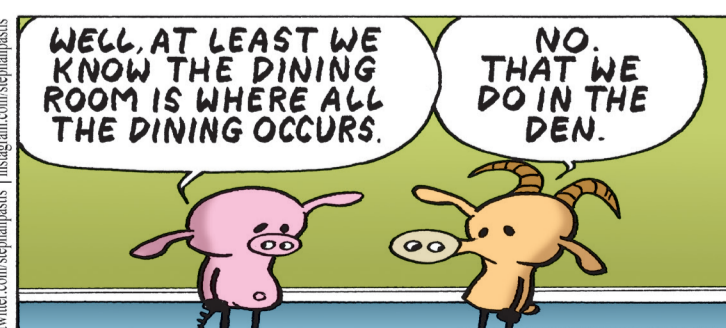
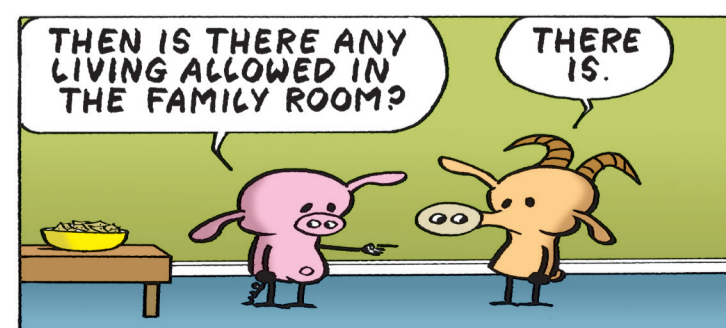
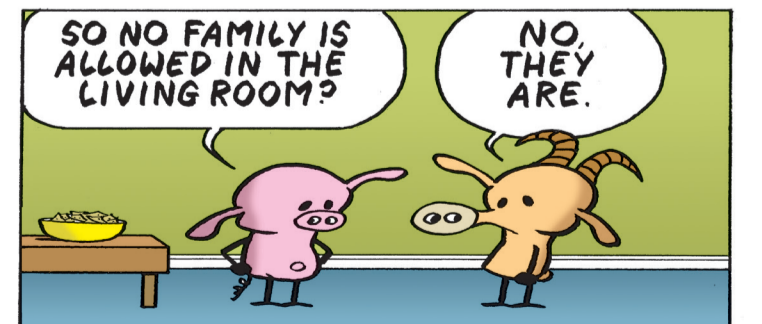
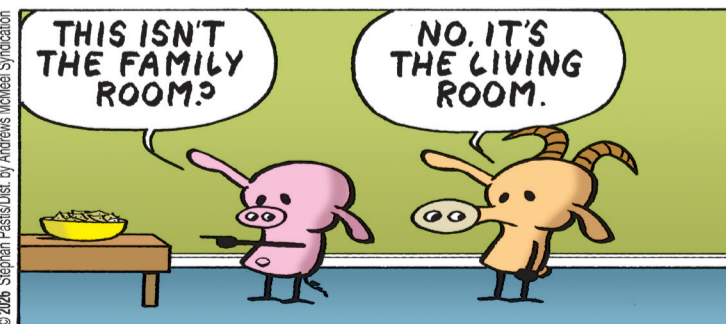
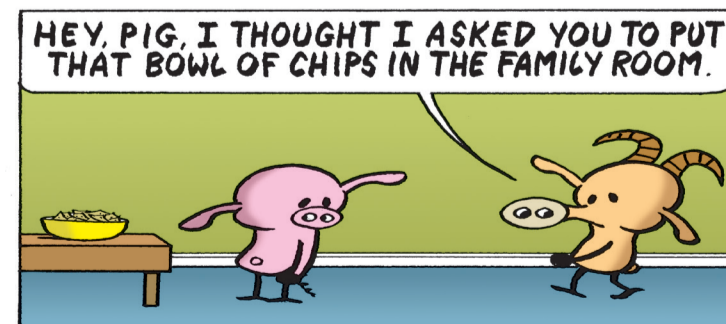
CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

250th
AMERICA
Anniversary

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NOTABLE QUOTES FROM AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States throughout 2026. Many a notable leader has influenced the country in its 250-year history, and the following are some notable quotes from American presidents over the course of the nation's history.

• "If we can but prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." Thomas Jefferson, 1802

• "Peace is the best time for improvement and preparation of every kind; it is in peace that our commerce flourishes most, that taxes are most easily paid, and that the revenue is most productive." - James Monroe, 1817

• "Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters." - Grover Cleveland, 1886

• "In the history of mankind, many republics have risen, have flourished for a less or greater time, and then have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves and thereby governing their state; and in no way has this loss of power

been so often and so clearly shown as in the tendency to turn the government into a government primarily for the benefit of one class instead of a government for the benefit of the people as a whole." - Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

• "Governments do not make ideals, but ideals make governments." - Calvin Coolidge, 1926

• "No government is perfect. One of the chief virtues of democracy, however, is that its defects are always visible and under democratic processes can be pointed out and corrected." - Harry S. Truman, 1947

• "Mankind must put an

end to war — or war will put an end to mankind." - John F. Kennedy, 1961

• "A president's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right." - Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

• "American has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens." - George W. Bush, 2001

• "Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Interesting facts related to Independence Day

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans celebrate Independence Day every July 4. The holiday has become synonymous with summer fun, as grand fireworks displays and backyard barbecues are integral components of many people's July 4 celebrations.

As Americans and residents of the United States prepare for some festive Fourth of July celebrations, they can keep these interesting facts related to Independence Day in mind.

• There have been many iterations of the American flag. The American flag has become an iconic symbol of freedom recognized across the globe since the United States declared their independence from Great

Britain in 1776. But few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the current version of the flag officially became the flag on July 4, 1960.

• More than half of all Americans own an American flag. A 2023 poll from WalletHub found that 57 percent of Americans own an American flag. And that's not the only way Americans show their national pride, as the same poll found that roughly one in three Americans intended to purchase patriotic merchandise for July 4.

• The United States is not the only place to celebrate American independence. Such celebrations occur in various countries, including Australia, Denmark,

Ireland, and Norway. The festivities in Rebild National Park in Denmark is believed to be the largest celebration of American independence outside the United States.

• The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4. Though there's no corresponding estimate related to how many hamburgers Americans eat on July 4, various reports suggest Americans eat roughly 50 billion burgers annually, so it's fair to conclude many a burger will be consumed this Independence Day.

• July is a popular month for nations to celebrate their independence. In addition to the United States, various countries, including Algeria (July 5), Argentina (July 9), The Ba-

hamas (July 10), Belarus (July 3), Burundi (July 1), Canada (July 1), Cape Verde (July 1), Colombia (July 20), Kiribati (July 12), and Liberia (July 26), celebrate their Independence Day in July.

• John Adams, a Founding Father of the United States and the second president in the country's history, felt Americans should celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 2. That's because the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. However, the Declaration of Independence was not approved for two more days, thus making July 4 the day to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.



Did You KNOW?

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Names like John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and, of course, John Hancock might instantly come to mind when pondering the men who signed the Declaration of Independence

in 1776. But what about the remaining signatories to the founding document of the United States? According to the National Archives, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, and even historians and armchair history buffs might be

hard pressed to name all 56 signers of the pivotal document. Some might even be surprised to learn that various notable figures from the era were not among the 56 signers on the Declaration of Independence, a list that includes Alexander Hamil-

ton, John Jay and George Washington. George Mason, another influential figure of the era, also decided against signing the Declaration of Independence, citing its lack of a "Bill of Rights" as motivation for keeping his pen to himself.



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

According to the National Archives, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence.

Impactful events in U.S. history

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

As the United States celebrates its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, millions of Americans will reflect on the nation's history. American history includes a great many impactful events that changed the country forever. The following are some events of note as the United States of America celebrates 250 years of nationhood.

- **The Louisiana Purchase (1803):** Soaring prices have been the norm in the real estate market in recent years, but it was once possible to procure 530 million acres of North American territory for \$15 million. That's precisely what happened in 1803 when the U.S. and France completed the Louisiana Purchase. According to the Office of the Historian of the U.S. Department of State, President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to work alongside U.S. Minister to France Robert Livingston in an effort to purchase New Orleans and West Florida for \$10 million. But the emissaries were surprised when Napoleon Bonaparte offered the whole territory of Louisiana to the U.S. for \$15 million. Native Americans still inhabited much of the area that was part of the sale, but the transaction included the entirety of what is now Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, as well as portions of present-day Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Minnesota.

- **President James Monroe addresses Congress (December 1823):** During his annual message to Congress in late 1823, President James Monroe included a warning to European powers that they should not interfere in affairs in the Americas. According to The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the powers that be in the United States were wary of European intervention in Florida, the Pacific Northwest and Latin America. The result was a statement from President Monroe, later referred to as the Monroe Doctrine, announcing that the west-

ern hemisphere was closed to further colonization by European nations. President Monroe also noted that the U.S. would not interfere in the internal affairs of nations in Europe.

- **Sinking of the Lusitania (1915):** Though the Lusitania was a British-owned ship, the U.S. Library of Congress notes its passengers included more than 120 Americans on May 7, 1915, the day the luxury ocean liner was torpedoed by a German U-boat. History.com notes the Imperial German Embassy in Washington, D.C., placed ads in American newspapers reminding Americans that Germany and Britain were at war and that ships flying the flag of Great Britain were vulnerable to attack. Despite the warnings, Americans still boarded the Lusitania, and the sinking of the ship strained relations between the neutral United States and Germany. Anti-German sentiments began to rise in the U.S. after the sinking of the ship, and such sentiments remained even as the U.S. maintained its neutral status into 1917. The final straw, and one that called to mind the sinking of the Lusitania nearly two years prior, was the interception of the Zimmerman telegram, which revealed German intentions to return to submarine warfare and target all ships, including those carrying American passengers.

- **Wall Street crashes on Black Monday (1929):** The stock market crash that began in October 1929 marked an end to the financial boom of the 1920s that the Federal Reserve notes had begun in August 1921 and lasted until September 1929. On what's become known to historians as Black Monday (October 28, 1929), the Dow Jones Industrial Average declined by nearly 13 percent, a fall that preceded an almost 12 percent decline on the following day. By the summer of 1932, the Dow had fallen to its lowest value of the twentieth century and 89 percent below its peak. Black Monday marked the beginning of the Great Depression, and the Federal Reserve notes the Dow did not return to its pre-crash heights until 1954.



Why isn't July 2 the day to celebrate American independence?

The Declaration of Independence and July Fourth are indelibly linked. But you may need to be an American history buff to know that the link is less direct than it may seem. The Continental Congress declared American independence on July 2, even though the final wording of the Declaration of Independence had yet to be approved.

That approval came two days later, which is why American independence is celebrated on July

4. Furthermore, the Declaration of Independence now on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., was not signed on July 4.

The signatures on that document, which have been a source of pride for descendants of the signers for centuries, were written on August 2, a full month after the Congress declared its independence from Great Britain. And in a reflection of life in the 18th century, Great Britain did not even receive the declaration until November of 1776.

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

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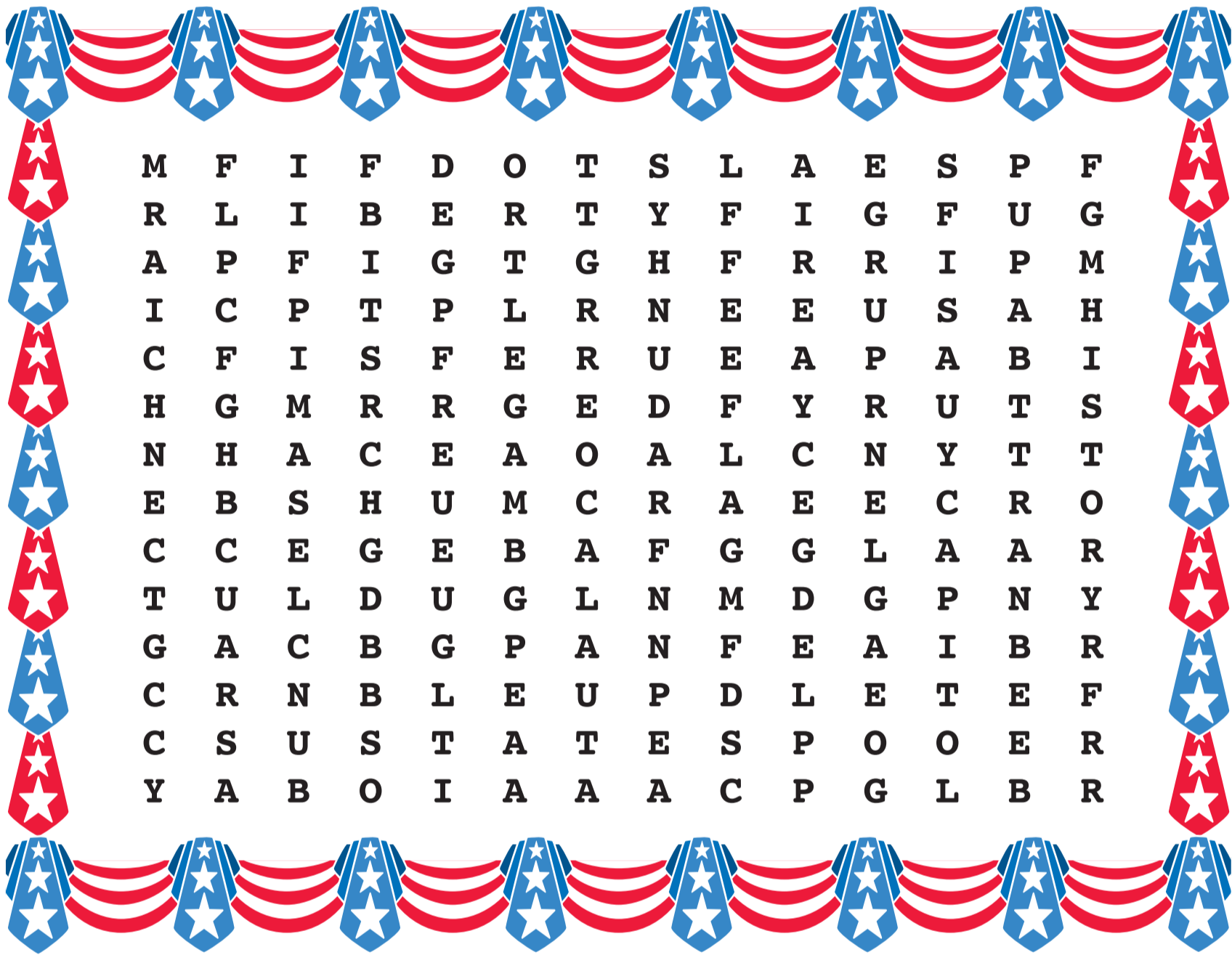
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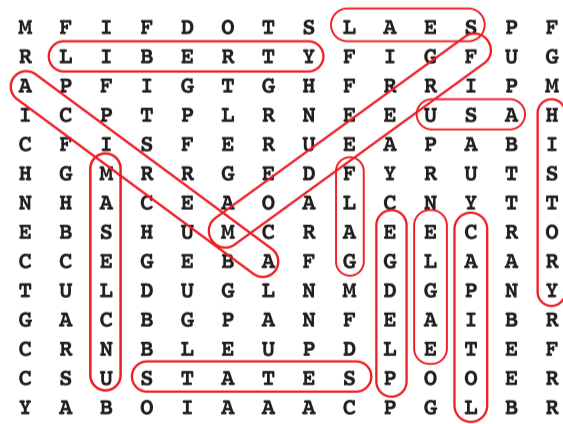
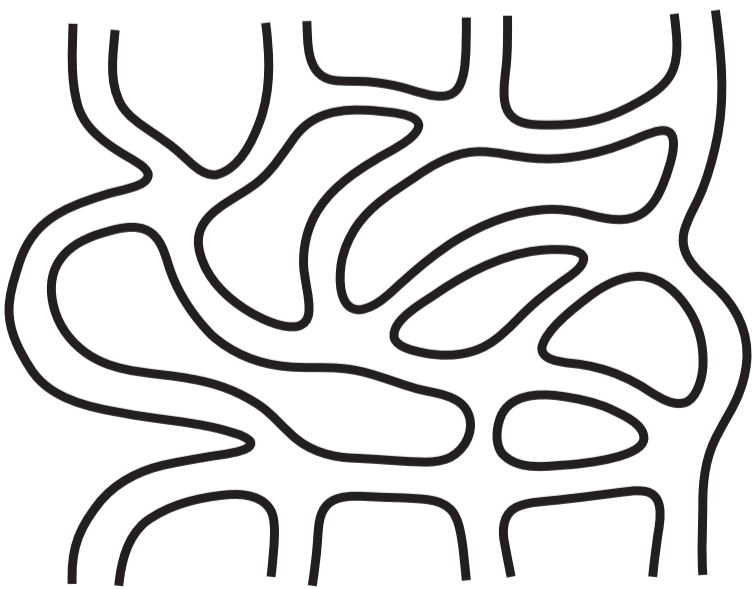
FUN ZONE

USA WORD SEARCH



- AMERICA
- EAGLE
- FREEDOM
- LIBERTY
- SEAL
- UNCLE SAM
- CAPITOL
- FLAG
- HISTORY
- PLEDGE
- STATES
- USA

American Maze Match

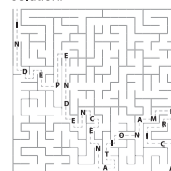


GO, USA!

While making your way through the maze, write down each letter you encounter along the correct path. These letters will spell out three words that pertain to the United States of America.

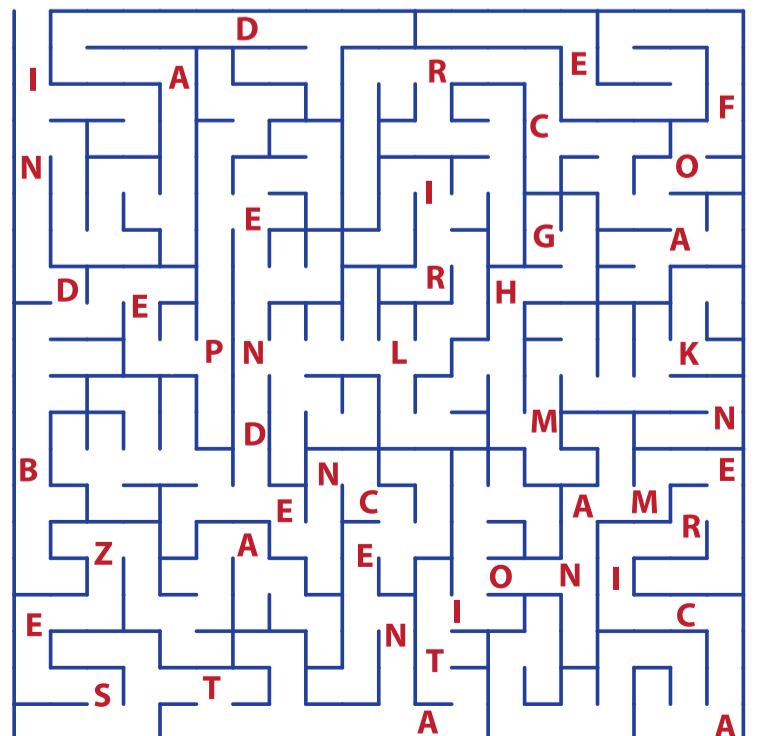
WORDS:

Solution:



Words:
Independence
Nation
America

Start



Finish

DECORATING FOR AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Each year on July 4, many Americans are in a celebratory mood as they prepare for all the fanfare involved with Independence Day festivities. But Independence Day 2026 stands to be extra special since it marks America's 250th birthday. Towns, cities and the entire country will be planning much more extravagant July 4 celebrations in 2026.

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.

• Bunting and banners: Bunting and banners are traditional patriotic decorations. They traditionally are red, white and blue and can be hung from porches, fences and railings.

• American flags: Many homes and businesses already display the flag, but this is the perfect opportunity to do so for

those who want to exhibit their pride in America. Be sure to treat the flag with respect and review the official United States Flag Code, which mandates that the flag never touches the ground and is illuminated if flown at night. When hanging against a wall or window, the blue union must be at the top left.

• Specialty signs: Many municipalities are getting in on the America 250 action and will organize specialty parades and parties. People can check with local government offices to see if lawn signs will be available. If so, they can be displayed in front of homes or retail stores.

• Tablescapes: Themed America 250 tablecloths can be used for backyard parties and picnics. Centerpieces of mason jars filled with mini flags and birthday number candles spelling out 250 are another fun idea.

• Cozy accents: Both homeowners and store owners can incorporate cozy accents like



wooden blocks or patriotic table runners that display the 1776-2026 theme. Throw pillows and blankets featuring stars and stripes tossed over an antique rocking chair on a porch or near an entryway is a great way to offer a touch of Americana.

• Lights: Twinkling holiday lights in red, white and blue can be hung around windows and doors, or wrapped around trees in the yard for festive appeal.

Communities may identify specific decorating goals, like entire streets featuring paper lanterns, or America 250 flags on telephone poles. Residents can participate in such plans where possible.

America's 250th birthday certainly is worthy of celebration and lots of patriotic decor can commemorate this special event.



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION
Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

The nicknames of all 50 states

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of total area. According to The World Factbook, the U.S. features more than 9.8 million square kilometers (roughly 3.8 million square miles), and the country's terrain is as diverse as the people who call the nation home. There may be no better way to gain a feel for America and its inhabitants than getting behind the wheel and taking a road trip, but there's many other ways to gain insight into what makes each state unique. Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

- **Alabama:** Cotton State, Yellowhammer State
- **Alaska:** The Last Frontier
- **Arizona:** Grand Canyon State
- **Arkansas:** Natural State
- **California:** Golden State
- **Colorado:** Centennial State
- **Connecticut:** Nutmeg State, Constitution State
- **Delaware:** The First State, Diamond State
- **Florida:** Sunshine State
- **Georgia:** Peach State, Empire State of the South
- **Hawaii:** Aloha State
- **Idaho:** Gem State
- **Illinois:** Prairie State, Land of Lincoln
- **Indiana:** Hoosier State
- **Iowa:** Hawkeye State, Corn State
- **Kansas:** Sunflower State
- **Kentucky:** Bluegrass State
- **Louisiana:** Pelican State, Creole State, Sugar State
- **Maine:** Pine Tree State

- **Maryland:** Free State, Old Line State
- **Massachusetts:** Bay State, Old Colony State
- **Michigan:** Wolverine State, Great Lake State
- **Minnesota:** North Star State, Gopher State, Land of 10,000 Lakes, Land of Sky-Blue Waters
- **Mississippi:** Magnolia State
- **Missouri:** Show Me State
- **Montana:** Treasure State, Big Sky Country
- **Nebraska:** Cornhusker State, Beef State
- **Nevada:** Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- **New Hampshire:** Granite State
- **New Jersey:** Garden State
- **New Mexico:** Land of Enchantment
- **New York:** Empire State
- **North Carolina:** Tar Heel State, Old North State
- **North Dakota:** Flickertail State, Sioux State, Peace Garden State
- **Ohio:** Buckeye State
- **Oklahoma:** Sooner State
- **Oregon:** Beaver State
- **Pennsylvania:** Keystone State
- **Rhode Island:** Ocean State, Little Rhody
- **South Carolina:** Palmetto State
- **South Dakota:** The Mount Rushmore State
- **Tennessee:** Volunteer State
- **Texas:** Lone Star State
- **Utah:** Beehive State
- **Vermont:** Green Mountain State
- **Virginia:** The Old Dominion, Mother of Presidents
- **Washington:** Evergreen State, Chinook State
- **West Virginia:** Mountain State
- **Wisconsin:** Badger State, America's Dairyland
- **Wyoming:** Equality State



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.



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9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.

3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.

4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the north-

ernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.

7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.

8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.

9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."

NOTABLE EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON JULY FOURTH

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Residents of the United States spend July 4th celebrating the country's independence. Though July 4 has served as America's Independence Day for centuries, many other significant and memorable events have taken place on the fourth day of July.

1744: The Treaty of Lancaster is signed in Pennsylvania. The treaty dictates that the Iroquois will cede land between the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio River to the British colonies.

1776: The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Second Continental Congress. July 4 actually marks the day the final wording of the declaration, which had been submitted on July 2, was approved.

1802: The United States Military Academy officially commences operations. Located in West Point, New

York, the USMA is the oldest of the five American service academies.

1826: On the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Independence, the second and third presidents of the United States, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, respectively, pass away. Both men were instrumental to American success during the American Revolution.

1831: Samuel Francis Smith's "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)" is performed in public for the first time. The performance took place during a children's Independence Day celebration in Boston.

1845: Naturalist and essayist Henry David Thoreau moves into a cabin on Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. His experiences there would later be detailed in "Walden Pond."

1913: President Woodrow Wilson addresses veterans of the American Civil War at a reunion marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. More than 50,000 veterans of the war, including roughly 9,000 Confederate veterans, attend the reunion.

1939: New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig announces his retirement to a crowd at Yankee Stadium, informing them he feels he is "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." Gehrig had recently been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease that would later be widely referred to as "Lou Gehrig's disease."

1983: Twenty-four-year old New York Yankees left-hander Dave Righetti throws a no-hitter against the rival Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. Righetti struck seven of the first nine batters he faced and even overcame a delay in the eighth inning when umpire Steve Palermo suffered a knee injury. Outspoken Yankees owner George Steinbrenner did not attend the game, as he was in Florida celebrating his 53rd birthday with family.

2004: The cornerstone of the Freedom Tower is laid on the World Trade Center site in New York City. Now known as One World Trade Center, the building formally opened in November 2014.



DAILY HOLIDAYS THAT FALL ON JULY 4

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alice in Wonderland Day | Invisible Day |
| Boom Box Parade Day | Jackfruit Day |
| Hop a Park Day | National Barbecued Spareribs Day |
| Independence Day | National Barbeque Day |
| Independence From Meat Day | National Caesar Salad Day |
| Indivisible Day | National Country Music Day |
| International Cherry Pit Spitting Day | National Play Outside Day |
| International Day of Cooperatives | Sidewalk Egg Frying Day |

Famous Birthdays on July 4

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1804 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author (d. 1864) | 1872 - Calvin Coolidge, American lawyer and politician who was the 30th President of the United States (d. 1933) |
| 1816 - Hiram Walker, American businessman who founded Canadian club whiskey (d. 1899) | 1881 - Ulysses S. Grant III, American General (d. 1968) |
| 1847 - James Anthony Bailey, American circus ringmaster who co-founded Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (d. 1906) | 1910 - Gloria Stuart, American actress (Titanic) (d. 2010) |
| | 1937 - Queen Sonja of Norway |
| | 1971 - Koko, American gorilla |



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in July 2026, and the word "semiquincentennial" may come up in conversation during those celebrations.

Did You KNOW?

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in July 2026, and the word "semiquincentennial" may come up in conversation during those celebra-

tions. Some people may not be familiar with the term and what it means. A semiquincentennial is the 250th anniversary of something. It breaks down to "half" of a "quincentennial," which is 500 years. Synonyms may include sestercentennial,

bisequicentennial or quartermillennial. Each term refers to a period of 250 years. It's a rather large word for a simple meaning, but people are bound to hear more of it as 2026 goes on and Independence Day is celebrated on July 4.

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