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WEEKEND

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Lacy Lee, left, and Annabelle Stubbs discuss some of the logistics as the Albany Town Committee of the national Colonial Dames organization continues its ongoing celebration of 100 years of service.

Colonial Dames: 100 years of education and service in Albany

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY – Even the most civic-minded organizations that start with such high ideals and goals can lose momentum as the years pass and the enthusiasm wanes. Not so with the Albany Town Committee of the national Colonial Dames.

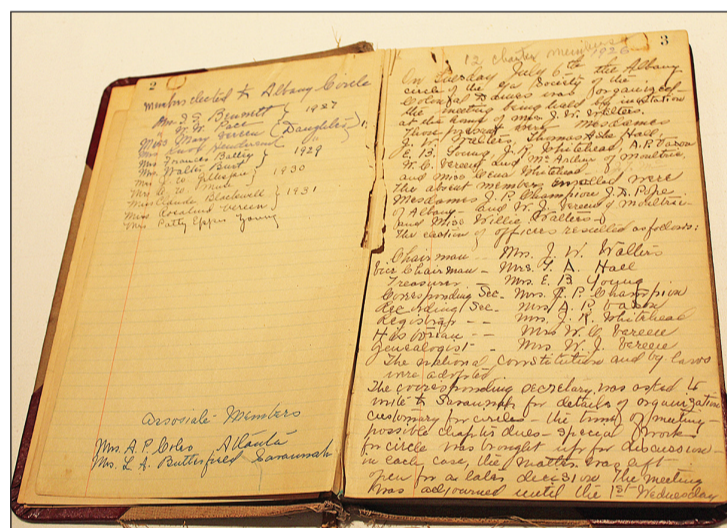
In fact, the Dames – whose official title is the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia – are just as engaged

today as they were 100 years ago when the Albany Town Committee was formed. The group, which has been celebrating its July 6, 1926 founding with events throughout the last several weeks, will celebrate its centennial publicly Monday when Albany Mayor Bo Dorrough honors the group with a proclamation marking the anniversary.

Still, for most, one question surrounds the organization: Just who or what are the Colonial Dames?

The Colonial Dames is a women's lineage society dedicated to ideals that are based on three primary missions: to promote shared national heritage through historic preservation, educational projects and patriotic service. The national Colonial Dames organization's origins can be traced back to May of 1891 in Philadelphia. The state's first organization was birthed in Savannah in April of 1893.

The Albany Circle, as it was originally designated, was



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Minutes from each meeting of the Colonial Dames' Albany Town Committee, dating back 100 years, not has been preserved by the organization.

the seventh to be formed in Georgia, following groups in Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Macon, Columbus and Marietta. The Charter Members of the Albany Dames were Mrs. James Perry Champion Sr., Mrs. Thomas Ashe Hill, Mrs. John Dawson Pope, Mrs. Alexander Pope Vason, Mrs.

James Randolph Whitehead, Mrs. Jesse Williams Walters, Mrs. Edward Billups Young, Miss Willie Davis Walters and Miss Cena Whitehead, all of Albany.

Three Moultrie members – Mrs. John Thomas McAr-

See COLONIAL, 2A

MCLB-Albany welcomes new commander as McKinney retires after 27-year Marine career

By Kathryn Crockett
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MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE-ALBANY
– Leadership of Marine Corps

Logistics Base-Albany officially changed hands Monday morning as Col. Matthew J. McKinney relinquished command to Col. Stephen A. Ritchie during

nearly three decades of military service, while marking the beginning of a new chapter for one of the Marine Corps' most critical logistics installations.

The June 29 ceremony featured the ceremonial transfer of the organizational colors, symbolizing the formal transfer of authority and responsibility for the installation from McKinney, who had commanded the base since June 29, 2023, to Ritchie, who now assumes responsibility for the base and its mission supporting Marine Corps readiness worldwide.

Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany provides installation support services that enable tenant commands to accomplish their missions while main-



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett
Incoming commander Col. Stephen A. Ritchie, right, and outgoing commander Col. Matthew J. McKinney ride horseback during the Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany change of command ceremony Monday.

a traditional change of command ceremony recognizing

See MCLB, 2A

Albany State graduate Justin Clements earns Fulbright Award to Kenya

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – Albany State University, Georgia's largest historically black college and university, has announced that alumnus Justin Clements from the Class of 2024 has been selected for the Fulbright Program. Clements will serve as an English Teaching Assistant in Kenya for the 2026–2027 academic year.

A graduate of ASU's Mass Communication program, Clements earned a bachelor of arts degree. His selection reflects the university's commitment to academic excellence and providing students with hands-on learning and real-world experiences that prepare them to compete on a global stage.

From January through October 2027, Clements will teach English while fostering cultural exchange between the United States and Kenya. In addition to class-



JUSTIN CLEMENTS

room instruction, he plans to incorporate his background in music and the arts to support student engagement and creativity within local schools and communities.

Clements credits his time in the ASU Marching Rams Show Band with shaping his passion for music, leadership and cultural exchange, and it continues to inspire how he seeks to engage with students and communities in Kenya.

See CLEMENTS, 2A

Brie's Gift offers a helping hand for families impacted by leukemia

Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Tracy Cruel speaks to Dougherty County Commissioners about Brie's Gift, the nonprofit organization she started to honor her daughter, Brielle "Brie" Cruel, who died of leukemia in 2023.



By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Three years after the tragedy of losing a daughter, Tracy Cruel is remembering the legacy of Brielle Cruel one comfort bag, gas card and meal at a time, assisting other families who are facing a loved one's fight with leukemia.

Formed to honor Brielle Cruel, or Brie, the mother formed Brie's Gift in November 2024 after Brie's death on July 18, 2023.

"She was 22 when she was di-

agnosed and 23 when she passed away," Cruel said. "She was never sick a day in her life, and she got sick and it suddenly took a turn."

Brielle Cruel, a Dougherty High School graduate, started feeling unwell after her graduation from Clayton State University with a bachelor's degree in marketing and her return to Albany, where she was employed at the Levee Studios/Du Process.

After an initial diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver, doctors eventually determined that Brie had acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a

fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. During her fight, she was forced to learn to walk, talk and care for herself, Brie's mother said.

A bone marrow transplant provided by her brother, Tyrone, provided hope and a diagnosis of being cancer-free after the procedure. But the disease returned in January 2023.

After her daughter's death, Cruel began to have a feeling that she should form an organization to

See LEUKEMIA, 2A

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Now Accepting New Patients
Dr. Rebecca Broschart
 AAPHC Lee Health Center
 118 Robert B. Lee Drive
 229-759-6508



From 1A

COLONIAL

thur, Mrs. William Coachman Verreen and Mrs. William Jerome Verreen — made the trip to Albany for meetings and events.

“We are a lineage society,” Lacy Lee, who serves as chair of the Dames’ centennial celebration activities, said. “What that means is that potential members — who are invited to join — must, before they are accepted into the society, document and prove that someone in their lineage rendered service to the Colonial states before July 5, 1776.

“It was an honor to be asked to join, but I wouldn’t give anything for the research that led to my qualifying ancestor, the search for notes, visits to cemeteries. One comical note: My qualifying ancestor was named William Spencer, and my husband’s name is William Spencer Lee.”

Annabelle Stubbs, who joined the Dames in 2014 (a year after Lee), and was recently installed as the Albany Town Committee’s chair, said she too found the quest for a qualifying ancestor a memorable challenge.

“Initially, I was just so excited to be asked to join,” Stubbs said. “But

as I’ve been a part of the Dames for the last several years, I’ve grown to appreciate the society’s aims and the work its members have done. I’m someone who wants to be a part of giving back to this community, and with the Dames I feel empowered to do that.”

Ask the average citizen about the Colonial Dames, and most will admit to a vague recollection of perhaps hearing of the society. But few have any idea what the Dames do. And while much of their work falls into the “behind-the-scenes” category, the Albany Dames have been primarily responsible for some high-profile projects. Among them: — Creation (as far back as the 1930s) of an essay contest that encourages students to research the ideals of America and how those ideals impact the country today. Winners of the essay contest were initially awarded savings bonds, but now they have the opportunity (taken by more than 25 students) to take a week-long trip to the nation’s capital.

“I talked about the essay program during our Legacy Luncheon at Doublegate (Country Club), and when the event was over, I went back into the kitchen to get Spencer a piece of cake,” Lee said. “There was an African American lady who worked there who told me, ‘I stood back and listened to your speech, and I was so proud because I was one of the girls who won the essay contest. I recently got my nursing degree and have a job in South

Carolina, but I always remember taking part in the Colonial Dames’ essay contest. I still have my savings bond.’”

— Development of a six-week “Why America Is Free” curriculum that is taught to Deerfield-Windsor School fifth-graders each year and culminates with a Patriot’s Day program.

— Contributing during times of war, including homefront war efforts during World War II and creating “ditty bags” for soldiers in Vietnam.

“In recent years, we’ve read two books — 60 years later — about the Vietnam War,” Stubbs said. “Both ‘The Women’ and ‘The Things They Carried’ mentioned the things we did for our soldiers. And we’ve talked with classes about efforts on the ‘home front’ and had an Army Combat Nurse talk with students.”

— Placing historic markers throughout the community, including the DeSoto Trail marker, a marker dedicated to famed Albany architect Edward Vason Jones, and a sun dial marker recognizing the state Colonial Dames’ 100th anniversary.

— A project (the first in Georgia) in which veterans are interviewed and their stories forwarded to the Library of Congress as part of a national effort.

— Helping fund the national Vet-Dogs initiative that provides support dogs to veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

(Funding for 21 of the 42 support dogs has been provided by Georgia Colonial Dames Town Committees,

and the Albany chapter has supplied enough funding to sponsor — and name — a dog.)

Given its 100-year history, the Albany Colonial Dames Town Committee is obviously an entrenched part of what’s good about the community. But the group is by no means content to rest on its impressive laurels.

Dames member Willette Strickland said recently at a Kiwanis Club meeting, “While our name may sound a bit quaint, it’s a part of our identity that we hold dear. It’s a connection to our past, to our mothers, aunts, grandmothers, and beyond. But make no mistake — our organization is not stuck in the past. Our members and our mission are firmly rooted in the present, inspiring us to make an impact in these modern times.

“One hundred years of women ... showing up. Giving back. And opening doors to America’s history through historic preservation, education and patriotic service — so that future generations may share in that same love of country. Think of us as running the long-game of civic pride.

“While the world chases the next trend, we’ve been steadily defending the ideals that built America — one local project, one classroom visit, one patriotic ceremony, one dog, one historical marker at a time. We’ve been here for a century, and I’d say we’re off to a good start.”



File Photo

Deerfield-Windsor School fifth-graders learn about Colonial America during the annual Patriot’s Day celebration, part of the curriculum at the Albany prep school initiated by the Albany chapter of the Colonial Dames.

From 1A

CLEMENTS

The Fulbright Program, established in 1946, is the U.S. government’s flagship international academic exchange initiative, offering opportunities in more than 160 countries. ASU’s growing global footprint and strong support for international engagement continue to position its students for success in programs like Fulbright.

Clements’ journey to Fulbright is also a testament to perseverance. After not being

selected during his initial application, he strengthened his candidacy and reapplied, ultimately earning the award.

“Being selected for the Fulbright Program is a dream come true and a reminder that perseverance pays off,” Clements said. “Not being selected the first time taught me resilience, and this opportunity allows me to represent Albany State University, my community, and the United States while building meaningful connections through education and cultural exchange.

“I hope my journey inspires others to keep striving for their

goals, because sometimes your greatest opportunities come after your biggest setbacks.”

Albany State University, which offers a comprehensive range of academic programs from certificates to specialist degrees, is also recognized as a Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader. This designation highlights institutions that demonstrate exceptional engagement in global scholarship and student achievement.

“Albany State University is honored to be recognized as a Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader,” ASU President Robert Scott said. “This distinction

reflects our deep commitment to preparing students to lead and compete in a global society. Justin’s achievement is a powerful example of the talent, determination, and global perspective cultivated at ASU, and we are incredibly proud of him.”

Through his Fulbright experience, Clements said he aims to build meaningful relationships, engage with Kenyan culture, and serve as a cultural ambassador while representing Albany State University on a global stage, further demonstrating the impact of an ASU education.

From 1A

LEUKEMIA

assist families in similar situations.

Trips to the Georgia Cancer Center were expensive, as were the meals and lodging associated with being on the road caring for loved ones. The Cruels were assisted by a donor who provided a place to stay.

“I pushed it away,” Cruel said of the voice telling her to do something. “I pushed it away a second time. The third time, I listened. Within two weeks

I had my nonprofit started.”

Brie’s Gift helps others on the journey as caregivers by providing bags and gas cards, as well as meal support and travel assistance. It donates bags to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital and the cancer center in Augusta.

Funding for the 501(c)(3) organization comes through sales on the Brie’s Forever 23 Gift Collection on the website as well as donations. Cruel has also held car washes and other fundraisers.

The organization is sponsor-

See LEUKEMIA, 11A

From 1A

MCLB

taining facilities, infrastructure and quality-of-life programs for Marines, civilian employees and their families.

In his farewell remarks, McKinney reflected on three years leading the installation, describing the assignment as one of the greatest honors of his career.

“When I arrived, I knew this installation had a proud legacy dating back to 1952, but what I didn’t know is how quickly I would come to feel like part of a family,” McKinney said. “Over the past three years, we’ve accomplished a tremendous amount together.”

McKinney credited Marines, civilian employees and tenant

commands with strengthening installation readiness through infrastructure improvements, modernization projects and quality-of-life initiatives while reinforcing the base’s role as what he called “the epicenter of Marine Corps logistics and the backbone of the Corps’ readiness.”

He also highlighted expanded partnerships with area schools, civic organizations, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce’s Military Affairs Committee and local governments throughout southwest Georgia.

“The future of MCLB-Albany is bright,” McKinney said. “I’m grateful for every Marine, every civilian, every community partner and every friend and family member who made this journey incredibly meaningful.”

During his tenure, the installation earned recognition as the Marine Corps’ Installation of the Year and received four consecutive installation safety awards, accomplishments McKinney attributed to the efforts of military personnel and civilian employees across the base.

Commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Combined Course in 1999, McKinney served in numerous operational assignments, including with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, Marine Special Operations Command and the 24th and 26th Marine Expeditionary Units. He also commanded Combat Logistics Battalion 26 and Combat Logistics Regiment 2 before assuming command in Albany in 2023.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. Following 27 years of service, McKinney will retire and transition to the civilian sector.

Ritchie, a Fort Worth, Texas,

native, assumed command after previously serving as command inspector general for Marine Corps Installations-Pacific. Commissioned in 2005 following graduation from Texas Christian University, he has served in aviation logistics, manpower management, recruiting and strategic planning assignments throughout the Marine Corps.

Addressing those in attendance, Ritchie praised McKinney’s leadership while expressing appreciation for the welcome his family had already received after arriving in Albany.

“We’re honored to be here with you and this awesome southwest Georgia community and just can’t wait to get to work with all of you,” Ritchie said.

Although he playfully acknowledged he had “accomplished absolutely zero” on his first day in command, Ritchie outlined three priorities he intends to pursue over the coming years.

Those priorities include continuing to improve quality of life for everyone who lives and works on the installation, strengthening physical security in response to evolving threats and further integrating the installation into the nation’s defense industrial base to ensure Marines receive the equipment and support needed for future conflicts.

The ceremony concluded with a pass in review, the playing of “Anchors Aweigh” and the Marines’ Hymn, officially marking the transition of command as Marines, civilian employees, elected officials and community leaders welcomed the installation’s new commanding officer.

For Albany and southwest Georgia, the ceremony underscored the longstanding relationship between the military installation and the surrounding community, while reaffirming MCLB-Albany’s role as a strategic logistics hub supporting Marine Corps operations around the world.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE OF BEER, AND WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Albany BP LLC, doing business as BP Food Mart, located at 2418 Sylvester Rd., Ste. 10 & 11 Albany, Georgia 31705, has made application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for the off-premises package sell of beer, and wine, for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the Albany Herald on July 4th, 7th & 9th in compliance with applicable law.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Allow extra time and extra care today so holiday celebrations go smoothly and safely. Underwater stars bring less clarity and more risk. Stars slide further this evening, keep it mellow — please don't fool around and find out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Egos could be up in your sector of friendship, people could be motivated toward foolish display. Given the below-zero stars and the holiday, this could be a recipe for trouble. Keep people safe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Authority figures could be at maximum bully-level vibe, avoid encounters generally in the world today. Keeping it low-key with family and homies is likely a better idea than attending public events.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Posers gotta pose, but not everything is shallow. Within hours, a wiser and more embodied tone could emerge. Use caution generally, stars aren't supportive today and slide further tomorrow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's a holiday, ready or not. If you can keep your involvement minimal, that could be a better fit for you now. Even the life of the party doesn't have to be on deck every single day. Give yourself permission to rest if you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partnership might not flow smoothly today, insecurities and anxieties can drive uncooperative choices. You can understand, and still not appreciate behavior. A friend might step up to help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It may be a holiday but that doesn't mean tasks and responsibilities aren't necessary. Even if you're on the production end instead of the play end of something, don't let resentments ruin your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Creative experiments are likely to go awry due to poor planning, overconfidence, or just wrong information. Stick to what you know works or cultivate a really big sense of humor. Minimize

risk this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Mind your fingers if you're setting off holiday fireworks, today's risks could be close to home for a few hours. Also, your thinking could be very muddy, especially regarding domestic matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Communications and plans aren't likely to be smooth today, double-check that things are clear and still don't be surprised by how confused things could become anyway. Life can deliver a real tangle when stars are underwater.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A conversation about values could turn negative, people's best selves are another thing that isn't supported when stars go south. Don't engage, stars could bring unforeseen and unforeseeable consequences.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sometimes you can be the jerk. Admittedly seldom, usually caught in time, amends consistently made, etc. But still. Even good people sometimes lose the thread, today could be your day. Tread gently. Be mindful of your behavior.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Most of July should be the birthday month you deserve; expect the gifts to be more cerebral, not just designer logos. Clarity of mind, clarity of purpose, and gentle protection should all bring peace, as well as serious support. Most of your needs can be met by the Universe now, there's something to be grateful for. Later this month, some anxiety could rise abruptly and strongly, then fade just as fast. Don't assume anything bad is coming, this pattern normally brings fear without also bringing a new problem to be feared. August brings you charm and the smile to dazzle with, it also brings you the cash flow to enjoy alongside. Later August, don't surrender to your reckless side and you should have nothing to regret. Stay tuned for a happy surprise or sudden windfall in September.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1776 - The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress

1802 - The United States Military Academy opens in West Point, New York

1803 - The Louisiana Purchase is announced to the American people

1817 - Construction on the Erie Canal begins in Rome, New York

1827 - Slavery is abolished in the State of New York

1831 - "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" is written by Samuel Francis Smith for the July 4th festivities in Boston, Massachusetts

1838 - The Iowa Territory is organized

1863 - Vicksburg, Mississippi surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant after 47 days of siege

1901 - William Howard Taft becomes the new American

governor of the Philippines

1911 - 380 people are killed during an eleven day heat wave in the northeastern United States

1946 - The Philippines attains full independence from the United States

1966 - The Freedom of Information Act is signed into law by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson

1976 - The United States celebrates its Bicentennial

1997 - NASA's Pathfinder space probe lands on the surface of Mars

2004 - The cornerstone of the Freedom Tower is laid on the World Trade Center site in New York City

2009 - After eight years of closure following the September 11 attacks, the Statue of Liberty's crown is reopened to the public

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Here's a message to the newborns, waiting to breathe: If you believe then you can achieve. Just look at me, against all odds 'though life is hard, we carry on, livin' in the projects, broke with no lights on. To all the seeds that follow me -- protect your essence, born with less, but you still precious."

Tupac Shakur, U.S. rapper, 1971-1996

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

Regarding the changes to the Squawkbox, there is an old adage that applies: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Lee County officials encountered a screw-up with their taxes, but they still are a whole lot better than the Dougherty officials, who, if in similar circumstances, would have looked for a way to keep that money for themselves.

Bo and Preacher Lorenzo and his disciples should reflect on why it is so difficult to start an honest family business here. Yet, apparently it is very easy to drop a dirty freight container and a porta-potty to open an eyesore fireworks store. Or dump an old coffee shop in a highly visible patch of grass until it begins to rot. Or yet another pawn shop /vape/shady cellphone store. Or a liquor store right next door to another liquor store.

I fully agree with Boomer Esianow when on his radio show interview this week with Caitlin Clark he spoke of the lack of officials calling fouls and the attitude of the league as a whole. Caitlin should take her talents overseas. She would be treated like royalty and make a lot more money.

When asked to pull up and wait for your order at a drive-thru, just refuse and say you'll wait right there for your order. These folks are trying to make a window count, and they must learn we are not all stupid. Has anyone ever been asked to do that at Chick-fil-A?

I would hope that the Herald powers that be would realize that there are a number of state and national issues that impact our region directly. I would hope commenting on such issues would not be verboten under the new world order.

People who call themselves Christian leaders -- from rich "preachers" at mega-churches to "bishops" at local churches -- and preach politics from the altar, no matter what brand it is, are breaking the law and should lose their nonprofit status.

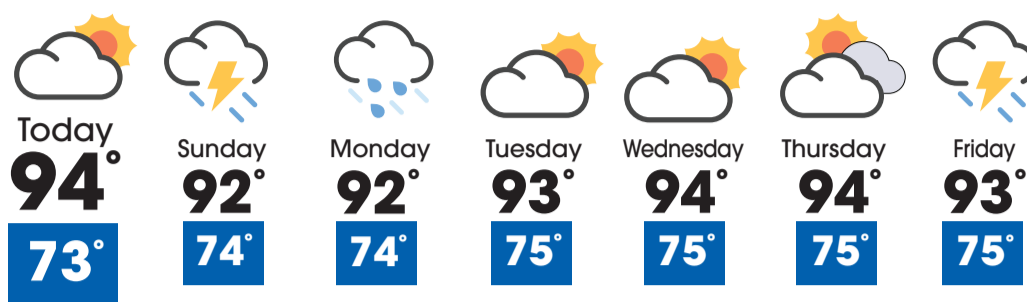
Pedophiles, whether they're located right next door or occupy the highest of government offices, should be arrested and put in prisons where what they did to innocent children against their will is done to them.

Until these phony preachers/politicians and their pals with their hands out and the officials who blindly follow them are removed from our local government, we will continue to see our tax dollars wasted or given to cronies who offer nothing but ways to help themselves.

If you like socialism, open borders, high crime, men in women's sports, high taxes, defunded police and don't like private healthcare, vote Democrat.

When a Democrat loses, it's because of race and/or gender. When a Republican loses, it's because the election was stolen. If Democrats could steal elections, they'd have control of the White House and both houses of Congress. Both parties need to stop playing the blame game when they lose. That Man Without a Family

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Simple Saturday columns focus on improving basic technique and developing logical thinking. You're West in today's deal,

NORTH			
♠ A Q 4			
♥ J 3			
♦ K J 4			
♣ K Q 7 5 2			
WEST		EAST	
♠ K 10 3		♠ J 9 8 7 6 2	
♥ 10 8 5 4		♥ K 7 6 2	
♦ A 10		♦ 7 2	
♣ A 9 6 3		♣ 10	
SOUTH			
♠ 5			
♥ A Q 9			
♦ Q 9 8 6 5 3			
♣ J 8 4			
North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass
Opening lead - ♥ 4			
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and North-South bid swiftly to five diamonds. (When North opened 1NT, South's response of three diamonds was forcing in his partnership; many pairs would treat that bid as a weak signoff or as invitational to game.) You lead the four of hearts: jack, king, ace. At the second trick, declarer leads a trump.

Your goal is to beat the contract -- quaint concept, eh? -- so you need three tricks. How do you plan to get them?

NO SPADES

You will get no spades; if South needs a spade finesse with dummy's queen, you know it will win. You will get no hearts; your partner's play of the king marks South with the A-Q. You will get one



Frank Stewart

club. You will get your ace of trumps but surely not a second trump.

You have one chance. Grab your ace of trumps and lead the ace of clubs and a second club, hoping your partner can ruff. Today your astute defense is rewarded.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S K 10 3 H 10 8 5 4 D A 10 C A 9 6 3. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: At responder's second turn, he often tries to place the contract or suggest a contract, limiting his strength. Bid 2NT, showing about 11 points, balanced, with strength in the unbid club suit. A bid of two clubs would be murky. If your ten of hearts were the king, you would bid 3NT.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Cousin's AI manipulation mars treasured family photo

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: Yesterday a cousin sent me a photo of a group of family members taken the morning after my father's funeral about 30 years ago. It included my mother, two sisters, an uncle, my brother-in-law and me. Most of us were still in our nightclothes, as it was taken early in the morning before other relatives left to return home.

With the exception of my uncle, I didn't recognize a single person in the photo. The bathrobe I'd worn back then was familiar and a few other details, how my sister stood and how my mother wore her hair were familiar, but what stood out the most was how beautiful we women were and how handsome my brother-in-law was. Eric, someone had used AI to enhance our appearance!

I asked my cousin about the AI work and who had done it. More importantly, why was it even necessary? He denied knowing anything about it and even suggested that my elderly mother had "improved" it herself. (She passed away before AI became mainstream and only had rudimentary computer skills.)

My cousin has always been a big talker, boasting about his business, kids, vacation home, whatever. But to think that we weren't attractive or good enough for him, especially in the early morning after a heartbreaking funeral just ticks me off and I told him so. Any thoughts?

- Picture Perfect

Dear Perfect: Yikes! If one is thinking generously, your cousin may have found

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

DELIVERY QUESTIONS: If your paper hasn't been delivered call our Circulation Department at 229-888-9300. Hours are 8:30 am-5 pm weekdays, closed on holidays. A customer service representative will assist you. (All papers are by mail only and delivered by U.S. Postal Service.)
POSTAL SERVICE COMPLAINTS: If you are dissatisfied with delivery, ask your postmaster for a Consumer Service Card and record

the technology fascinating or not even realized what the enhance button on a photo editing program would do. But a cursory glance would, one would think, prompt some questions on his part.

Even if he thought it was innocuous, it's clear that his intention didn't have the right impact. It also sounds like the previous tensions in your relationship contributed to your interpretation of this action. Now that you've said what you need to say, try to put the photo out of your mind and hold on to the original image, crafted with human creativity and featuring real people and real emotions.

Dear Eric: I met M on a tour of Greece, and we communicated afterward through phone calls and emails since M lived in Iowa and I live in NY.

M made plans to visit me and although it wasn't the best time, I agreed to her staying with me. I have a small house without a guest room but would give her my room and I would sleep on the sleeper sofa. On the day of her arrival, I made a stupid mistake and fell hurting my back. I carried on although hurting.

I had a list of best places to visit. This was her first day and I tried to make her trip as good as I could taking her to various places of interest and restaurants.

We spent a day at the zoo and M threw out the small water bottle I had given her to use. I was disappointed since the bottle was reusable and fit nicely in a purse. The next day she said she was going to stay in a hotel near the airport so I could make my tax appointment the next morning without worrying about get-



Eric Thomas

ting her to the airport.

I took her and we left on a friendly note. We shared expenses such as entrance fees and meals. After M returned to her home, I received a package of small bottles, cleaned to make up for the one she threw away. Never received a thank you note.

After M left, I found she had looked through my desk and other personal papers. I was shocked. I know it was strange she spent time in the room but thought she was tired or reading.

My family has told me, "I told you so." Now I don't trust myself to make good choices when meeting new people. What can you tell me? Was this a learning experience?

- No Longer a Trusting Friend

Dear Friend: Don't let this bad apple spoil the bunch. It sounds like you went out of your way to make the trip nice for M and M's response was fine, if a bit underwhelming. That would all be fixable. But the violation of privacy is a problem. You should take steps to ensure she hasn't compromised your identity or your credit in some way.

If you're worried about your judgment when meeting other new people, you might just decide to put a stronger boundary around your life until you really get to know someone. For instance, you could decide that people you don't know well can't stay at your house.

You might also make sure that a friend you already trust meets new friends you make in the future and get your trusted friend's read on things.

The Albany Herald

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Albany Tech student Eleanor Handwerk scores bronze at SkillsUSA conference

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA - A career and technical student in Georgia won one of the nation's highest awards at the National Leadership & Skills Conference held recently in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce.

A total of 1,224 gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to student winners in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions across

middle school, high school and college/post-secondary divisions. Many winners also received industry prizes, tools of their trade or scholarships. The competitors also received a Skill Point Certificate, an indicator of career readiness. Students can add this certificate to their employment portfolio.

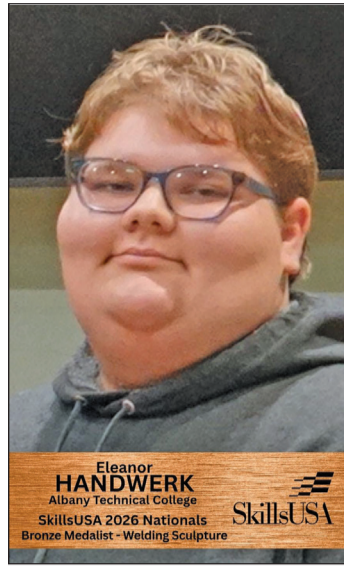
Eleanor Handwerk from Leesburg and a student at Albany Technical College was awarded the college bronze medal in Welding Sculpture.

To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, dem-

onstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions vying for honors in competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more.

"This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest," SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis said. "Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels."

The next NLSC will be held



Eleanor Handwerk

June 21-25, 2027, in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA, the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at www.skillsusa.org.

Governor announces fourth round of rural Site Development Grants; Albany-Dougherty receives funding

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA - Gov. Brian P. Kemp has announced the fourth round of grants from the Rural Site Development Initiative (RSDI) within the OneGeorgia Authority, totaling \$7.8 million for 10 local projects across the state. With this latest round of grants, the state of Georgia has invested \$28 million into rural site development projects since the program's launch in FY 2025.

"Since I took office, over 64% of new jobs created have gone to parts of our state outside the metro Atlanta region, and the Rural Site Development Initiative is an important part of that broader effort to bring opportunity to all parts of Georgia," Kemp said. "I'm grateful for the great partnership of the General Assembly in funding and promoting this program, and I look forward to even more jobs and investment going to rural areas."

RSDI grants are awarded for either site improvement or to assist with the costs of seeking Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certification on approved projects critical to economic development in that area of the state. Communities match state funding at various levels, based on the program's criteria. The Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission in southwest Georgia was awarded \$135,000 to certify the Pecan Grove Industrial Park. The total project costs are \$180,000.

"Rural site development grants are essential to Georgia's growth, productivity, and sustainability," Lt. Governor Burt Jones said. "I commend Gov. Kemp for leading the charge to fund and promote this program, which has awarded \$28 million for critical projects in rural communities across Georgia."

"GRAD sites are important to local strategies for attracting employers and investment in Georgia's communities," Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Christopher Nunn said. "Rural Site Development Grants enable communities to plan for their future success."

"Over the last several years, GRAD sites have helped attract an estimated 10,000 jobs to communities across the state," Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "Proactive economic development planning, including through shovel-ready sites, strengthens our entire portfolio and competitiveness as a state."

To learn more about the Rural Site Development Initiative and the OneGeorgia Authority that scores and votes on eligible grant awards, visit the program's page on the Department of Community Affairs' website.

Site Improvement Grants The Effingham County Development Authority in coastal Georgia was awarded \$1.8 million for site readiness improvements, including the construction of a sewer pump station, at the GRAD-certified Savannah Portside International Park. The total project costs are \$2.5 million.

The Development Au-



Jana Dyke

thority of Columbus in west Georgia was awarded \$2 million for site improvement work, including clearing and grading, at the GRAD-certified Muscogee Technology Park. The total project costs are \$10 million.

The McIntosh County Industrial Development Authority near coastal Georgia was awarded \$1.5 million for road, water and sewer infrastructure improvements at the GRAD-certified Tidewaters Industrial Park. The total project costs are \$2.8 million. This is the second site development award for McIntosh County, which previously received a GRAD-Certification Scholarship for this grant. McIntosh County's progression shows the importance of project-ready sites within Georgia's communities.

The Thomaston-Upson County Industrial Development Authority in west-central Georgia was awarded \$2 million to construct water, sewer and transportation infrastructure at the GRAD-certified Central Georgia Business and Technology Park. The total project costs are \$2.3 million.

GRAD-Certification Scholarships The Glynn County Development Authority in coastal Georgia was awarded \$107,500 for surveys and research to prepare the Mallard Industrial Park for GRAD certification. The total project costs are \$119,500.

The Development Authority of Harris County in west Georgia was awarded \$54,400 to certify the largest remaining tract of the Northwest Harris Business Park. The total project costs are \$77,500.

The Development Authority of Jeffersonville & Twiggs County in middle Georgia was awarded \$22,500 for surveys and studies required to certify the Hillandale Tract. The total project costs are \$25,000.

The Screven County Development Authority near coastal Georgia was awarded \$121,500 for studies and surveys necessary for the Screven Industrial Park to receive GRAD certification. The total project costs are \$135,000.

The Seminole County Development Authority in southwest Georgia was awarded \$47,250 for assessments and surveys to GRAD certify the East Industrial Park. The total project costs are \$52,500.

Eligible activities for use of grant funds include, but are not limited to, site studies, land grading, and other essential community infrastructure efforts that support site development. Grantees demonstrated substantive plans for industrial site development while meeting OneGeorgia Authority eligibility requirements.

Use of funds is subject to all applicable state laws and regulations, as well as the policies and requirements of the OneGeorgia Authority and the Department of Community Affairs.



File Photos

Pecan growers must incorporate the correct levels of nitrogen and other elements into their crops for maximum yield.

Mid-season fertilizer management of pecans

By Dipendra Chauhan & Vivek Bist

University of Georgia Extension

ALBANY— Mid-season fertilization is important for pecan production to ensure higher nut yield and quality. Pecan trees have peak nitrogen demand during the foliage growth stage in early spring and the kernel filling stage in late summer. The tree progressively sizes the shell, fills it with liquid endosperm, and deposits the kernel between these two peaks in summer.

The nut yield, size, and kernel fill percentage at harvest are all directly impacted by the time and rate of mid-season fertilization application. Fertilizing in summer also protects the tree's capacity to produce a harvest in the following year.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are the primary nutrients for pecan production. Nitrogen drives nut sizing and kernel fill and must be applied throughout spring and summer. Phosphorus and potassium, however, are primarily broadcast in spring (March-April). Micronutrients like magnesium, zinc, nickel, and boron should be applied as foliar sprays in late spring or summer if deficiency symptoms appear.

Alternative sources of plant nutrients such as chicken litter and crimson clover can often help with high fertilizer costs in pecan production.

Post-pollination and fertilization mark the beginning of summer in pecans. Nut growth

begins in May, and the nuts reach their full size toward the end of July. Shell hardening begins after the fruit gains full size and is completed by mid-August. The nut sizing stage (May-June) and the kernel filling stage (August) are high-nitrogen and high-water-demand stages. Any nutrient shortfall during these stages results in permanent yield and quality loss that cannot be corrected later in the season.

UGA Extension recommends leaf tissue analysis for designing a precise fertilizer application plan for a commercial pecan orchard. Leaf samples should be collected only between July 7-Aug. 7 because the nutrient concentrations in leaves are the most stable for diagnostic purposes at this time.

Collect samples from sun-exposed terminal shoots. Collect 100 pairs of leaflets from all sides of the tree. Avoid any leaflets damaged by insects or disease. Wait at least two weeks after a foliar spray before sampling.

Soil testing also can guide the fertilizer application rates. Growers should consider utilizing a combined leaf tissue and soil analysis decision system to monitor and manage plant nutrients in their pecan orchards.

UGA Extension recommends a total annual nitrogen rate of 75-125 pounds of nitrogen per acre for mature, well-managed, irrigated bearing orchards. Nitrogen should be applied in split injections through the

irrigation system, whenever possible, at a maximum of 25 pounds per acre per injection. This rate should be raised by 25% in sandy soil, utilizing more frequent and smaller applications.

The rate and timing of nitrogen recommended for summer through fertigation system is presented below:

May -- Continue with the three injections that began in April on 10-day intervals through early May. Each injection must not exceed 25 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Space evenly and do not batch applications together.

June -- Apply one injection in June, a maximum of 25 pounds per acre. This is the most important nitrogen application of the entire season. It feeds the tree during peak nut sizing and the onset of the water stage. Do not apply if no crop is set on the tree; excess nitrogen will drive vegetative growth at the expense of next year's flower buds.

August -- Apply one injection in late August, a maximum of 25 pounds of nitrogen per acre only if the tree is carrying a heavy crop.

In case of a broadcast application, the fertilizer must be directed toward the herbicide strip only, not the full orchard floor. The fertilizer rate of 75-125 pounds of nitrogen per acre should be based on the width of the spread, which is the herbicide strip, not the total size of the orchard. Nitrogen fertilizer should be applied in two

or three split doses - a basal dose (one-third to one-half) in spring (April) and the remaining in summer (July-August).

Chicken litter and crimson clover can be potential alternate sources of plant nutrients in pecan orchards. These alternate sources can help to offset soaring fertilizer costs while improving soil health.

Apply 1 ton/acre broiler litter in February and 1 ton/acre in May. Only 60% of the nitrogen is available for crop uptake during the season. Use broiler litter only. Avoid layer litter due to calcium/magnesium concerns.

A well-established crimson clover stand can eliminate late-season synthetic nitrogen applications. Crimson clover is a cool-season legume that fixes atmospheric nitrogen. It establishes well for a few years and may need re-seeding every 3-5 years.

Micronutrients - Zinc, nickel, boron & magnesium

While nitrogen drives summer crop development, other micronutrients are also essential during the summer months. Sandy Coastal Plain soils across southwest Georgia are naturally low in zinc. Even when the soil reserves are present, micronutrients are locked out of plant uptake at soil pH above 6.0.

Summer foliar sprays act faster than soil applications and are often the most effective delivery method for micronutrients.

Tracy Lawrence to headline ABAC's 'Stage Lights & Rodeo Nights' event

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON - Country music legend Tracy Lawrence is coming to Tifton, and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is gearing up for an exciting weekend this November.

"Stage Lights & Rodeo Nights" is a weekend event for the Tifton region. Lawrence will perform at the John Hunt Auditorium Nov. 12, followed by two nights of the PCA Pro Rodeo on ABAC's campus Nov. 13-14. Details are available at link.abac.edu/events.

"We are proud to welcome Tracy Lawrence to ABAC for a weekend that showcases the very best of our college," ABAC president Tracy Brundage said.

"With the concert and rodeo, guests will experience the traditions, excitement and sense of community that make ABAC special."

Lawrence's career has spanned more than three decades, and with 18 No. 1 singles and 13 million albums sold, he has become a cornerstone of modern country music. Consistently nominated for awards from the Academy of Country Music, the Country Music Association and the Grammys, Lawrence won the ACM's Top New Male Vocalist award in 1993. Both the ACM and CMA honored "Find Out Who Your Friends Are" as Vocal Event of the Year in 2007 and 2008.

Beyond the stage, Lawrence is involved in numerous me-

dia and charity projects. His longtime podcast, "TL's Road House," connects Lawrence with a wide range of artists and personalities, and his work with the Nashville Rescue Mission has seen 15,000 Thanksgiving turkeys fried and \$1.3 million raised for those in need. In recognition of his philanthropy, Country Radio Seminar named him the recipient of its 2023 Artist Humanitarian Award.

After more than 30 years, Lawrence's legacy continues to evolve. He toured in 2024 with artists like Riley Green, Luke Bryan and Lainey Wilson in addition to his first-ever headlining show at the Ryman Auditorium. He revisited his catalog with "Hindsight 2020 Vols. 1, 2 and 3" and "Live at



Tracy Lawrence

Billy Bob's Texas" and most recently released his "Out Here In It" EP.

Bobby Ray Staudt, senior agricultural communications major, expressed excitement when he was told about Lawrence's concert.

Tickets for the concert are on sale at link.abac.edu/events.

SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX

SQUAWKBOX@ALBANYHERALD.COM

Despite all the trials and tribulations, American democracy has been a beacon of freedom to the world for 250 years. Here's hoping it can survive the next two years.

Theatre Albany's "Singing in the Rain Sr." was spectacular, just like "The Color Purple." Congratulations to all the actors and staff. So glad we got our season tickets -- they're doing a show every month.

All of you clowns who keep ignoring the reality of global warming because some idiotic politician tells you it's not real, I hope you enjoy the hellish heat we're just now starting to see in south Georgia. Keep listening to these foolish politicians as you -- and our environment -- continue to melt in the heat.

The changes to the Squawkbox are good, especially getting rid of all the national political comments which seem to dominate the discussion. I would recommend you (Carlton) consider adding back Atlanta sports and SEC sports.

Upon reading the new/not so new direction for Squawkbox I was somewhat saddened. Saddened, but not surprised. While the intent is probably to focus readers on their circle of control and influence, those areas are in a major way influenced by national and state politics. This community lacks funding for projects that will help our residents. A lot of that funding comes from the state and federal governmental systems. Because of the racial makeup of this county and some of the surrounding areas, we are excluded, on purpose, from those sources for the most part.

There so many animals in America disguised as humans.

Why can't Albany city and county commissioners refrain from verbally snapping at each other in public budget meetings? It is embarrassing. Moreover, instead of focusing on cutting costs, why can't they notice the dozens of city employees that do nothing all day, and lay them off to save millions? Employment at the city of Albany isn't a charity, and watching shows on your phone isn't a skill taxpayers should pay salary and benefits for.

The Democrat party is quickly turning into a socialist/communist party.

It's hard to believe Atlanta Falcon James Pearce is back at practice. He is only charged with two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, aggravated stalking, both felonies. Along with fleeing and eluding police, resisting an officer with violence, repeatedly colliding with his girlfriend's car and crashing during a police chase. Of course, being a No.1 draft pick, he is a wealthy person. I guess money does talk.

New intersection cameras should make our community safer, but APD can't rely on these shortcuts only. We need more officers patrolling and removing vehicles from our roads ... (of people going) 85-plus mph in the middle of town; over 90 decibels of muffler sound; trucks lifted where the driver can't see over the dashboard; nonfunctioning headlights well after dark. These are clear and present dangers we see daily in Albany, and APD needs to act now.

Good call by The Albany Herald powers that be. Take the one unique feature you have and alter it to suit your vision. You'll probably lose readers, but at least you'll be the ones "in charge."

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ HANNAH PINSON

Declaration of Independence is a symbol that has shaped America's 250 years

Editor's Note: The Albany Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia, which is celebrating its 100th year, has sponsored an essay contest for students in the community since the 1930s, asking for their take on the values that have shaped America. Following is rising Deerfield-Windsor senior Hannah Pinson's 2024 essay.

The Declaration of Independence is not just a historical document written by Thomas Jefferson; it is a timeless symbol of the indestructible freedom that granted Americans liberties, shaping their identity for nearly 250 years. Through its defining principles of equality, freedom of speech, and popular sovereignty, the Declaration has inspired movements and influenced generations to fight for justice, defend their rights, and advance society toward a more just future. These principles have continued to be the foundation for guiding America to unity and problem-solving. Without them, the nation would succumb to economic, political, and societal failure.

Equality is one of the most

important ideals of the Declaration of Independence because it directly improves the quality of life and continues to push for reform. The Declaration establishes the powerful idea that "all men are created equal" and should be treated as such. These words, attached to the Preamble, challenged centuries of inequality and inspired Americans to fight for their basic rights. They allowed citizens to unite with one another, ultimately leading to the Abolitionist Movement of the 1800s, where activists worked to end slavery and demand fair treatment for all. Equality not only encourages individuals to reach their highest potential but also brings communities together to overcome injustice. By giving people a new understanding of their worth, the Declaration of Independence helped create a nation that believes in fairness and is willing to fight to pursue it.

In addition to equality, freedom of speech plays a crucial role in uplifting the human condition and improving America. The First

Amendment protects the right to speak freely, stating that "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech." This right allows people to openly express their beliefs, challenge mistreatment, and raise awareness about issues that affect their lives. Freedom of speech has shaped major turning points in history, such as the Civil Rights Movement in 1954. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. depended on their right to protest to increase public consciousness about injustice, which helped put an end to segregation and discrimination.

Without freedom of speech, which is the first step toward progress, their voices would not have created the transformation that uplifted countless Americans' lives and pushed society toward equity.

Popular sovereignty, another essential principle, has strengthened the quality of life for Americans by giving them a voice. When the American Revolution began in 1775, the colonists believed their rights were being violated by a

government that controlled them without representing their needs and beliefs. The Declaration of Independence helped turn this belief into a written protest by embracing the idea that governments should receive their power "from the consent of the governed." With its three defining principles, the Declaration of Independence continues to improve Americans' livelihood and reduce challenges by emphasizing the importance of unity and shared rights. These principles have influenced our government, our rights, and our everyday lives since 1776, and while they were written so long ago, they continue to guide America. The Declaration of Independence symbolizes the principles that enable people to improve their own lives, use their voices, and help transform the nation into a country that reflects equality, justice and hope.

Hannah Pinson is a rising senior at Deerfield-Windsor School in Albany. She participates in Football and Basketball Danceline, Archery and Theater Arts. She plans to attend college to study veterinary medicine.



PINSON

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Mail voting proposal: Make an example of Steiner

On June 2, the U.S. Postal Service proposed a new rule in the Federal Register on standards for handling of mail ballots, with public comment open through July 2. That rule was issued pursuant to an executive order by President Trump.

While the proposal unambiguously claims that "states would retain full control over who would (or would not) be able to vote by mail in federal election," U.S. Postmaster General David Steiner told Congress that in actuality, the organization he runs would refuse to deliver ballots in states that don't turn over voter data to the federal government.

While a federal judge has already nixed the scheme, it will probably end up working its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Even if more courts, possibly including SCOTUS, act to prevent the U.S. Snail from seizing control of elections, it seems to me that the message -- "don't mess with our votes" -- isn't really getting through to the U.S. government.

While the usual perception of grand juries is that they indict only those whose indictments are sought by prosecutors -- who, in the old saying, "could get a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich" -- there's nothing to prevent such a jury from handing down indictments against whom-ever, for whatever, they want.

What we need is a grand jury whose members are willing to get together, talk things over, and

charge David Steiner and his underlings, per Title 18, Section § 371 of the U.S. Code, with the federal crime of "conspiracy."



KNAPP

What did Steiner and those who helped him craft and promulgate the rule conspire to do? They conspired to -- and have publicly confessed to conspiring to -- violate Title 18, Section §1703:

"Whoever, being a Postal Service officer or employee, unlawfully secretes, destroys, detains, delays, or opens any letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail ... shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

I've got mixed opinions on voting

itself (for one thing, I'm not sure it accomplishes much), and strong opinions on mail (the government should get entirely out of the matter and let the private sector handle it), but this particular matter is about rule of law.

This is such a clear-cut case of a government official openly announcing that he's conspired with others to violate the laws he's sworn to abide by and enforce that just suing for relief isn't enough.

David Steiner really needs to spend some time -- even if only a few hours between his arrest and a presidential pardon -- locked in a small room, wearing an orange coverall, contemplating the gravity of his offenses. That would be good not just for his soul, but for our freedoms.

COLUMNIST ■ BALASUBRAMANI PARANTHAMAN

The invisible threat: Microplastics, our environment's looming health crisis

We live in the age of plastics -- a wonder material that has made life easier. From packaging, clothing to electronics and medicine, plastic has become an inseparable part of modern living. But its convenience now comes at a steep price.

Around the world, non-degradable plastic waste has broken down into tiny fragments so small that we eat, drink and even breathe them every single day. These invisible particles, known as microplastics, are pieces of plastic small enough to slip inside human cells, potentially disrupting their normal functions. We are not just living in a plastic world, but in a plastic body.

Microplastics enter the environment in two main ways. Some are primary microplastics -- tiny by design. They were common in facial scrubs, toothpaste and cleaning products. Though using these microbeads has been banned, they still appear as industrial abrasives, pre-production plastic pellets and fibers shed from synthetic clothing. In fact, washing a single polyester garment can release nearly 2,000 plastic fibers into wastewater.

The rest are secondary microplastics, formed when larger plastics like bottles and bags break down. Sunlight, heat and waves

gradually fragment them into smaller pieces.

Since the 1960s, plastic production has exploded, and about eight million metric tons now enter the ocean every year, roughly the equivalent of dumping a garbage truck of plastic into the sea every minute. Once released, these fragments are found everywhere in rain, soil, dust, cosmetics and even table salt. Indoors, microplastics come from carpets, furniture, cookware and toys.

Microplastics have already invaded the entire food chain, starting from the soil itself. Plastic mulch films and fertilizers used in farming release microplastics into the ground. Plants can absorb these tiny particles through their roots, and they can end up in stem, leaves and fruits. Since vegetables are a major part of the human diet, this contamination represents a direct pathway into our food.

Farm animals also consume microplastics through feed, hay and silage wrapped or stored in plastic.

Microplastics have now been detected in human blood, lungs, liver, kidneys, semen, even in pla-

centas and mothers' milk. Research suggests that while most ingested particles are excreted, some remain in the body, where they may accumulate. Once inside the tissues, these plastics can trigger inflammation and stress response. Some of these tiny particles can slip into cells, damage them, including the DNA, and disrupt the cells' normal



PARANTHAMAN

function. The risks are not just physical. Plastics are made from thousands of chemicals, including stabilizers, flame retardants, and colorants, many of which are toxic. Substances like bisphenol-A (BPA) and phthalates are well-known endocrine disruptors that can mimic human hormones and interfere with reproductive and neurological health.

Research studies have shown that microplastics can cross into the brain, accumulating in areas linked to memory and emotion. Inhaling microplastics can irritate lung tissue, leading to inflammation and chronic allergies.

Infants and children are particularly vulnerable to microplastics from plastic bottles, formula packaging, and indoor dust, raising

concerns about their long-term developmental health.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way to remove the microplastics already in our environment. But prevention is still possible, and urgently needed.

On a larger scale, we should step up by reducing single-use disposable plastics and promote sustainable packaging. There is a need to support recycling innovation and development of biodegradable alternatives for use in all fields.

Plastic transformed human life in the 20th century- but in the 21st century, it may become one of our greatest health challenges. The same durability that makes plastic useful also makes it nearly indestructible, allowing it to persist for centuries and penetrate every layer of the biosphere. Recognizing this invisible threat is the first step toward reducing it.

Whether through policy, innovation or personal choice, the time to act is now, before our plastic world becomes an irreversible part of the human body.

Balasubramani Paranthaman is a faculty member in the department of Natural Sciences at Albany State University. His research focuses on nutrition and public health.

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —
LOCAL NEWS

**TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE**

*"For the Lord God is a sun and shield: The Lord will give grace and glory:
no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."*
Psalms 84:11

COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

Nightmare on Pennsylvania Avenue Street

Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right.

-- Stealers Wheel

After watching and reading about some of the imbecilic, B-actor shenanigans going on at the White House to "honor" this country's 250th anniversary, I had this fever dream that has stayed with me.

Here are some of the high/lowlights:

— After stars Luke Brian, Dallas Davidson, Patti LaBelle and Cole Swindell pulled out of a planned shindig at Albany State University Stadium when they found out instead of their promised \$100,000 paydays they would actually get a "hometown special" \$25 gift certificate for lunch at Jimmy Johns, half-off tickets to the Flint RiverQuarium and a sit-down visit with the new wolves at Chehaw Park, Mayor Bo Dorough hastily came up with replacement performers: The local VFW Drum and Bugle Corps, the Albany Mall Inside Walkers Choir and Sister Rubye, who promised to tell the future of every attendee "for just 25 bucks and a free crystal ball cleaning."

And, in my dream, the mayor promised to give citizens a bonus: "Much better entertainment than they would have gotten from those spoiled, rich performers: a taped copy of 'Bloopers and Blunders' from the Albany and Dougherty County Commissions' most outrageous meetings," including the one in which a member of the city commission was called a homophobic slur by a member of the county commission.

— To add to the memorable July 4 event's entertainment, the mayor lined up a hog-calling contest featuring southwest Georgia and east Alabama's best; thumb-wrestling matches from competitors expected to be a part of a new start-up professional league, and a Guess How Much Money the city of Albany and Dougherty County officials spent to enrich themselves and their friends during the past fiscal year contest. Closest guess was to land the guesser a spot among next year's finalists to create a virtual Car Washes of Albany tour, which comes with a \$198,000 top prize.

— An educational element of the Albany Independence Day celebration included a seminar on how



FLETCHER

anyone can become a nonprofit and get tax-free status to add to the state's largest compilation of non-taxed entities among Georgia's 159 counties. Topics were to include: "If People Say Amen to Any of Your Comments, You are a Church;" "Sure, Your 'Feed the Hungry' Campaign References Your Kids and Relatives, But You Deserve Credit, Too;" and "If You Can Teach Others How to Keep From Paying Taxes, Isn't That a Value-Added Topic?"

— For the kiddies, there were to be plenty of wholesome, fun-filled activities: Running through a water feature that's been shut down for three years and counting; how to explain to parents who are struggling to pay utility bills why your getting the latest-generation cellphone is a necessity; why you can't demand free food at restaurants just because everyone gets free food at school; and why your right to free speech allows you to talk back to parents, teachers and law enforcement officials.

— Food vendors for the event were to offer some of the region's exotic favorites: Chilin's and caviar; oxtails and rooster combs; escargot and doodlebugs; possum steaks and gopher tortoise soup; prime rib and prime road kill, as well as sweet tea-flavored syrup, macaroni and hot sauce, and lard cakes with blue-colored icing.

As my dream unfolded, there were all kinds of crazy twists and turns. For instance, the majority among a crowd of three actually walked out on a self-appointed keynote speaker who was explaining why he recently lost an election to an opponent who didn't campaign; members of the Albany Street Team arrested four people for dipping their toes in the Flint River, claiming that the quartet was trying to undo the recent upgrades to the river's anti-sewage spill measures, and several confused visitors shouted derisively at officials who "told us this was going to be a fun, family event."

Thankfully, I woke up — in a sweat — and after a few moments of panic, it dawned on me that this calamity had been a dream. Of course, after I awoke I read a rehash of the ludicrous America 250 nonsense that has been taking place at the nation's capital, and I realized there are things going on in this country that make nightmares pleasant-by-comparison interludes.

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

More reasons to love America

What a country, right? As we celebrate America's 250th birthday on the Fourth of July, let's pause and list a few reasons to love America.

Thanks to cable TV and YouTube, we can still enjoy the Ed Sullivan Show, Little Joe Cartwright and Mary Tyler Moore, even though few people under 40 know who they are.

We have amazing medical workers who respond to the emergencies the rest of us are trying to run away from.

We have cities called Ducktown, Turtletown, Suck Creek, Gruetli-Laager, Orme, Hogjaw Valley, Rising Fawn, Talking Rock, Peavine, Nutbush, Bell Buckle, Rugby, Greenback, Bucksnot, Bugtussle, Burning Bush, Isabella, Box Springs, Rocky Face, Lick Skillet, Butts, Arab, Bartlebaugh, Scratch Ankle, and Beersheba Springs. Just make sure you pronounce it BUR-shuh-buh. Plus, I got an email last week asking me if I knew anybody in Fort Pain, Alabama. That was painful.

We have the Country Music Hall of Fame and Fame Recording Studios. Half of the music I grew up with came out of either Nashville or Muscle Shoals.

We still make Yoo Hoo, Nehi Peach Soda, Goo Goo Clusters, and Zagnut bars.

We have a kind-hearted Tennessee native named Dolly Parton, who shares her sunshine and her fortune.

We have Carol Burnett (93), Dick Van Dyke (100), and Willie Nelson (93). Not long ago, Willie recorded a song called, "I'm Still Not Dead." That's his best title since "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die."

We still have sweet tea, and Southern restaurants that consider banana pudding a side item.

We still have waitresses that call old men "Darlin." Or, at least that's what I've been told.

Even with tablets, Kindles, and all the other items that are supposed to be better than books, we still have great libraries.

We still have some people who respect handicapped spaces, who use their headlights in the rain, and who return shopping carts to their stalls. We don't have enough of those people, but we're working on the others.

We have weather forecasting technology that can tell us it's going to rain five days in advance and can give us a few minutes'

notice of a tornado, right down to our street.

We have homegrown tomatoes, fresh strawberries, Georgia peaches, and Sugar Baby watermelons.

We have public parking apps that keep me from standing in line, trying to stuff dollar bills into a dime-sized slot.

We have texting. Yes, it can be annoying, but it's a blessing when your children live far away. It beats long distance calls, doesn't it?

We have record stores, so we can buy back the vinyl records we cashed in 30 years ago, before we realized vinyl was better.

We have less painful dental procedures, thanks to that wonderful nitrous oxide that makes my toes tingle.

We have root beer floats, chocolate-covered cream-filled doughnuts, and dirty sodas.

We have postal employees and police officers who check on elderly residents.

We have great food labeling, with information on nutrition, calories, ingredients, and expiration dates.

We have "Jeopardy!" (Yeah, 40 years after I said it wouldn't last. "It's too hard," I said.)

We can buy a car online. I actually did that recently, and it was stress-free.

We have life-saving vaccines that really work.

We have wonderful election workers. Their dedication and hard work have ensured fair elections and a peaceful transfer of power throughout our nation's history. Hopefully, they will continue to do so, despite the abuse they have endured in recent years.

We have a handful of patriots in Congress who are willing to put country over party, often at great risk for their own safety, and for that of their family. Their courage serves as a reminder of what has truly made America great.

We still have newspapers, and I hope you are thankful for that. I know I am.

We still have "CBS Sunday Morning." For now, anyway. The new CBS leadership has destroyed much of what made the network great. Hands off "Sunday Morning."

And, we still have a free press that seeks truth and holds those in power accountable. Will it survive the efforts to bring it down? The next couple of years will tell the tale.



CARROLL

COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

The kindness of the underpants angel

The young Walmart cashier looked at me from across her counter. She had just finished ringing up my underpants when she recited my total from the register screen.

I reached into my pocket to pay.

No sooner had my hand slid into my rear pocket than I discovered the pocket was empty. A small wave of confusion swept over me. I patted myself. No wallet.

My confusion turned into embarrassment. The same kind of humiliation I once felt when I peed my pants onstage in front of the entire school assembly and all my friends' parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and next of kin.

I remember the accident well. I remember clutching my bladder while wearing my little Christmas costume. I stopped singing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," and whispered, "Please, God, no." I remember the sensations I felt. The feeling of plumbing system failure. The strange momentary euphoria that comes with complete urethral spasm surrender. And suddenly, I had a river of life flowing out of me.

This was that same kind of feeling.

A line of customers began gathering behind me. I glanced at all my bagged items and felt another wave of embarrassment. Still in the cashier's hand was the new package of cotton underpants.

She said the total again.

"Gimme a second," I said with a nervous laugh.

I started patting my pockets once more.

This time I swatted harder, just in case the added effort might help a wallet spontaneously materialize. Then I graduated to fumbling around in my pockets. Then I started doing the sacred ritual dance of the middle-aged idiot who left his wallet at home.

"Omigosh," I said. "I think I left my wallet at home."

The cashier blinked. She was still holding the men's Fruit of the Looms.

"Do you have the Walmart app?" she asked.

"What's that?"

"What's an app?"

"I know what an app is, but I don't understand what you ..."

"Do you have the Walmart app, sir?"

"I don't understand, my wallet was sitting on the —"

"The Walmart app," she said louder. "Do you have it?"

"I don't know." I handed her my phone. "Do I?"

I now had Stockholm syndrome. I just wanted to please my captor.

The young woman took my phone and started swiping away. The underpants remained clutched in her hand while she used her thumb on my screen. She finally found the Walmart app my wife had evidently installed.

The cashier scanned my phone with her

laser gun a few times, but she was getting frustrated.

The line behind me grew longer.

One customer cleared her throat.

Another customer, an elderly woman, was shooting hate rays at me.

"The app ain't working," said the cashier. "Do you have any other way to pay?"

"I can clean your house."

She gave me a once-over. "I'm going to void the sale."

People in line were already abandoning ship. Several had left the cashier lane with vocal grumbles. The cashier started punching buttons when a lone woman appeared from the shadows. She was pushing a shopping buggy full of white bread.

"Is your name Sean?" the white-bread woman said.

I was disoriented.

"I thought that was you," she went on.

"Have we met?"

The woman was grinning now. "I said to myself, that's just gotta be him. I just knew it was you. I want to give you a hug."

Before I could say anything else, we embraced.

The cashier sighed as we hugged, vacantly staring at the package of underpants in her hand. Then, she eyed me over, mid-hug, as though asking herself the age-old

question: boxers or briefs? Or maybe, she thought, he was wearing those crotch-strangling athletic hybrid underpants which cause temporary lower body paralysis and neutralize all procreative capacity.

"I'd like to buy his groceries," said the woman whom I was hugging.

"Really?" the cashier said.

The woman released me, then removed her credit card.

"What?" I said. "No, that's very kind but it's not necessary, I can't let you —"

But the woman was already handing her plastic to the cashier.

"Are you sure, ma'am?" said the cashier, using my underpants to gesture toward the register display screen. "His total is almost \$200."

"I'll buy them," the woman said.

The cashier shrugged. Then rang the woman up.

The woman's name is Donna Vaughn, and she works at the local nursing home as a dietary manager. I told her how grateful I was. And I assured her I'd be making a special trip to visit the nursing home to pay her back tomorrow. And I kept telling her how pitiful I must seem, and how stupid I felt.

She just smiled and said: "Quit your sorrying. All things happen for a reason. God puts us in the right place at the right time, don't he?"

Don't he just.

Boxers.



DIETRICH

South Georgia LEADS opens applications for 2026-2027 regional leadership initiative

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

VALDOSTA — South Georgia LEADS is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 class of its Regional Leadership Initiative, a premier leadership development program dedicated to cultivating informed, connected and engaged leaders across south Georgia.

The Regional Leadership Initiative brings together professionals from business, education, government, health care, agriculture, economic development and nonprofit organizations to strengthen regional collaboration and build leadership capacity throughout south Georgia. Through a series of immersive learning experiences, participants gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the region while developing relationships with fellow leaders who share a commitment to south Georgia's future.

The 2026-2027 program will include sessions in Americus, Ashburn, Albany, Blakely, Moultrie, Bainbridge and Atlanta, exposing participants to a wide range of industries, communities and leadership perspectives from across the state. Participants will engage with influential leaders, tour

key industries and organizations, and explore the issues shaping south Georgia's economic and community development landscape.

"South Georgia's future depends on strong leaders who are willing to work together across county lines and organizational boundaries," Jason Dunn, vice chair of South Georgia LEADS, said. "The Regional Leadership Initiative creates an environment where participants can expand their perspectives, strengthen their leadership skills, and build relationships that will benefit their communities and our region for years to come."

Since its inception, South Georgia LEADS has developed a growing network of leaders who continue to serve their communities and advance initiatives that support economic growth, workforce development, and quality of life throughout the region.

"The Regional Leadership Initiative provides participants with a unique opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the issues and opportunities impacting south Georgia," Mary Beth Brownlee, chair of South Georgia LEADS, said. "Our graduates consistently tell us that the relationships they build and the experiences they gain through the

program have a lasting impact on both their personal and professional leadership journeys."

Applications are open to individuals who demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to serving their communities and the broader south Georgia region. South Georgia LEADS seeks a diverse cohort representing various industries, professions and geographic areas.

"One of the greatest strengths of the Regional Leadership Initiative is its ability to bring together leaders from different sectors who share a common vision for south Georgia's future," Michael Williams, the executive vice president of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and a South Georgia LEADS board member, said. "The challenges and opportunities facing our region require collaboration, innovation and strong leadership. RLI helps develop those qualities while creating lasting partnerships that strengthen communities, organizations, and the workforce across south Georgia."

The impact of the program is perhaps best reflected through the experiences of its graduates.

"I am honored to have completed the 2025-2026 South Georgia LEADS program, an experience that deepened my

understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our region and reinforced my commitment to servant leadership and community development," Tim Craig, director of business development for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and a 2025-2026 RLI graduate, said. "South Georgia LEADS brought together emerging and established leaders from across the region and demonstrated the power of collaboration, regionalism, and collective action."

"The relationships formed through the program will continue to drive innovation, economic development, and stronger communities across south Georgia. I left the program encouraged by the caliber of leaders in our region and inspired by what we can accomplish when we work together to create opportunities that benefit future generations."

Craig noted that the program strengthened his belief that sustainable growth occurs when leaders work beyond organizational boundaries to serve the common good and that the lessons learned through South Georgia LEADS will continue to inform his efforts to advance entrepreneurship, strengthen community partnerships, and



Special Photo: South Georgia LEADS

South Georgia LEADS recently held a graduation ceremony for its Class of 2025.

support economic prosperity throughout the region.

The cost to participate in the 2026-2027 Regional Leadership Initiative is \$1,500 per participant. South Georgia LEADS is committed to ensuring broad participation and may offer partial, needs-based scholarships in select

circumstances. Applications are currently being accepted, and the final application deadline is July 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Class size is limited, and interested applicants are encouraged to apply early. For more information or to submit an application, visit www.southgeorgialeads.org.



Special Photo: WABE

A United Way study found that a family of four in Georgia needed more than \$77,000 in 2024 to cover the essentials.

Study: Almost half of Georgia households struggle to cover essentials

By Marlon Hyde

WABE

ATLANTA — About half of Georgia households struggle to keep up with the rising cost of basic necessities like utilities and food. That's despite earning above the federal poverty level.

A United Way study found that a family of four in Georgia needed more than \$77,000 in 2024 to cover the essentials.

It also shows that about 44% of Georgia households are having a hard time affording expenses like gas and electricity as prices have gone up. That's higher than the national average, placing Georgia near the

bottom among all states.

Meanwhile, those working families have no room for unexpected and costly expenses like car repairs or medical bills.

Despite black and Hispanic households showing the highest percentage of financial hardship, the United Way of Greater Atlanta says all demographic groups in Georgia are impacted.

According to the consumer price index report, U.S. prices rose to their highest level in three years.

Figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for May show prices rose more than 4% compared to last year. That means Georgians are seeing increases in rent, medical services and

even used cars.

Saloni Firasta-Vastani with Emory University's Goizueta Business School says that for a car-dependent state like Georgia, rising fuel costs mean having to cut back in other areas.

"We've seen a gas price increase ... in the last year for like 40%. So it's felt a little more acutely here in that respect because we don't have good, extensive public transit," Firasta-Vastani said.

Firasta-Vastani recommends shopping at discount grocery stores and setting aside days to prepare meals at home as simple ways to save money.

UGA awards seed grants to support faculty partnerships in rural Georgia

UGA Today

ATHENS — The University of Georgia's Rural Engagement Workshop for Academic Faculty has awarded \$75,000 in seed grants supporting faculty-led projects focused on addressing critical challenges and opportunities in rural Georgia. The grants, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, will help faculty from across the university engage directly with rural communities on issues including rural health care access, postpartum mental health, workforce shortages in veterinary medicine, support for families experiencing dementia and economic development through agritourism and cultural vitality initiatives.

Launched in 2021 through a partnership between the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, the Rural Engagement Workshop helps faculty connect academic expertise with community-identified needs across Georgia. The program is facilitated by faculty and staff from the Archway Partnership, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development and UGA Cooperative Extension.

Through a series of workshops, networking opportunities and community visits, participants gain a deeper understanding of rural Georgia, build relationships with local partners and explore how research can translate into practical, community-informed solutions. The workshop also creates opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty from across UGA.

"These projects demonstrate the power of bringing together research expertise and community partnership to address issues that matter deeply to rural Georgia," Stacy Jones, vice president for Public Service and Outreach, said. "By supporting faculty who are working directly alongside communities, we are strengthening UGA's land-grant and sea-grant mission and helping ensure that the university's knowledge and resources continue to create meaningful impact for the people of Georgia."

Funding for the seed grants is provided by the Office of the Provost and supports UGA's strategic priorities around re-



Special Photo: UGA Today

The University of Georgia's Rural Engagement Workshop for Academic Faculty has awarded \$75,000 in seed grants supporting faculty-led projects focused on addressing critical challenges and opportunities in rural Georgia.

search, innovation and strengthening partnerships with communities across Georgia. Since the workshop began, participating faculty have secured nearly \$14.4 million in subsequent funding tied to projects and partnerships developed through the program, including the interdisciplinary UGA CARE (Cognitive Aging and Research Education) Center. The workshop itself has also received national recognition. In 2024, the program earned an Award of Excellence in Innovation from the University Economic Development Association for its work connecting academic faculty with rural communities across Georgia.

This year's seed grant recipients include:

Kayla Anderson, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, partnering with the Archway Partnership and the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, for a project that engages rural youth in participatory research, place-making, and advocacy to improve public spaces for young people and the broader local community.

Dana Bultman and Patricia Richards, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, partnering with Archway and the Fanning Institute, for a project focused on supporting rural communities through storytelling and the arts.

Caroline Gomez-Di Cesare, School of Medicine (with Ted Futris, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Sarah Haight, College of Public Health), partnering with Archway and FACS Extension, for a project focused on using community partnerships to strengthen rural health outreach.

Sheri Dorn, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (with Hee Lee, School of Social Work), partnering with Archway, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and FACS Extension, for a project

focused on extending support to rural families experiencing dementia.

Rachael Green, College of Veterinary Medicine, partnering with 4-H Extension and ANR Extension, for a project focused on preparing future veterinarians to serve rural Georgia.

Sarah Haight, College of Public Health (with Ted Futris, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Caroline Gomez-Di Cesare, School of Medicine), partnering with Archway and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, for a project focused on postpartum mental health and relationship dynamics among rural parents.

Angie Im, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (with Hee Lee, School of Social Work), partnering with Archway and ANR Extension, for a project focused on strengthening rural community vitality through agritourism and local food systems.

Hee Lee, School of Social Work (with Ted Futris, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Sheri Dorn, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and Angie Im, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences), partnering with Archway and FACS Extension, for a project focused on helping rural families navigate dementia care.

Cameron Thomas, College of Pharmacy (with Kayla Anderson, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences), partnering with the Archway Partnership and FACS Extension, for a project focused on improving access to personalized medicine in rural communities.

The projects will continue to strengthen partnerships between UGA faculty and rural communities while supporting collaborative research and outreach efforts that improve health, economic opportunity and quality of life across the state.

Governor signs elections bill, locking in QR code voting machines for November

By Ty Tagami

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp has signed legislation into law that delays the July 1 ban on the use of QR codes in Georgia's voting machines.

His signature postpones the prohibition until Jan. 1, 2028, giving lawmakers more time to adopt new election procedures.

Senate Bill 3EX, which passed on the last day of the special session, removes Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger from the planning, instead putting lawmakers in charge of recommending a new voting system.

Raffensperger, a Republican who stood firm against President Trump's claims that the 2020 election was stolen, had become a target of GOP lawmakers. They blamed him for sticking with QR codes, and he blamed them for failing to select and pay for an alternative system.

The new law also mandates hand recounts of the top two statewide races on the ballot when the results are within a 0.5% margin.

That requirement entered the

bill through a late amendment. Critics contend the wording was rushed and flawed. The amendment, in describing the necessary margin for a recount, declares that the number of votes for the winner of one of those top two races "shall be not more than one-half of 1% of the total votes which were cast in such qualified contest."

The Coalition for Good Governance, an organization that has long pressured the state to stop using QR codes in elections, wrote in a summary of SB 3EX that it literally "outlawed" race results with margins greater than 0.5%.

Although Democrats largely opposed the measure, Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, voted for it, saying he trusted the Georgia Supreme Court to discern the intent of that language should a losing candidate sue.

McLaurin is the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor. Three Senate Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Harold Jones, II, D-Augusta, voted with him in favor of the bill.

Another 16 Democrats opposed it, including Sen. RaShaun

Kemp, D-Atlanta, who said he doubted the courts would rule in favor of a Democrat, such as the party's nominee for governor.

"What happens if Keisha Lance Bottoms comes up on top and it's by 0.2%?" Kemp said. "I cannot support a bill that we already know has incorrect language in it."

McLaurin alleged that his opponent for lieutenant governor, Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, had secretly worked to sabotage the legislation on behalf of QR code opponents who believe the 2020 election was stolen from Trump. McLaurin said the final version of the bill was "a little clunky" but that it needed to pass to avoid pandemonium during the November midterms.

McLaurin said there were "election deniers in the hallway who are all saying the same thing: don't fix the problem. ... But dear God, we have to fix this problem."

Dolezal did not stand to rebut McLaurin's allegation about sabotage, but Senate President Pro Tem Larry Walker, III, R-Perry, did.

City of Albany officials to host series of data center town hall meetings

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com


ALBANY -- The city of Albany has scheduled a series of town hall meetings at locations throughout the city to discuss the pros and cons of and issues surrounding the possible location of data centers in the community.

Citizens are invited to “be a part of the conversation” as officials ponder the possibility of allowing data centers in the city. The centers, which are becoming increasingly widespread across the country, are used for information storage, vital in tech industries, but opponents note that they use an inordinate

amount of electric power and a community’s water source.

The four town hall meetings are scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on July 7, 9, 21 and 30. The July 7 meeting will be held at Dougherty High School, 1800 Pearce Ave.; the July 9 meeting at Merry Acres Middle School, 1601 Florence Drive; the July 21 meeting at Monroe High School, 900 Lippitt Drive, and the July 30 meeting at the Albany Municipal Auditorium, 200 N. Jackson St.

Topics that will be discussed at the town halls include the basics of data centers, risks and rewards, zoning, impact on utilities costs, water usage and noise concerns.



DATA CENTER TOWNHALL MEETINGS

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION

DATES & LOCATIONS	TOPICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JULY 7 Dougherty Comprehensive High School 1800 Pearce Avenue JULY 9 Merry Acres Middle School 1601 Florence Drive JULY 21 Monroe Comprehensive High School 900 Lippitt Drive JULY 30 Albany Municipal Auditorium 200 N. Jackson Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of Data Centers • Risks and Rewards • Zoning • Impact on Utility Customers • Water Usage • Noise Concerns

Special Illustration



File Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Barbecue enthusiasts are invited to attend a barbecue judging class in Ashburn on Aug. 8.

Barbecue judging class scheduled in Ashburn

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ASHBURN -- Southwest Georgia barbecue enthusiasts who have an interest in barbecue as more than a hobby, are invited to take part in a Georgia Barbecue Association BBQ Judge Training Class.

The class is scheduled Aug. 8 from 12:30 p.m. (check-in) to 5:30 p.m. at Turner County Elementary School, 705 Hudson Ave., in Ashburn.

Participants must attend the entire class to receive credit. Those who cannot remain for the full session are asked not to register.

Class participation is reserved for current GBA members. Those who are re-enrolling because they paid but missed the class in January due to the snow threat should email the association directly at www.bbqga.com. Those who are not members may join the association by going to that same email address and clicking “Join the GBA.”

The class fee is \$50 per person, and the maximum class size is 50 participants. Registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Aug. 6. Registration and payment must be made ahead of time.

Serving as a judge is one of the best ways to become involved in the Georgia Barbecue Association while en-

joying some of the finest barbecue in the country.

Completion of the training qualifies participants to become a certified GBA judge. To become a certified judge and receive a Certified Judge Badge, an individual must judge at least two GBA-sanctioned contests in the following 12 months.

The interactive course provides everything someone needs to confidently judge a GBA-sanctioned contest, including:

• The mission and purpose of the Georgia Barbecue Association;

• How to register and be selected to judge contests;

• GBA comparative judging techniques for all competition meat categories;

• The complete flow of a typical GBA contest from start to finish;

• How to properly complete judging scorecards and comment cards.

The class is presented in a relaxed, interactive format that encourages questions and discussion between instructors and participants.

The training class will conclude with a live practice judging session featuring the loin category, giving participants the opportunity to apply what they’ve learned in a real judging environment.

More than half of Georgia teachers now use AI to prepare for classes

By Ross Williams

Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA — Has your kid ever used artificial intelligence to answer homework questions that their teacher used artificial intelligence to write?

It’s possible, according to a report from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts that found a majority of teachers in the state are using generative AI for planning or in the classroom, but also express concern that students’ use of the technology could harm their learning.

The poll, based on more than 13,000 teacher responses from across the state, found that 59% of those who responded said they use AI for teaching tasks.

Teachers were most likely to say they used AI to prepare for class — 95% of teachers surveyed said they used it for instructional planning and preparation at least a few times a year, with more than half using it at least once a week.

Venecia Whyte-Foster, a middle school English teacher in Savannah-Chatham County, said she was an early adopter of the technology.

“I embraced it immediately as it came out,” she said. “I’m like, ‘OK, this is not going away. My kids are going to use it. How do I use it in my class effectively?’”

Part of what she came up with involves personalized chatbots that turn classroom concepts into escape room-like games where students use what they’ve learned to solve puzzles and progress through levels.

“They have to ask a question directly toward the topic, and then the chatbot will give them more questions, give them information and then ask them questions, and until they’re able to answer those questions effectively, they cannot move on,” she said. “And they love those escape rooms, they love to be the first to get out of the room.”

The task the polled teachers were most hesitant to use AI for was grading student work, with 62% saying they never do that.

Of the teachers who use AI, nearly 90% said it had a positive impact on their classrooms, with majorities saying the technology helped save time, improve their lesson materials and increase student participation.

Teachers who do not use AI told state analysts they believe it invites students to become reliant on the technology, potentially damaging their critical thinking skills and encouraging them to cheat or become lazy. Teachers also expressed concerns about AI accuracy, data privacy and other ethical concerns.

Elementary school teachers told auditors that their

students were the least likely to use AI to complete their work, but adoption of AI for school use grows as students age. A majority of high school teachers report their students using AI on assignments at least half of the time.

Teachers whose students used AI were more likely to say that the technology had a negative impact on their learning, with a majority of middle and high school teachers reporting that AI had a very negative or somewhat negative impact on their students’ learning.

More than half of the teachers surveyed said they required in-class work or writing as a means of managing student AI use. Half of the respondents said they made an effort to clearly define AI abuse and what constitutes cheating, and 43% said they use software or apps to check for AI use in student assignments.

Whyte-Foster said she teaches about AI hallucinations — the word for when AI spits out a confident sounding but totally fabricated response — and why it’s important to double check everything.

“We discuss why it’s important that we understand that it is not something that we just go through, but that we have to use our minds, that we have to put things into place to make sure we are thinking for ourselves, that it’s giving us information so that we can use it in our thinking, as a part of our brainstorming,” she said.

Despite that, Whyte-Foster said students sometimes try to pass along AI-generated work as their own. She said it’s usually easy to spot since she is familiar with her students’ writing abilities from their in-class work. When she gets an AI-produced assignment, she has a talk with the student about academic integrity and offers the chance to re-do the work for a reduced grade.

“They’ll tell you, yes, they’d prefer a 70 to a zero,” she said. “But if they get the 100 or the 90, I’ll put it there, and then put the minus 30 there and just say, ‘Hey, look at this, you did it, you could have done it before. The only reason you have a 70 is because you didn’t follow the guideline in the first place. Next time, choose the right way.’”

About two-thirds of teachers reported that they had received guidance on AI use, while 70% reported that they had received training and 27% reported that they received neither training nor guidance.

Auditors noted that responses were inconsistent within districts, with a portion of teachers reporting they had received training or guidance and others reporting they had not. Auditors suggest that could indicate teachers were unaware of district re-



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

A report from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts found a majority of teachers in the state are using generative AI for planning or in the classroom.

sources or that guidance was provided to some teachers but not others. Teachers in districts with high poverty levels were more likely to say they had not received guidance or training.

The use of AI in K-12 education is not yet addressed in federal or state law, but the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, the agency responsible for licensing teachers, have developed guidance.

In January 2025, the state Department of Education appointed an AI ethics and impact

officer and released guidance outlining best practices. In a statement, State School Superintendent Richard Woods said AI use should come with “serious consideration of the ethical, instructional, and privacy implications.”

“What I never want to see is AI being used to replace the skill and expertise of our teachers, or our students’ ability to develop critical thinking skills,” Woods, a Republican who is running for re-election in November, said. “AI should always be a tool, never a replacement.”

Supreme Court hands win to Monsanto in Roundup case

By Jacob Fischler

Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON — State courts cannot find liability for labeling shortcomings in pesticides and similar products because such products are covered by federal law, the U.S. Supreme Court said in a decision backing agricultural giant Monsanto.

The justices, in a 7-2 decision, threw out a \$1.25 million verdict a Missouri court awarded to a man who said long-term use of the weedkiller Roundup caused him to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of blood cancer.

The herbicide, produced by Monsanto, does not include any warning of carcinogenic material. Monsanto and parent company Bayer deny there is any link, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has routinely found that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, does not likely cause cancer.

Consumer and health advocates, though, said the decision provided companies immunity from health-related claims.

The decision created an unusual split for the conservative-dominated court, with Justice Brett Kavanaugh writing the majority opinion and his fellow conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch joining a dissent written by liberal Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

The majority ruled that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, which governs herbicide use, explicitly pre-empts state



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

In a 7-2 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the \$1.25 million verdict a Missouri court awarded a man who said long-term use of the weedkiller Roundup caused him to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

claims like the one awarded to John Durnell of St. Louis.

Roundup’s label complied with EPA regulations, to which states cannot add requirements, Kavanaugh wrote. Placing a cancer warning would open the company up to civil and criminal penalties for using a label the EPA did not approve, he said.

“In sum, federal law requires Monsanto to sell Roundup with the label that EPA approved at the initial registration and that EPA has subsequently re-approved on multiple occasions — that is, the label without a cancer warning,” he wrote.

“Durnell’s state tort claim, by contrast, would require Monsanto to add a cancer warning to its labels. That Missouri law requirement is ‘in addition to’ and ‘different from’ Monsanto’s federal-law labeling obligations.”

In a statement, Bayer CEO Bill Anderson praised the ruling for providing regulatory certainty to farmers and the herbicide producer.

“This decision is good for American farmers who help feed the world,” he said. “It provides the regulatory clarity necessary for innovators like us to develop the agricultural tools that guarantee an affordable food supply.”

In her dissent, Jackson wrote that the majority’s decision improperly prioritized national uniformity over consumer protection.

While the federal law does include a pre-emption clause, it also includes a provision against “false or misleading” statements. That provision covers the absence of a warning necessary to protect health and the environment, she wrote.

“Ultimately, the effect of the majority’s interpretation is both remarkable and regrettable, for it unjustifiably closes the courthouse doors to state tort plaintiffs like Durnell,” she wrote.

Advocates also criticized what they said was the ruling’s creation of legal immunity for manufacturers.

Bill Jordan, whose 40-year EPA career included three years as the deputy director of the Office of Pesticide Programs during the Obama administration, said in a statement distributed by the Environmental Protection Network, a coalition of former EPA officials, that the decision leaves people “with fewer tools to protect themselves.”

“When people are exposed to pesticides, they deserve honest warnings about the risks,” Jordan said. “If federal protections aren’t enough, states should be able to act before people get sick. This Supreme Court decision favors companies and takes away one of the important ways states can require stronger health warnings for the public.”

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker said on a press call the decision reversed thousands of jury awards to people who said they were harmed by herbicides like Roundup.

The court “sided with the wealthy, powerful multinational corporations, reversing years and years of precedent, dismissing, ultimately, effectively hundreds and hundreds, in fact thousands, of cases,” the New Jersey Democrat said. “They sided with the big multinational corporations against the people.”

Booker said he would introduce an amendment to the farm bill to strip out the pre-emption clause. He also suggested that corporate lobbying and campaign contributions influenced the decision.

Georgia's Daniel Jackson wins Golden Spikes Award

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS - University of Georgia junior catcher Daniel Jackson completed a historic sweep of national awards after being named the 2026 Golden Spikes Award recipient during a live broadcast on MLB Network Monday.

The Golden Spikes Award goes to the nation's top amateur baseball player who best exhibits exceptional on-field ability, exemplary sportsmanship and character, and an overall positive contribution to the sport. Jackson becomes Georgia's second winner in a three-year span, joining Charlie Condon in 2024 after his record-setting season. Georgia is the only school to ever have a pair of winners in a three-year period.

A 6-2, 200-pound native of Sandy Springs, Ga., Jackson became one of only three players (and first catcher) in Division 1 history to post a

season with at least 30 home runs and 25 stolen bases. Jackson led the nation in total bases (212) and runs (88) while ranking second in home runs (32) and RBI (87). He was just the third player in history to capture the SEC Triple Crown, leading the league in batting average (.379), home runs (32) and RBI (school record 87) plus had an SEC-best 1.276 OPS. Also, he went 26-for-28 in stolen base attempts.

Jackson, a consensus First Team All-America selection, helped the Bulldogs set a school record for wins in 2026 as they finished 53-14 and tied for third at the College World Series (CWS). For the first time since 2008, Georgia returned to the CWS plus won the SEC regular season title and claimed the school's first SEC Tournament title.

Jackson claimed three major awards while in Omaha during the CWS earlier this



Special Photo: Conor Dillon, UGAAA

Georgia catcher Daniel Jackson swept the major baseball awards this spring, capping his season with the Golden Spikes Award on Monday. The award is designated as the best amateur baseball player in the country.

month. Jackson received the prestigious Dick Howser Trophy as the nation's top Division 1 player, the Buster

Posey Collegiate Catcher of the Year Award and the Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award. The other

two finalists for the Golden Spikes Award were Roch Cholowsky (UCLA, SS) and Landon Hairston (Arizona State, OF).

When asked on Monday's awards show telecast what took his game to another level in 2026, Jackson replied, "I think it was just focusing on the dedication, being ultra focused on everything, the hitting, the defense and to master the mental game as much as possible, to keep the belief and confidence in myself."

When asked by MLB's Harold Reynolds if he was surprised, he won the award over the other two finalists, Jackson said, "both of those guys had incredible years, I've been sweating it out the last hour or so to be honest. These guys are incredible guys, and I've been able to hang out with them the last couple of days. I'm very grateful."

After Georgia's final game

at the College World Series, Georgia's Ike Cousins head baseball coach Wes Johnson summed up Jackson's tremendous year by saying the Bulldogs don't make it Omaha without him.

"You know, if you think about it, it will go down as one of the best single-season performances in the history of our game, a guy ends up with - he's 25 (HR)-25 (SB) over that," said Johnson. He's the catcher, ends up with 32 home runs and hits .379 with 26 stolen bases."

Jackson along with his several of his Bulldog teammates are now preparing the 2026 MLB Draft. The two-day event will be held July 11-12 in Philadelphia as part of MLB's All-Star Weekend. The first day of the draft will feature four rounds starting at 1:30 p.m. ET. On Sunday, rounds five through 20 will be held.



File photo

Atlanta Braves rookie Didier Fuentes has emerged as a key contributor in the bullpen, posting a 2.59 ERA while becoming the youngest pitcher to appear in the major leagues this season.

Braves may have found another gem

By Miles Schachner

MLB.com

ATLANTA — Didier Fuentes' first taste of the major leagues looked like a lesson in patience.

His second looks like the beginning of something special.

A year after getting roughed up in a brief stint with Atlanta, the 21-year-old right-hander has become one of baseball's most effective young relievers, providing another glimpse of the Braves' remarkable ability to develop homegrown talent.

Atlanta wasn't necessarily planning for Fuentes to become a bullpen weapon this season.

Injuries to the starting rotation forced the organization to accelerate his arrival, but not in the role many expected. Rather than immediately joining the rotation, the Braves opted to use the hard-throwing Colombian in relief while continuing to build toward what they still believe will eventually be his future as a starting pitcher.

The move has paid off better than almost anyone could have imagined.

Fuentes, the youngest pitcher to appear in the major leagues this season, owns a 2.59 ERA with 36 strikeouts in 31 1/3 innings. His emergence has helped strengthen an Atlanta bullpen that entered the week leading the majors with a 2.77 ERA while ranking among baseball's best relief units.

Along the way, manager Brian Snitker has entrusted Fuentes with virtually every important bullpen assignment.

He has entered with runners on base. He has handled setup duties. He has worked as a fireman in high-leverage situations. He has even closed games.

Every assignment has seemed a little bigger than the last.

Every challenge has been met.

The performance stands in sharp contrast to last summer, when Fuentes looked every bit like a pitcher who needed more seasoning. Called to the majors as a starter, he went 0-3 with a 13.85 ERA in four starts during June and July before returning to the minors.

See **BRAVES**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Crews are steadily working on the construction of the new gymnasium at Westover High School as the new school year approaches. Westover principal William Chunn said this week the project is on time and the gym will be completed and ready for basketball on October 31st.

New era nears for Westover basketball

By Joe Whitfield

Sports Editor

ALBANY — When the first basketball bounces across the hardwood floor inside Westover High School's new gymnasium this fall, it will signal much more than the opening of a new building.

It will mark the beginning of a new chapter for one of Southwest Georgia's most storied basketball programs.

After decades inside the building affectionately known as The Boston Garden, the Patriots are preparing to move into a state-of-the-art gymnasium that Westover principal William Chunn says remains on schedule for an Oct. 31 opening.

If construction continues on its current pace, Westover's boys and girls basketball teams will tip off the 2026-27 season in

their new home.

"Everything is going as planned and on schedule," Chunn said. "We definitely have plans to play our 2026-27 basketball schedule in our new gymnasium."

For Chunn, who has served as Westover's principal for the past 26 years, the project represents far more than bricks, steel and polished maple flooring.

It is the realization of a dream shared by generations of Patriots.

"We have waited a very long time for this new gym and I know all Patriots will be proud just as I am," Chunn said. "Our faculty, staff, students, players, parents and alumni truly deserve this."

When the Dougherty County School Board approved construction of a new gymnasium last year as part of a sweeping renovation of

the Westover campus, Chunn made it clear the Patriots deserved more than simply renovating the aging facility that had served the school for decades.

Now, that vision is quickly becoming reality.

The new gymnasium will seat approximately 2,000 spectators and include amenities unimaginable when the original building opened. Plans call for a VIP multipurpose room, a memorabilia area celebrating Westover athletics, expanded concession and dining areas, a weight room, athletic training room, equipment and storage rooms, boys and girls locker rooms for both home and visiting teams, coaches' offices, meeting rooms, laundry facilities, an officials room and a dedicated sound room.

The gym is the centerpiece of a larger

See **WESTOVER**, 10A

Detroit top pick who faces felony charges released

Field Level Media

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions released cornerback Terrion Arnold on Monday, just hours after a Florida judge granted him \$1 million bail while he awaits trial on multiple felony charges stemming from an alleged kidnapping and armed robbery earlier this year.

Arnold, 23, had been held for more than four days following his arrest last week before appearing Monday in a Hillsborough County courtroom wearing handcuffs and a red jail-issued shirt marked "INMATE." Prosecutors had sought to keep the former first-round draft pick jailed without bond.

Instead, the judge set bail at \$1 million and imposed several conditions, including that Arnold surrender his passport and have no contact with any alleged victims or co-conspirators. The judge declined to require Arnold to wear a GPS monitoring device, noting it could interfere with his professional responsibilities with the Lions.

However, that consideration became moot later Monday when Detroit announced it had released Arnold.

The team offered no explanation beyond acknowledging the move. Last week, after Arnold's arrest,



Special Photo: Junfu Han / USA TODAY NETWORK

Detroit Lions cornerback Terrion Arnold signs autographs for fans during a team event. The former first-round draft pick was released by the Lions on Monday after a Florida judge granted him \$1 million bail while he faces multiple felony charges related to an alleged kidnapping and armed robbery case.

See **ARNOLD**, 10A

Bills won't honor O.J. Simpson at new stadium

Field Level Media

Pro Football Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson was the first member of the Buffalo Bills' Wall of Fame in 1980 but he won't be honored at the soon-to-open Highmark Stadium.

The Bills have decided not to include Simpson, who died at 76 in 2024, in their new home. A running back, Simpson was the team's first major superstar during his Buffalo tenure from 1969-77.

However, Simpson was acquitted in the 1994 stabbing deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and waiter Ronald Goldman, but was later found liable for wrongful death in a civil case and ordered to pay \$33.5 million in damages to the families.

"We have made an organizational decision that he is not a fit to display inside our new stadium and family circle," Pete Guelli, Bills president of business operations Pete Guelli, said in a statement.

Simpson's name remained visible in the closing stadium despite public debate over whether it should be removed. The first regular-season game at

Highmark Stadium is scheduled for Sept. 17 against the Detroit Lions.

After winning the 1968 Heisman Trophy in college at Southern California, Simpson was the No. 1 overall pick by the Bills in 1969. He became the first running back to top 2,000 yards when he rushed for 2,003 in a 14-game season in 1973.

Simpson was a five-time first-team All-Pro and a six-time Pro Bowl selection. He gained 10,183 yards for the Bills, which ranks second in franchise history behind Pro Football Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas (11,938 from 1988-99).

Simpson's single-game franchise record of 273 rushing yards in 1976 remains the sixth-best output in NFL history. It was an NFL record at the time.

Before the 1994 murders, Simpson was one of the most popular former athletes in the United States and was a broadcaster and actor. Despite denying any involvement, Simpson's reputation declined, and he became one of the



Special Photo: USA TODAY

Hall of Fame running back O.J. Simpson carries the ball during his playing days with the Buffalo Bills; the franchise announced it will not include Simpson on the Wall of Fame at its new Highmark Stadium despite his record-setting career in Buffalo.

most infamous people in the country.

When Simpson died in 2024

of cancer, neither the Bills nor USC publicly acknowledged his passing.



Special Logo

Andrew College joins NAIA

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

CUTHBERT — Andrew College officially entered a new era Wednesday, completing its transition to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and becoming a full

member of the Southern States Athletic Conference.

The move marks another milestone in the college's rapid growth under President Dr. William Kennedy and Athletic Director Brian Skortz, who have overseen a sweeping expansion of both academic and athletic offerings in recent years.

The Fighting Tigers previously competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association before making the transition to four-year competition as an NAIA member.

The college's athletic department has grown significantly during that transition. In addition to its traditional sports, Andrew has added men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track and field and women's flag football, broadening opportunities for student-athletes.

The move to the NAIA coincides with Andrew's transformation into a four-year institution. The college has introduced nine bachelor's degree programs, allowing student-athletes to complete four-year degrees without transferring while expanding academic opportunities for all students.

Enrollment also has climbed dramatically during Kennedy's tenure. Andrew reported an enrollment of 294 students in the fall of 2022 before surpassing 600 students by the fall of 2024, more than doubling the student population in two years.

Skortz, who also serves as the Fighting Tigers' men's basketball coach, has directed the athletic department through the transition, which included meeting NAIA membership requirements while continuing to build the college's athletic programs. The Southern States Athletic Conference includes institutions from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee and is regarded as one of the NAIA's most competitive leagues.

Andrew's football program will compete as an affiliate member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference beginning with the 2027 season, while the remainder of the Fighting Tigers' athletic programs will compete in the SSAC.

The transition positions Andrew College to compete at the four-year level while continuing the institution's broader effort to expand enrollment, academic programs and athletic opportunities.

From 9A BRAVES

Instead of allowing that difficult introduction to define him, Fuentes used it as a stepping stone.

His rapid improvement has drawn comparisons to some of Atlanta's recent breakout stars. The Braves have built one of baseball's strongest player-development systems by producing young contributors such as Spencer Strider, Michael Harris II and, more recently, National League Rookie of the Year Drake Baldwin.

Fuentes may be next.

Like Strider, he arrived in Atlanta with relatively little experience above Double-A. Before this season, Fuentes had thrown just 44 innings combined at Double-A and Triple-A, leaving plenty of questions about whether he was ready for the game's biggest stage.

So far, those questions have been answered emphatically.

Much of Fuentes' success begins with a blazing four-seam fastball that averages 96.9 mph and has reached 100.1 mph. While the pitch doesn't feature elite vertical

movement, its effectiveness comes from an unusual combination of velocity, a low arm angle and exceptional extension that makes the ball appear to explode on hitters.

Opponents are batting just .227 against the pitch.

His slider has proven equally valuable as an out pitch. Thrown roughly one-quarter of the time, it averages 86.4 mph and generates a whiff rate of more than 34 percent, giving hitters little opportunity to sit on his overpowering fastball.

Despite the early success, the Braves still believe Fuentes is very much a work in progress.

He continues to develop a splitter that could eventually become a reliable third pitch — an important step if he returns to the starting rotation in future seasons.

For now, however, Atlanta isn't worried about what Fuentes might become three years from now.

The Braves simply need outs. The youngest pitcher in the major leagues has delivered them.

If his first full season is any indication, Atlanta may have uncovered yet another homegrown star — only this time, he just happened to arrive through the bullpen instead of the rotation.

Prosecutors have described Arnold as the primary conspirator and alleged ringleader of the attack.

Del Valle and Randazzo reached plea agreements last week and agreed to testify truthfully in future proceedings, according to multiple media reports.

Arnold's representatives have strongly denied the allegations.

"There is no credible evidence linking Mr. Arnold to these allegations," Denise White, CEO of EAG Sports Management, said in a statement. "Instead, the government appears to be relying on testimony from multiple convicted felons who have admitted their own involvement and may have substantial incentives to shift blame in an effort to lessen their sentences."

"Mr. Arnold looks forward to his day in court and is confident that the judicial process will lead to his ultimate vindication."

The former Alabama standout was selected by Detroit in the first round of the 2024 NFL Draft and quickly became a key contributor in the Lions' secondary. Over two seasons, Arnold appeared in 24 games, recording 91 tackles and one interception before his release. His NFL future is now uncertain as the criminal case proceeds through the Florida court system.

Moving the Chains: Paying the price

By Scott Ludwig
MagicLudwig1@gmail.com

When 'the big game' is discussed in college football circles, they're not talking about a recent clash between in-state rivals or the latest 'game of the century.' Rather, they're reminiscing about the one and only truly Big Game: the one played out west between California and Stanford.

Beginning in 1892, these two schools have met on the gridiron annually with just a handful of exceptions: during both World Wars, and a 13-year hiatus from 1906 through 1918 when both schools dropped football in favor of rugby due to concerns about violence in the sport.

The most memorable Big Game may be the one played in 1982, now and forever known simply as 'The Play.' A refresher: Stanford took a 20-19 lead with eight seconds left in the game. On the ensuing kickoff, Cal executed a five-lateral return that resulted in a touchdown.

But it wasn't just any touchdown. The scoring Cal player collided with a Stanford trombone player in the end zone, because the school's band had already encroached the field to celebrate, mistakenly thinking they'd already won the game.

But is it the most memorable game in their 134-year history? Maybe.

Or maybe not. That distinction may very well belong to an encounter that happened more than a century ago. November 29, 1900: Thanksgiving Day, the last time the game was played in San Francisco.

However, what took place inside the stadium at Folsom Grounds that day wasn't what made it memorable. Rather, it's what happened outside.

In 1897, several years before, bleachers collapsed at the game. Fans fell through the seats and landed on the ground. Miraculously, only

one person was hospitalized. A local newspaper called it 'providential chance.'

Fans wouldn't be as fortunate three years later.

But that 1900 matchup doesn't go by a fancy name like 'The Play.'

So I'll give it one of my own. 'The Price.' I'll explain.

In 1900 the annual contest was growing in popularity — 19,000 fans were expected — but the \$1 price tag for a ticket (about \$40 today) was a bit high for most. Rather than paying for the price of a ticket, some fans sought alternate venues from which to see the game.

A contingent of between 500 and 1,000 people (estimates vary) gathered on the roof of the Pacific Glass Works factory across the street from the stadium. Alas, the roof was not equipped to withstand that much weight, and subsequently collapsed 20 minutes after the game began.

Nearly 100 people fell four stories to the factory floor. Nearly that many more fell directly on top of a furnace that had a surface temperature approaching 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

As one would expect, things didn't end well. Screams from inside the building were drowned out by the bands from the two universities. Burned and mutilated bodies were scattered all over the factory floor.

Meanwhile, the game went on as usual. It seems the people inside the stadium were oblivious to what was happening outside.

Thirteen fans lost their lives on the day of the disaster. In the days to follow, another 10 people died. All of the fatalities were either boys or young men, ranging in age from nine months to 46 years.

The reporting of the day's events varied from one publication to the next.

The San Francisco Chronicle said the game was one of the



Scott Ludwig

'closest and most exciting game of football ever played by the elevens (teams) of the two California universities.'

On the other side of the coin, the San Francisco Call reported it as 'perhaps the most horrifying accident that ever happened in San Francisco.'

The Stanford Daily made no mention of it whatsoever.

Whether or not the price of a ticket for the game is the reason for the tragedy will never be known.

But it certainly appears to be a contributing factor.

\$1 for a ticket for a college football in 1900 may not sound like much. That is, until it's put into perspective.

When I was a freshman at the University of Florida, tickets for our five home games cost a total of \$5, or one dollar per game.

One dollar at the turn of the 20th century compared to one dollar 73 years later doesn't sound very reasonable to me, especially when inflation is factored in. You can judge for yourself.

The point of all this? If you happened to notice how much tickets were selling for to this year's National Championship game between Indiana and Miami, you probably understand how out of control things have gotten — especially now that NIL and the transfer portal are consuming the sport.

Could all of this eventually result in a disaster like the one 126 years ago in San Francisco? Only time will tell.

From 9A ARNOLD

the Lions said only they were aware of the legal situation and would not comment "out of respect for the ongoing legal process."

Arnold is charged with four counts of kidnapping and four counts of armed robbery. The Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office has said the charges carry a potential sentence of up to life in prison if he is convicted.

Authorities allege Arnold orchestrated a violent retaliation after reporting that more than \$250,000 in cash and property had been stolen from an Airbnb he rented in Largo, Fla., near Tampa.

According to investigators, Arnold suspected several individuals were responsible for the theft and coordinated with childhood friend Boakai Eugene Hilton and two women, Arianna Del Valle and Jasmine Randazzo, to lure one victim to an apartment on Feb. 4. Police allege three teenage victims were then held at gunpoint, beaten, pistol-whipped and robbed while Arnold and Hilton directed the assault through a livestream and group chat as they traveled to the location.

Investigators later determined none of the victims had been involved in the theft of Arnold's property.

From 9A WESTOVER

campus improvement project that also includes renovations to the auditorium, expanded music facilities, administrative offices and parking improvements.

Few high school basketball programs in Georgia can match Westover's tradition. Over the years, the Patriots have captured multiple state championships, produced Division I talent and built a reputation as one of the state's premier basketball powers. For thousands of former players, students and fans, basketball at Westover has always meant one thing — The Boston Garden.

The nickname wasn't accidental.

Years ago, Chunn chose to honor legendary coach Willie Boston by naming the school's gym after the man who helped

establish Westover basketball as a perennial contender.

"It was a pleasure for me to name our old gym, The Boston Garden, after legendary basketball coach Willie Boston," Chunn said.

Now another question has become one of the hottest topics among alumni and supporters.

What will the new gym be called? "The anticipation of the opening of this new gym is at an all-time high from Patriots all across the Patriot Nation," Chunn said. "They all are curious of what the name of the new gym will be."

For now, Chunn isn't revealing the answer.

"I simply tell them that they fell in love with Westover during their four years here," he said. "Well, you can imagine my love for Westover after 26 years here."

He offered only one playful promise.

"To the Patriot Nation," Chunn said, "I got this."

While excitement continues to build, Chunn made sure to recognize those responsible for bringing the project to life.

"A tip of the hat to JCI Contractors along with SRJ Architects, Volkert and Artesian Contracting Company," he said. "They have done a very fine job of keeping this project on schedule and I truly appreciate their professionalism."

The first games have yet to be played. The first championship banner has yet to be hung. New memories have yet to be made.

But after years of waiting, Westover basketball finally can see the finish line.

On Halloween, one of Southwest Georgia's proudest basketball traditions is expected to have a new home.

EARTHWEEK

Diary of a Changing World

By Steve Newman

Sleepless Reefs

Artificial light from coastal development is disrupting the sleep of coral reef fish, according to a study published in *Current Biology*.

Researchers found that blue-green damselfish exposed to nighttime lighting slept less, became more aggressive, fed at unusual hours and wandered farther from their protective coral shelters.

The fish also showed elevated biological markers associated with DNA damage after prolonged exposure.

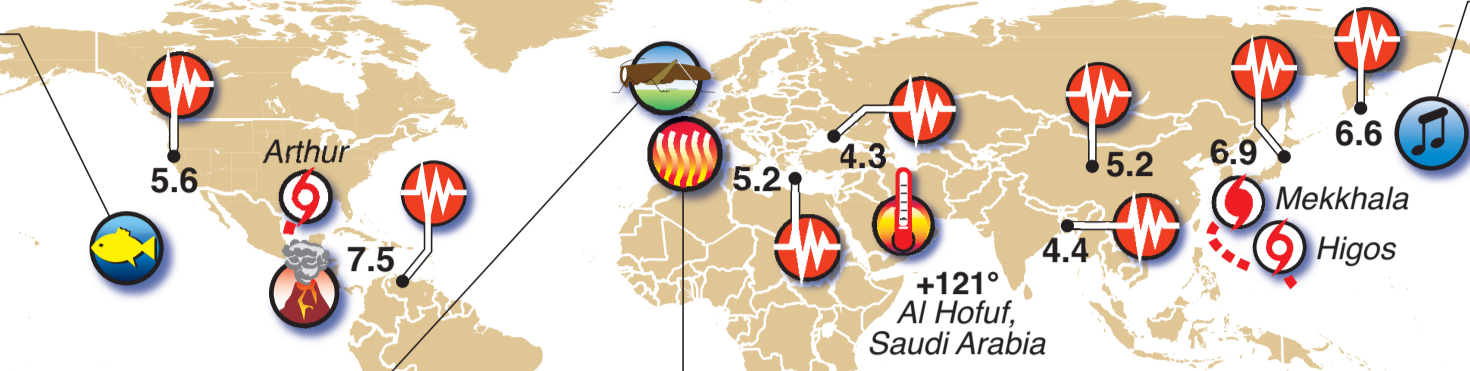
Scientists say roughly 22% of the world's coastlines and 35% of marine protected areas are already affected by light pollution.

Earthquakes

An untold number of Venezuelans were killed when two powerful temblors collapsed buildings in and around Caracas just 39 seconds apart.

Northwestern California was jolted by the strongest quake there since 1940.

Tremors were also felt in Bangladesh, Crimea, China's Qinghai province, northeastern Japan, the Kamchatka Peninsula and Crete.



Pink Survivors

A woman in southwestern England has discovered several rare pink grasshopper nymphs in her backyard, a year after spotting a single adult with the same unusual coloration.

Wildlife experts say the insects' bright pink color is caused by erythrism, a genetic mutation that alters pigmentation.

Because the vivid insects cannot camouflage themselves like ordinary green grasshoppers, they are usually eaten by birds before reaching adulthood.

The survival of several young grasshoppers suggests the mutation has been passed to a new generation.

Long grass in Natasha Welch's backyard, together with four pet cats that discourage bird visits, may have created a safe haven for the rare insects to thrive.

Europe Bakes

A powerful heat wave spread across much of Europe, bringing temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, disrupting transportation, closing schools and contributing to an untold number of deaths.

France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Britain issued their highest heat alerts as forecasters warned some areas could reach 109 degrees.

Scientists said a heat dome trapped hot air over the continent, while long-term warming has made such heat waves more frequent and intense.

More details on this and other items can be found at earthweek.substack.com.

Surprise Eruption

A party of tourists was forced to flee the slopes of Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego (Fire Volcano) after a sudden eruption pelted the area around the group with lava bombs.

One hiker later described seeing rocks suddenly raining from above, while another tourist grabbed a frightened dog and carried it to safety.

An incandescent rock melted through part of one woman's coat after it narrowly missed hitting her head.



Pink grasshoppers have been spotted around the world, but are usually eaten by birds long before they reach maturity. Photo: Natasha Welch

-103°
Vostok Station,
Antarctica

The Hum Within

For decades, people around the world have reported hearing a persistent low-frequency hum that those around them cannot hear, a mystery known simply as "The Hum."

A study published in *PLOS One* suggests that many of these reports may actually be a previously under-recognized form of low-frequency tinnitus rather than sounds originating from the outside world.

German researchers found little evidence that people who experience The Hum have unusually sensitive hearing. They conclude that while some cases may have external causes, many are likely generated within the brain's auditory system.

Tropical Cyclones

Short-lived Tropical Storm Arthur soaked parts of eastern Texas and Louisiana.

Japan braced for a rare one-two punch from Typhoon Mekkhalha and Tropical Storm Higos, which were expected to unleash widespread flooding within days of each other's arrival.

Dist. by: Andrews McMeel Syndication ©MMXXVI Earth Environment Service

Obituary announcements

Susie Anglin

Susie Bryant Anglin, 87, of Camilla died Monday, June 29, 2026 at her residence in Camilla.

Graveside funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 3 at Pinecrest Memory Gardens. Rev. Derek Milton will officiate.

Born July 31, 1938 in Moultrie, GA, Mrs. Anglin was the daughter of the late Lee Jackson "Bio" Bryant and Susie Ethel Morris Bryant. She was married to the late Chesterfield Anglin, Jr. and was also preceded in death by a brother, Earl Bryant and two sisters, Christine Salter and Doris Ragan.

Mrs. Anglin was a member of First Baptist Church of Camilla. She ran a daycare and worked as a bookkeeper for Dixon Hardware and Stones.

She was a devoted wife and the proud mother of five boys, something she made sure everyone knew. But beyond that, she was the most loving grandmother and great grandmother, always happiest when surrounded by her grandbabies. She truly had a special gift with babies, our very own baby whisperer.

Susie found so much joy in loving others through her cooking, her cakes, her meals, and especially her Sunday dinners brought our family together. And if you knew her, you knew how much she loved hearing just how good everything tasted. She made the most beautiful birthday, graduation and wedding cakes and they tasted even better than they looked.

She also had such a love for gardening and grew some of the prettiest flowers. Her lilies, roses and amaryllis were absolutely beautiful, and she loved when people would stop and brag on how pretty they were. It brought her so much joy to share that beauty with others.

Her home at Christmas time was something special, glowing with lights you could see from miles away.

She also loved her Atlanta Braves. Watching the games, cheering them on, and talking about them was something she truly enjoyed. Up until her last moments that she went to be with the Lord she was watching the Braves.

She and her late husband were the perfect example of true love, always holding hands, always close, always together. It was fondly remembered by all that they spotted Susie and Chester driving through town, with Susie sitting right beside him in the middle seat.

She loved us deeply, faithfully, and without hesitation.

Survivors include five sons, Chris Anglin (Cindy) of Camilla, Glynn Anglin of Frederick, MD, Lynn Anglin of Meigs, Chet Anglin (Sheila) of Camilla, and Rodney Jake Anglin of Tifton; sister, Eunice Sellers of Rose Hill; sister-in-law, Virginia Bryant; 16 grandchildren, Brandi Byce (Bill), Brooke Anglin Davis (Matt), Bryant Anglin (Rachael), Braden Anglin (Whitney), Beth Gondi (Krishna), David Anglin, Bradley Anglin, Kirstyn Anglin, Corbin Anglin, Courtney Tanner (Mitch), Rodney Jake Anglin, Jr., Dominic Anglin, Brian Anglin (Kimberly), Phalyn Anglin, Abbey Anglin, Lyndsey Anglin; 32 great grandchildren, Braelyn, Hannah Kate, Madison, and Avery Grace Byce, Rylee, Drake, and Dallas Davis, Leighton, Halle Rae, and Blake Anglin, Bristol, Noah, and Wyn Anglin, Ethan, Gavin, Brooke, and Graysen Flynn, Aanya Gondi, Taylor, Aaron, Samuel, Jacob, and Eve Anglin, Callie Anglin, Corbett, Briana, and Zoie Anglin, Reagen and Kyleigh Anglin, Adalyn Anglin, Kinsley and Ellie Tanner.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 2 at Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home in Camilla.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

From 2A

LEUKEMIA

ing a blood drive from noon-5 p.m. on Aug. 13 at 601 N. Washington St. During Brie's illness she frequently had transfusions of one to two pints of blood, said Cruel, who made a presentation this week to the Dougherty County Com-

William "Bill" E Nordstrom

William "Bill" Ernest Nordstrom, 78., of Albany, GA, formally of Los Angeles, CA., died Sunday, June 28, 2026 at Wynfield Park Health and Rehabilitation. A memorial service will be held at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. His cremains will be interred in the church prayer garden columbarium.

Bill and his twin sister Mary were born in Tsingtao, China on the hospital ship, USS Repose. The family was stationed in that area while his father was a physician in the United States Navy. He graduated from Albany High School and went on to attend the University of Michigan. Bill graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History. He loved history, especially Civil War history. Bill had a vast collection of books on the topic and other periods of history. He loved all sports especially golf and Michigan Football.

He worked for many years for Hercules Bumpers, Inc. Bill was the West Coast Division Sales manager for the company. He also worked for LA Financial Credit Union. Bill was of the Episcopal faith and served as an acolyte as a young man at Christ Episcopal Church in Pensacola, FL.

Bill was gifted and entertained others by playing the piano and singing with joy. He acted in "Damn Yankees" at the Albany Little Theater. He embraced the cultural communities and made himself a part of everywhere he lived be it New Orleans, San Francisco, Honolulu and Los Angeles.

He is preceded in death by his wife Patricia Foley Nordstrom, His father Dr. Harry Charles Nordstrom and his wife Dr. Bernice Walters Nordstrom,

mission.

Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard and Commissioner Anthony Jones handed Cruel donations, leading Cruel and commissioners to grow emotional. She told commissioners that her daughter loved butterflies, a detail she found out from friends about after Brie's death.

"To be honest, she was an introvert," Cruel said. "I didn't

know she was so into butterflies until we had the first balloon release."

A butterfly garden was planted at Radium Springs in the past, Commissioner Clinton Johnson said.

"We used to have a butterfly garden at Radium Springs," he said. "We can look at bringing that back."

Individuals who are interested can read Brie's story and

learn more about the organization at <https://www.briesgift.org/>.

"I think that would be beautiful," Cruel said of the Radium Springs butterfly garden. "Brie loved her school, she loved her city. I think that would be wonderful."

"Brie had seven siblings. She loved her siblings and she loved her family and she loved her community."

To sign our online registry, or to send condolences to the family, you may visit Mathews' website at www.mathewsfuneralhome.com.

Mathews Funeral Home
Albany, GA
229-435-5657

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17

Obituary announcements

Remembering loved ones and honoring their memories

To place an obituary announcement in the Albany Herald, go to <https://legacy.memoriams.com/network/albanyherald/obituary>. Fill out form online and submit payment. WE DO NOT ACCEPT OBITUARIES & PAYMENT BY PHONE.



Assessment of Interest in Establishing a Restoration Advisory Board for the Former Turner Air Force Base



During World War II, the Army acquired 2,500 acres in Dougherty County for what became known as the Turner Air Force Base. The Army constructed an Army Air Force Base that was used as a twin-engine flight school. Following the war, the General Services Administration assumed responsibility for the property and the City of Albany took title of the utilities for the property and now includes commercial, industrial and residential areas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for evaluating, and if necessary, remediating Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) properties such as the former Turner Air Force Base. We have ongoing restoration activities occurring at the Turner Air Force Base FUDS Property.

It is important for the public to have an opportunity to participate in the restoration process, so we are assessing interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board. These boards generally include people from the community and government who review and comment on plans and technical documents related to environmental studies and restoration activities. Members serve as voluntary liaisons between the community and USACE and receive no compensation.

If establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board for the Turner Air Force Base FUDS property interests you, please email CESAS-FUDS@usace.army.mil or call 912.652.5448 by July 30, 2026.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A LONG-TERM RENTAL PROPERTY

Metro Creative Connection

The sharp increase in home prices has been well documented in recent years. Though price increases have varied from market to market, the National Association of Home Builders reports that the average home price increased by 55 percent between the first quarter of 2020 and the third quarter of 2025.

Many adults who otherwise would be in the market to buy a home have felt priced out by the sharp increase in prices. That's led many to the rental market, where more and more adults are looking for long-term solutions. Much like the process of buying a home, finding a long-term rental requires would-be renters to be diligent, patient and honest with themselves about what they're looking for. With that in mind, adults looking for a long-term rental property can keep these tips in mind during their search.

• Get a clear idea of all costs associated with a

property. Monthly rent is the primary expense associated with a rental property, but there might be ancillary costs as well. In addition to the rent, a property might include fees for parking, trash, fitness facilities, recreational facilities like a community pool, and other expenses. These fees can quickly add up, but it's good to note that some of them might remove additional expenses. For example, a property with an on-site fitness facility may come with a monthly access fee, but that fee could be less than an expensive membership at a nearby gym. Take note of all expenses associated with a property and if some of them will cancel out other monthly bills.

• **Get a handle on a potential landlord.** Many renters prefer a responsive landlord who takes their concerns seriously and is quick to act when an issue arises. Long-term renters who find a property they like will be dealing with the landlord for years to come, so prioritize finding a



Special Photo: MCC

landlord with a strong reputation among past and current renters. Many landlords do not have direct access with tenants but communicate through property management firms. Ask the rental listing agent which type of arrangement exists at each property and, if possible, speak with

current tenants to get an idea of the dynamic between the landlord/property manager and residents.

• **Consider the location.** A low monthly rent might be hard to resist, but if a property is far away from the office, those cost savings could be erased by expenses related

to getting to and from work each day. It's also worth noting that a big advantage to renting is the smaller time commitment related to renting a property as opposed to owning one. Rental maintenance and routine property upkeep like mowing is typically left to a landlord or property man-

ager, allowing renters to use that extra time for recreational pursuits or other endeavors. But that advantage can quickly vanish if renters are spending much of their free time commuting.

• **Inquire about rent control.** Rent control laws, if they exist, vary by municipality. Many renters consider finding a rent-controlled property akin to finding a needle in a haystack, but it can be done. Rent control laws often regulate how much a landlord can increase rent at the end of each lease, and those allowable increases tend to be much smaller than the increases that have characterized much of the rental market in recent years. Prospective long-term renters are urged to work with a real estate agent or realtor to find a rent-controlled property in their desired location.

Long-term renting is a viable option for many people. Some patience, research and even a little luck can help individuals find a long-term rental that makes them happy.



APALACHICOLA'S VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA "Walking Our Boys Home" Fundraiser

Details at: www.ThreeServicemenStatueSouth.org
Plaza address: 230 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida
Mailing address: PO Box 333, Apalachicola FL 32329



1. Our iconic statue area desperately needs some intimate shaded seating options to encourage quiet visits with the "Bronze Boys".
2. Our plaza needs a large permanent shaded event pavilion where locals and visitors can gather, and static displays can be left out.
3. Extending our Circle of Freedom memorial brick walkway will improve visitor access.



YES, I want to support Apalachicola's Veterans Memorial Plaza with a gift of \$ _____ today!

- I've enclosed a check # _____
- I donated online at www.threeservicemenstatuesouth.org/fundraising.
- I will make other arrangements for my donation.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____



When is the right time to sell a home?

Metro Creative Connection

Identifying the optimal time to sell a home involves careful consideration of seasonal trends, market conditions and shifting economic indicators. Home equity represents the largest component of personal wealth for most households, and miscalculating the market by even a few days or weeks can result in a substantial financial loss.

Although there is no perfect moment to sell a home, the National Association of Realtors indicates data-driven insights can help maximize profits and minimize stress. The following are some factors that can determine the most advantageous time to sell a home.

• **The seasons are a strong influencer.** According to a Realtor.com analysis of trends from 2018 to 2025, spring consistently is the strongest period for sellers. Mid-spring

is a popular time to list a home because it brings higher buyer demand and lower competition.

• **The school year matters.** Families looking to move will want to get into their new homes before the school year starts. The summer is a peak time for home sales, particularly when buyers can close on properties and move in before the kids start classes. The NAR says homes sell fastest in spring and summer, often in 31 to 35 days, with sales rising through June.

• **Timing is localized, too.** Some markets do not follow the typical seasonal trajectory. For example, home sales in San Jose, Calif., peak during the first two weeks of February, according to Zillow. The Silicon Valley market and surrounding areas feature chronically low inventory, so this early selling window allows sellers to capture highly motivated buyers. Other markets around the country challenge conventional wis-

dom as well, and relying on a knowledgeable real estate profession can help sellers list at the best time in their markets.

• **Financial and market factors play roles.** Market conditions will often matter more than the calendar when it comes to the real estate market. The NAR forecasted a 14 percent increase in existing home sales for 2026 due mortgage rate stabilization and an increase in inventory. Sellers benefit most when inventory is tight and buyer demand is solid. Zillow says 78 percent of sellers cite major changes like job relocation, family size shifts or lifestyle needs as driving decisions to move and buy.

Ultimately the right time to sell a home is when personal needs coordinate with reasonable market strength. Analysis of local data and reliance on local professionals can help homeowners sell on their terms.



Special Photo: MCC

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Associate Broker, CRS, ABR
RE/MAX of Albany
1819 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707
229.434.1600 - Office
229.343.4200 - Mobile
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Open field doctrine

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Since the Georgia Department of Natural Resources was first created in 1911 hunters have debated the Fourth Amendment’s protection as it relates to hunting and fishing on private property in the state. The origins of the debate are rooted in the American ideal that, although land may be privately owned the game that is found on it belongs to the people.

These sometimes conflicting philosophies have created a

where the Open Fields Doctrine (OFD) comes into play. The principles outlined in the Open Fields Doctrine (OFD) originates from *Hester v. United States* (1924), whereby the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) held that the Fourth Amendment’s protections for “persons, houses, and effects” do not extend to open fields.

This means that areas outside the immediate surroundings of a home, even if privately owned or fenced, generally do not carry a reasonable expectation of privacy under federal law.

beyond “curtilage”, which is defined as the area immediately surrounding the home. According to an analysis of public records and mapping software, a recent Institute for Justice Study determined that at least 96 percent of all private land in the country or an area of approximately 1.2 billion acres falls outside the curtilage definition and is thereby subject to unfettered government searches and surveillance.

In *Oliver v. United States* (1984), the Kentucky State Police acted on a tip acted on a tip that marijuana was being cultivated on Ray Oliver’s farm. Upon arriving, they encountered a locked gate marked with a “No Trespassing” sign but chose to bypass it using a footpath. They discovered a marijuana field over a mile from Oliver’s home. The District Court initially suppressed the evidence found, ruling that Oliver had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

However, the Court of Appeals reversed this decision,

the assertion that the Officers involved were lawfully present when they observed marijuana in the woods and no warrant was required to seize the contraband found in an “open field.”

Georgia courts routinely follow the OFD with a broad interpretation. A review of the cases indicate that this is particularly true with the prosecution of cases where illegal alcohol or controlled substances are involved. The courts rarely depart from the federal Fourth Amendment precedents.

The same courts routinely hold that: Woods, Swamp, and brushy areas. Large tracts of rural acreage. Trails, footpaths, or clearings. Barns and sheds are not part of domestic life.

Fenced areas not enclosed to include the house. This holds true regardless of “Posting” or “No Trespassing” the land in question.

As a result, law enforcement officers including game wardens may enter non-curtilage land without a warrant. The definition of curtilage is narrow and includes only the area immediately surrounding the home that is used for domestic purposes. Everything else is treated as “open fields.” The evidence found in these areas during the search of these areas is generally considered to be admissible in a court of law.

The debate has only intensified as technological advances have allowed LEO surveillance activities on properties to extend beyond a physical presence through the use of drones and trail cameras. While most Georgians appear to have no problem with the OFD as it relates to seizures, arrests and prosecutions related to illicit drugs and alcohol. They tend to react differently when they are charged with violating game laws where the evidence is gathered and treated in the same manner.

Georgia DNR has used the OFD for decades allowing game wardens to enter and search private property for evidence without a warrant or landowner permission. They may look

for evidence of baiting, illegally harvesting game, illegal trapping, poaching, or other game violations including bag limits and possession of game.

Many hunters support the doctrine because it doesn’t allow the large landowners to avoid scrutiny from the eyes of the law. For others it serves as a means of insuring that non-resident hunters in control of large leases are not exempt from the law. It is also recognized that the OFD is also one of the most powerful tools that the Georgia DNR has to combat poaching.

Currently a growing number of hunters see the OFD as an example of government overreach threatening personal property rights as well as personal freedom. The increased use of drones and surveillance by hidden cameras has many hunters reassessing their position on OFD.

Evidence of these growing concerns are showing up on social media sites focusing on outdoor activities.

For decades aerial surveillance from fixed wing air craft and helicopters has not triggered Fourth Amendment protection. Today drones are pushing the envelope of this surveillance even farther. The ability to capture video evidence from trail cameras is also currently acceptable under the OFD. However, many believe that the technology is going beyond even the current broad interpretation of the doctrine.

Although the majority of states have accepted the broad federal interpretation of the OFD for more than a century the state courts in Tennessee have pushed back against it. Interestingly, in 1926 just two years after the SOTUS announced the doctrine, the Tennessee Supreme Court objected stating, private land needed greater protection. This sentiment did not fade overtime it just took almost a century to gain traction. Two cases brought against the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) highlight a judicial shift.

Two cases in Tennessee highlight a shift in State Court interpretations of the OFD. In the 2018 Hunter Hollingsworth discovered a trail camera hidden on his property. He took the camera down and upon further inspection discovered the camera contained digital photographs of Officers of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents. In the second case TWRA entered onto the land owned by Hunter Hollingsworth placing cameras there in an effort to gain evidence of violations of game laws.

Rainwater and Hollingsworth sued the TWRA for violating their rights under the state constitution. Both were represented by the Institute for Justice, “which defends property rights nationally and is currently litigating cases against the OFD in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Louisiana. In May of 2024 A Tennessee appeals court ruled in their favor with a split decision ruling against warrantless searches on private land that is put to “actual use” violates the Tennessee Constitution. The state did not appeal providing standing to this legal victory.

“This final victory has been a long time coming,” said Terry Rainwaters. “For too long, TWRA officers have treated my private land like public property. But in Tennessee, our land just means more. It’s part of who we are. And to hear the court say that our land deserves protection from TWRA’s warrantless intrusions makes me proud to be a Tennessean.”

Although the OFD is not codified in a single Georgia statute it is addressed in Georgia case law. While Georgia law does not create a new exception, it recognizes the doctrine as a legal principle for determining when warrantless searches of open fields are permissible. The ongoing debate over the state constitutionality of the OFD is likely to become more contentious as technology makes “state surveillance” an even hotter topic of discussion.



Special Photos
Posted signs.



sometimes contentious debate over the rights of private land owners and law enforcement officers (LEO). While the Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unreasonable searches and seizure in their homes the same is not necessarily true for all property.

This is particularly true when it comes to rural properties,

Therefore, the jar of moonshine Hester was observed to drop while fleeing a raid on his property could be used as evidence against him in a court of law. The opinion of the court in this case was written by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The doctrine’s name is somewhat misleading given the fact that it applies to all private land

citing the OFD.

The OFD has been applied repeatedly by Georgia Courts. In its ruling *State v. Clark* (2003) the Georgia Court of Appeals reversed a suppression order and held that, “densely wooded, swamy areas outside the curtilage are still open fields” for Fourth Amendment Purposes. The ruling went on to support

grasslands.

Recognizing the critical role that hunters play in wildlife and habitat management, the NWTf fosters partnerships, supports scientific research and advocates for state and national policies that promote sustainable hunting practices. These efforts ensure that future generations can enjoy not only the thrill of the hunt, but the beauty of the environment required to sustain the prey.

Chapter President, Thomas Williams said he is encouraged by the support and interest generated by the unified tri-county collaborative, including Dougherty, Lee, and Worth counties. However, participation is not limited to residents of those counties, and anyone interested in joining the chapter is welcome to attend.

Although the event is not being advertised as a banquet, a meal and cold drinks are included in the price of admission, which also covers the cost of an annual NWTf membership. A variety of raffles and a silent auction offer those in attendance a chance to win a variety of items including NWTf

collectibles, outdoor gear, and firearms.

The funds generated by the gun bash will go toward supporting the local, state and national goals of the organization. Alex Porter, the regional director of NWTf Georgia, explained how those funds are utilized. During the past year habitat restoration and management projects impacted 38,000 acres in the state. The funds raised by chapters in the state generated \$257,322 related to conservation efforts in Georgia.

A breakdown of these funds show that:

- \$168,828 went to habitat projects in the state;
- An endowed professorship at UGA received \$40,000;
- \$20,000 went to the state land acquisition account;
- \$26,000-plus went to Georgia DNR Law Enforcement support.

Porter said that use of NWTf state Super Funds for the endowed professorship were so successful, other state organizations are working to follow the example.

Information posted by the National Wild Turkey Feder-

ation on its website indicate that more than a million dollars has now been raised for the endowed chair position.

Other projects and goals of the Flint River Longbeard Chapter include supporting an area high school shotgun team, and a college scholarship program.

Porter explained how local chapters can participate in a national scholarship plan. Local chapters have a competitive scholarship offer of \$500 that they award. The recipient of this local scholarship is eligible to compete for a \$2,500 scholarship. The winner of that scholarship is eligible to compete against other state winners in a national competition for a \$10,000 scholarship award.

The application process for this scholarship program begins in November.

Other programs and projects, including Habitat For the Hatch and jake hunts, will be announced in the coming months as the chapter gets rolling.

“This year more turkeys were reported harvested in Georgia than eight out of the past 10 years,” Porter said.

Anyone interested in support-

ing the continued success of the NWTf should make plans to attend the bash. For more information regarding the event,

contact Chapter Secretary Samantha Linhart at <https://events.nwtf.org/EVT-21694/tickets?type=ticket>

‘Flint River Longbeards’ to join national Wild Turkey Federation

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Flint River Longbeards chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will hold a gun bash at Red Oaks Estate on Aug. 1, to kick off the formation of a new area chapter.

The event kicks off at 6 p.m. Officials say the bash is not only an opportunity to enjoy a great meal and win some outdoor gear, including firearms, but attendees are invited to become members of an organization that supports wildlife conservation efforts at the local and state levels.

The National Wild Turkey Federation was founded in 1973 and has become the leading conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wild turkey populations and their habitat. At that time, turkeys were threatened to the point of extinction in many areas of the country.

The work initiated and supported by local NWTf chapters not only benefits turkeys but also contributes to the overall health and biodiversity of North America’s forests and

Special Illustration

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 1835 Arlington Park Circle Albany, GA 31701. 1850 sq. ft., built in 2014, hardwood flooring, 2 BR/2 bathrooms, living area open floor plan, huge island, dining room, 2-car garage, lots of storage. \$300,000
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 230 Frost St. off East Broad Ave. 3 BR, 1 bath, newly renovated.
 863-608-2477 or linkedgar@outlook.com

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

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 Do you need a private sitter to care for your loved ones in their home?
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Miscellaneous

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

MERCHANDISE
Good Things to Eat

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

Miscellaneous for sale

For Sale: 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.

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-616 INVITATION TO BID Drone Pod Installation
BID REF. #26-063
 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 14, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be at 10:00 AM, June 18, 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 by Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer July 4, 2026

Corporations

A-626 NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION
 A Notice of Intent to Dissolve Whiz Kids Georgia, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation with registered office at 2126 E. Edgewater Drive, Albany, Georgia 31707, has been delivered to the Secretary of State in accordance with the applicable provisions of the laws of Georgia. July 4, 11, 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-637 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY IN RE: ESTATE OF Oscar Lawrence Hayes, Deceased
 All creditors of the estate of Oscar Lawrence Hayes, deceased, late of Dougherty County, 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.
 Debra Farmer

Debtors & Creditors

Administrator of the estate of Oscar Lawrence Hayes, deceased
 2402 Pendleton Street Albany, GA 31721
 OCGA 53-7-41 states:
 "...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."
 July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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 Delwanna 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-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-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 Anne 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-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 Mantiocote Circle Tallahassee, FL 32303
 Willis A. DuVall
 P. O. Box 128 Edison, GA 39846
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 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-608 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 State of Georgia, County of DOUGHERTY
 Estate No. 2026-ES-148
 All creditors of the Estate of ROBERT LEE CLAYTON, 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.
 Rodney Clayton
 Administrator of the Estate of Robert Lee Clayton
 c/o Christopher A. Flowers.
 504 N. Jefferson Street
 Albany, GA 31701
 July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

A-609 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 State of Georgia, County of DOUGHERTY
 Estate No. 2026-ES-147
 All creditors of the Estate of PATRICIA DELORIS CLAYTON, 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.
 Rodney Clayton
 Administrator of the Estate of Patricia Deloris Clayton

Debtors & Creditors

c/o Christopher A. Flowers.
 504 N. Jefferson Street
 Albany, GA 31701
 July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 in 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-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 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-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-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 Charles 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 Estate of Charles R. Little
 c/o John M. Moorhead, Esquire
 314 W. Residence Avenue
 Albany, Georgia 31701
 June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Divorces

A-580 Dougherty COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 Petitioner: Haley Johnson V.
 Respondent: Benjamin Johnson
 Civil Action Case Number: 26-SUCV-597-4

NOTICE OF SUMMONS
 TO: Benjamin Johnson, 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 June 22, 2026. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on June 26, 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 635 12th Avenue, 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 26th day of June, 2026.
 Judge Joseph W. Dent
 Dougherty County Superior Court
 Albany, Georgia July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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 17th day of April, 2026.
 Judge Joseph W. Dent
 Dougherty County Superior Court
 State of Georgia
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Grand Jury Presentments

A-614 DOUGHERTY COUNTY GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT MAY TERM 2026

To: The Honorable Denise Marshall The Honorable Victoria S. Darrisaw The Honorable Joseph W. Dent The Honorable Victoria M. Johnson (Judges of the Superior Court)
 The Grand Jury would like to thank the District Attorney, Gregory W. Edwards, and his staff for the high level of professionalism and respect they demonstrated the entire time we were under their care. We further commend the District Attorney for enlightening us on the various crimes happening in our community and the laws that are to be enforced regarding those matters. We specially commend the District Attorney's Office along with the Clerk of Court's Office for their hard work and dedication in preparing the cases for the Grand Jurors.
 Additionally, we thank the Albany Police Department, the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office, and the Albany Dougherty Special Investigative Unit (ADSIU), and specifically ADSIU Investigator Jontrevous Keith who provided us with information on drugs and gangs in this area. Our thanks go out to these and other special employees for their hard work and concern for the citizens of Albany and Dougherty County. This Grand Jury appreciates the attentiveness and help of our bailiffs, Clarence Lanier and Donald Lamb.
 We further thank Corporal Lashana Hudson, Albany Police Department, and Aspire Behavioral Health, for providing us with information on the REACH Co-Response Team ("Responding, Engaging, and Cultivating Hope").
 We commend Sheriff Terron Hayes for allowing us to tour and inspect the Dougherty County Jail Facility and for the hospitality we were shown by the staff, including the lunch that was prepared for us. The tour was enlightening as well as educational for the members of the Grand Jury. We extend further commendations to Sheriff Hayes and his staff for their dedicated work, not just at their work sites, but also in the community.
 We formally inspected the Dougherty County Clerk of Court's Office on June 10, 2026, and we find that this department is in good order and operating efficiently. We find, however, that additional space is needed for this department and its personnel and operations; we recommend that additional space for this department be made a priority in future reallocation of space.
 We formally inspected the Dougherty County Probate Court on June 10, 2026, and we find that the records and other materials of this Office are in good order and the Probate Court is operating efficiently.
 The Grand Jury was presented with 85 Indictments, 81 were returned as True Bills and there were 4 No Bills. An additional 17 were filed by the District Attorney for Accusation.
 The Grand Jury makes the following recommendations:
 We recommend the County increase funding for Dougherty County Sheriff's office personnel to be competitive with surrounding jurisdictions to ensure we are able to attract and retain the best possible candidates.
 We recommend the City and County restrict the approval of additional car wash developments and instead encourage more diverse and beneficial use of commercial land.
 We recommend the formation of a citizen's committee to review Grand Jury Presentments to monitor and ensure that the Presentments are considered by the appropriate officials and implemented.
 We have observed that certain areas of the City and County have large waste pick-up requirements. We recommend that City and County officials give special attention to those areas and provide additional waste management services as necessitated.
 We have observed that the tenants of Summer Tree Apartments near Beattie Road have made frequent requests for attention to bushes and shrubbery near that area that obscure visibility for through traffic. We therefore recommend immediate attention be given to address this ongoing concern and potential hazard.
 We recommend that appropriate paving be applied to roadways in the City and County; we have observed that patchwork treatment of potholes is insufficient to save citizens' the costs of tire repairs and related maintenance. Taxpayers rely on this service to avoid spending their funds on tire repairs.
 Due to reported concerns and findings about air quality and water supply, we recommend that the City and County pay attention to what is happening to other cities and counties that have brought data centers into their communities.
 We recommend as a public health and safety precaution that N95 mask stations be placed at all public buildings and police stations in the City and County to be available for citizens' use due to the new prevalence of the Hantavirus and Ebola Virus Diseases.
 We recommend that the City and County policies be directed towards two important goals: providing services to the homeless and further ensuring that veterans can transition back into society.
 We have observed that when children and teens have sufficient behavioral health services, they are more likely to be successful in life. We believe further that appropriate resources will cut down the number of mental health inmates in our judicial system. We therefore recommend an increase of available behavioral health support services including institutions or agencies such as Aspire Behavioral Health and related resources in the public school system.
 Respectfully submitted on the 24th day of June 2026.
 Eddie Lee Ross - Foreperson
 Kimberly Miesha Cole - Vice Foreperson
 Sydney Thompson Henderson - Secretary

Grand Jury Presentments

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY: THE GRAND JURORS, selected, CHosen and SWORN for the County of Dougherty, to wit:

- Eddie Lee Ross - Foreperson
 - Kimberly Miesha Cole - Vice Foreperson
 - Sydney Thompson Henderson - Secretary
 - Kenada Ternard Stephens - Sgt. At Arms
 - Ta'nya Dashawn Howard
 - Calvin Mecole Parks
 - Angela Denise Wall
 - Ashley Monique Brown
 - Lee Dwight Martin
 - Jacara Sharadae Fuller-Brooks
 - Taylor Diane Darrow
 - Sherry Clark Stith
 - Ethel Wallace McCray
 - Kimberly Jackson Lewis
 - Estel Renea Jones
 - Sonya Yvette Gardner
 - David Heath Sands
 - Doretha Redden Jones
 - Meril Williams
 - Clarence Vernon Knight Jr.
 - Sherry West Cauty
 - Gina Kennedy Goodson
 - Sheronda Lyvette Seay
- IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
 IN RE: MAY TERM GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS
 ORDER
 The Grand Jury concluded its service today and made its written and oral presentments in open court. Same shall be filed by the Clerk of Court and published in the legal organ as required by the state law.
 So, ordered, this 24th day of June 2026.
 Joseph W. Dent
 Judge of Superior Court Dougherty Judicial Circuit
 July 4, 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. E.J. 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 Vontresa 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 on the 25th day of August, 2026, 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 573-7225/wjgodfrey@wjgodfrey.com
 Georgia Bar Number 076119
 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, GA 31701
 (229) 436-8462
 whburt3@gmail.com
 June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

A-574 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: NAME CHANGE PETITION: FILED ON BEHALF OF LEE RICHARD PURVIS CIVIL ACTION NO.: 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, 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

Miscellaneous

A-621 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA STATE DISCIPLINARY BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCIPLINE
RE: In the Matter of Lisa Paige Lenn in accordance with Rule 4-219(a), disciplinary action has been taken against the following attorney in Georgia:
 Lisa Paige Lenn
 202 N. Madison Street
 Albany, GA 31701
 State Bar No. 446520
 Supreme Court Docket Number: S26Y1019
 Date of Opinion: June 16, 2026
 Disbarment/Voluntary Surrender of License
 July 4, 2026

A-618 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA BY ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THAT ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY KNOWN AS "THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE ACT OF 1965"

Miscellaneous

Notice is hereby given that ordinances were introduced on June 23, 2026, and will be read for final adoption on July 28, 2026, to amend the Charter of the City of Albany, Georgia, which was created by an act amended on August 18, 1923 (Ga. L. 1923, p. 370), as amended, so as to:
Amend Section 26 of the Charter of the City of Albany to provide for clarification of Ordinance Numbers 15-101, 18-119 and 23-117 and to increase the Utility Board Purchasing Power.
 Copies of the proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Albany, Georgia are on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Albany, and in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public, all as required by law.
 This 23rd day of June, 2026.
 Michael M. Custer
 City Attorney
 City of Albany, Georgia
 222 Pine Ave, Ste. 560
 Albany, GA 31701
 229.431.2805 (office)
 229.431.3206 (facsimile)
 July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Name Changes

A-623 NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
 STATE OF GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY
 Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, GERELINE COE BUTLER, by and through her attorney of record, MARK T. PHILLIPS, filed her Petition to the Superior Court of DOUGHERTY County, Georgia, on the 23rd day of June 2026, praying for a change of name from GERELINE COE BUTLER to the name GERALDINE COE. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objection to such name change. Objection must be filed with said Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said petition.
 This 23rd day of June 2026.
 MARK T. PHILLIPS
 Post Office Box 70728
 Albany, Georgia 31708-0728
 (229) 439-9100
 Mark@pnpclaw.com
 July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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, GA 31701
 (229) 436-8462
 whburt3@gmail.com
 CHRISTIN BROOKE PURVIS
 Petitioner

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

A-574 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: NAME CHANGE PETITION: FILED ON BEHALF OF LEE RICHARD PURVIS CIVIL ACTION NO.: SUCV2026000559
NOTICE

Probate Court Administration

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-583
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: PRISCILLA ANN HAYES

ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-209
Demetria Sutton has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **PRISCILLA ANN HAYES**, 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-610
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: RAY ANTHONY REESE

ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-183
Ray Anthony Northern has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **RAY ANTHONY REESE**, 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 27, 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

July 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026

Probate Court 12 mth Support

A-566
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: JAMES FREDERICK BLANFORD

ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-201

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, for 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

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 **Lisa J. Gadson** for a year's support from the estate of **MICHAEL TODD GADSON, SR.**, Deceased, for Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby 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 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

Probate Court 12 mth Support

Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

A-617
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: ROBERT JAMES CLEMENTS
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-219
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The Petition of **Carrie Cecelia Clements** for a year's support from the estate of **ROBERT JAMES CLEMENTS**, Deceased, for Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before **July 27, 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

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 DECEDENT), EDWARD M. BACARRI, 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 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
Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102

June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-622
CASE NAME: MARTHA CARTER JUDGE

CASE NO: 2026-ES-221
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: DEIRDRE ROBINSON, JA'BREKIA BASS, 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 **August 3, 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 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
Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 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
Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 **Lisa J. Gadson** for a year's support from the estate of **MICHAEL TODD GADSON, SR.**, Deceased, for Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby 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

A-620
NOTICE (For Discharge from Office and all Liability)

PROBATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
ESTATE NO: 14-PRO-210
PETITION OF JAMES KEITH AMBROSE

FOR DISCHARGE AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF: NETTIE JEAN HOLMES

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this Court on or before **July 14, 2026**.

Probate Court Discharge

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections. 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, PROBATE JUDGE
Dougherty County Probate Court
Post Office Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702-1827
(229) 431-2102

July 4, 2026

Public Sales/ Auctions

A-634
NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held by competitive bid on www.storageauctions.net on 7-24-2026 at 11:00am to satisfy the Lien on the property stored at Store Here Self Storage [Formerly Known As: Storage Suite LLC] at 1636 Phiemia Rd Suite 2 Albany, GA 31701 in the units listed. Tenants may have noted the inventories listed at the time of rental. Landlord makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories.

XB06=Robert Lewis-Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XF20=Jordan Barkley- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XA42=Renae McNeil- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XE15=Renae McNeil- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

ZC06=Claire Mills- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XC07=Latarra Brooks- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XF27=Chantel Sisneros- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

ZB19=Sharanda Taylor- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XA09=Jatoria Greene- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XD04=Emily Denham- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XF12=Marlisa Nixon- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

XF30=Alrissa Cleare- Misc.
Household Goods/Personal Effects

All units must be paid for at the time of the sale. Credit cards and Money Orders will be the only forms of payment accepted. No checks or Cash. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed by 5:00 p.m. on the day following the sale. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at the time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party.

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-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: JF1VA1E67H9800054
License: RNM5111
State: GA
Case #: 2026-177AV

Make: Hyundai
Year: 2023
Model: Sonata
Vin ID: KMHLD4JA3PA312562
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

Public Sales/ Auctions

License: NONE
State:
Case #: 2026-174AV

Make: BMW
Year: 2007
Model: 5 Series
Vin ID: WBANE7357CM46009
License: TEM1797
State: GA
Case #: 2026-173AV

Make: Honda
Year: 2002
Model: Accord
Vin ID: 1GYSP4PKL2NR85536
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: RSX5947
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

Service by Publication

A-613
IN THE STATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

DONTRAVIOUS ANTWAN BURR, Plaintiff,

V. RODRIZEKUS P STARLING and KOFI DEMETRICK SOLOMON, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: STSV2025000841

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

To: **Rodrizekus P Starling, Defendant.**

By Order for Service by Publication dated June 9, 2026, the Court has issued an order for service of summons by publication, and you are hereby notified that on December 4, 2025, the Plaintiff herein filed a suit against you for personal injuries arising out of an automobile collision that occurred on June 16, 2024.

You are required to file with the Clerk of the State Court of Dougherty County, and to serve upon the Plaintiff's attorney, Anthony S. Perez, Esq., Kenneth Nugent P.C., 4227 Pleasant Hill Road, Building 11, Duluth, Georgia 30096 and answer in writing within 60 days of the date of the Order of Publication.

Witness the Honorable John M. Stephenson, Judge of this State Court. Respectfully submitted this 18th day of June, 2026.

By: **Phyllis N. Johnson**
Deputy Clerk, State Court of Dougherty County

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

Foreclosures

A-639
STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale

Foreclosures

contained in the Security Deed executed by **ROBERT KRUSE** to **MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC.** in the original principal amount of **\$92,297.00** dated March 26, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 4495, Page 77, Dougherty County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to **ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC** in Deed Book 5012, Page 78, Dougherty County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 8/4/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows: **ADDRESS: 208 HIBISCUS ROAD ALBANY, GA 31705**

ALL THAT TRACT

Foreclosures

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-RL1** 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-561
NOTICE OF SALE
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY. By virtue of a power of sale contained in that certain Security Deed from EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., dated February 23, 2011, and recorded in Deed Book 3786, Page 154 et seq., in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having originally been given to secure that certain Promissory Note in the original principal amount of NINETEEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$19,000.00) of even date therewith, as well as all extensions, renewals and modifications thereof, together with any and all other indebtedness, of any type or description, then or thereafter owing by EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., there will be sold by the undersigned, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, before the courthouse door at Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 420 in the First Land District , Dougherty County, Georgia and being part of Lot 34 of Southern Nut and Fruit Company Subdivision "B," according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Deed Book 18, Page 371, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the northwest corner of said Lot 34 and run thence south 88 degrees 30 minutes east along the north line of said Lot 34 a distance of 100 feet to a point; run thence south 01 degree 30 minutes west a distance of thirty (30) feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, which point of beginning is located on the south right of way line of Howard Drive; run thence south 88 degrees 30 minutes east along the south line of said Howard Drive a distance of 140 feet to a point; run thence south 01 degree 30 minutes west a distance of 308 feet to a point; run thence north 89 degrees 09 minutes 17 seconds west a distance of 140.01 feet to a point; run thence north 01 degree 30 minutes east a distance of 309.60 feet to the point of beginning; said property being described according to a plat of the property of Ronald P. Tucker and Effie Callahan Tucker, dated November 17, 1992, by Malcolm Burned, Registered Land Surveyor. **THE STREET ADDRESS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF OF ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT NUMBERING SYSTEM OF STREETS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA IS 2320 HOWARD DRIVE, ALBANY, GEORGIA 31721.**

The indebtedness secured by the aforementioned Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared immediately due and payable in full because of the failure of EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER to maintain payments upon said indebtedness owing to the ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC. in accordance with its terms. Said indebtedness remaining in default, this sale shall be made for the purpose of paying such indebtedness, as well as all expenses of this sale, including attorneys' fees.

The above-described property will be sold as the property of EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER and will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning and subdivision ordinances and/or regulations; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or an inspection of the property; all real property ad valorem taxes or assessments, which may constitute liens upon said property; all liens which, under applicable law, would take priority over the Deed to Secure Debt described above; and all easements, restrictions, rights-of-way, security deeds or other encumbrances of record which have priority over the referenced Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party presently in possession of said property is THE ESTATE OF EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER, and/or a tenant or tenants.

Please be further advised that the entity which has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of your Notes, Security Deed, and related documents, is: ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC. Post Office Box 71026 Albany, Georgia 31708 Tel: (229) 391-1635 ATTN: Kenneth Knight Please note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of such loan. THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC., as Attorney-in-Fact for THE ESTATE EFFIE CALLAHAN TUCKER MOORE, CLARKE, DUVALL & RODGERS, P.C.

Foreclosures

By: D. BRADLEY FOLSOM
Attorneys for ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER, INC.
Post Office Box 4540
Valdosta, Georgia 31604-4540
(229) 245-7823

June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-573
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from MALCOLM WHITLOCK AND LINDA WHITLOCK TO MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., dated November 19, 2018, and recorded on November 30, 2018, in Deed Book 4558, at Page 103, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy and no/100 Dollars (\$137,270.00), with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded in Deed Book 5124, at Page 250, in aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as has been or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in August, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including, but not limited to, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 4, IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS ALL OF LOTS 85 AND 86 OF BRENTWOOD PARK, INC. ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 89 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE B-30), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OR SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Said property may more commonly be known as **2715 Abbey Ln, Albany, GA 31721.**

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-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-549
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Chandravadan Kuntawala to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated December 17, 2021 and recorded on December 22, 2021 in Deed Book 4920, Page 76, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Three Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Two Hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$363,200.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, recorded in Deed Book 5325, Page 42, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 34 IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 3 OF C. R. HODGES ESTATE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 79, (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE 8-73), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Said property may more commonly be known as **518 Byron Plantation Rd, Albany, GA 31721.**

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default,

Foreclosures

non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPA CITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, Selene Finance LP 3501 Olympus Boulevard 5th Floor, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75019 877-735-3637. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will 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 Chandravadan Kuntawala and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPA CITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST as Attorney-in-Fact for Chandravadan Kuntawala Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 422-2520 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-564
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

[REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.: 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]
TO: JAMES BRADSHAW III; CITY OF ALBANY; ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 505 SIXTEENTH STREET, 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 to redeem: **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, LLP
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-499
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Willie C. Davis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Suntrust Mortgage, Inc., dated January 22, 2004, and recorded in Deed Book 2737, Page 286, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Trust Bank by assignment recorded on March 31, 2026 in Book 5374 Page 121 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the 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

Foreclosures

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: Trust Bank they can be contacted at (800) 443-1032 for Loss Mitigation Dept. or by writing to 1001 Semmes Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23224, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is WILLIE C DAVIS or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **2304 Ashford Dr, Albany, GA 31721.**

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Trust Bank as Attorney in Fact for Willie C. Davis. Brock & Scott, PLLC 4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Suite 310 Atlanta, GA 30341 404-789-2661 B&S file no.: 26-12179 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-619

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY, NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Desreen Natasha Carr and Ronnie Carr to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Ameris Bank, its successors and assigns dated July 11, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 4996, Page 145, Dougherty County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Planet Home Lending, LLC, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$225,834.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, September 1, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 8 of Winterwood Subdivision, Section II, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 82 and 83, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Said property is known as **604 Shamrock Drive, Albany, GA 31721**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, 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. The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the secured creditor.

The property is or may be in the possession of **successor in interest or tenant(s).**

Planet Home Lending, LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for Desreen Natasha Carr and Ronnie Carr
File no. 26-084507 (770) 220-2535 https://www.logs.com/ "THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE." July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 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 AKA 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**

Foreclosures

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, LLP
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-534

NOTICE OF SALE
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY.

By virtue of a power of sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Kenshuna Spicer to Flint River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. dated May 11, 2005, recorded on May 13, 2005 in Deed Book 2971, Pages 275-279 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Security Deed had been given to secure that certain Promissory Note dated May 11, 2005 between Kenshuna Spicer and Flint River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. in the original principal amount of Fifty-One Thousand Seventy and 67/100 Dollars (\$51,070.67), as well as all extensions, renewals, and modifications thereof, together with any and all other indebtedness, of any type or description, then or thereafter owing by Kenshuna Spicer, 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 Kenshuna Spicer to make timely payments in accordance with its terms. Kenshuna 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 Kenshuna Spicer, her heirs, successors or assigns and will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning and subdivision ordinances and/or regulations; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or an inspection of the property; all liens for solid waste and the like; all real property ad valorem taxes or assessments, which may constitute liens upon said property; all liens which, under applicable law, would take priority over the Security Deed described above; and all easements, restrictions, rights-of-way, security deeds or other encumbrances of record which have priority over the referenced Security Deed.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Flint River Habitat for Humanity, as Attorney-in-Fact for Kenshuna Spicer DREW, ECKL & FARNHAM, LLP By: DAVID W. ORLOWSKI Attorney Bar No. 554325 Attorneys for Flint River Habitat for Humanity Post Office Box 607 Albany, Georgia 31702-0607 (229) 431-3036 June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2026

A-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, L.L.C., 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

Foreclosures

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 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 AUBUBON 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

Foreclosures

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, 2

Foreclosures

containing 103.536 acres, more or less, Fairway 2, containing 8.738 acres, more or less, Fairways 10, 15-18, containing 52.862 acres, more or less, Fairway 11, containing 14.165 acres, more or less, Fairways 12-14, containing 41.263 acres, more or less, Driving Range, containing 18.352 acres, more or less, and Tennis Court Area, containing 8.333 acres, as shown on that certain map or plat of survey entitled "Golf Course, Driving Range, Tennis Courts and Entrance Island for Stonebridge Golf Course", prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Cary F. Reed, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2896, dated March 25, 2025, revised June 19, 2025, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 10, Pages 39-42, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

This is a portion of the property described in that certain Warranty Deed from W. D. Wingate and Mary Elizabeth Wingate to Wingate Land & Development, L.L.C., dated December 5, 1995, a copy of which is recorded in Deed Book 1548, Page 94, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court, and re-recorded in Deed Book 1627, Page 264, aforesaid Clerk's Office.

ALSO, conveyed herewith and appurtenant to the above-described property are perpetual, non-exclusive easements for purposes of ingress and egress to and from the above-described property over, upon and across those areas designated "Proposed 15' Cart Path Easement 1" and "Proposed 15' Cart Path Easement 2" on that certain map or plat of survey entitled "Golf Course, Driving Range, Tennis Courts and Entrance Island for Stonebridge Golf Course", prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Cary F. Reed, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2896, dated March 25, 2025, revised June 19, 2025, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 10, Pages 39-42, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court, said plat and the recorded copy thereof are by this reference thereto incorporated herein and made a part hereof for all purposes.

The easements hereby granted and conveyed are for the purpose of allowing access for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including without limitation thereto golfers, golf carts, and maintenance vehicles enjoying, using or used in connection with the ownership and operation of the golf course located on the above-described property, and includes the right to construct, replace and/or maintain paved golf cart paths within such easement areas.

ALSO CONVEYED HERewith, to the extent the same are owned by STONEBRIDGE GOLF HOLDINGS LLC are all golf course and country club irrigation water lines and equipment lying within any public right of way located within the boundaries of, or adjacent to, Stonebridge Subdivision (Sections One, Two, Three, and Four), all existing golf cart crossing paths located within such rights of way and any rights of maintenance, installation, and relocation of the same as well as all equipment, personal property and fixtures including all insurance proceeds attributable to a loss or damage to any of the subject property and all proceeds, replacements, addition to substitutions for or assessments to the property.

The indebtedness hereinabove described, remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same. The proceeds of the sale will be applied first to the expenses of sale, including attorney's fees and the indebtedness therein described. Upon these things being done, any excess will be paid to the party or parties lawfully entitled thereto. Said property will be sold as the property of STONEBRIDGE GOLF HOLDINGS LLC and subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes and street improvements, against the same and subject to all restrictions, easements and utilities of record, if any. The undersigned will execute a deed to the Purchaser at said sale as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt.

RICHARD ALLEN WINGATE, Manager WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C. Lauren H. Williamson Hall & Williamson, P.C. P.O. Drawer 70639 Albany, GA 31708-0639 State Bar No. 319237 July 4, 11, 18, 5, August 1, 2026

A-625 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER CONTAINED IN DEED TO SECURE DEBT

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY, WHEREAS, heretofore, STONEBRIDGE LAND DEVELOPMENT LLC, did on June 30, 2025, execute to WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C., a Deed to Secure Debt which has been duly recorded in the Dougherty County Public Deed Records in Deed Book 5312, Page 326 and a UCC Financing Statement which has been duly recorded in the Dougherty County Public Deed Records in Deed Book 5312, Page 334, all in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, said Deed to Secure Debt and UCC Financing Statement having been given to secure a Promissory Note dated June 30, 2025, in the original principal amount of \$1,868,000.00, as well as any and all of the present and future indebtedness or liability of STONEBRIDGE LAND DEVELOPMENT LLC to WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C.,

AND WHEREAS, said Deed to Secure Debt and UCC Financing Statement conveyed to WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C., the real estate, equipment, fixtures, and personal property hereinafter described as security for the indebtedness from the said STONEBRIDGE LAND DEVELOPMENT LLC to WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C., including one (1) Promissory Note, as recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, the said indebtedness has not been paid, when due, and is now in default, and the undersigned WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C., has elected to accelerate the entire debt and have declared the same to be in default and immediately due and payable;

AND WHEREAS, under and by virtue of the terms of said Deed to

Foreclosures

Secure Debt and the power of sale therein described, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, before the courthouse door in Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale, on the first Tuesday in August, 2026, the following described tract of land, to wit: Stonebridge Subdivision Section One:

All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying, and being in Land Lots 87, 114, and 115 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 33, 42, 43, 44, 64, and 68 of Stonebridge Subdivision Section One as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by Marbury Engineering Co., certified by Ritchey M. Marbury, III, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1495, dated May 23, 1997, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slides C36A, C36B, and C36C, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 114 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 65A and 66A of Stonebridge Subdivision Section One as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by Marbury Engineering Co., certified by Ritchey M. Marbury, III, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1495, dated July 18, 2001, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide C77H, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 114 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 76A and 77A of Stonebridge Subdivision Section One as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Cary F. Reed, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2896, dated August 9, 2023, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 47, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

Stonebridge Subdivision Section Three: All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 114 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 121, 128, 129, 131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 142, 143, and 144 of Stonebridge Subdivision Section Three as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Ritchey M. Marbury, III, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1495, dated August 8, 2005, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Cabinet 1D, Slide 007D, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

Stonebridge Subdivision Section Four: All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 87 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 146, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 172, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 205 of Stonebridge Subdivision Section Four as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Cary F. Reed, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2896, dated February 9, 2016, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 7, Pages 95, 96, and 97, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

Stonebridge Golf Course Villas: All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lots 88 and 113 of the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, known and designated as Lots 1 through 45 (both inclusive) of Stonebridge Golf Course Villas as shown on that certain map or plat of survey prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., certified by Cary F. Reed, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2896, dated February 9, 2016, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 24, Clerk's Office, Dougherty Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by this reference thereto for all purposes.

Also conveyed is all equipment, personal property and fixtures including all insurance proceeds attributable to a loss or damage to any of the subject property and all proceeds, replacements, addition to substitutions for or assessments to the property.

The indebtedness hereinabove described, remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same. The proceeds of the sale will be applied first to the expenses of sale, including attorney's fees and the indebtedness therein described. Upon these things being done, any excess will be paid to the party or parties lawfully entitled thereto. Said property will be sold as the property of STONEBRIDGE LAND DEVELOPMENT LLC and subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes and street improvements, against the same and subject to all restrictions, easements and utilities of record, if any. The undersigned will execute a deed to the Purchaser at said sale as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt.

RICHARD ALLEN WINGATE, Manager WINGATE LAND & DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C. Lauren H. Williamson Hall & Williamson, P.C. P.O. Drawer 70639 Albany, GA 31708-0639 State Bar No. 319237 July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026



Calhoun Co. Legals

A-628
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Mary Grace Holtzapfle a/k/a Mary G. Holtzapfle late of Calhoun County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 26th day of June, 2026
Name: John C. Holtzapfle c/o Broel Law, LLC
Title: Executor
Address: 331 N. Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060
July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

A-635
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CALHOUN
IN RE: ESTATE OF Deanna Diane Pietras, Deceased
All creditors of the estate of Deanna Diane Pietras, deceased, late of CALHOUN County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
Larry Melvin II
Administrator of the estate of Deanna Diane Pietras, deceased
185 E Broad Street
Norman Park, GA 31771
OCGA 53-7-41 states:
"...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."
July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

A-602
STATE OF GEORGIA
CALHOUN COUNTY
ESTATE NO. 2026P21
TO ALL DEBTORS AND CREDITORS WILLIE FRANK SHEDRICK
All debtors and creditors of WILLIE FRANK SHEDRICK 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 Shedrick
Administrator of the Estate of WILLIE FRANK SHEDRICK
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



RELEASE DATE—Sunday, July 5, 2026

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

"EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES" BY SHELDON POLONSKY

ACROSS

- Does some chiropractic work
- Story links
- Southeast Africa's "Sunshine City" suit
- Move quietly
- Takes a hand in Vegas, perhaps
- Most popular member of a 1960s television family?
- Keep time with rhythmically
- Actor Guinness
- Shields on some helmets
- Clock sound
- Pinch
- "I won't ___ words ..."
- Reading with medium comprehension?
- Pore strip brand
- National park in Maine
- "People walk all over me," "No one appreciates my rugged good looks," etc.?
- Just a hint of flavor in some ice cream?
- Read quickly
- Antidiscrimination in the workplace inits.
- Hold firmly
- Party planners
- Den fixture
- Display an unfair lack of confidence in
- Great pain
- Cornstarch brand
- Acceptable
- Nebraska city
- Less substantial
- With 71-Across, terse rejection note?
- See 66-Across
- Expressway entrance
- Smock stain
- Grilled fruta on some tacos
- "Get outta here!"
- Panna ___ Italian dessert
- High-fiber cereal ingredient
- Heath bar alternative

DOWN

- Cut
- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
- BULO kin
- Games: Fortnite company
- Part-time gig at a summer camp?
- Southeast Africa's "Sunshine City" suit
- Move quietly
- Takes a hand in Vegas, perhaps
- Most popular member of a 1960s television family?
- Keep time with rhythmically
- Actor Guinness
- Shields on some helmets
- Clock sound
- Pinch
- "I won't ___ words ..."
- Reading with medium comprehension?
- Pore strip brand
- National park in Maine
- "People walk all over me," "No one appreciates my rugged good looks," etc.?
- Just a hint of flavor in some ice cream?
- Read quickly
- Antidiscrimination in the workplace inits.
- Hold firmly
- Party planners
- Den fixture
- Display an unfair lack of confidence in
- Great pain
- Cornstarch brand
- Acceptable
- Nebraska city
- Less substantial
- With 71-Across, terse rejection note?
- See 66-Across
- Expressway entrance
- Smock stain
- Grilled fruta on some tacos
- "Get outta here!"
- Panna ___ Italian dessert
- High-fiber cereal ingredient
- Heath bar alternative

ACROSS

- Everyone
- Band aide
- Rubber-stamp
- Pensioner
- Anka song with a Spanish title
- Key near F1
- Like a good advertising jingle
- Thou squared
- Amount to
- Inclination
- Many sports nos.
- Give a darn
- Source of indigo
- Tact-ical experts?
- Purr former
- Breakfast tea variety
- Cushion
- Nautical greetings
- The Raptors, on schedules
- Inexact fig.
- Unknown qualities
- ___ milk
- Locking device

DOWN

- Italian auto, familiarly
- "Agreed!"
- "___ Talkin'": 1975 Bee Gees hit
- Games org. that added a "P" to its initials in 2019
- California's Big ___
- Not even a little important
- Took hold
- Missouri city nickname
- Subscription level
- Bldg. units
- Part of FWIW
- Unearth
- Spanish gentlemen
- "Darn it all to ___!"

ACROSS

- Trot or canter
- Omega, in physics
- Snooze
- Barbecue bone
- Take shape
- Mine deposit
- "Got this, boss"
- Java's home
- Ain't right?
- Brillo rival
- Mom's bro
- Bali garment
- Big day for a co.
- Protein bar grain
- News stands?
- Sounding congested
- Black Sea peninsula
- "Wonder Woman" backdrop, briefly
- Lady bird
- Spanish red
- Soon, quaintly
- Pen tips
- Eager
- Take one's pick
- 1860s prez

DOWN

- Outfits
- Guest's guest
- Some cricket players
- Try for the title
- Smoke, briefly
- Deadlock
- Some govt. lawyers
- SF NFL team
- Luzon peninsula on Manila Bay
- Offaction
- "Funny Face" actress
- Thompson who wrote the "Eloise" books
- Think tank output
- Dress for Less discount store
- To boot
- "It's been ___!"
- Vittles
- Tibetan monk
- Informal reversals
- Winds down
- Fish-to-be
- "So frustrating!"
- PreCheck org.

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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.

" Q X C W O B W X Q F G W E V L Q F G W B J C W . . .
N T N F G Z X Q S W L Z G I L F M I C , P I F G N F
V O Q F N R W F L N X O X O R T L W T Q Z V I M V L
F G W N T N F G Z V M Q G V E P I Q X O W Q Q ."
— J W O K W O R

Previous Solution: "I know what I'm good at. I really enjoy the music that I write. If I didn't, then I wouldn't be doing it." — Adele

TODAY'S CLUE: ♡ s e n d a N

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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.

" V W D W X V Q D C V Z J C V Q R Z Z F J U T Z V C S
Q T O O V Q Q Z D C S E V I J T Q ; R X X Z N V
E V I J T Q J B I D P R I S Z N J I E R U D T Z J Q
N R F G P D F B . " — R X V Y R I G V F N R C J X Z D I

Previous Solution: "Silence is the worst heckle ... Apathy is very hurtful, but that onstage training preps you for the apathy of show business." — Ken Jeong

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 s e n d a X

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7/5/26

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN

- Packing

By Doug Peterson & Samuel A. Donaldson ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 07/04/26

Release Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- Scratch pads?
- Coastal region along the Santa Lucia Mountains
- Backspin producer?
- Coffee drink made with a frother
- Coldplay hit co-produced by Avicii
- Low digit?
- Brand whose logo adorns Argentine soccer jerseys
- Lake just south of London
- Market openings, briefly
- Heroic poetry
- Fig. in a background check
- Like Pluto, once
- Hook's boatswain
- Germ
- Series opener
- School zone sign
- For the first time
- No-nonsense
- Socket set
- Platform for content creators
- Bracket component
- Towering
- Not perfectly round
- NYC setting
- Football coach Pederson
- Gouda alternative
- Alexa device
- Like 56-Down
- Purple yam used in desserts
- "Seven Nation Army" band
- "Vacancy" singer Ari
- Trattoria tubes
- Apples in the trash, e.g.
- Fourth of July treats

DOWN

- Using coded language
- 1980s hit whose video drew a lot of attention?
- Tax
- Rival of The Joker and Fed Express
- Ooze
- Shape with minor and major axes
- Hardly ever
- Ride-or-dies, for short
- Org. whose first commissioner was former treasury secretary George S. Boutwell
- Flight board info
- Few and far between
- Revolt
- Email again
- Palm springs?
- Worried
- "___ guacamole!"
- Queen who appears at Epcot's Royal Sommerhaus
- Sharp turn
- Russian refusal
- 2022 title role for Tom Hanks
- Learn by the book?
- Latin attention-getter
- Anwar who wrote "Revolt on the Nile"
- Connects
- Itchy, to Scratchy
- Grown-up grub
- Refrain from
- Zeus's brain child?
- Solitary sorts
- Onset
- ___ up to
- Prix ___
- "Transylvania" protagonist
- Mild alternative
- Olympian Midori

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

7/04/26

By Doug Peterson & Samuel A. Donaldson ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 07/04/26

TV-What to watch

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

- extremely unhappy (8)
- whack (4)
- hit high into the air (5)
- person who pries (8)
- North Atlantic seabird (9)
- keen on (4)
- fused with an alloy (8)

SOLUTIONS

WR	RAZ	FF	CH	IED
CU	IN	ED	ORB	LD
ILL	SO	YB	SK	ED
BUS	ER	ET	TO	ODY

Thursday's Answers: 1. GREET 2. CRUCIAL 3. LEGSLATING 4. MARBLED 5. CHURN 6. MYSTIFIED 7. CARPATHIANS 7/3

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.

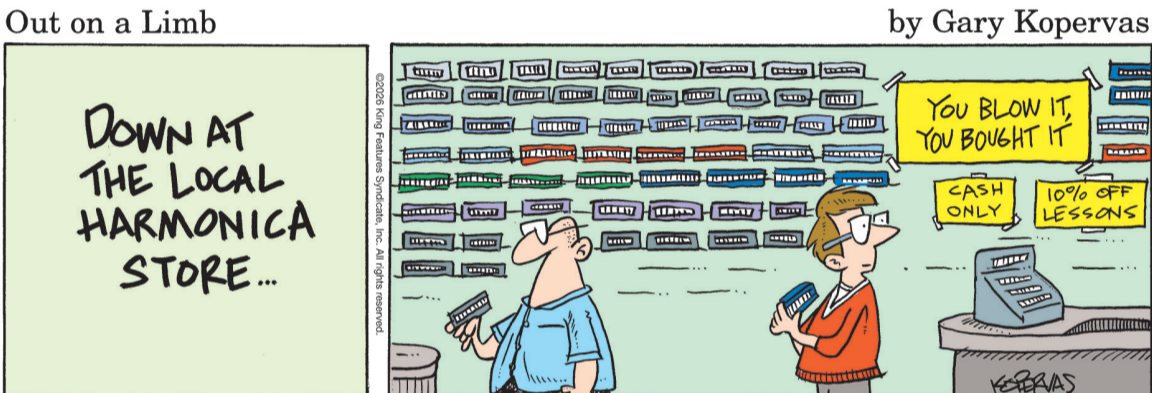
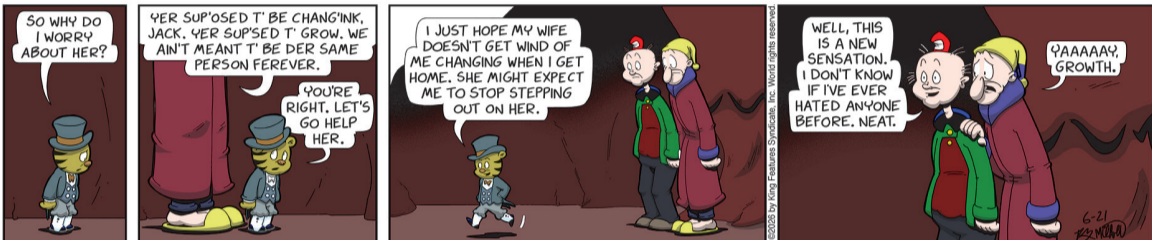
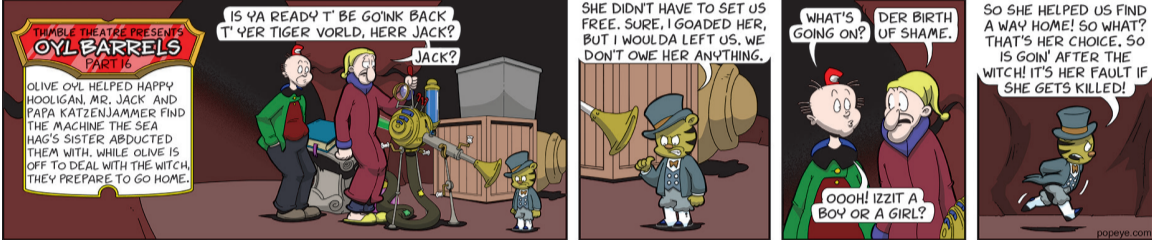
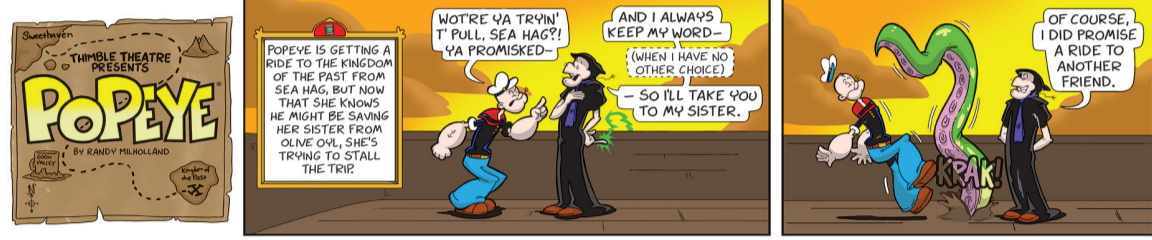
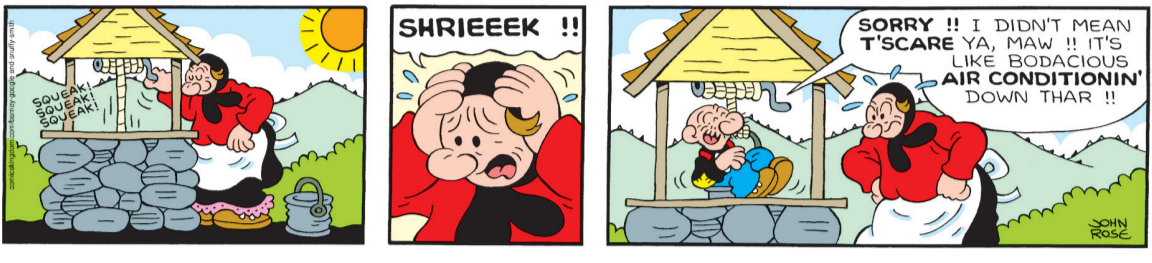
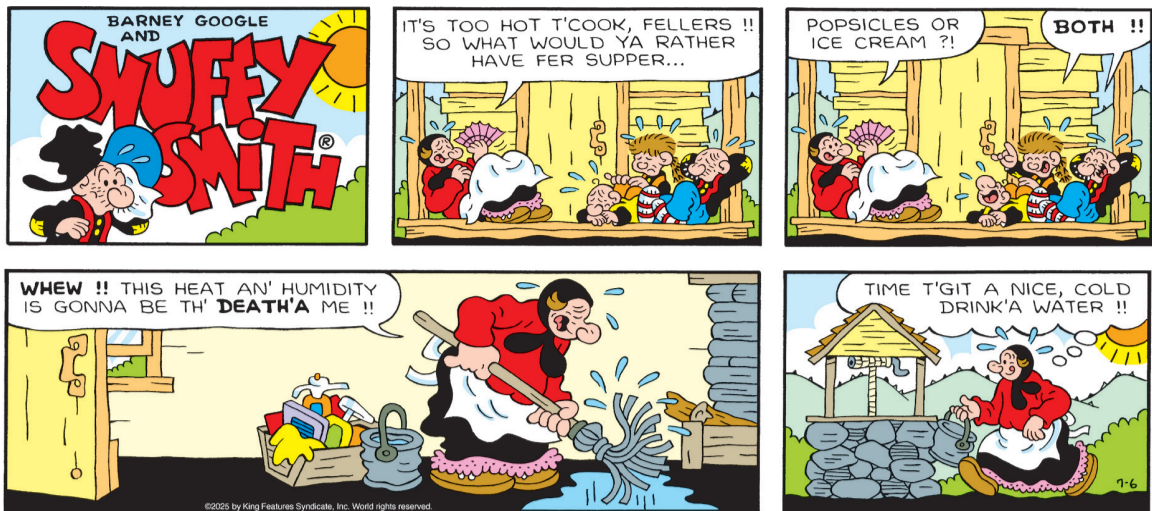
CLUES

- fetches (9)
- entry points (7)
- most like Felix Unger (7)
- 1983 Madonna hit (10)
- vagary (7)
- Zayn of One Direction (5)
- Guam's capital (7)

SOLUTIONS

DI	RET	DERL	TA	RI
CE	INE	VES	NA	EST
RIE	HA	MAL	BOR	LS
IK	POR	CAP	TI	GAT

Friday's Answers: 1. WRETCHED 2. CUFF 3. SKIED 4. BUSYBODY 5. RAZORBILL 6. INTO 7. SOLDERED 7/4



What to watch SATURDAY

July 4, 2026

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

SportsCenter
ABC, 5 p.m. Live
 This special two-hour edition of ESPN's SportsCenter celebrates the people, moments and stories that have shaped American sports culture.

Disney Celebrates America: Nashville's Star-Spangled Bash
ABC, Freeform, FX & Nat Geo, 8 p.m. Live
 Ryan Seacrest hosts this musical celebration of America's 250th birthday in the heart of downtown Nashville. Performers include the All-American Rejects, Boyz II Men, Clint Black, Little Big Town, NE-YO, Nick Jonas, Reba McEntire and Tim McGraw. The event also features one of the largest fireworks and drone shows in the United States set to a live score by the Nashville Symphony.



Macy's 4th of July Fireworks
NBC, 8 p.m. Live
 The 50th Macy's 4th of July Fireworks extravaganza in New York City features performances by Noah Kahan, Post Malone, Salt-N-Pepa, Bebe Rexha, Shaboozey and Blake Shelton. The fireworks are paired with an awe-inspiring laser show emanating from the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Great American Block Party 250
CBS, 8 p.m. Live
 CBS Evening News anchor Tony Dokoupil and Entertainment Tonight's Nischelle Turner host this three-hour live celebration of America's 250th birthday. Broadcast live from the nation's capital, the special takes viewers across the country for star-studded concerts

and performances, culminating in an incredible fireworks show over Washington, D.C. Performers include Zac Brown Band, Jon Batiste, Goo Goo Dolls, and the War and Treaty.

America – Made in Virginia: 250 Years Together
PBS, 8 p.m. Live
 This star-filled Independence Day tribute takes place at Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area in Virginia. The special blends live performances, music and historic interpretations to create an inspiring celebration that connects the nation's founding to the present day. The finale features a spectacular fireworks display accompanied by classic patriotic favorites recorded by the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band.

CATCH A CLASSIC
Happy Independence Day
TCM, beginning at 6:30 a.m.
 Kick off your Fourth of July with a Hollywood classic as TCM spends the day showcasing the diverse landscape and vibrant stories of the American experience. The lineup includes **Judge Hardy and Son** (1939), which sees Andy Hardy (Mickey Rooney) trying to track down the daughter of an immigrant couple in order to save their home; **The Howards of Virginia** (1940), a pre-Revolutionary War drama about a farmer (Cary

Grant) who marries into a wealthy family but finds his marriage strained by his allegiance to the uprising; **The Scarlet Coat** (1955), the story of a Continental Army officer who goes undercover to expose Benedict Arnold's treason; and **1776**, a 1972 musical retelling of the Founding Fathers' struggle to get the Declaration of Independence signed. The highlight of the lineup is 1942's **Yankee Doodle Dandy**, a musical morale booster released just months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor that was Warner Bros.' highest-grossing picture to that point and won James Cagney an Oscar for Best Actor. The theme concludes with the 1962 musical **The Music Man** (pictured), set against the backdrop of Independence Day.



- ## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE
- 'The Expendables'**
 KAREN BALLARD
- Bad Boys** (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith **VICE, 6:30 p.m.**
- 50 First Dates** (2004, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore **Comedy Central, 7 p.m.**
- A House Built on Lies** (2026, Suspense) Kimberly-Sue Murray, Diana Salvatore **LMN, 8 p.m.**
- Christmas Under Construction** (2026, Romance) Jessica Lowndes, Daniel Lissin **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**
- Project Hail Mary** (2026, Science fiction) Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller **MGM, 8 p.m.**
- Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family** (2011, Comedy-drama) Tyler Perry, Shad 'Bow Wow' Moss **BET, 8 p.m.**
- The Expendables** (2010, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham **SHO, 10 p.m.**
- The Strangers: Chapter 3** (2026, Horror) Madelaine Petsch, Gabriel Basso **Encore, 10:45 p.m.**
- National Treasure** (2004, Adventure) Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger **Freeform, 11 p.m.**
- Norbit** (2007, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Thandie Newton **BET, 11 p.m.**

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FURTHER REVIEW



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Over the night of Sept. 13-14, 1814, lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key had a front-row seat to an enormous attack on the U.S. by the British navy.

The British attack failed, inspiring Key to write the poem that would become the national anthem.

THE MAN

Francis Scott Key was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in 1779.



After legal training in England, he opened a law practice in his hometown and, later, in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C.

During a battle at Bladensburg, Maryland, on Aug. 24, 1814 — just before the British invaded and burned Washington — the British had captured Maryland surgeon William Beanes. Key, known as “Frank” to his friends and family, was asked to sail to the British fleet on the Patapsco River near Baltimore to help negotiate the release of Beanes.

The British agreed to release Beanes, but required Key and his party to remain aboard their own ship near the British fleet until after the attack on Fort McHenry — which guarded the harbor at Baltimore — was over.

In 1833, Key was named district attorney for Washington, D.C. He argued more than 100 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and served as an adviser to President Andrew Jackson.

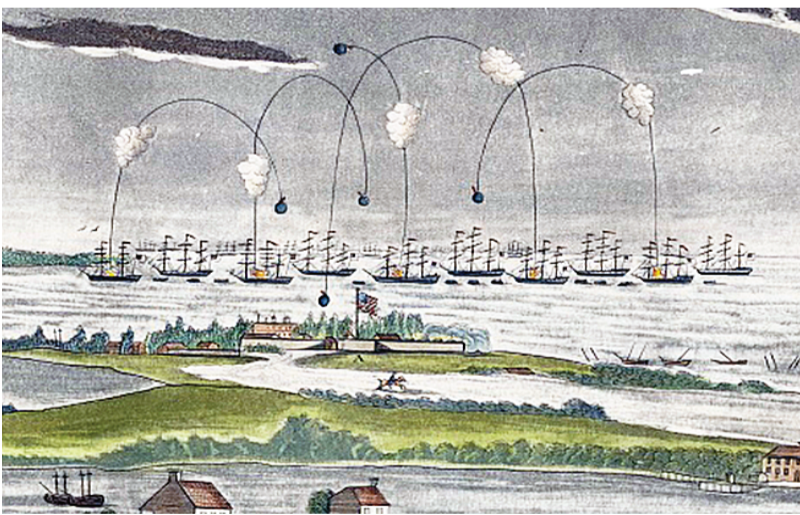
Key died in 1843 at age 63.

THE ATTACK

The British had burned Washington, D.C., three weeks before, but the port city of Baltimore was a much more strategically important target. The young nation, shaken by the loss of its capital, feared that if Baltimore fell, Philadelphia and New York City would be next.

The British naval barrage of Fort McHenry began at 7 a.m. Sept. 13, 1814, and lasted 25 hours. Five British ships lobbed 1,500 shells — more than 133 tons — and 700 to 800 spectacular Congreve rockets at the little brick fort.

The barrage was less than effective — in part because the heavy rain put out the fuses on many of the incendiary charges. Also, the Americans had sunk 22 vessels just off the shore near the fort. Landing ground troops was out of the question.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

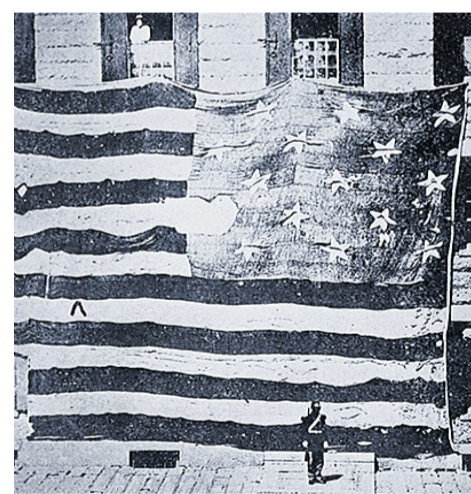
In the wee hours of Sept. 14, the British abandoned their attack and made plans to depart.

With no way to know this, Key and his associates worried about the sudden silence and strained in the darkness to see whether the fort had surrendered.

THE FLAG

The commanding officer of Fort McHenry, Maj. George Armistead, had hired Baltimore seamstress Mary Pickersgill to create two flags for the fort.

The more famous of the two was a garrison flag “so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance.” The woolen flag measured 30 feet high and 42 feet wide.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Pickersgill had also created a second flag — 17 feet by 25 feet — to fly during high winds and in the rain. A wet flag the size of the garrison flag would have snapped the fort’s flagpole.

It was this smaller storm flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the barrage. With the attack over and the British in retreat, however, dawn broke on the morning of Sept. 14 to reveal the enormous garrison flag flying over the fort.

The garrison flag — now known as “The Star-Spangled Banner” — is kept in a sealed two-story vault in the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History. Doors open for just a few minutes every hour to give the public a look at the deteriorating national symbol.

THE SONG

The sight of the huge flag flying over Fort McHenry that morning inspired Key to scribble the first few lines of a poem on the back of a letter, which he shoved into his pocket.

Back on shore in his lodgings at Baltimore’s Indian Queen Hotel, Key fleshed out the lines into a longer poem. He shaped the piece to match the melody of a song called “To Anacreon in Heaven,” a popular British glee club-like song whose lyrics were commonly rewritten in those days.

Key called his work the “Defence of Ft. M’Henry.” He showed it to his brother-in-law, who had it published via large flyers called broadsides that were distributed around Baltimore. Every man at the fort received a copy.

The poem appeared in the Baltimore Patriot newspaper on Sept. 20 and in the Baltimore American the next day. By mid-October, the words had been published by at least 17 other papers along the East Coast.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered “The Star-Spangled Banner” to be played at official events.

It took 40 bills and joint resolutions over the course of 20 years before legislation declaring Key’s song the national anthem finally passed the House and the Senate. President Herbert Hoover signed the bill into law on March 3, 1931.

Sources: National Park Service, Library of Congress, Navy Historical Foundation, the Washington Post, the New York Times, Smithsonian magazine, Parade magazine, biography.com, usflag.org, History.com

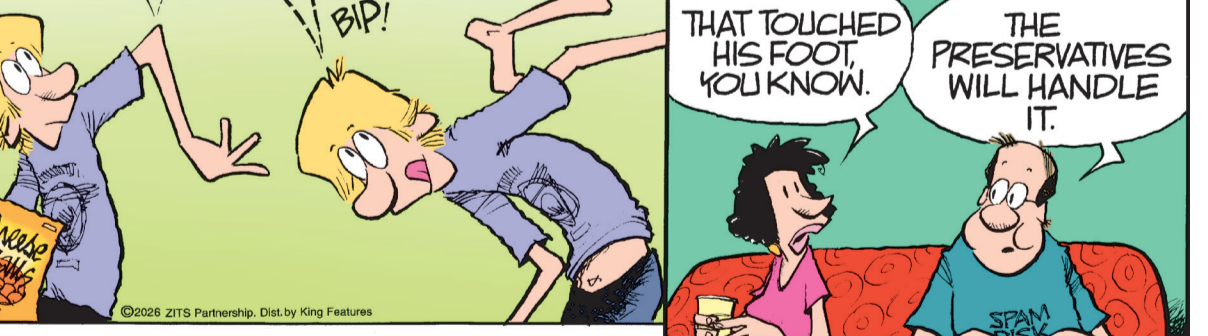
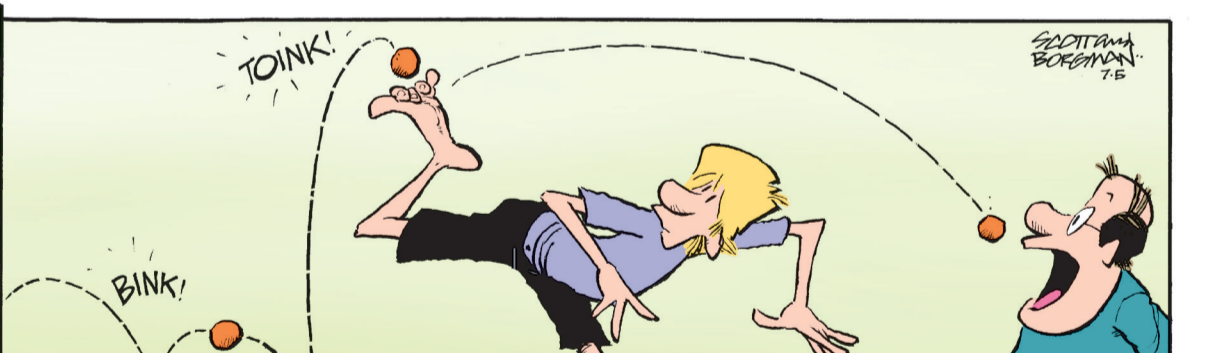
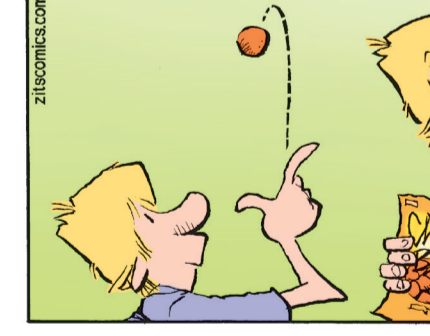
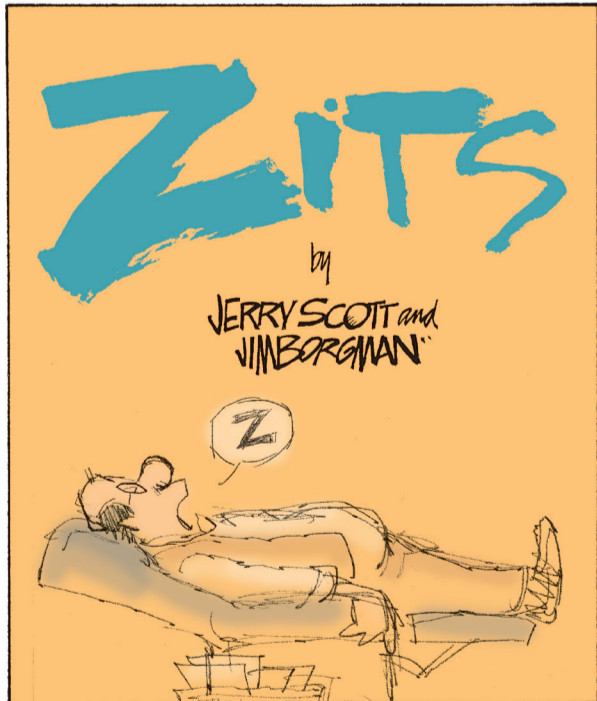
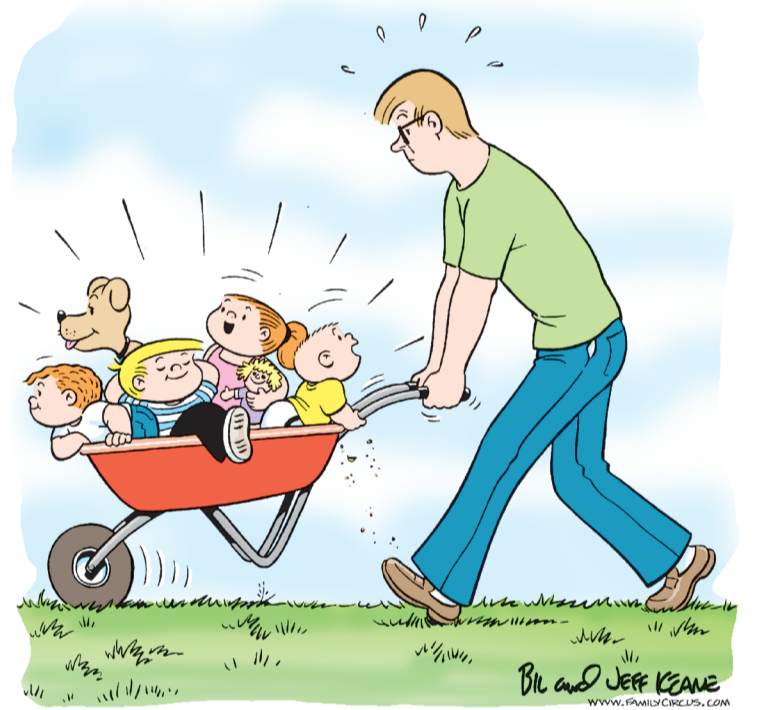
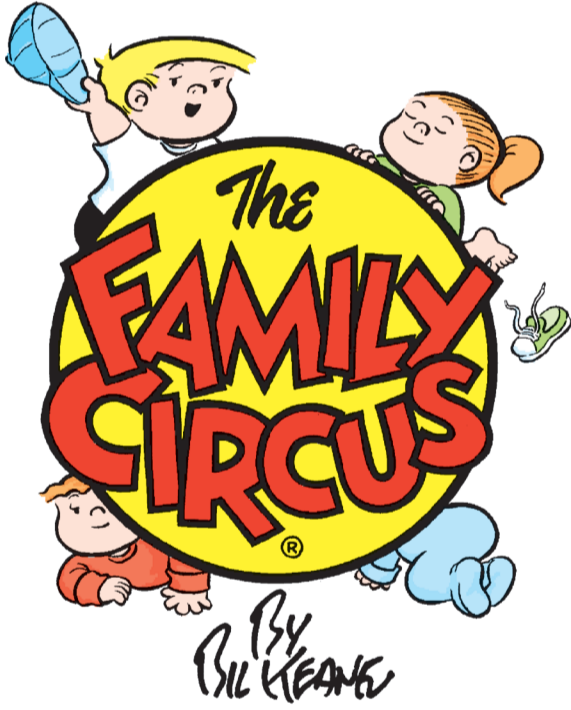
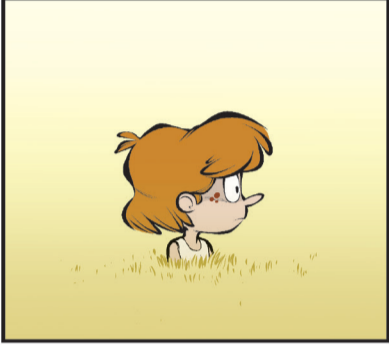
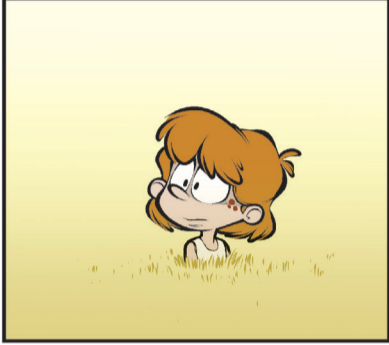
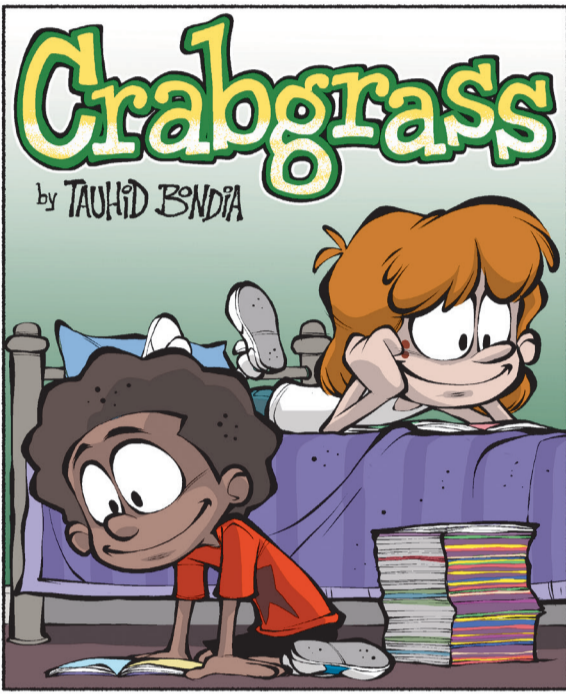
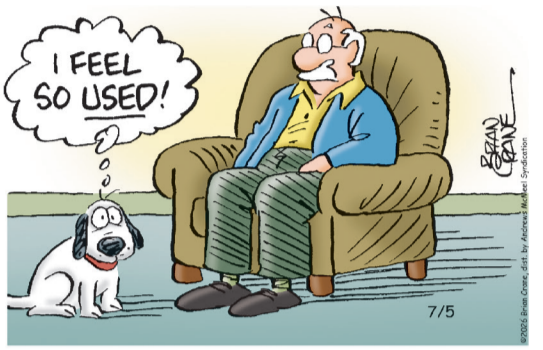
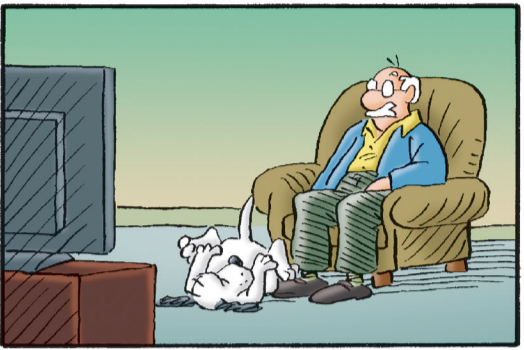
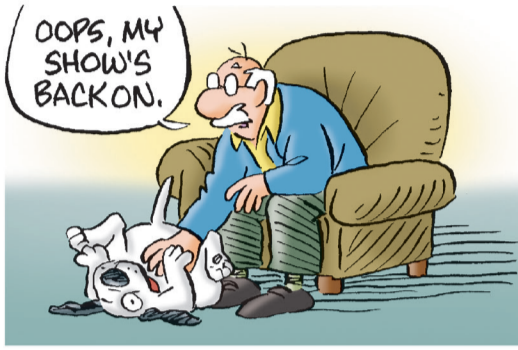
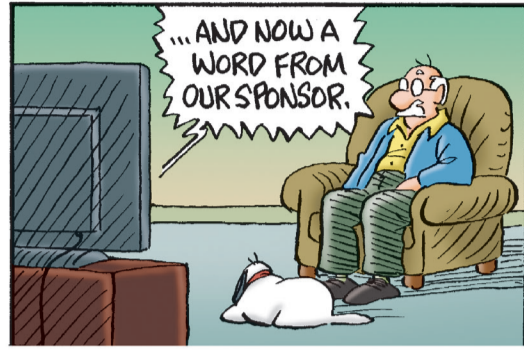
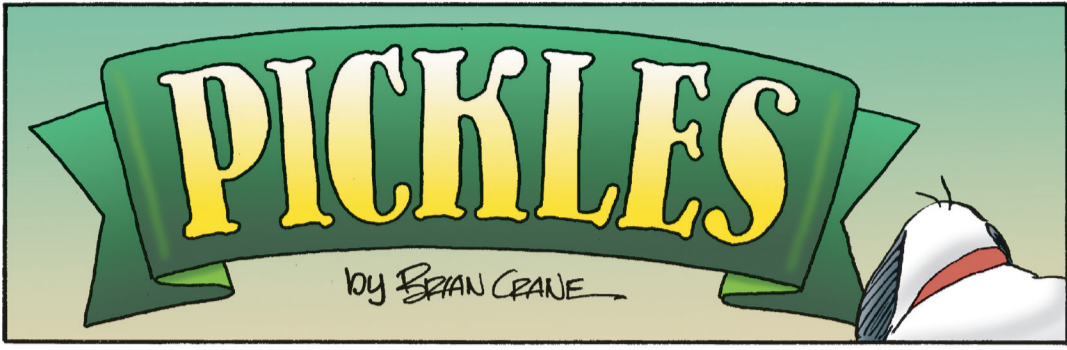


The Banner on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

THE SMITHSONIAN

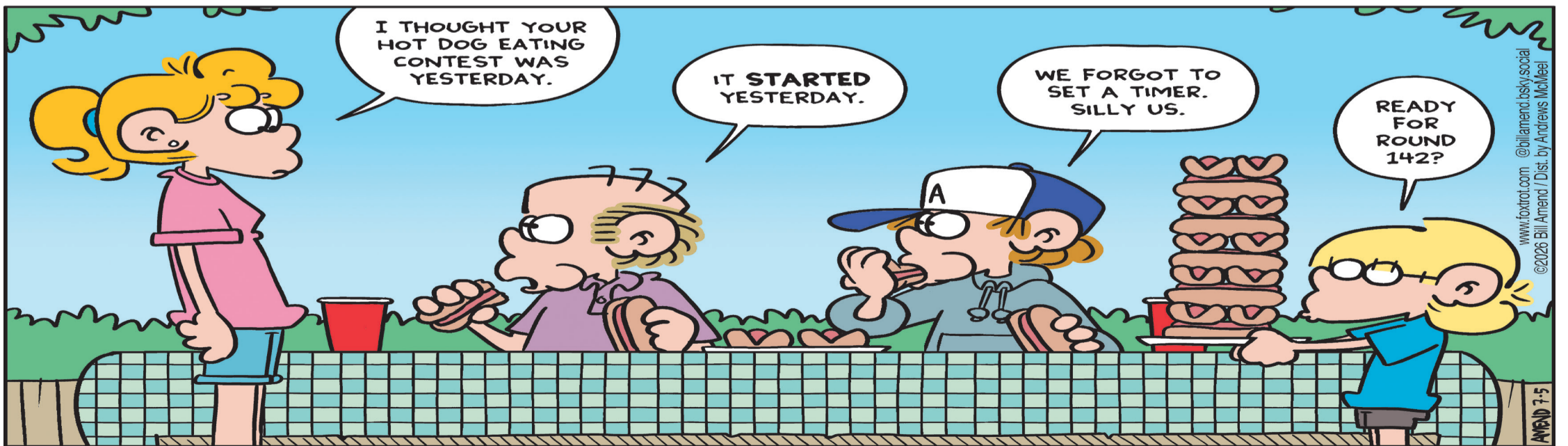
The Albany HERALD Weekend Comics

JULY 4-5, 2026

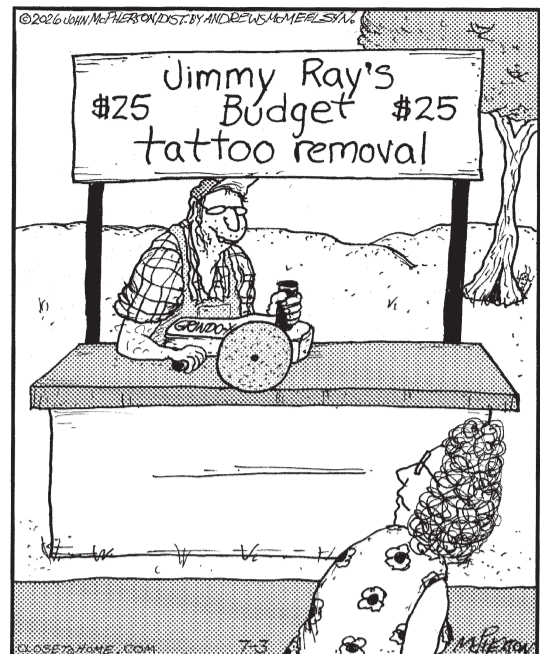


FoxTrot

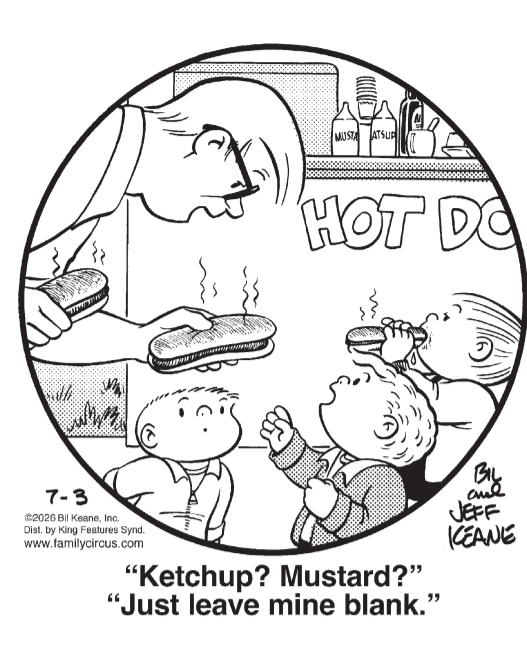
by Bill Amend



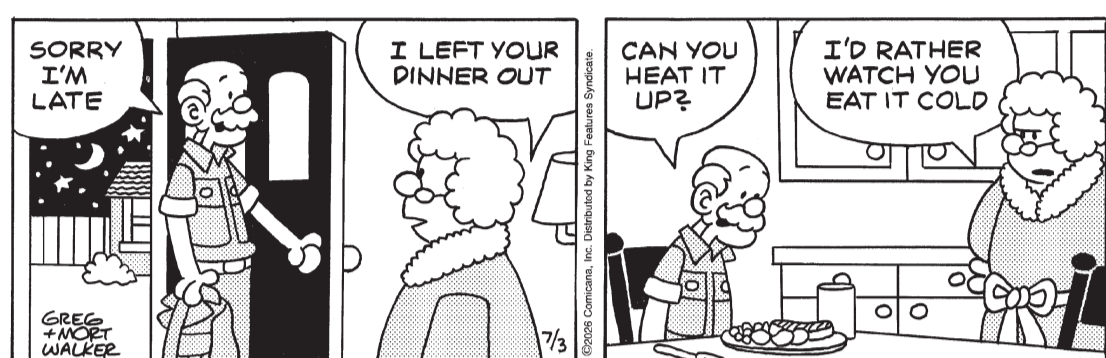
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



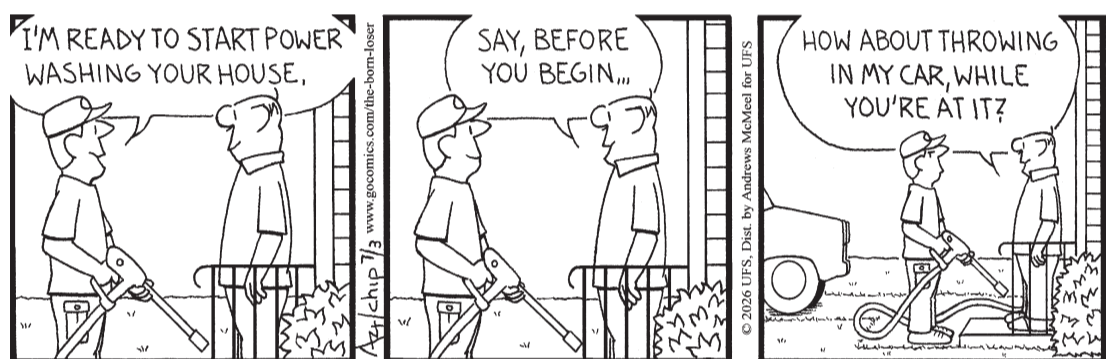
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



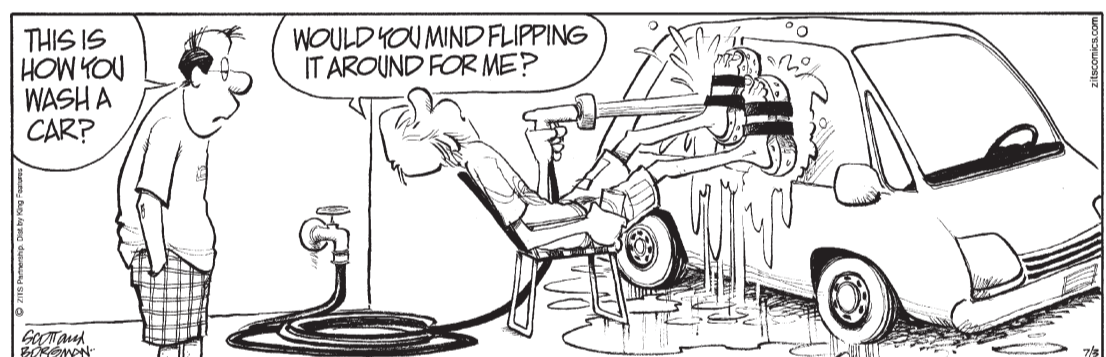
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Path behind a mower
 - 6 Cheese in a Greek omelet
 - 10 Whack with snowballs, say
 - 14 Goosebump-causing
 - 15 Person with a fan club
 - 16 Cooking spread
 - 17 Comfort that can only come from French bread?
 - 19 Gradually introduce to solid foods
 - 20 Isfahan's country
 - 21 Claims that won't pass fact checks
 - 22 Posh and ___: nickname of a British celebrity couple
 - 23 Mesopotamian empire that included parts of 20-Across
 - 25 Likely to be mouthy
 - 26 Creating perfect sunbathing conditions on an Italian beach?
 - 31 Software demos
 - 35 Capital of British Columbia
 - 36 Employs
 - 37 Spot
 - 39 Staple that's often helpful in a pinch?
 - 40 Chased
 - 42 Bench press muscles
 - 43 Positive review in a German newspaper?
 - 46 Clairvoyant
 - 47 Lost one's cool
 - 52 Word with act or action
 - 54 Political alliance
 - 56 Conditional programming word
 - 57 "Only Murders in the Building" home
 - 58 Home for the king of Spain?
 - 60 Salchow kin
 - 61 Zealous
 - 62 Asked too many questions, say
- DOWN**
- 1 Instagram filter shade
 - 2 Models
 - 3 Met highlights
 - 4 Lacking resonance
 - 5 Gender-specific pronoun
 - 6 Relating to offspring
 - 7 Actress Falco
 - 8 Wiggled body parts
 - 9 ET from Melmac
 - 10 Confidence-enabling stance
 - 11 ___ college
 - 12 Security breach
 - 13 Jillions
 - 18 2025 Pixar title character
 - 22 Muppet who lives in the basement of 123 Sesame Street
 - 24 Blog feed letters
 - 25 Senators target
 - 27 Navratilova rival
 - 28 Camera shot
 - 29 Sandy sediment
 - 30 Noshes
 - 31 Nondescript town
 - 32 Biblical twin
 - 33 Events in retail parking lots
 - 34 Thus
 - 37 Elite athlete
 - 38 Bench press muscle
 - 41 Extra charges
 - 42 Cold case sample
 - 44 Tristan's beloved
 - 45 Fairy tale start
 - 48 ___ dish
 - 49 Flannel pattern
 - 50 Name in the makeup aisle
 - 51 Monopoly stack
 - 52 Bloke
 - 53 Quite posh
 - 54 Quail group
 - 55 Bear necessity?
 - 58 Ice Spice genre
 - 59 Ballston ___, New York

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

S	E	D	I	V		E	H	A	P		I	S	E	E			
D	E	I	R		D	I	L	A	V		T	E	X	V			
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07/03/26

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By Jay Silverman ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

07/03/26

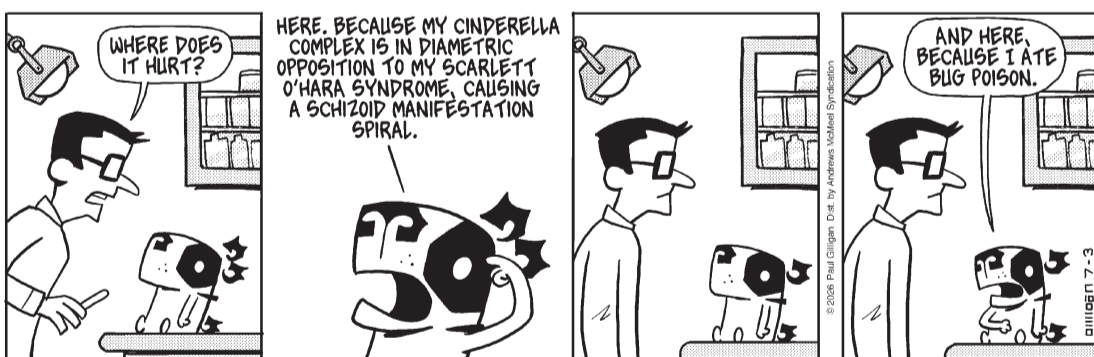
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

ARMS AKIMBO Solution: 10 letters

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

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7/3

Action, Behavior, Boss, Business, Chest, Communicate, Confident, Control, Cues, Dance, Dress, Elbows, Emotion, Expansive, Fashion, Focus, Folded, Hands, Hips, Language, Leader, Limbs, Manager, Mannequin, Model, Muscles, Outward, Picture, Pose, Position, Ready, Relax, Rest, Rotate, Seat, Serious, Size, Social, Suit, Superman, Torso, Turn

TODAY'S ANSWER: Appearance

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

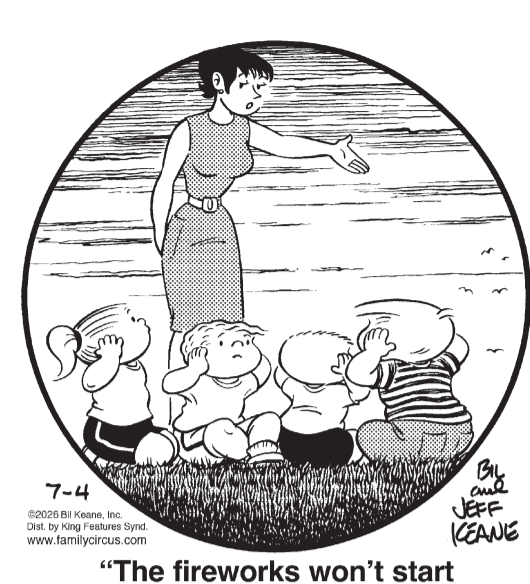
A stroll in the park

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"OK! Nice job, Tommy! Now, are there any other children who would like to do a barrel roll with the plane?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



"The fireworks won't start until it's dark."

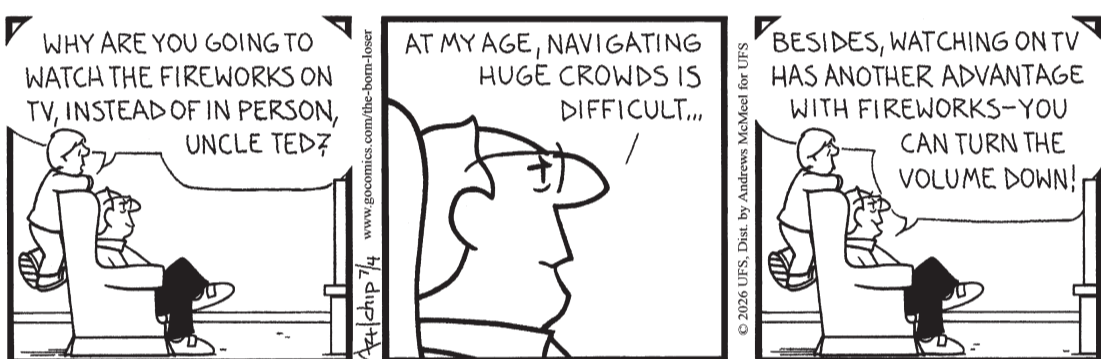
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



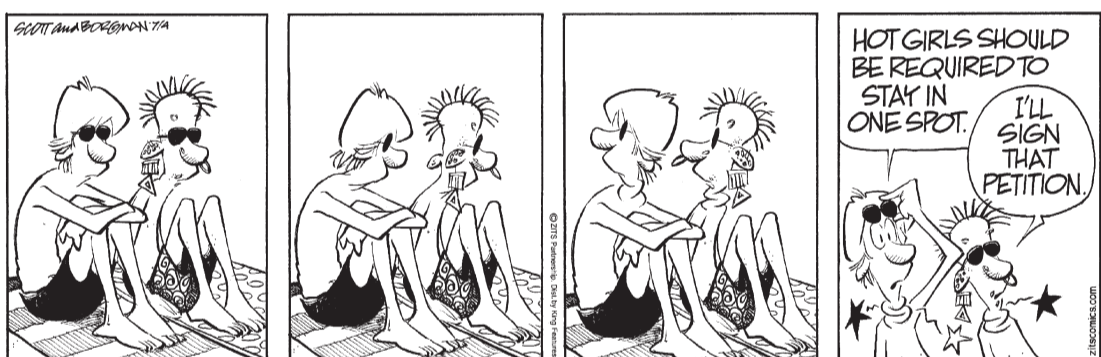
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



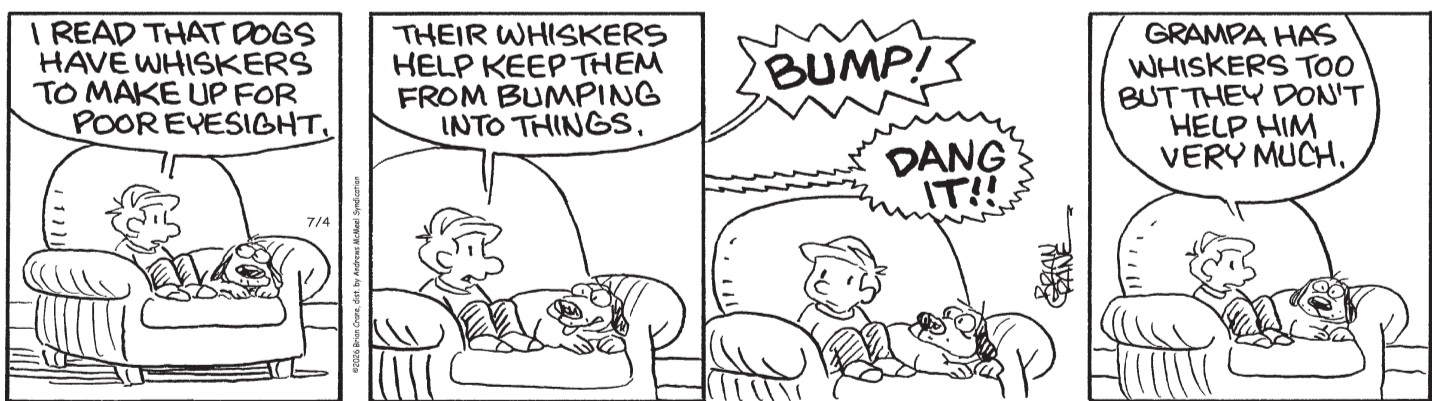
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis

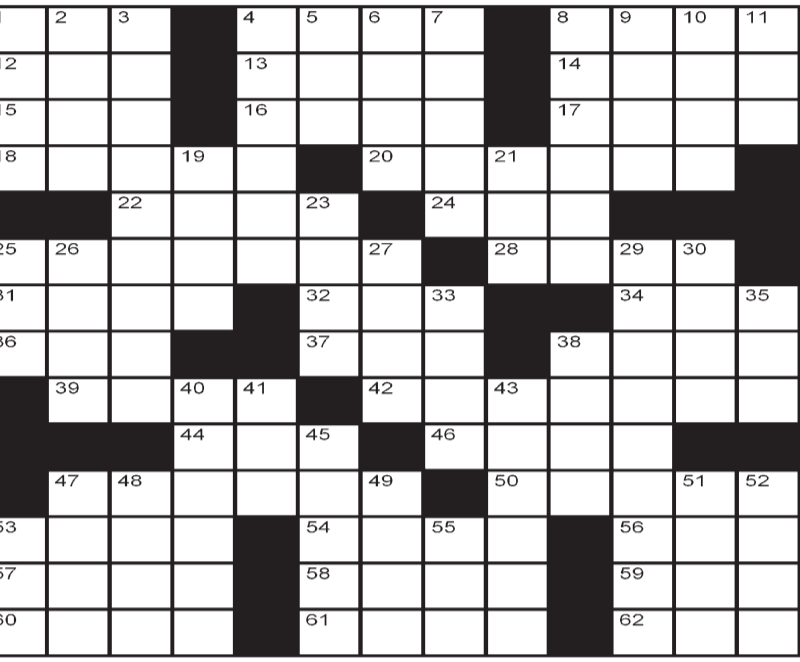
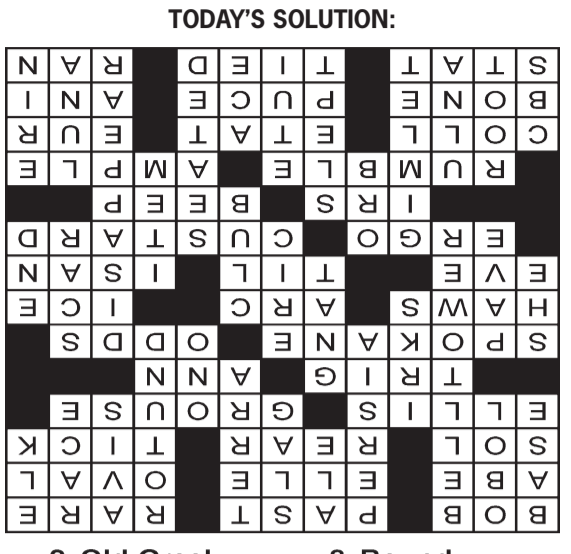


PICKLES Brian Crane



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Billy — Thornton
 - 4 Beyond
 - 8 Steak temperature
 - 12 Honest —
 - 13 She, in Paris
 - 14 Racetrack shape
 - 15 Costa del —
 - 16 Raise
 - 17 Clock sound
 - 18 — Island
 - 20 Game bird
 - 22 Pre-calc course
 - 24 Raggedy doll
 - 25 City in Washington
 - 28 Likelihood
 - 31 Hems and —
 - 32 Circle portion
 - 34 Rocks in a tumbler
 - 36 "All About —"
- DOWN**
- 1 Foundation
 - 2 Old Greek coin
 - 3 Belfry (2 wds.)
 - 4 Iran, formerly
 - 5 Cakes and —
 - 6 Dross
 - 7 — firma
 - 8 Round
 - 9 Hertz competitor
 - 10 Go fast
 - 11 Wapiti
 - 19 Makes irritated
 - 21 Artist Yoko —
 - 23 Pesky bug
 - 25 That girl
 - 26 Macadamize
 - 27 Actor — Bana
 - 29 Vanish
 - 30 Injury mark
 - 33 Cudgel
 - 35 Tip
 - 38 Single thing
 - 40 Boring tool
 - 41 Sphere
 - 43 Did an usher's job
 - 45 Rested
 - 47 Cheer
 - 48 Arm bone
 - 49 Case for small things
 - 51 Moon goddess
 - 52 "— go brag!"
 - 53 "Survivor" network
 - 55 High card

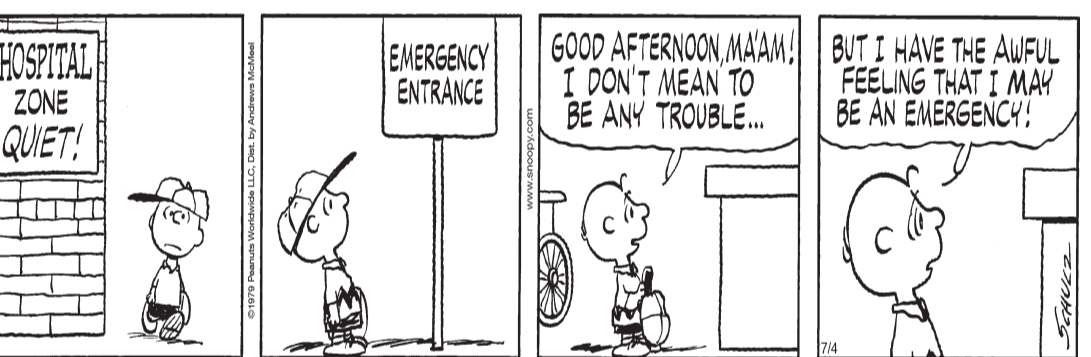


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PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



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.

HAPPY 250TH, AMERICA! Solution: 12 letters

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

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Adams, Anthem, Army, Boston, Capitol, Décor, Democrat, Elections, England, E Pluribus Unum, Founders, Freedom, Hero, Holiday, Honor, Independence, Jefferson, March, Mayflower, Nation, Navy, Parade, Patriotism, Potomac, Power, Republican, Show, States, Statue of Liberty, Stripes, USA, Veterans, Vote, Washington, White House

TODAY'S ANSWER: In God We Trust

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:
Break even

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

DAD, I FOUND THESE BOTTLE ROCKETS IN THE GARAGE.

OH, SHOOT.

I WONDER IF "EIGHT-TOED WILLIE" WOULD GIVE US A REFUND.

DOUBTFUL. WE CAN JUST SET THEM OFF TONIGHT.

TRUE, BUT THAT INVOLVES A DECISION.

ARE WE "FIREWORKS AFTER THE FOURTH" PEOPLE?

IT'S A WHOLE LIFESTYLE CHOICE.

OR IT'S JUST A FEW FIREWORKS AND NO BIG DEAL.

DON'T INTERRUPT ME WHEN I'M OVERTHINKING.

7-5

HARRELL

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CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON

SPONGE.

HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER LONG OVER, SPONGE BOB SPENT HIS LATER YEARS IN RELATIVE OBSCURITY.

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THE BORN LOSER

by Art & Chip Sansom

I'M IN TROUBLE!

MY PARENTS GOT A LETTER FROM SCHOOL ABOUT MY READING...

I'M GOING INTO FOURTH GRADE, BUT THEY SAY I'M STILL READING AT A SECOND GRADE LEVEL!

DON'T SWEAT IT! I GOT ONE OF THOSE LETTERS, TOO!

AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

NAH, I LOOK AT IT THIS WAY—THEY MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT NOW, WHEN WE'RE IN SCHOOL, BUT WHEN WE GROW UP...

WHO'S GONNA CARE IF WE'RE READING AT A FORTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD LEVEL INSTEAD OF A FORTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD LEVEL?

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JEFF McNELLY'S Stipe

By Ben Lansing & Susie MacNelly

TREETOPS Middle School

SKYLER, DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

IF SPACE IS A VACUUM...

...WHO CHANGES THE BAGS?

YES, MISS FISHBREATH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS ONLY GOING TO GIVE YOU A WARNING FOR YOUR BROKEN TAILLIGHT.

©26 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM 7/5 Susie MacNelly Lansing

THAVES

DO YOU KNOW WHY I PULLED YOU OVER? WAS IT BECAUSE I WAS SPEEDING?

BECAUSE I RAN A STOP SIGN?

THE ILLEGAL U-TURN I MADE?

I WAS TEXTING?

BECAUSE MY REGISTRATION IS EXPIRED?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS ONLY GOING TO GIVE YOU A WARNING FOR YOUR BROKEN TAILLIGHT.

NEXT TIME, I'LL PUT THE BRAKES ON MY MOUTH.

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7-5 THAVES

