



OP-ED
James Malphrus
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The Albany HERALD

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Parks at night • Pg 8A
State facilities shine



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WEEKEND

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Lydia Griffin pursues her passion for food at her home near Baconton. The Tampa, Fla., native and her husband, Terry, moved to southwest Georgia four years ago.

Food, mini menagerie provide inspiration for Lydia Griffin

By Alan Mauldin - alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

BACONTON – For much of her life, starting with her family in Puerto Rico and later for her four children, Lydia Griffin cooked out of necessity. But along the way, she developed a love of making dishes from all over the world.

Griffin, who was born in Tampa, Fla., and now lives with her husband, Terry, a parrot, goat, chickens roaming the yard, several canine companions and Eddie the pig, near Baconton, listed German, Irish, Italian, Mexican and South American, Spanish, and Dutch cuisine among those she enjoys preparing.

“My dad was the one who put me in the kitchen, since I was a little girl, to start learning the flavors and tricks you can do to spice the food good,” she said. “It just went from there.”

See **GRIFFIN**, 2A

Putting on the Ritz:

The rise, fall and renewal of Albany’s Harlem District

By Kathryn Crockett
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ALBANY — Long before Albany became known for the Albany Civil Rights Movement, before Martin Luther King Jr. preached from Harlem-district churches, and before the neighborhood’s bustling storefronts gave way to vacant lots, the lights of the Ritz Theatre drew crowds from across southwest Georgia.

For black families living under Jim Crow segregation, the Ritz was a place



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

The historic Ritz Theatre on South Jackson Street in Albany is one step closer to restoration after the Albany City Commission approved final architectural drawings, allowing the long-awaited preservation project to move into the competitive bidding phase.

of dignity — a place where African Americans could walk through the front entrance, buy a ticket without humiliation and enjoy a movie or live performance in a theater built specifically for them.

Nearly a century after opening in 1930, city leaders believe the historic theater is poised for another curtain call.

On July 7, the Albany City Commission unanimously approved final construction drawings for a comprehensive restoration of the Ritz Theatre and Cultural Center, clearing the way for the project to move into competitive bidding after years of planning and preservation efforts. The decision marks the latest chapter in a decades-long effort to preserve one of southwest Georgia’s most significant African American landmarks.

Yet the story of the Ritz is about far more than restoring an old building. It is the story of the city’s Har-

lem District itself.

Following emancipation, formerly enslaved African Americans established communities throughout Dougherty County. In Albany, one neighborhood south of downtown gradually evolved into what became known simply as Harlem.

Like its famous namesake in New York City, Albany’s Harlem developed into a thriving center of black commerce, entrepreneurship and culture during the first half of the 20th century.

Centered around South Jackson Street and West Highland Avenue, the Harlem District flourished because segregation forced African Americans to build an independent economy.

Black-owned grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, barber shops, beauty salons, photography studios, hotels, physicians’ offices and news-

See **RITZ**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

A historic marker on the exterior of Albany’s Ritz Theatre commemorates the landmark’s previous listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Albany City Commission set to vote on skate park funding

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Southwest Georgia’s skateboard community got a dose of good news this week with a recommendation to spend \$500,000 on a new skate park. That wasn’t all, though. The recommendation comes with a bid to put the structure in the same location as the one that was demolished.

The demolition came in December 2024 in preparation for the demolition and replacement of the Oglethorpe Boulevard bridge. The construction contractor used the site of the former skate park as a staging area.

“There have been other sites discussed,” Albany City Manager Terrell Jacobs said. “Based on information

(from) the community, we decided on the current site. That’s the only site we’re looking at right now.”

Previously, Tift Park was proposed as a potential location for the new park, but the local skate community was adamant about returning to the original location. Skate park

See **SKATE**, 2A



File Photo

The skate park that was demolished in December 2024 was a popular destination for skateboarding, bike riding and scooters. The Albany City Commission will vote later this month on a recommendation to allocate \$500,000 for its replacement.

Following Lee’s lead, Terrell County hits pause on data centers

By Kathryn Crockett
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DAWSON — The Terrell County Commission has become the latest southwest Georgia government to pause potential data center development while officials draft regulations, joining a growing number of local governments choosing to establish rules before developers come calling.

The Terrell County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt a six-month moratorium on new

data centers, giving county officials time to develop zoning regulations governing where such facilities could be located and how they would operate.

The move comes even though no formal data center proposal has been submitted in the county.

Commission Chairman W.T. Gamble III said the county’s goal is not to discourage development but to ensure commissioners have clear standards in place before considering what could

See **PAUSE**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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Back to School starts with Wellness Check-ups!

Primary Care, Dental, Behavioral Health, & Vision Care
To find a location near you, visit aaphc.org.



AAPHC
Albany Area Primary Health Care



From 1A

RITZ

papers lined its streets. Four tourist homes were listed in the Negro Motorist Green Book, the travel guide that helped African Americans safely navigate the segregated South.

For thousands of black residents across southwest Georgia, Harlem wasn't simply another neighborhood. It was where they shopped, banked, gathered and built wealth.

The Ritz Theatre also reflects one of Albany's lesser-known historical relationships between the city's Jewish and black communities during segregation. One of the first major entertainment venues built specifically for African American audiences in southwest Georgia, the theater was developed in 1930 by brothers Adolph C. and Leon

C. Gortatowsky, members of one of Albany's most influential Jewish business families.

Their father, Morris Gortatowsky, immigrated from Prussia and settled in Albany during the late 19th century, laying the foundation for a family that became deeply involved in the city's commercial, civic and cultural development.

While the Gortatowskys owned and operated theaters throughout Georgia — including Albany's grand downtown Albany Theatre — they also recognized Harlem as a thriving center of black commerce and culture. At a time when segregation divided nearly every aspect of public life, the brothers invested in the Ritz, creating a first-class movie house and performing arts venue that seated 572 patrons and became the centerpiece of Albany's Harlem District.

Although the Ritz was oper-

ated by the Bailey Theatre Chain for much of its early history, its construction represented a significant private investment in Harlem's growing black business district.

At a time when most Southern theaters relegated African Americans to balconies or separate entrances, the Ritz offered something increasingly rare: a theater built expressly for the black community, where patrons entered through the front doors and enjoyed the same quality of entertainment found in downtown venues.

That simple act carried profound meaning during the Jim Crow era, and the theater quickly became Harlem's social center. Notable performers, including Albany-born Ray Charles, whose early career included performances throughout south Georgia, appeared on its stage.

For decades, the Ritz stood as the crown jewel of Albany's

black business district, but its greatest legacy extended beyond entertainment. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the theater and the surrounding Harlem neighborhood became central to one of the nation's earliest and most influential campaigns against segregation.

By the early 1960s, Harlem had emerged as the heart of the Albany Movement, a grassroots campaign that drew national attention and helped shape the broader Civil Rights Movement. While mass meetings were held just blocks away at Shiloh and Mount Zion Baptist churches, where Martin Luther King Jr. encouraged local activists, the streets surrounding the Ritz became gathering places for marches, demonstrations and strategy sessions. Local tradition also holds that King occasionally visited Dick Gay's Pool Hall, located next door

to the theater, where he met with local leaders during visits to Albany.

The neighborhood became the staging ground for pivotal events in the Albany Movement, including the boycott of Smith's Grocery organized by the Albany Nine after the white-owned store refused to hire black employees and became involved in a controversial court case involving civil rights demonstrators. The boycott, along with the arrests of hundreds of protesters, brought national media attention to Albany and transformed Harlem from the economic heart of black southwest Georgia into one of the South's most important centers of nonviolent resistance. Throughout those turbulent years, the Ritz remained a familiar landmark where culture and community events and the fight for equality existed side by side.

One of Harlem's lesser-discussed ironies is that many victories won during the Civil Rights Movement also contributed to the neighborhood's decline. As segregation ended, African Americans gained access to businesses throughout Albany.

Shopping patterns shifted. Customers followed new opportunities, and by the late 1960s, many family-owned businesses had closed.

The Ritz ceased operating as a first-run theater in 1969. Despite attempts to retain audiences by showing older films, the big screen eventually went dark.

Albany's Harlem, once the economic heartbeat of the city's black community, gradually became a landscape of fading signs, empty storefronts and vacant lots.

See **RITZ**, 11A

From 1A

GRIFFIN

While babysitting at the age of 9, Griffin surprised her family by preparing white rice and pork chops.

"It was good," she said. "That's how it got started. By the age of 11 years old, I was working at a hot dog stand in Puerto Rico. I had four kids by age 22. That's why I had to cook more.

"We're a big family. My dad always owned a business with

food. ... Food trucks, he used to sell food on the beach. I started in the kitchen with my grandmother and my dad."

Currently, Griffin is competing in the annual Favorite Chef competition.

"We're still in the wild card," she said. "We've got the semifinals and some finals, too."

In the event she wins the competition's \$25,000 prize, the budding entrepreneur has a dream goal in mind: opening her own restaurant. Barring that, she says she would like to start off with a coffee shop that serves

her baked goods.

"I would like to open, like, a Caribbean/tropical buffet where everybody can eat anything and everything," Griffin said. "If I can't do that, I would start small with a coffee shop (and) deli and keep going.

"I would like to serve food for homeless people, giving a percentage to cook for them so everybody has a little bit from my hand."

After moving back to Tampa, where she was born, Griffin worked in restaurants, at one time, she said, working as the

hostess, waiter and cook in her own establishment.

Baking is the chef's latest fascination and something she works at nearly every day. Griffin bakes her own bread, made with her homemade butter. She also makes her own ice cream and pizza.

Neighbors order cakes and cookies and other baked items, and she also prepares food for outdoor gatherings and other events. She also caters. Individuals can reach her for services at (727) 648-8834.

"It (baking) is something I'm getting into now," she said. "I

think the products from the stores have too much stuff in them. Right now, I'm going to culinary classes to learn a little more tricks. I want to learn and keep growing with cooking and baking."

After living for a brief time in Meigs, the Griffins settled in a home in rural Mitchell County.

"Four years ago, I decided to move to our dream home," Griffin said. "The reason why is I wanted animals; we wanted peace. They keep me going on, pulling me toward my dreams of owning my own restaurant. I want more. I

want horses, I want donkeys, whatever I can rescue."

After Eddie the pig packed on too many pounds, his veterinarian put him on a diet, and that has meant food as medicine for the porcine family member whose weight topped 300 pounds before he was put on the diet.

"I cook for him every day," Griffin said. "I cook him stir-fried vegetables. I cook him Asian-style vegetables. I cook him oatmeal, brown rice, some eggs with vegetables in it. That's how I help him lose weight, cooking for him."

ALBANY COLONIAL DAMES ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED FOR 100 YEARS



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
Albany Mayor Bo Dorough presented a proclamation on Monday to the Albany Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The group was founded on July 6, 1926.



Dougherty County School System

*Building a **better** community, one student at a time!*

2026-2027 School Year Calendar



The new school year will be here before we know it! Now is the perfect time to review the 2026–2027 district calendar and make note of important dates, including the first day of school, holidays, breaks, and other key events throughout the year. Planning ahead can help your family prepare for a smooth and successful school year.

View the district calendar:
www.docoschools.org/calendars

Electronic Device Policy

The Dougherty County School System is committed to creating a focused, engaging, and distraction-free learning environment. To support this goal and comply with state law, the Dougherty County Board of Education has adopted a new Personal Electronic Device Policy that limits student use of personal devices during the instructional day. This policy helps reduce distractions, increase student engagement, and maximize instructional time so students can stay focused on learning.



Review the policy and expectations here:
www.docoschools.org/devicepolicy

School Supplies



School Supply Lists and School Uniform Information are now available. Parents and guardians, click the link to find everything you need to help your student start the school year prepared and ready for success.

View lists here:
www.docoschools.org/schoolsupplies

Transportation Requests

If your child will need bus transportation for the upcoming school year, don't wait! Complete a Transportation Request Form and submit it to your child's school as soon as possible for bus assignment approval. (School-level office staff return on Thursday, July 9th.) Please remember that a new Transportation Request Form must be submitted each school year for students who need bus transportation.



Complete form here:
<https://bit.ly/DCSSTransportationForm>

From 1A

SKATE

consultants who visited the site said it is an excellent site, Albany Recreation and Parks Director Steven Belk said.

"The location is good; it attracts a lot of people," Belk, who made the recommendation to consider the site at a Tuesday commission meeting, said. "It has a lot of history."

The same consultants told AL-

From 1A

PAUSE

become one of the largest industrial investments in the county's history.

"I'm not saying that because I'm necessarily hardcore against them," the chairman said during Tuesday's meeting. "They do have some big advantages."

Among those advantages, he said, are the substantial property tax revenues large data centers can generate.

"They sometimes bring \$20 million or \$30 million a year in property tax," Gamble said, noting that figure could exceed, and potentially more than double, the county's current annual property tax collections.

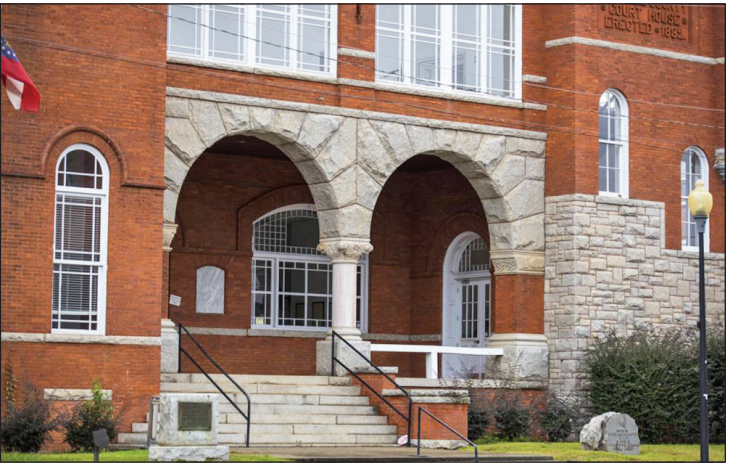
At the same time, commissioners acknowledged the facilities present unique challenges, including high water consumption, significant electrical demand, noise concerns and potential impacts on rural landscapes.

Planning officials raised the issue after discussing how other Georgia communities have begun responding to increased interest from data center developers.

County officials specifically referenced neighboring Lee County, where commissioners earlier this year approved a temporary moratorium while considering development standards. Similar discussions have taken place elsewhere across Georgia as local governments seek to balance economic development opportunities with infrastructure demands.

"One thing they did say was that it's a good idea to go ahead and be proactive," Terrell County Extension Coordinator Margaret Hallbrook told commissioners, recalling a presentation she attended. "If you don't already have some kind of ordinance in place, they can take advantage of that."

County Attorney Jimmy Skip-



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

The Terrell County Board of Commissioners approved a six-month moratorium on new data centers Tuesday at the Terrell County Courthouse in Dawson while officials develop local regulations governing future projects.

per agreed the county should establish regulations before any proposal arrives.

Without an ordinance, officials noted, the county could have limited authority to address issues such as setbacks, buffering, utility requirements or operational standards should a developer seek approval under existing zoning.

The moratorium is intended to provide time for commissioners, the Planning and Zoning Board and county staff to research best practices before adopting permanent regulations.

Data centers have become increasingly attractive to local governments because they often represent hundreds of millions of dollars in taxable investment while employing relatively few workers compared with manufacturing facilities.

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital storage has accelerated demand for new facilities across Georgia, particularly in communities with available land, reliable electric infrastructure and access to major transmission lines.

But the projects have also drawn scrutiny.

Large data centers can consume millions of gallons of water daily for cooling, de-

pending on their design, while requiring enormous amounts of electricity that can strain local power infrastructure. Many local governments also have debated issues ranging from diesel backup generators and noise to the long-term use of agricultural land.

Terrell commissioners emphasized Tuesday that the six-month moratorium is intended to allow those questions to be answered before the county receives a formal proposal.

The board voted to limit the moratorium to six months, with the option of extending it if additional time is needed to complete an ordinance.

"I don't want to just linger that forever," Gamble said. "I want to get something in place. It's a pretty complicated issue."

During the coming months, county officials are expected to review model ordinances from other Georgia communities and work with the Planning and Zoning Board to develop regulations for future consideration.

The Terrell County Board of Commissioners approved a six-month moratorium on new data centers Tuesday at the Terrell County Courthouse in Dawson while officials develop local regulations governing future projects.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your mood could shift almost minute-to-minute today. Don't make commitments or other long-term choices today, none of today's moods are likely to hold. Create an oasis in your home, even if only on a vision board for now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Despite today's positive Universal stars it's not the right day to sign anything, move money, or invest — there are too many disruptive forces in your financial sector getting detonated now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Resistance to any form of control could be a theme today — rebels won't just walk, they're likely to blow things up, figuratively speaking. The rebel could also be you. Let today's chaotic energies just pass you by if possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Fewer outside responsibilities could help today, you could have some inner discord to manage. Respectfully, this is likely a 'you thing'. And that's fine, any problem that's a you thing means you control solutions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sidestep a friend wrangle, there's likely lots of reactivity and little logic guiding the situation. Some conflict can lead to evolution, today it's likely just something to waste time and energy and sow seeds of doubt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you can hide until the dust clears, do it. There are few to no positives and many potential consequences, with no real winners. An idea exchange with a friend could offer excellent intel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Continue to bring your best ideas to your work in the world, your mind could be functioning clearly and efficiently. The online and social media world could be filled with haters and trolls today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Any attempt to sort out a financial situation could heat up and rapidly become a problem in itself. Table money matters for another day or two. It's a great time to

share what you know with interested people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): One-to-one relationships or partnerships could have a rough couple of days as emotional triggers cross paths with highly inflammatory points in the sky. Tread lightly to avoid fallout.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Yesterday and today could be special fun for getting basics handled ... said very sarcastically. Find the humor if you can, get philosophical, set it down for a while, pick it up again. Next week should be a different story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Making art and making music can be hugely cathartic, you might be able to release a lot now, and it's better out than in. When your masterpiece is complete, tasks should be fairly simple to accomplish.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The trap today would be getting too discouraged to take tangible action for yourself, sometimes shame can short-circuit self-care — do your best, that will change moment to moment. A creative solution could appear.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your take on things could be exactly on point now. So many of 2026's worst moments should be behind you, take a deep breath — a benevolent wave of energy could meet most needs and many wants in July. You could also get insights on next steps which could feel very empowering. A brief but strong brush of anxiety could come and go later in the month. August brings gifts too — cash flow, grace, attractiveness. Later, sidestep one of those temptations to do one of those over-the-top things that so often end in an epic fail. A windfall could drop into your lap in September. Later in the month, your mind could be dramatically expanded by new knowledge or a new understanding that could literally take you into a new level of existence.



1798 - The U.S. Marine Corps is re-established after they had been disbanded after the American Revolutionary War

1848 - Waterloo railway station in London opens

1889 - Tijuana, Mexico is founded

1914 - The USS Nevada is launched

1921 - Former President of the United States William Howard Taft is sworn in as the 10th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

1936 - New York City opens the Triborough Bridge to traffic for the first time

1962 - First transatlantic satellite television transmission

1977 - The Presidential

Medal of Freedom is posthumously awarded to Martin Luther King, Jr.

1979 - America's first space station, Skylab is destroyed as it re-enters the Earth's atmosphere over the Indian Ocean

1991 - All 261 passengers and crew on board Nigeria Airways Flight 2120 crashes in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

2006 - 209 people are killed in a series of bomb attacks in Mumbai, India

2010 - 74 people are killed in twin suicide bombings at two locations in Kampala, Uganda

2021 - Richard Branson is he first civilian to go into space on his Virgin Galactic spacecraft

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- All American Pet Photo Day
- Bald is in
- Bowdler's Day
- Cheer Up the Lonely Day
- Day of the Five Billion
- Grange Day
- International Essential Oils Day
- International Skinny Dip Day
- Make Your Own Sundae Day

- National Blueberry Muffin Day
- National Cheer Up The Lonely Day
- National Mojito Day
- National Rainier Cherries Day
- National Swimming Pool Day
- Slurpee Day or 7-11's Birthday
- World Population Day

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

Franklin D. Roosevelt,
U.S. president (1882-1945)

CORRECTION

In a story that appeared on Page 1A of the July 4 edition of The Albany Herald, two Dougherty County Commissioners were recognized for donating money to the Brie's Gift organization. Commissioner Gloria Gaines also donated money to the organization during the commission meeting.

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

With property taxes, I hypothetically am being taxed on money I never made. Let that sink in. If I have not sold it, I made no income on my home. Someone decided on paper that my house is worth more every year, and I get billed for that with an increase in my property taxes. Why am I being taxed on unrealized gains? It is not about services or "inflation," it is being charged for a valve you never received.

Why isn't Tripp Morgan being made to pay the \$2 million plus he now owes the city? You chase down poor people who might owe a few dollars, but let this rich person get away with conning people out of millions? How in any way imaginable is this fair?

So the United Way is going to keep all the money it takes in for a whole year and then will distribute it -- most of which, no question, comes from Albany businesses -- in 13 counties in the region? It sounds to me like someone is pulling the wool over the eyes of the community. Oh, and rest assured, we've seen the groups that you do give money to, most of which are led by con artists.

I hope these APD officers who were fired realize that the shame they brought on themselves infects the whole department. Who in this community is going to believe the corruption was only these few officers deep? Is it time for some housecleaning?

The conduct between City Commissioners Brown and Warbington is an embarrassment in a community where many thought there might be a limit to such foolishness, that there would be some decency and decorum on this elected board. Wrong. Just another example of voters' willingness to put unqualified people in office.

For you folks in the Doublegate North area: Last evening, a large, great horned owl snatched a squirrel from my yard. No, I don't mourn the loss of a tree rat, but that bird is big enough to get cats and small dogs. Keep that in mind when you let them outside.

It still amazes me that Albany and Dougherty County officials do nothing to take advantage of our greatest natural asset: the Flint River. So many communities throughout the state have utilized their waterways to provide recreation and spur development. Here? A great big nothing.

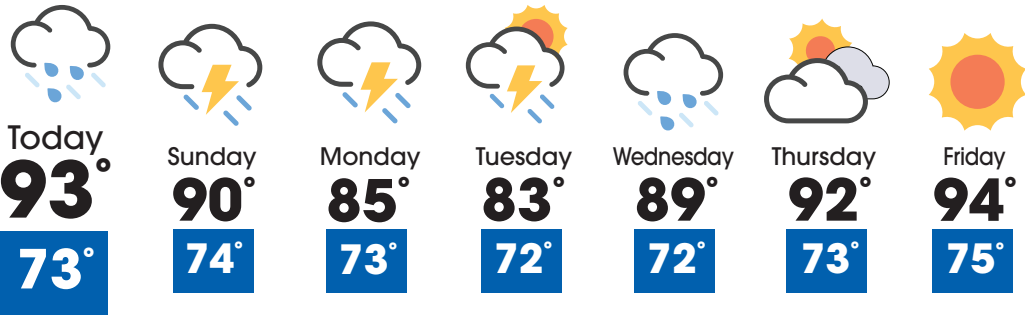
Someone wrote on social media: "The rich have forgotten to be afraid of the poor." Someone responded: "I think the poor have been fooled into blaming anyone but the rich." As for me, I'm still waiting for the great trickle-down promised by Reagan 45 years ago. That Man Without a Family

It made me proud of our country watching the 250-year celebrations on television. This is a good time to be a patriotic American.

Someone earlier suggested that Miller/Coors was an option for the brewery. What a genius idea. Miller/Coors is a major brewer, they are local, they are well-funded with an international reputation and could fund that takeover with petty cash. It could be a PR attraction for the company with a tasting room for each of their products similar to the tasting room for Coke in Atlanta. Albany, please make this happen. Lease the property to Miller/Coors for \$1 per year with an open-ended lease. It's a win-win.

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Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

"Cue-bidding" is a superior slam-bidding method; Blackwood may not tell you all you need to know. If a trump suit is agreed

NORTH ♠ None ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 ♦ A K J 3 ♣ 9 5 4 2			
WEST ♠ A K J 10 6 ♥ 5 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ K 7 6		EAST ♠ Q 9 8 5 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ J 10 8 3	
SOUTH ♠ 7 4 3 ♥ A K J 9 3 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ A Q			
South 1♥ 4♠ 6♥	West 1♠ Pass All Pass	North 2♣ 4♦ 4♠	East 3♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead — ♠ K			
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Frank Stewart

and game is certain, a bid in a new suit shows a "control" there, often the ace, and slam interest.

In today's deal, North's two spades showed a heart fit and a spade control (a void here). After more cue-bidding, South signed off at game, but Nouth went on.

South ruffed the spade opening lead in dummy, drew trumps and tried a diamond to dummy's jack. East won and returned a club, and South had to guess. He could finesse with the queen or play for a 3-3 diamond break. As the cards lay, he had to fail.

QUEEN FALLS

The auction was better than South's play. After South takes one high trump, he can cash the

A-K of diamonds. He is safe when East's queen falls. If East-West played low, South would lead a trump to his hand and a third diamond toward the jack.

If East had Q-10-x-x, South would need the club finesse; but his play guards against Q-x with East.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S 7 4 3 H A K J 9 3 D 7 6 2 C A Q. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one heart and he raises to three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has a hand worth about 17 points with four-card heart support. Slam is likely (if he has A,Q1072,AKQ54,876, you have a grand slam), but you might have two fast spade losers. Cue-bid four clubs. If he cue-bids four diamonds in return, you might jump to five hearts next. South dealer Both sides vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Letter writer regrets making new friend

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: In the spring I attended an event and sat next to a woman around my age who was absolutely delightful. We discovered we had a lot in common and had a great old time.

At that luncheon I was willing to share personal things right away and I know I gave off messages that would suggest that I am indeed open to a closer relationship. I tend to jump into things with enthusiasm and then want to back off. I even said something of that kind to her as we parted that day.

Since then, she has emailed me a couple of times in hopes that we can build a friendship. She knows that I visit someone else weekly near her house and asked if I could come by then. I am not interested in starting a new friendship with this woman, and although if I were to run into this woman again, I would be happy to see her, I do not want to encourage get-togethers and a future closeness.

I was going to write to her and say this, but I do not have the words. I would not, for the world, want to hurt her. What should I say?

— *Impetuous*

Dear Impetuous: Try "I really enjoyed meeting you and I appreciate you reaching out, but right now I'm maxed out socially." Instead of maxed out, you could also say "over-extended" or something similar. You can even write that you don't want to hurt her feelings, but that you'd prefer to keep the visits you're making regularly one-on-one rather

than inviting other guests. If there's a specific reason that you don't want to include her in the visits, you can offer it, but that's not necessary. To be honest, her feelings might still get bruised, but it's better to have a definitive answer than for her to keep trying and be confused by the rejection.

Dear Eric: The other day, my teenage grandson was staying with me. He was sitting on the couch as I was leaving the house with a friend. When I got to the door, I picked up the garbage bag to take it to the alley behind my house. Before I could do it, my friend asked my grandson to take the bag out instead, which he willingly did.

I had actually been looking forward to taking a stroll through the backyard to check out my garden. I have a disability, and don't often feel like doing it, but if I hadn't, I would have asked my grandson to do it myself.

My friend told me later that she thought my grandson should have gotten up and taken the garbage out without being asked. I disagreed with her.

As a part-time wheelchair user, I can honestly say that I've often been offered more "assistance" than I want with things I can do for myself. I understand that people are basically nice, they want to help, but don't know what to do unless you ask them, so I have no problem asking.

In addition, neither my grandson or I was raised to look for ways to help other people, and I'm not sure why. My friend, on the other hand, has a gift for doing for others, and probably had plenty of



Eric Thomas

home-training to reinforce it.

So, who is right here? Should I expect more from my grandson (and myself) in the helpfulness department? Or should I just chalk this up to different types of upbringing and hope that people like her will take up my slack? And if we need to learn how to be more helpful, how do we do that?

— *Look for Helpers*

Dear Helpers: The important distinction here is that you didn't want the help, so while your friend's impulse was a kind one, it wasn't what the situation called for. She read your grandson's inaction as rudeness. But from your letter it seems that he accurately interpreted your need in the moment.

Your relationship seems to work for the two of you; indeed, you write that you have no trouble asking him for help when you want it. But you're also teaching him to respect other people's autonomy.

You might talk to him about household responsibilities and your own needs and set him up to be more proactive about asking if you want help. This will, in turn, teach him to ask others. Communicating about how you live together is going to grow your relationship with each other and his relationship with the world.

Everyone he encounters, regardless of their ability, is going to have different wants and needs. You'd do him a great service to keep encouraging his capacity for empathy by sharing your experience and leaning on him when you need to.

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.

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Phoebe NICU saved her life; now she wants to save others

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — In 2008, a tiny baby girl named Cemorra Gaskins entered the world far too soon at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. She was rushed to the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where a dedicated team of nurses, physicians and other specialized healthcare professionals fought to give her a chance at life.

Eighteen years later, that no-longer-little girl graduated in the top 10 of her class at Irwin County High School, spoke at her commencement ceremony, and announced that she wants to return to the very unit that saved her life, this time as a NICU nurse. It is a story of survival. It is a story of purpose. And for her family, it is a story that has come beautifully — almost miraculously — full circle.

When Greta Gaskins’ water broke unexpectedly at her doctor’s office in Ocilla, she was only 26 weeks pregnant. She was rushed to Irwin County Hospital and then transferred to PPMH, where she would give birth and spend the most terrifying weeks of her life.

“I was scared. I was crying because I didn’t know what to expect. I didn’t know if she would live,” Gaskins said about her new baby, Cemorra.

Greta had delivered two children before, and both were uncomplicated births. But this was different. At 30 years old, she found herself staring into an incubator at a daughter who weighed next to nothing, surrounded by wires, oxygen tubes, and the quiet hum of monitors.

Yet even in that fear, something shifted when the care team at Phoebe stepped in.

“After talking to the doctors and the nurses, they reassured me, made me feel comfortable and not scared,” Gaskins said.

Cemorra’s time in the NICU was not without setbacks. There were days of progress, and then phone calls in the middle of the night sending Gaskins and her husband racing back down the highway to Albany. There were moments when hope flickered and moments when it nearly went out.

“We still had that fear in us the whole time until she was getting ready to go home,” Gaskins said.

But Cemorra held on. And so did her mother. Gaskins said that for years afterward, she quietly braced herself, concerned that her daughter’s early struggles would translate into learning difficulties or developmental delays.

“I actually thought she was going to be a special needs child, but as she was getting older and progressing and catching on to things so fast, it kind of pulled me back, and I thought, ‘She’s going to be OK,’” Gaskins said.

What happened instead was nothing short of extraordinary. Cemorra didn’t just develop on pace. She soared. She was placed in gifted classes, excelled across subjects, and ultimately graduated with honors.

Tanique Howard-Boone, Gaskins’ niece, was fresh out of Irwin County High School when she got the news about her aunt’s premature labor in 2007. She didn’t fully under-

stand what 26 weeks meant at the time. She just knew it wasn’t good.

But she was already on her path. Even as a little girl, Howard-Boone knew she wanted to be a nurse; she just didn’t know yet where that road would take her. She earned her LPN degree and spent years floating between departments from acute care to the emergency center. She became, in her own words, a chameleon, adapting wherever she was needed. The one thing she swore she would never do was Labor and Delivery.

“I had on my contract that I didn’t do L&D; that was the one thing I did not want to do,” Howard-Boone laughed.

Fate had other plans. Floated to L&D at Smith Northview Hospital in Valdosta, Howard-Boone found herself in the room when a baby was delivered in distress. She watched as the Phoebe NICU transport team arrived, stabilized the baby, and worked with a calm precision that stopped her in her tracks.

“In the process of watching them stabilize the baby and get everything done, I just became fascinated. From then on, I was like, ‘This is what I want to do,’” Howard-Boone said.

She went back to school and earned her RN degree, specifically to become a NICU nurse. She joined the Phoebe Family, and, within two years, she was training as a neonatal transport nurse, bringing critically ill newborns in from across the 22 counties the hospital serves.

She also pursued and earned her RNC-NIC certification, a credential she describes as the clearest sign to herself that she had found her true calling.

“Out of all the things I’ve done, I’ve never gone to seek certification in any specialty I’ve been in,” Howard-Boone said. “So I was like, ‘This has got to be something I love. I want to learn more about it. I want to know how I can make it better every day.’”

Now a candidate for her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a hooding ceremony scheduled for Aug. 10, Howard-Boone is on the verge of becoming a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, a goal she hopes to fulfill right where it all began: at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

It was during the reflection



Special Photo: Phoebe

Tanique Howard-Boone, right, and her aunt, Greta Gaskins, of Ocilla, have kept nursing all in the family since Gaskins’ preemie daughter, Cemorra, was born 18 years ago.

portion of her doctoral portfolio that everything came together for Howard-Boone. She was writing about purpose, about her “why,” when the memory of Cemorra’s birth and journey came flooding back. And then, just weeks ago, Cemorra sat across from her cousin and said something that left Howard-Boone speechless.

“She told me she wanted to be a NICU nurse. And I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh,’” Howard-Boone said.

She paused when recounting the moment, her voice thick with emotion.

“One of my favorite quotes is: ‘The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why,’” Howard-Boone said. “I honestly feel like neonatal is my why. And Cemorra’s outcome, her story not only reinforced that, it gave it even more purpose.”

Cemorra Gaskins, now 18, says she has always known about her early beginning. Her mother kept the photos — tiny Cemorra tangled in wires, an oxygen tube in her nose — and she would ask about them as a little girl, the way curious children do.

“My mom told me I was a preemie, a NICU baby,” she said. “From there, it sparked my inspiration for who I was becoming.”

Growing up, Cemorra played “nurse” with her parents, diagnosing her dad with a backache and recording it on video. She followed NICU parents on social media and read March of Dimes content and was moved by what she saw. She started connecting the dots — the medical bracelets, the tiny bottles, the nurses who made her fam-

ily feel safe during the most uncertain weeks of their lives.

This fall, Cemorra will begin her nursing journey at Valdosta State, the same university where her cousin trained, with her eyes already fixed on where she wants to end up.

“I would love to work at PPMH because I would love to go back and work in the unit that took care of me,” she said. “I want to see it through the nurse’s eyes.”

And she has a message for any family who might be sitting where hers once did — terrified, waiting, and hoping.

“Keep pushing. Even though it feels like it may be the end, you have to keep going. Life is not going to stop for you,” she said.

Gaskins, who has worked as a CNA for 24 years at Palemon Gaskins Memorial Nursing Home in Ocilla, says her daughter and niece have inspired her to consider going back to school.

“I’m actually inspired to go back and get my RN degree now,” she said.

She wants one thing before her daughter leaves for college: for Cemorra to meet the nurses who cared for her as an infant.

“I feel like that’ll be a piece of her puzzle, to meet the people who cared for her,” Gaskins said.

It has been nearly two decades since that 26-week baby girl held on in an incubator while her mother prayed and her nurses believed. Today, Cemorra is walking into her future and walking straight back to the place that gave her that future. Some stories don’t just have happy endings. Some become the reason other stories begin.



Special Logo

Speeders warned: Pump the brakes for Operation Southern Slow Down

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- Get the lead out of your feet or risk getting a ticket in the Southeast next week when “Operation Southern Slow Down” returns for a ninth year.

Operation Southern Slow Down is a speed enforcement and awareness campaign that runs from Monday through July 19 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. The campaign’s goal is to prevent crashes and save lives by reminding drivers of the dangers of speeding and reckless driving during the middle of the summer travel season.

The campaign will kick off Monday with the highway safety office and state law enforcement agencies from the five participating states outlining the education and enforcement plans for Operation Southern Slow Down at simultaneous news conferences in Augusta, Columbus, Ringgold, Savannah and Florida. State and local law enforcement officers in the five states will spend the remainder of the week targeting speeding, aggressive driving and all traffic law violations on interstates and major highways.

More than 490 law enforcement agencies in five states issued 52,990 citations and warnings for speeding during the 2025 Operation Southern Slow Down enforcement campaign. The week-long enforcement also resulted in more than 1,440 DUI arrests, 2,230 warnings and citations issued for reckless driving, and more than 3,000 citations and warnings issued for violating distracted driving laws in the five Southeastern states.

State and local law enforcement in Georgia made more than 13,290 speeding contacts with drivers during the 2025 campaign. More than 230 law enforcement agencies in Georgia also made 501 DUI arrests and issued more than 1,875 warnings and citations for violating the state’s hands-free law and issued more than 2,470 citations and warnings for failing to obey Georgia’s seat belt law.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, almost 30% of the nation’s traffic fatalities in 2024 involved speeding. Federal crash data in Georgia showed that speed was a factor in one out of five fatal traffic crashes in the state between 2020 and 2024.

According to a Georgia Traffic Safety Fact Sheet, more than half (53%) of the persons killed or seriously injured in multi-vehicle speed-related crashes in the state in 2023 were not the speeding driver. Crash data from 2023 showed 35% of persons killed or seriously hurt in multi-vehicle speed-related crashes in Georgia were riding in the other vehicle, 16% of the persons killed or seriously hurt in multi-vehicle speed-related crashes in the state in 2023 were passengers in the speeding driver’s vehicle and 2% of persons killed or seriously hurt in multi-vehicle speed-related crashes in Georgia were pedestrians or bicyclists.

“Speed limits are in place to protect everyone traveling on our roads and highways, and enforcement of speeding and all traffic laws has proven to save lives in our region and nation,” Allen Poole, director of the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, said. “The goal for Operation Southern Slow Down is not to write tickets but to get more drivers to see that traveling at slower and safer speeds prevents families and friends from losing loved ones in crashes that are preventable.”

Operation Southern Slow Down began in 2017 when highway safety leaders in the region sought to reduce crashes and save lives by reminding motorists of the danger speeding poses to all roadway users. The campaign now takes place during NHTSA’s “Speeding Slows You Down” education and enforcement campaign that runs July 6-30. Drivers will see more law enforcement on the road during both campaigns and drivers are reminded to always follow Georgia’s Move Over Law by moving over if safe to do so or slowing down to 10 miles below the posted speed limit when passing an authorized emergency vehicle that is parked on the side of the road with emergency lights activated.

NHTSA and Region IV states offer the following tips for those traveling on the same road with speeding drivers:

- Give speeding drivers plenty of space.
- If speeding drivers are following too closely, allow them to pass.
- Stay out of the far-left lane unless you are passing another vehicle.
- Always wear a seat belt.

Southwell ophthalmologist helps restore sight during medical mission to Belize

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON -- Dr. Bret Wagenhorst, an ophthalmologist with Tift Regional Ophthalmology, recently returned from a five-day medical mission trip to Belize, where he joined two fellow U.S. eye surgeons and 18 medical professionals to provide specialized eye care to patients with limited access to treatment.

The mission was organized by Benevolent Missions International, a Houston-based nonprofit organization. Working alongside volunteers from a local Methodist church, the team served patients at an affiliated clinic in a small town in northern Belize.

During four days of clinical care, the team performed 103 sight-restoring and sight-preserving eye surgeries, including cataract and pterygium procedures, and provided more than 450 eye examinations.

Wagenhorst said medical mission work allows him to combine his passion for serving others with the specialized skills he has developed throughout his career.

“On working trips like these, I not only get to use my skills to help others without easy access to advanced eye care and surgery, but I also continue to refine my skills treating advanced eye disease,” Wagenhorst said. “The advanced cataracts and pterygia we see

in Central America are rarely seen in south Georgia, but they are becoming more common.”

For the past 25 years, Wagenhorst has participated in medical mission work throughout Latin America. His volunteer service has taken him to villages along the Amazon River, communities high in the Andes Mountains and underserved neighborhoods in Mexico, Peru, Guatemala and Belize. Closer to home, he also volunteered

for several years at the former Lions Lighthouse charity eye clinic in south Tifton.

Wagenhorst said restoring a patient’s vision is one of the most rewarding aspects of his profession.

“Taking someone who has to be led in by family members because cataracts have left them unable to work or care for themselves, performing cataract surgery, and then seeing them walk out on their

own and return to living independently makes all the long hours and years of training worthwhile,” he said.

At Tift Regional Ophthalmology, Wagenhorst provides comprehensive medical and surgical eye care, including routine eye exams, cataract surgery, glaucoma care, treatment for diabetic eye disease and other conditions affecting vision. He practices alongside optometrist Dr. Trevor Shealy.

Birth Announcements

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

Unless otherwise noted, the following births all took place at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany between June 7 and July 1, 2026:

Miller, Kensley Auiora, daughter, was born June 7 to Brooklyn Price and Jamorion Miller of Dawson.

Brinson, Lileah Idelia, daughter, was born June 8 to Kaley and Gerald Brinson of Thomsville.

Norris, Kaliese Amiracle, daughter, was born June 9 to Zekira Coley and Keidarious Norris of Ashburn.

Merritt, Conner James, son, was born June 10 to Elizabeth and Hugh Merritt of Sylvester.

Jackson, Jei’lani Kamille, daughter, was born June 10 to Abrianna Jackson of Tifton. Austin, Azhani Breairi, daugh-

ter, was born June 10 to Laporsha Frazier and Alvino Austin of Albany.

McFarlin, Ella Jaine, daughter, was born June 15 to Kylee and Nathan McFarlin of Albany.

Thomas, Rayne Jocelyn, daughter, was born June 16 to Frederick Williams and Raymond Thomas Sr. of Albany.

Cotten, Bennett Tillman, son, was born June 20 to Summer and Bradford Cotten of Albany.

Holden, Kinsley Perl, daughter, was born June 22 to Ashley and Winton Holden of Leesburg.

Ebol, Jonathan Frank, son, was born June 22 to Kelly and Justin Ebol of Leesburg.

Donovan, Emersyn Claire, daughter, was born June 23 to Emily and Sean Donovan of Leesburg.

Smith, Joshua James Anthony, son, was born June 23 to Abigail and Ian Smith of

Leesburg.

Spurlock, Brady Clint, son, was born June 24 to Braylie and Dylan Spurlock of Leary.

Chicas, Hector Alexis Gonzalez, son, was born June 25 to Carmen Chicas and Alexis Gonzalez Martinez of Leesburg.

Horak, Loretta Rae, daughter, and Colter Lane, son, twins, were born June 26 to Jenna and Coby Horak of Americus.

Garland, Dallas Katherine, daughter, was born June 28 to Tiffany and Seth Garland of Dawson.

Prince, A’Layzia Dior, daughter, was born June 29 to Presley Smith and D’andre Prince of Albany.

Golden, Charles Thomas, son, was born July 1 to Leah and Steven Golden of Albany.

Watson, Rune Alexander, son, was born July 1 to Emily and Richard Watson III of Baconton.

SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX

SQUAWKBOX@ALBANYHERALD.COM

Adding opportunity weight to Georgia’s Quality Basic Education funding formula is a no-brainer. The education system has short-changed children who live in poverty for generations.

Code Enforcement in Albany/Dougherty County? I called today about a big box truck that is parked (again) on my street. Code told me I would be better off to call police because they could not get to that complaint for 3 to 4 weeks. For what; to tell a guy he is breaking code? It seems this guy could pay for a parking space; he works for Sanford Bishop as a consultant. Records show this “consultant” received \$92,747 between 2022 and 2024. Those are taxpayer dollars.

If the city and county brings data centers to Albany, they won’t pay property taxes and will cause the cost of electricity to rise for me and you.

Why are only three residents graduating from Phoebe this year?

Hank Johnson, a politician from District 4 in the Atlanta area, said if the Democrats don’t win midterm elections, black people will be back in the cotton fields. Johnson was also the one that stated Guam would tip over if too many people stood on one side of the island. Continuing to elect people like this is the main reason our country is so messed up.

A basic truth is that some of these nonprofits are cash cows for their leaders.

It seems mind-blowing to me that the local United Way is going to collect money for a year, not distribute any of it to the local nonprofits (which is its reason for existing) and then use the money collected for the next year to spread around in 13 counties. This is the organization that was given \$350,000 by the city of Albany when Albany State got wise about the free summer giveaways on its campus. Sounds fishy to me.

The more you listen to these MAGA folks (around here), the more you realize that they can’t be rehabilitated.

“The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the Republican model of government are staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.” — George Washington (1789)

Yonatan Hambourger writes excellent columns. I hope you will continue to publish them in The Herald.

It was funny at first, how every time Austin Riley got a hit or two, commentators and sports writers would start talking about how he’s “really starting to get going.” Now, it’s just sad. With his .211 batting average as the All-Star break nears, I think it’s pretty apparent this guy is never going to live up to his potential. Get him out of the lineup and get someone who might get a hit or two on a semi-regular basis.

With the current leadership at the city and county, expect potential businesses to locate in Columbus.

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ JAMES MALPHRUS

Why an aquifer alliance? Why now?

There’s a trend that’s been developing with the increasing prevalence of AI, the pervasiveness of ALPR (Flock) cameras, the invasive collection of ever more metadata. Big Tech needs more.

In the past eight years, the number of data centers has more than doubled in the state of Georgia, with dozens more in planning, proposal and construction phases. If you’re asking yourself, “Why do we need an Aquifer Alliance?” understanding that trend line might be explanation enough. Otherwise, there is more.

Here in the Good Life City, there have been no public disclosures, no announced plans, and even outright denials by the mayor. And yet, a city commissioner felt compelled to defend the opportunity to the public, and the city manager is launching a series of town hall events to sell the idea.

To me, that says that even if there isn’t an interested party, members of our local government are going to great lengths to lay out the welcome mat. If it makes you suspicious, that’s understandable. Corporations across the country have taken to using non-disclosure agreements along with a litany of dirty tactics to forestall and prevent public involvement for as long as possible.

I don’t say this as an accusation; it is an acknowledgement of events that have taken place in other jurisdictions. Events that I hope we don’t experience here.

But let’s move past suspicion into the realm of things we know:

We know that during a town hall while discussing the Albany-Dougherty Comprehensive Plan, when asked about a potential data center, city employees stated that “There’ve been inquiries, but no firm proposals.”

We know that city officials were approached by Hannah Solar and Verdant Solar, which proposed doing a feasibility study to determine what scale of data center the city could accommodate. This agreement was to include a temporary moratorium until the study concluded. Currently, the grid feasibility proposal has not come up for a vote.

We know that the Albany-Dougherty Payroll Development Authority quietly re-zoned a 358-acre parcel on Oakhaven Drive for M-1 (light industrial). We know that the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission recently announced procurement of a \$135,000 grant from the state’s OneGeorgia Authority to advance development of the Pecan Grove Industrial Park toward a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development certification. This certification confers a “shovel-ready” condition for the site by frontloading environmental, infrastructure and geotechnical studies to shorten lead time for a project.

Many of these actions are run-of-the-mill for a municipal gov-

ernment, but when partnered with the information campaign being led by city leadership and with the understanding that data centers are the booming industry in our state, it leads us to one clear conclusion: Even without a firm proposal, city leaders are rolling out the red carpet to invite them in.

Enter the Sowega Aquifer Alliance. We’re a small group of individuals from varying backgrounds that shares one goal: to protect our people, resources and ecology from the invasive industries that are targeting rural America for their next extraction of wealth. We believe the time to act to protect our communities is now.

In short order, we’ve begun collecting and sharing data about the risks of data center development in rural communities to educate the public. We have filed requests under the Georgia Open Records Act with the goal of learning more details about the Hannah Solar agreement and any potential correspondences or agreements between city leaders and data center developers. And we are drafting proposal frameworks to protect our communities and their resources from unreasonable exploitation.

Immediately, we are asking everyone to sign and share our petition on [Change.org](https://change.org) demanding our leaders enact a 12-month moratorium on data center devel-

opment in our city to assess the risks and enact regulatory frameworks that will protect our people, resources, and ecology.

All our data and resources will be available online at www.big-baddatacenters.com. Regular updates can be found by following the Sowega Aquifer Alliance on Facebook.

What began as a casual collaboration between voices in Lee and Dougherty counties is growing, and we will continue to add voices from across southwest Georgia. While we prefer that no data center be built here, we acknowledge that may be dismissed as an unreasonable request — our modern world is underpinned by the exchange of digital information and developing new industry brings economic benefits to the region.

Instead of asking for an all-out ban, we have decided to propose deliberate governance to ensure that any facility built will confer maximum benefit to the community while curtailing potential negative impacts on our people, resources and ecology.

This article focuses on events in Albany-Dougherty County, but our alliance is working to support ongoing efforts in Lee and Mitchell counties as well, and we are interested in joining with concerned citizens across the region. Find out more about our efforts and reach us through our website www.big-baddatacenters.com.

COLUMNIST ■ SCOTT LUDWIG

When life hands you a doggie bag ...

There have been two major changes in my life since I retired. Three, if you include sleeping past 2:45 a.m. now that I don’t need to get a run in before going to work.

Which brings me to my first change. Running is no longer a part of my daily equation. Due to an unfortunate perfect storm of events — a never-ending case of long COVID, a botched gallbladder removal (there has to be a scalpel inside of me somewhere), and helping out a friend who didn’t take my advice and hire a moving company -- I had no choice but to give up the sport.

Now I’m relegated to walking every day which, if you have the patience for — which I most certainly do not — is a great cardiovascular exercise for the later years in life. If only it didn’t take so much time to do it.

The second change is that my wife decided to get a dog. Allow me to emphasize this was supposed to be her dog. I advised against it, because after cleaning out litter boxes for a half--dozen cats since the day we were married, I needed a break. She told me not to worry because she would be responsible for taking care of the pup — which sounded a lot like what our two boys said when we got them a black lab years ago.

(I wrote a story when Magic passed away: “Separated from my Shadow.” Maisy isn’t anything like that, however. She’s more of a magnet than a shadow.)

At this point, you’re probably wondering about two things. (1) Walking is a lot easier than running, so why is he complaining? And (2) if his wife is taking care of the dog, what’s the big deal?

Allow me to explain. (I’ll address your questions in the order they were asked.) (1) Since I quit running, I noticed my appetite has changed. I don’t eat nearly as much as I did when I was burning off a thousand calories a day before breakfast. Now I’m not nearly as hungry, so I hardly ever eat snacks between meals, and I’ve cut out a lot of sweets.

So now when we go out for a meal, I rarely clean my plate. It would be great if Cindy and I could share, except my go-to is a hamburger and hers is shrimp, so we rarely can agree on what to share. Besides, I think of shrimp as the cockroach of the sea. (Technically, that title goes to the lobster, which is technically a jumbo shrimp, which also makes it the oxymoron of the sea.)

More often than not, I end up taking my leftovers home in a doggie bag, something I never did when I was running. In fact, I used to finish my meal, and then eat whatever was left of Cindy’s. Unless, of course, she ordered cockroach of the sea. (2) Now that Maisy — this was to be Cindy’s dog, remember? — has been with us for three years, she has become my daily walking partner. I wish I could run with Maisy like I used to do with Magic, but I can’t because of that perfect storm I mentioned earlier. So we walk.

Well, I walk. She smells. Everything, in fact. Grass. Bushes. Trees. Empty turtle shells. Curbs. Whatever is in her field of vision, she smells. Fortunately she’s less than a foot tall, so she misses things on the horizon. Like a deer, which I’m certain she would chase if she spotted one.

Now, about that big deal you asked about: Cindy promising to take care of the dog. As dogs are prone to do, they take the opportunity to take care of their business when they’re out for a walk. That means whoever is on the opposite end of the leash is responsible for cleaning it up. Which, for me, is 1,000 times out of 1,000. (Magic always did her business in the backyard, so I could scoop it up with a garden trowel.)

As someone who has spent their entire adult life wondering how anyone could pick up a pile of dog poo by hand — even if that hand was inside of a plastic doggie bag — I would never in my wildest imagination have thought I would become that person. Yet here we are.

My life now revolves around two things: my next meal and whatever Maisy wants to do next.

In between, I do things for myself, like taking a nap with Maisy sleeping on my chest or reading a book with Maisy sitting on my lap or walking to the mailbox so Maisy can look for lizards.

What it all boils down to is I’m now living life ... one doggie bag at a time.

COLUMNIST ■ B.J. FLETCHER

Trust is only given when it’s earned

The recent announcement that officers with the Albany Police Department had been fired is disappointing, but it is also a reminder of why accountability matters.

Law enforcement officers are entrusted with extraordinary authority and access to technology that ordinary citizens do not possess. That authority exists for one purpose — to protect the public, not to satisfy personal curiosity or misuse sensitive information. When that trust is violated, even by a few, the reputation of every honorable officer suffers.

Albany is a hard-working community. Many families struggle to make ends meet. Every traffic stop, every ticket, and every interaction with law enforcement depends on one thing: public confidence that the law is being applied fairly and for the right reasons.

The department deserves credit for investigating the matter, removing the officers involved, and requesting an independent review by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Transparency is not always easy, but it is essential.

Trust cannot be demanded. It must be earned every day through integrity, accountability, and equal treat-

ment under the law. Our community should expect nothing less, and our good officers deserve to work beside men and women who uphold those same standards.

When trust is broken, accountability is the first step. Rebuilding that trust is the responsibility of everyone who wears the badge.

B.J. Fletcher is a businesswoman and a former Albany City Commissioner. She is a frequent contributor to The Albany Herald.

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Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—
LOCAL NEWS

**TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE**

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”
2 Thessalonians 2:15

COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

Redevelopment is possible ... in places where leaders actually care

But all my words come back to me In shades of mediocrity, Like emptiness in harmony.
-- Simon and Garfunkel

A family trip over the Fourth – 16 people, ages 1 to 70 in the same house! – was as much an eye-opening experience as it was fun.

We enjoyed a dinner out, wings and fire-works, pool time, poker night and watching the 13-year-old girl in the bunch beat all comers at pickleball. But the highlight of the weekend was a whitewater rafting trip down the Chattahoochee River.

For someone like me who's not much of an outdoors adventurer, the two-hour trip over rushing waters with a boatful of Fletchers was one of those lifetime memories I'll hold onto.

But one of the primary things the trip did for me was open up my eyes to the realization that the city of Columbus not only turned the rafting adventure into a huge money-maker, but their leaders also could teach other cities how to do redevelopment right.

The rafting excursion is just one of the many things that the city did to bring its aging downtown back to life. Pensacola, Fla., and to a lesser degree, the Georgia cities of Brunswick, Thomasville and Moultrie have undertaken similar efforts and now have thriving inner-cities, with new businesses, new retail outlets and refurbished buildings that add to the overall pleasing experience of being in those cities' downtown districts.

The reflection on these efforts forced me to take a closer look at our downtown. Except for the rare opening of a retail outlet or two, Albany's downtown is a hollow shell of its former self. The closed Pretoria Fields Brewery, which has left the city holding a \$2 million-plus note from its former owner, is indicative of the “development” that's taken place in Albany over the past several years.

The brewery was a favorite gathering place in the city, and with the completion of the next-door Flint restaurant and the excellently refurbished Flats at 249 just a block down Pine Avenue, there appeared to be new life in the city. But poor management led to foreclosure on the brewery, and now it sits empty, gathering dust and serving as a cautionary tale for would-be developers.

Since then, a few businesses have opened in the downtown area – some of which have apparently done well – but most of them were opened with money from a loan or grant, and when that ran out, the businesses quietly shut down, leaving another building empty.

As the renewal of cities like Columbus and Thomasville prove, if done right, once-thriving inner-city districts can be renewed. But there are elements that

are vital to such successes, and that starts with leaders who understand development and are willing to work together and with people who know the process to put plans together that could lead to a whitewater rafting facility, a zip line excursion or a riverside restaurant coming to the city.

Unfortunately, the majority of the current spate of elected officials in the community seem to be more focused on providing as many low-to no-cost items for their constituents as possible than they are moving the city forward. How can leaders who spend time supposedly doing the city's business ever expect to accomplish anything when they spend the rare time that they actually have together arguing and sniping over petty differences? It's the kind of embarrassment that led the city back just before the turn of the century to stop showing commission meetings on TV because of the boorish bickering that had nothing to do with moving the city forward.

During that time, city and county officials actually had some leaders from surrounding communities – including Columbus – come and talk about development and how it was accomplished in their city. And while city and county leaders listened politely and shook their heads at all the right times, the bottom line is they returned to the infighting and concern for special interest groups the moment those outside developers walked out the door.

The city of Albany has an amazing natural gem running through it. Just as the Chattahoochee flows through Columbus, the Flint River runs through Albany. There has been talk over the years of utilizing the Flint to help bring businesses and visitors to the city – but, unfortunately, it's all been just that: talk.

There are projects ongoing in the city and county now with the hope that development of hotels, apartments and other dwelling places will bring people back downtown. But with issues developing around those projects – subcontractors not getting paid, work stoppages, failure to come to a binding agreement – most of this “development” is far from reality.

Growth and redevelopment in places like Thomasville, Brunswick and Moultrie show that even smaller communities can enjoy a turn-around. For that to happen here, though, city and county leaders will have to start working together to find ways to bring developers and businesses to the table. Until they stop using taxpayer money to benefit friends and drop their pettiness and smallmindedness, though, the city will remain what it has become: a litter-strewn mass of empty buildings overseen by officials who don't seem to care if growth ever comes, so long as they keep their friends' and special interest groups' wallets fat.



FLETCHER

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

It's time to bring back the ball cap

When I speak to high school classes about my career, students usually ask, “Who's the most famous person you have ever seen?”

Since I have attended several concerts and shows, it's a fairly long list. I assume they're asking about celebrities I've seen in person, so I name a few presidents, actors, comedians, musicians and athletes.

But if they're asking about those with whom I've actually had a face-to-face conversation, the list shrinks to two presidents (Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, take your pick), and a smaller group of celebrities. When I met Bob Hope, he was the most famous person in the world. Sadly, most of today's teens have never heard of him.

Occasionally they will ask, “Were you ever afraid to talk to a famous person?” Oddly enough, no. Upon seeing them in the flesh, I figure we are on equal ground. They are no better than me. They are usually far wealthier, but I just attribute that to my laziness. I could be a superstar, too, but achieving that goal would interfere with my frequent naps, and that is a deal breaker.

Observing those who are incredibly famous, wealthy or powerful, is fascinating to me. They have no privacy. Nor, some might argue, are they entitled to any. After all, that person who has been elected Senator or walked on the moon or stars on a popular TV show intended to become famous, right? They knew that requests for selfies and autographs come with the territory. So good luck enjoying those fries while they're hot. Some of your fans want to chat.

For some odd reason, the major networks have yet to invite me to take over the evening news or the “Today Show,” so my fame is limited to those who still watch my local TV station. That number is not what it once was. Back when there were only three channels, a local news reader was as famous in his city as Walter Cronkite. Now, with hundreds of channels and thousands

of online sites, I'm more often looked at with curiosity. As in, “I know you from somewhere. Do you owe me money?” (That is quite possible. Check back with me when I finish my fries.)

Still, now and then, I have a “star moment.” And last week, I had a doozy. While looking for some cheap frozen dinners at the supermarket, I spotted one of the store workers. Or maybe he

spotted me. After a few awkward seconds of eye contact, I blurted out, “What's on sale?”

The usual answer is, “Everything is on sale here at Food Frenzy.” Not this time. He proceeded to rant about how “everything is too high,” and “I don't know what's going on in Washington, but they need to get their (stuff) together.”

I realized I had entered into a topic I was not prepared to discuss in public, so I tried to wrap up our little exchange. But he was just getting warmed up. “See this box of biscuits? It was under two dollars a few weeks ago, but now it's \$3.98! That's horse (manure).” He paused briefly, and stared. “Hey, aren't you David Carroll?” I nodded yes.

I then pretended I was getting a phone call, and walked away. Five minutes later, I was getting some bananas and guess who showed up, waving his phone. “Hey, can you say hello to Doris? I told her you were here, and she loves you. Oh, dang it, we got disconnected.” I expressed my regret and my hope that I might catch her next time.

I was finishing up in the deli section when he ran up and gave me a big man-hug followed by a kiss on the cheek. “That's from Doris,” he said. “She told me to do that.” Never before in a grocery store had I gotten dinner and a show.

I then realized I had forgotten to wear my ball cap. I'll do that when I'm in a hurry, to reduce my chances of being recognized.

Next time, I'll remember. Otherwise, Doris herself might knock over some Coke bottles trying to run me down, and they'll be calling for a clean-up on Aisle 7.



CARROLL

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COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

Chasing imperfection in a wax-covered world

The bag of vegetables magically appeared on our front porch along with beer. I looked around for angels and wisemen. Then I turned to my wife, saying, “Ray, is this heaven?”

She looked at me flatly. “Who's Ray?”

You have to worry about this woman.

So we brought the vegetables inside and commenced admiring the produce. Admiring beautiful things is every bit as euphoric as experiencing them. We held the heirloom tomatoes in our hands, and just appreciated the mere weight of them.

Oh. Has there ever been anything more heavensent than a homegrown tomato? I lifted it to the light. It was so round, so firm, so fully packed.

“Look at this thing,” I said, gently caressing its supple curves.

My wife yanked the tomato from my hands. “Go take a cold shower.”

All other tomatoes were equally as glorious. Bright crimson skin, beautiful little stems, each fruit with little

bits of gnarl on the surface. Everyone knows the best tomatoes have gnarl on the outside. This gnarl is rarely talked about, rarely appreciated, but it's important. Good gnarl gives the tomato personality, and makes the tomato an individual.

Gnarl comes in different variations. There's “catfacing,” which is the grayish brown puckering and scarring portion at the blossom end of a tomato. Usually the bottom. Catfaced tomatoes are misshapen and lovely, and often taste like cherubs singing Handel.

Then there's “zippering.” This effect is a zipper-like scar on the tomato. My mother used to grow tomatoes; she said this happens when the flower's stamen sticks to the side instead of shedding cleanly. A zippered tomato is worth driving across at least four state lines.

And of course, there are the beautifully decadent common growth cracks. There is nothing like a good growth crack. These cracks travel along the side of the tomato, growing with the

tomato throughout its lifetime, transforming the fruit into the same rounded, full-figured, clefted shape often found in Sports Illustrated Swimsuit editions.

Sadly, you can't find tomatoes with growth cracks in supermarkets. This is because cracks are considered imperfections. Food sellers want everything to be pretty and perfect, so they give us tomatoes shellacked in a quarter-inch of wax, with skin like an armadillo, the flavor of a commercial brick, and no crack showing.

In fact, almost everything you buy today looks perfect. Also, everything you see on television appears perfect. Every image you see on social media is perfect. When did we get rid of imperfections in our culture?

I, for one, miss imperfection. I have a weakness for imperfect things. Maybe it's because I am one.

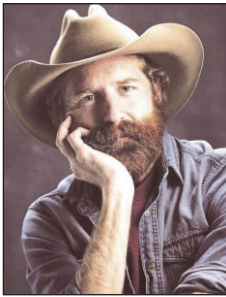
Even so, I love imperfections. I miss watching televi-

sion and seeing imperfect people who look like normal

people. What happened, for instance, to elderly people on TV? Why aren't there any Aunt Beas, Granny Clampetts, and Fred Sanfords? Did producers round them up and carry them off to Sumter County, Fla.? Isn't anyone trying to market to older people? Don't older people buy stuff?

Today, the media have conveniently ignored the aging process. Photo filters and smartphone photography can correct liver spots, skin blemishes, saggy jowls and wrinkles. Skin is re-textured and smoothed. Teeth are whitened. Lighting is perfect by algorithms before the photo is even snapped.

It's not just phone cameras that eliminate imperfections. There are real-life filters, too. Each year, 1.58 million cosmetic procedures are performed and 28.2 million minimally invasive procedures.



DIETRICH

ally play a musical instrument has dramatically dropped in the last five years. Degrees in music technology and digital audio composition are skyrocketing. Music professors lovingly refer to these students as “laptop majors.”

And if all this isn't bad enough, Major League Baseball is considering an AI umpire.

I don't mean to depress you. I suppose these things are all just part of living in a perfect world. Everything looks great. Everything feels great. Everything appears sparkly and flawless.

But don't forget the subtle beauty of unsterilized imperfection. As you go about your day today, let your quirks show. Be proud of every wrinkle, blemish and scar you own – you earned them fair and square. In other words, when you're out there among the human race, don't be afraid to show a little crack.

Thanks for the tomatoes, John and Karen.

Georgia Council for the Arts awards \$1.3 million in grant funding

Staff Reports

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ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Economic Development team specialized in empowering arts and culture, Georgia Council for the Arts, has announced that \$1.3 million in competitive grant funding will be distributed to recipients in 37 counties across the state through Fiscal Year 2027 General Operating Support, Project, and Arts Education Program grants.

A total of 179 grants were awarded during GCA’s initial disbursements for the fiscal year.

General Operating Support Grants will provide funding for operating support to 90 nonprofit arts organizations.

Project Grants will help fund 57 single art projects such as an art exhibit, a theater production, a series of children’s workshops, or capacity-building projects, such as developing a strategic plan or providing professional development.

Arts Education Program Grants will be distributed to 32 organizations to support the arts in K-12 education, and many include a variety of disciplines, from visual art to music or theater, to dance and creative writing.

“In Georgia, the arts are at the heart of our communities, from big cities to rural towns,” Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson said in a news release. “The



Georgia Council for the Arts grants we are announcing today will support vibrant arts organizations and diverse arts programming that foster a sense of community, enhance downtowns and support small businesses. “These investments will also benefit Georgia students,

providing opportunities to enhance creative skills that will help them in whatever career path they choose. Congratulations to these organizations as they continue their mission to deliver impactful arts experiences to Georgians.” Project Grants will support programs like the Rome

Shakespeare Festival’s production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” part of the annual festival that attracts thousands to downtown Rome. The Moultrie-Colquitt County Parks and Recreation Authority will use its grant to provide inclusive arts and recreational programming for adults with physical and cognitive disabilities through a series of free, hands-on classes.

Arts Education Program Grants will support programs like the E.R.I.C. Foundation Cultural Arts Education Program, which offers year-round, performance-based music and dance instruction for young people in Macon-Bibb County, with instruction delivered by professional teaching artists

with backgrounds in theater, music, and dance, encouraging the development of hands-on skills and confidence.

In Ware County, the Okefenokee Heritage Center will use grant funds to host its youth art camp and art shows for students across six counties in the region, providing access to arts learning and experiences that would not otherwise be available to the students.

Funds awarded by Georgia Council for the Arts include appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional grants for Vibrant Communities and Cultural Facilities programs will be awarded in fall 2026



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

The Georgia Public Service Commission has approved an investigation into whether Georgia Power’s industrial customers who are heavy energy consumers, like data centers, are shifting some costs to residential customers.

Public Service Commission greenlights probe into data center costs

By Alander Rocha

Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Public Service Commission approved an investigation into whether Georgia Power’s industrial customers who are heavy energy consumers, like data centers, are shifting some costs to residential customers.

The investigation was part of an agreement the utility company and PSC staff reached in May that slightly lowered the amount of the utility’s fuel and Hurricane Helene cleanup costs that could be passed on to residential customers. The investigation will focus on a pricing structure used primarily by data centers and other large industrial customers that the commission staff said in a filing could drive the average cost for residential customers by up to 11% per month by 2028, which is likely to increase as demand for energy to power data centers grows.

Staff members with the Public Service Commission recommended commissioners sign off on further investigation, which they did.

The move was celebrated by environmental advocates. Ja’Mae Rooks of the Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund, an environmental advocacy organization, said in a statement, “Georgians deserve to understand exactly who is paying for the massive growth in electricity demand from data centers, and who isn’t.”

“This investigation is a critical first step toward transparency. Families, small businesses, and churches shouldn’t be paying for Jeff Bezos’ data centers,” Rooks said, referring to the founder of Amazon.

During Tuesday’s hearing, Democratic Commissioner Peter Hubbard pushed for a deeper investigation on the special pricing structure, saying that he wants to “make sure that we’re looking at this holistically.”

But Georgia Power pushed back. Steve Hughes, who represented the utility company, said that Hubbard’s proposal would take much longer to complete as it changes “the scope of the proceeding and changes the language that we agreed to in the stipulation that became an order of this commission.” But he assured Hubbard that the investigation would look into the concerns that the commissioner raised.

“Altering the procedural and scheduling order to add a word that could have many different meanings, and people could look at it as a base case analysis, is what I’m trying to make sure doesn’t happen,” Hughes said.

Hubbard’s proposal for a deeper analysis was voted down by the Republican majority on the commission, but the commission unanimously approved the investigation that Georgia Power agreed to in May’s fuel case hearing, which is set to be completed by the end of the year.

Georgia Supreme Court rebukes appellate decision, confirms RICO Act applies in family lawsuits

By Ty Tagam

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A 1980s law originally aimed mainly at organized crime can be used in domestic disputes, the Georgia Supreme Court clarified in a ruling involving a legal clash between former spouses.

The decision last week reversed the state Court of Appeals, which had ruled that the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, did not apply to domestic disputes.

Legal experts were not surprised by the high court’s decision but said it preserves a powerful legal tool that could lead to more respect for civil proceedings, since the racketeering law enhances the consequences for playing fast and loose with facts and rules.

“So many of the predicate crimes to satisfy the RICO statute routinely occur in what the Court of Appeals is calling ‘garden variety domestic cases,’” said Tanya Washington, a Georgia State University law professor. “Forgery and fraudulent communications and engaging with other people for them to testify a certain way. All of those sorts of things happen in family law cases.”

If a party is found to have violated some of the 43 categories of offenses listed under the racketeering law, it can lead to severe financial penalties, she said, or even a criminal investigation: “It makes it easier for a prosecutor to pick up the RICO claim and follow the breadcrumbs.”

The unanimous Supreme Court opinion issued June 30 nullified an appellate decision that said it would be “absurd” and “in defiance of common sense and sound reasoning” to apply the RICO Act “to any garden-variety domestic dispute.”

The appeals court had affirmed a decision in a Paulding County Superior Court lawsuit brought by Jennifer Warner against her ex-husband, Jeffrey Espitia, and his fiancée, Krystal Kriewaldt.

Warner invoked the RICO Act after the Cobb County Superior Court ruled against Espitia in a prior lawsuit. He had sued to recover child support from her that he claimed was in arrears.

Their two children lived with him, and he asserted that she had failed to make her monthly \$550 payments.

But he admitted in court that he had presented incorrect information and was uncertain about the arrears, saying it was an inadvertent error. He said he had trusted Kriewaldt’s calculations.

The Cobb court determined Espitia’s claims were “substantially frivolous, substantially groundless, and substantially vexatious,” finding that he had gone to court to harass and intimidate his ex-wife.

Armed with that decision, Warner sued in Paulding, invoking the RICO Act.

The Paulding court ruled against her, so she appealed. The appeals court also decid-

ed against her, ruling that her underlying claims against her ex-husband were not a matter for the court to consider because the RICO Act did not apply. The appeals court described her lawsuit as “yet another volley in the parties’ long-running domestic dispute,” adding that nothing in the RICO Act suggests it “may be warped so far beyond its original purpose of combating organized crime to apply to a festering domestic feud.”

Warner then appealed to the state Supreme Court, which criticized the appeals court’s opinion on RICO’s applicability, saying the opinion lacked “any meaningful analysis” of Georgia’s racketeering law. The high court ordered the appeals court to consider Warner’s underlying claim that her ex-husband and his fiancée had conspired to file false documents about her child support payments.

Lawmakers clearly intended RICO to target more than organized crime when they updated the law in 1997 to thwart “the increasing sophistication of various criminal elements,” the Supreme Court opinion said.

The opinion also criticized the appellate court for misusing what’s known as the “absurdity” doctrine, a legal analysis that courts can use when the text of a law produces more than one plausible interpretation. If one outcome produces absurd results and another does not, a court should generally side with the latter interpretation, the Supreme Court opinion noted.

But in this case, the opinion said, there was only one plausible interpretation of the text of the law, which prohibits “any person” from conspiring to violate RICO’s provisions.

John Floyd, a former prosecutor and RICO expert who now uses the law mostly in corporate lawsuits for the Atlanta law firm Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, said the Supreme Court needed to send a message to lower courts that the racketeering law applies broadly. Otherwise, he said, the appeals court ruling might have precluded RICO claims in civil cases, including in serious domestic disputes involving threats of murder, kidnapping or other violence.

Floyd helped prosecute Atlanta Public Schools educators for cheating on test scores and then helped Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis with her election conspiracy case against President Trump and his associates.

RICO cases are difficult to bring, but the law provides a powerful legal tool against conspirators in criminal and civil cases, he said. Civil RICO judgments can result in treble damages, attorney fees and injunctions.

Although the financial stakes in this particular domestic dispute might have been modest, Floyd said, “a bad decision in a case like that still cascades down through everything, whether the next case is a \$100 case or a \$100 million case.”

Five charged in alleged Athens-to-Chicago gun trafficking tied to gangs

Staff Reports

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ATHENS — U.S. Attorney Will Keyes has announced that five people have been charged in a 23-count indictment in the Middle District of Georgia as members of an alleged firearms trafficking ring operating between Athens and Chicago, providing weapons to gang members, with some of the guns linked to acts of violence — including a murder in Chicago committed by a juvenile — in a Homeland Security Task Force investigation led by ATF.

The federal indictment charges the following individuals:

-- Anthony Edmond, aka “Chapo,” aka “Chapo Barksdale,” of Athens, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms offenses; one count of conspiracy to unlawfully make, transfer and possess machineguns; seven counts of false statement during purchase of a firearm; six counts of possession of firearm by a convicted felon; one count of transfer of a firearm to a convicted felon; one count of possession of a machine gun; one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; one count of conspiracy to possess firearms and machine guns in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; one count of conspiracy to traffic in stolen motor vehicles; three counts of interstate travel with intent to engage in firearms trafficking. He is facing up to a maximum of life in prison.

-- Rafael Enriquez, aka “Ritchie Rich,” aka “Ralph,” of Chicago, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms offenses; one count of conspir-



Special Photo: U.S. Attorney's Office

Guns allegedly purchased by individuals in Georgia were distributed in Chicago to gang members.

acy to unlawfully make, transfer and possess machine guns; five counts of false statement during purchase of a firearm; four counts of possession of firearm by a convicted felon; one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; one count of conspiracy to possess firearms and machine guns in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; one count of conspiracy to traffic in stolen motor vehicles; and three counts of interstate travel with intent to engage in firearms trafficking. He is facing up to a maximum of life in prison.

-- Elijah Lucena, aka “Eli,” aka “GMT Eli,” of Chicago, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms offenses; one count of false statement during purchase of a firearm; one count of possession of firearm by a convicted felon; and one count of interstate travel with intent to engage in firearms trafficking. He is facing up to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

-- Keontice Reed, aka “Manman,” aka “GMT Manman,” of Chicago, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms offenses; one count of conspiracy to unlawfully make, transfer

and possess machine guns; one count of false statement during purchase of a firearm; one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; and one count of conspiracy to possess firearms and machine guns in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He is facing up to a maximum of 20 years in prison.

-- Melvin Griffin, aka “Memo600,” of Snellville and Chicago, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit firearms offenses; one count of possession of firearm by a convicted felon; one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; and one count of conspiracy to possess firearms and machine guns in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He is facing up to a maximum of life in prison.

The defendants have had or will have their initial appearances at times determined by the court.

According to the indictment and other statements made in court, Edmond is allegedly a member of the Chicago-based gang known as the Black Disciples and is an associate of another Chicago-based street gang known as the Conservative Vice Lords, who was directed by the other defendants to make straw purchases of firearms from gun stores in Georgia, which were transported and distributed to criminal street gang members in the Chicago area.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is investigating the case with critical assistance from the Chicago Police Department; FBI-Atlanta; the Rockford, Ill., Police Department; the Athens Clarke County Police Department; and other state and local law enforcement partners.

Georgia State Parks come alive after sunset

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

WAYCROSS -- Nighttime outdoor recreation continues to grow in popularity as travelers and locals seek unique experiences and cooler vibes during the summer and fall months. Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites offer visitors the opportunity to experience the parks after sunset through special evening events and diverse programs.

Nighttime entertainment includes full moon paddles, stargazing, evening concerts, movie nights and hayrides. For additional information, visit GaStateParks.org.

Evenings focus on guests customizing an experience to fit their need for the perfect after-hours adventure and offer a new perspective for audiences to explore.

Here are the Top Five Ways to stretch out those summer days and explore Georgia's State Parks after dark:

Hike to the suspension bridge and watch the moon rise above the gorge during ranger-led Full Moon Hikes at Tallulah Gorge State Park.

Experience an outdoor movie night at Victoria Bryant State Park. Bring a blanket and enjoy an evening of entertainment under the stars.

Historic Sites offer lantern



Special Photo: Georgia State Parks

Stephen C. Foster State Park, located in the Okefenokee Swamp, is one of the nation's premier stargazing destinations.

and candlelight tours that bring Georgia's history to life after dark. Take a stroll down the old carriage road during a lantern tour of the antebellum plantation house at Jarrell Plantation Historic Site, or experience Fort McAllister by candlelight.

Explore Georgia's waterways by kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or aqua cycle during ranger-led evening paddles. Parks like Hard Labor Creek offer opportunities to look for nocturnal wildlife such as owls, bats and frogs.

State parks offer a guide to the galaxy. Watch for meteors, observe the moon, count the stars, or seek out plan-

ets at Stephen C. Foster State Park, one of the nation's premier stargazing destinations. Located in the Okefenokee Swamp, the park is ranked among Big Bend and Death Valley national parks as a gold-tier "International Dark Sky Park."

Parks After Dark programs are best enjoyed with an overnight stay. Plan to stay at one of Georgia State Parks' many accommodations. Guests can choose from cabins, cottages, yurts, lodges, campsites and more to extend their adventure beyond sunset. This summer and fall, visitors can experience Georgia state parks come alive after sunset.

Georgia ag commissioner declares July 'Georgia Grown Watermelon Month'

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper has signed a proclamation officially declaring July 2026 as "Georgia Grown Watermelon Month," celebrating one of the state's signature summer crops and the Georgia farmers who grow it.

With approximately 35,000 acres dedicated to watermelon production and a 2024 farm gate value of \$220.5 million, Georgia is a national leader in watermelon production and home to the "Watermelon Capital of the World," Cordele, where more than 200 million pounds of watermelon are grown each year.

"We are thrilled to officially recognize July as Georgia Grown Watermelon Month in celebration of our state's iconic water-

melon crop and the hard-working farm families who produce them," Harper said in a news release. "From central Georgia to the Coastal Plain, our growers carefully cultivate this staple summer crop from early spring through mid-summer, producing crisp, sweet and refreshing watermelons.

"I encourage everyone to support our farmers by buying Georgia-grown watermelons this season."



File Photo

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper has signed a proclamation officially declaring July 2026 as "Georgia Grown Watermelon Month."

Tick bites are surging in the U.S. Here's what you need to know

By Amelia Twyman

Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON — The prime time for ticks is here in the United States, and after an especially active start to the season, experts are urging the public to stay alert and take preventive measures.

Monthly emergency department visits for tick bites in April spiked to their highest level since 2017 and continued to remain high throughout May and June, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's tick bite tracker.

Though it's hard to predict what the rest of the season will look like, given that tick activity depends on a number of different factors, there has definitely been a recent geographic expansion of the area ticks inhabit, Pilar Fernandez, a disease ecologist and assistant professor at Washington State University, said.

The tiny blood-suckers, which tend to thrive in warmer climates, are spreading to places that used to be too cold for their existence, Fernandez said during a July 1 SciLine media briefing, as temperatures rise in the United States and around the world.

With more ticks comes a greater risk of individuals developing tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, Alpha-gal syndrome and anaplasmosis. That's why researchers are encouraging people to know their facts and learn how to protect themselves from bites as they venture outdoors.

What's going on this year?

According to the CDC, an estimated 31 million people are bitten by ticks each year, with most encounters taking place between April and October. But in 2026, ER visits began rising as early as March.

Weekly ER trips for tick bites are also up in every U.S. region except for south-central as of June 28, the online tick tracker shows.

Global warming is certainly one reason behind this recent surge in tick activity, though Fernandez said the whole picture is much more complicated. Because ticks can live for up to two to three years, it's difficult to understand the delayed seasonal effects of increased temperatures or precipitation on their population, she said.

Other factors, including local environmental conditions and how much time people spend outside, can have an impact on annual tick encounters, Fernandez added.

Every spring and summer, she said, people ask her if it's going to be a "big year" for ticks, which is "a really hard question to answer, because it's not equal across all locations."

Most tick cases are recorded in the Northeast and Midwest, but different species of ticks are found in every region of the country. And as the population expands into areas where people are unaware of how to protect themselves and unaccustomed to checking for bites, the threat of contracting a tick-borne infection grows, Fernandez said.

Tick-borne diseases

Ticks carry pathogens that they then pass on to humans by biting into their skin and



Photo Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via Georgia Recorder

A lone star tick is a very aggressive tick that bites humans. A circular rash sometimes follows the bite.

feeding on their blood. An untreated tick bite can lead to the development of one of nearly 20 different human diseases in the U.S., the most common of which is Lyme disease — about 476,000 patients are treated annually, according to the CDC.

Another tick-borne infection that has been on the rise is Alpha-gal syndrome, which causes people to experience a serious allergic reaction after they eat red meat or other animal products that contain the sugar molecule alpha-gal. It is most commonly associated with the lone star species of tick distributed throughout the Northeastern, Southern and Midwestern United States.

Initial symptoms of tick-borne illnesses are unspecific and often the same as those that come with regular sickness, such as a fever, headache, muscle aches and joint pain, according to Alvaro Toledo, an associate professor in the Department of Entomology at Rutgers who also spoke at the July 1 media briefing.

"Physicians need to be vigilant and aware if they receive a patient with symptoms that are compatible with a tick-borne disease," he said.

What if you find a tick?

If one discovers a tick on the skin, Toledo said the proper response is to first quickly remove the tick with tweezers by pinching and pulling it up in a vertical motion, then disinfecting the area and monitoring for signs of sickness.

People should not, on the other hand, deal with a tick by burning it off or applying petroleum jelly to the bite, said University of Wisconsin-Madison Assistant Professor Adela Oliva Chavez, a tick researcher, at the briefing.

"Those are myths," she warned.

Ticks typically do not transmit infection until after they have been attached to the skin for 24 hours, which is why the CDC recommends people aim to remove the pests as soon as possible within the first day.

However, experts say the most effective way to prevent tickborne disease in humans is by limiting exposure to ticks in the first place.

Toledo said people should use chemical sprays such as permethrin on their clothing and classic bug repellents on their skin to keep ticks away. It's also a good idea to wear long, light-colored clothing when spending time in forests and other highly vegetated areas where ticks are abundant.

But, he added as a reminder to the public, there is "no zero-risk zone anywhere when you go out ... even in your backyard, risk is not zero."

Individuals can further reduce their chance of acquiring a tick bite by checking their pets just as often as themselves, according to Oliva Chavez. Dogs and cats can easily bring ticks into the house from outside, and if they aren't yet attached to the animal's flesh, they can make their way onto humans, she said.



Gov. Brian Kemp

Governor plans economic development mission to Scotland, Ireland

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp has announced that he and First Lady Marty Kemp are leading an international mission this week to foster economic relationships in Scotland and Ireland, including a meeting with Executive Chair Euisun Chung and other senior leadership from Hyundai Motor Group and Taoiseach Micheál Martin, the Prime Minister of Ireland.

"Over the last several years, thousands of new jobs across various industries have come to Georgia, thanks to our Hyundai partners and Irish companies," Kemp said. "I look forward to meeting with these companies to discuss current operations and opportunities for growth as we look to bring more opportunity and investment home to hard-working Georgians."

The governor and first lady, joined by representatives from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, will conduct meetings with companies operating or under construction in Georgia during the trip. The Georgia delegation also will meet with Hyundai Motor Group leadership -- responsible for the largest economic development project in state history -- at the Genesis Scot-

tish Open.

"Connectivity is a bridge to opportunity, and Georgia's success is built on long-lasting partnerships that span companies, universities, and cities," GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "Technology makes global connections possible, but trust is built in person. Every visit, every conversation, and every partnership strengthens the relationships that drive innovation, investment, and opportunity for Georgia."

In addition to meeting with companies already employing Georgians across the state, Kemp and members of the delegation, including World Trade Center Savannah and the Savannah Economic Development Authority, will tour the Georgia Southern Wexford Campus and join the Wexford community for events supporting subnational and educational partnerships between Ireland and Georgia.

Current Itinerary:

Hyundai Motor Group: Among Hyundai Motor Group's investments in the state are Kia Georgia in West Point, operating since 2009 and currently employing 3,200 people, and Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America in Ellabell, which has hired nearly 2,000 employees as the facility contin-

ues to ramp up operations.

CRH: A leading building materials company, CRH maintains two North American corporate headquarters in Atlanta, with manufacturing and infrastructure facilities located throughout the state.

Kerry Group: A global taste and nutrition solutions company, Kerry Group operates food-processing facilities in Rome and Calhoun that produce seasoned breadcrumbs for the food industry.

Kingspan Group: A leading manufacturer of building materials and storage tanks, Kingspan produces advanced insulation, roofing and building envelope solutions. The company has a regional sales office for its North American insulation business in metro Atlanta.

Mallaghan: The airport ground support equipment manufacturer's Newnan facility produces passenger boarding stairs, aircraft maintenance platforms, deicers and hi-lifts.

Smurfit Westrock: One of the world's largest paper and packaging companies, Smurfit Westrock's joint North and South American headquarters is located in Sandy Springs, with manufacturing, packaging and recycling operations across Georgia.

Growing pains: Young Knights finding their place

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Jake McCrae has spent the first few days of preseason practice doing something he hasn't had to do much the past two summers. Raising his voice.

That's what happens when a championship-caliber senior class graduates and a program accustomed to polishing the finer details suddenly has to teach the fundamentals again.

"There is a lot more yelling this year," the Deerfield-Windsor head coach said with a laugh after another sweltering workout on the Knights' practice field. "I've been spoiled the past two years. The guys knew their positions and knew their roles."

Those experienced leaders are gone now.

After winning the GIAA Class

AAA state championship in 2024 and finishing as state runner-up last season, Deerfield-Windsor enters the 2026 campaign with a talented roster, but one searching for new leaders and a new identity.

Gone are quarterback Lane Sceals, dependable wide receivers David Hutchins and Gabe Daniel, along with a senior class that helped produce one of the most successful stretches in school history.

Replacing that production won't happen overnight.

Perhaps the biggest question entering preseason camp is at quarterback, where sophomore Maddox Skipper and freshman Jay Sceals — Lane's younger brother — are competing for the opportunity to lead the Knights' offense.

"But this is what football is supposed to be," McCrae said. "A slow, painstaking learning process. Our guys have to learn their roles and be able to trust each other and play together."

Fortunately for Deerfield, the cupboard isn't bare.

The Knights return a strong nucleus of players who gained valuable experience during last year's run to the state championship game, in-

cluding Manham Pippin, Gage Tomlinson, West Rushton and Turner Simmons.

"I love who we have coming back," McCrae said. "It's a matter of us putting the pieces together. The guys have to learn their jobs, and we as coaches have to put the people in the right positions."

Talent has never been the question. Experience is.

McCrae believes many of this year's starters learned valuable lessons while watching last season's senior leaders prepare each week.

"It will be interesting to see if they learned anything watching the last couple of years," he said.

Now it's their turn.

How quickly those lessons translate onto the field will go a long way in determining whether Deerfield remains among the GIAA's elite.

"It is much more challenging," McCrae said. "But how well we can do that will determine how good we are and how our season goes."

The learning curve won't last long.

The Knights travel to Macon on July 31st for a preseason scrimmage against Tatnall Square before opening the regular season August 14th on the road against longtime rival Valwood.

The home opener offers little relief.

Perennial power First Presbyterian Day School comes to Albany on August 21st, giving Deerfield two immediate measuring-stick games against championship-caliber opponents.

"It will be tough right out of the gate," McCrae said.

By then, McCrae hopes the yelling has given way to confidence, and that a new quarterback, new leaders and a new identity have begun to emerge.

For a program that has spent the past two seasons playing for state championships, the expectations haven't changed.

Only the voices leading the way have.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Morning workouts have become the norm for Deerfield-Windsor as the Knights try to beat the southwest Georgia heat while learning new roles following the graduation of a championship senior class.



Special Photo: Charles LeClaire-Imagn Images

Braves starter Grant Holmes tossed five scoreless innings Wednesday night, helping Atlanta blank the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-0. Joey Bart's two-run homer in the eighth inning helped snap he Braves' three-game losing streak.

Braves beat Bucs on Bart blast

Field Level Media

Joey Bart's eighth-inning two-run home run against his former team put the Atlanta Braves on course for a 3-0 victory over the host Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday night.

Bart's blast to left-center field off Pirates reliever Dennis Santana (2-4) scored Mike Yastrzemski, who hit a two-out double to start the rally. The homer broke a scoreless tie and helped the Braves snap their three-game losing skid and Pittsburgh's three-game winning streak.

Bart, who spent the previous two seasons with the Pirates and played 21 games this season for Pittsburgh, joined the Braves on June 18 after being traded for pitcher Hunter Stratton. Bart played college baseball in Atlanta, at Georgia Tech.

Bart's eventual game-winner came after the Pirates got a stellar outing from Jared Jones, who exited after six perfect innings.

It was Jones' longest and best start since returning on May 29 from right UCL surgery. It was the first time he exited a start after not al-

lowing a single baserunner. Jones struck out eight of the 18 batters he faced, and Pittsburgh pitchers recorded 13 strikeouts overall.

Due to a strict pitch count, Jones was lifted after 77 pitches. The Pirates' bid for a combined perfect game ended when Ozzie Albies roped a one-out single to left field in the seventh off reliever Mason Montgomery.

Atlanta tacked on another run in the ninth on an RBI single by Drake Baldwin off Isaac Mattson. Baldwin's two-out hit scored Michael Harris II, who had hit a leadoff double.

Braves starter Grant Holmes wasn't perfect like Jones, but he kept Atlanta even on the scoreboard after throwing five shutout innings, allowing three hits and one walk while striking out five.

The Braves' bullpen completed the shutout behind Didier Fuentes, Dylan Dodd (1-0), Dylan Lee and Raisel Iglesias, who walked Nick Gonzales with two outs in the ninth but then struck out Marcell Ozuna to finish off his 18th save.

Pirates hitters struck out 11 times and were held to four hits, all of which were singles.



Special Photo: Albany Technical College

Albany Technical College officials, community leaders and students celebrate the opening of the new ATC Titans Esports arena during Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Taking part in the opening were, from left, Jerri Carroll, Gwendolyn Thomas, Emmett Griswold, Matt Reed, ATC student Ambria Williams, Jana Dyke, ATC student Elijah Sallaway, Kenneth Williams and Cassandra Henderson.

Albany Tech launches Titans Esports

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — At Albany Technical College, competition is no longer limited to the basketball court. This fall, the Titans will also compete in one of the fastest-growing collegiate sports in the country — esports.

Albany Tech has launched the ATC Titans Esports program, becoming the first college in the Technical College System of Georgia to offer organized esports competition. College officials believe the program will do far more than give students a place to compete. They see it as a tool to recruit students, improve retention and prepare graduates for careers in technology, broadcasting, cybersecurity and digital media.

"People think it's just gaming, but it's much bigger than that," said Kenneth Williams, Albany Tech's director of athletics and student life. "It brings gamers, broadcasters and technology professionals together from all over the world."

The Titans will compete through NJCAA Esports (NJCAA), the national governing body for two-year college esports competition. Albany Tech plans to begin with a roster of 10 to 15 students while building the program.

Students will compete in popular titles such as Super Smash Bros. and Mario Kart, but Williams said success requires the same commitment expected in traditional athletics.

"It takes a certain level of commitment to be really good at it," Williams said. "The players study the game, watch film, practice and work with coaches just like athletes in any other sport. They review what happened in competition and work on improving every day."

The benefits, however, extend well beyond the competition.

Williams said esports opens doors to careers in graphic design, cybersecurity, event management, broadcasting, marketing and video game development. Albany Tech's existing video game design program also creates a natural pipeline into the esports program while exposing students to career opportunities in

the rapidly expanding gaming industry.

The college also believes the program can become a powerful tool for student success.

Research has shown that students who become involved in campus organizations are more likely to remain enrolled and complete their degrees. Williams believes esports provides another opportunity for students to become engaged while pursuing their education.

"Anyone on our campus can be a part of it," Williams said. "When students become involved, they're more likely to stay in school and finish their degree."

Participants also must meet academic eligibility requirements, reinforcing the program's emphasis on success both in the classroom and in competition.

Albany Tech recently unveiled its dedicated esports arena inside the Center for Excellence in Information Technology, providing students with a place to practice, compete and eventually host tournaments while connecting with players across the country and around the world.

College President Dr. Emmett L. Griswold said the new program reflects Albany Tech's commitment to meeting students where their interests are while preparing them for future careers.

"Esports gives students another meaningful way to connect with Albany Technical College, build community and strengthen skills that carry into the classroom and the workplace," Griswold said. "This launch is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to meeting students where they are while creating new opportunities for engagement, leadership and success."

For Williams, the goal isn't simply to build a successful esports team.

It's to create another pathway for students to earn a degree while preparing for careers in one of the world's fastest-growing industries.

"If we can keep students engaged, help them graduate and prepare them for careers in technology, broadcasting, cybersecurity or game design," Williams said, "then we've done exactly what this program was designed to do."



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Former Dougherty and Westover girls basketball coach Charlene Jackson demonstrates proper pivot technique during the Lea Henry Camp of Champions at Deerfield-Windsor on Wednesday. Jackson has worked alongside Henry at the camp for more than 30 years. Nearly 130 campers, ages 5-18, participated this week, with openings still available for next week's session beginning Monday. For information, email leahenry5@gmail.com.

Gotterup back where career took off

Field Level Media

NORTH BERWICK, Scotland — One year ago, Chris Gotterup arrived at the Genesis Scottish Open as a little-known PGA Tour player with just one victory in an alternate-field event and few expectations.

He leaves this week's tournament with a vastly different reputation.

Fresh off his victory at last week's John Deere Classic, Gotterup returned to the Renaissance Club looking to defend the title that launched his career while competing alongside many of the world's top players in one of golf's premier tuneups for next week's Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

"This was kind of the second step of my career on tour," Gotterup said of last year's breakthrough. "Nothing but good memories coming back, and it's nice to feel like I know

this place a little bit."

Gotterup stunned the field a year ago by firing a second-round 61 before holding off Rory McIlroy to claim the biggest victory of his career. The win earned him a berth in the Open Championship, where he exceeded expectations again by finishing third in his major championship debut.

The 26-year-old has continued his rapid ascent, climbing to No. 7 in the Official World Golf Ranking after capturing his fifth PGA Tour victory last weekend.

His rise was reflected in this week's featured grouping alongside McIlroy and defending champion Robert MacIntyre, who have combined to win the past three Scottish Open titles.

The Genesis Scottish Open has become one of the strongest international fields outside the majors since becoming a co-sanctioned event



Special Photo: Marc Lebryk-Imagn Images

Chris Gotterup acknowledges the gallery during last year's Genesis Scottish Open, where he claimed the biggest victory of his career. The defending champion returned to Scotland this week looking to build momentum heading into next week's Open Championship.

between the PGA Tour and DP World Tour in 2022. Nearly all of the world's top-ranked players are using the event to sharpen their games before the season's final major.

"This, to me, is the blueprint," McIlroy said. "It's a perfect lead-in to the Open Championship."

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler agreed that the week provides an ideal opportunity to adjust to links-style golf before heading to Royal Birkdale.

"It always helps for me to get over here and play some competitive golf and get used to the time zone," Scheffler said. "It also helps me get used to a different style of golf."

The field also includes seven LIV Golf players who qualified through their DP World Tour status, including Jon Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton. With LIV Golf currently on an extended break, both are using Scotland's winds, firm fairways and fescue rough to

prepare for the Open.

"It's great to play a links golf event before a links golf event," Rahm said. "Playing in the weather and the fescue grass is different than what we are playing year-round."

The hometown favorite remains MacIntyre, who thrilled Scottish fans by becoming the first player from Scotland to win his national championship since Colin Montgomerie in 1999.

"I don't know if anything is ever going to top that in my golfing career," MacIntyre said of last year's victory. "The Scottish Open, I'm always going to come back here as much as I can."

As the weekend rounds unfold, the Scottish Open remains more than just another tournament. For contenders like Gotterup, it offers a chance to build momentum heading into next week's Open Championship while testing every facet of their game under true links conditions.



Special Photo: Dale Zanine-Imagn Images

Egypt players surround referee Francois Letexier during Tuesday's World Cup Round of 16 match against Argentina in Atlanta. Egypt filed a formal complaint with FIFA on Wednesday, alleging officiating errors and calling for an investigation into the referee and his crew after a 3-2 loss.

Egypt demands FIFA investigate officiating

Field Level Media

After Egypt coach Hossam Hassan outlined several complaints in the immediate aftermath of Argentina's come-from-behind 3-2 win in the round of 16 on Tuesday in Atlanta, the Egyptian Football Foundation followed up on Wednesday with two statements amplifying their country's issues with the officiating.

The second statement revealed that EFA president Hany Abou Rida filed a formal complaint with FIFA "demanding an investigation into the French referee Francois Letexier after the serious refereeing mistakes committed by the team of referees and double standards, which caused the Egypt team to lose the match and leave the World Cup."

As part of the complaint, Egypt "de-

manded the exclusion of the referee and the entire crew from the World Cup after investigating these mistakes."

Egypt led 2-0 late in the second half before Argentina reeled off three goals in a 13-minute stretch to advance to the quarterfinals.

That late lead could have been 3-0, but Egypt had a goal in the 58th minute disallowed after a VAR replay discerned an Egypt foul against an Argentina player shortly before the goal.

"The Egyptian Football Association cannot remain silent," the first statement began, "regarding the refereeing decisions witnessed during the match against Argentina as well as the failure to make appropriate use of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system."

"Several key incidents raised serious concerns and left profound questions about the consistency and fairness of

decisions that directly influenced the course of the game.

"A number of football experts and specialist analysts, both locally and internationally, have highlighted controversial and influential refereeing incidents during the match. This underlines the importance of maintaining the highest standards of integrity, fairness, and transparency in match officiating, particularly in a competition of the stature and significance of the FIFA World Cup 2026."

Hassan's translated words after Tuesday's match put Egypt's opinion more bluntly.

"There was neither respect nor fair play today," Hassan said. "Argentina's victory is entirely undeserved."

Argentina plays Switzerland in the quarterfinals on Saturday in Kansas City.



Special Photo: Gabby Velasquez/ El Paso Times

United States fans cheer during Monday's World Cup match against Belgium. Despite the Americans' Round of 16 loss, the telecast drew a record 30 million viewers for Fox.

U.S. loss to Belgium sets TV ratings record

Field Level Media

The United States men's national team's loss to Belgium in the World Cup round of 16 on Monday was a disappointment for fans, but it rewrote domestic viewership records once again.

The game drew 30 million viewers on Fox, according to Nielsen preliminary data released Tuesday. That far outpaced the Americans' round of 32 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina last Wednesday, which at 24.429 million was the most-watched English-language soccer broadcast in the U.S. for all of five days.

The peak audience for Belgium's 4-1 win over the U.S. was 36.895 million viewers in the 9:15-9:30 p.m. ET window.

The 30 million number beat out some high-profile sport-

ing events in the U.S. in the past 12 months, including the New York Knicks' title-clinching Game 5 win over the San Antonio Spurs (24.5 million) and Game 7 of the 2025 World Series in which the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Toronto Blue Jays (26 million). The CFP national title game between Indiana and Miami only barely beat out U.S.-Belgium at 30.1 million.

And taken together with an audience of 12 million on Spanish-language Telemundo, the game averaged a whopping 42 million viewers.

It was the last U.S. match fans will get to see in the tournament they are co-hosting. Malik Tillman scored on a free kick, but Charles De Ketelaere had a first-half brace for Belgium and they added on two more after halftime.

Tony's Take: Parallels across the playing field

By Tony Duckworth
TonyDuckworthsr@gmail.com

Parallels. Football, well soccer, is the world's most popular sport. According to Google, futbol boasts 3.5 billion fans worldwide. American Football fans may be shocked that their sport doesn't make the Top 5.

Cricket 2.5 billion fans | Basketball 2.2 billion fans | Field Hockey 1.2 billion fans | Tennis 1 billion fans.

For those paying attention, soccer's World Cup is currently underway in the USA. Team USA's best-ever finish was in the inaugural tournament in 1930. Needless to say, USA has fallen behind while continuing to chase the world. Team USA can't find a way to advance out of the round of 16.

USA's soccer standing doesn't sit well with those who embrace American Exceptionalism. Multiple reasons can be cited for Team USA's inability to play with the elite world soccer programs. The primary reason USA soccer has not excelled like our big three sports

isn't complicated. Elite American athletes have consistently chosen baseball, basketball, and football over soccer due to the Big 3's popularity in the Red, White, and Blue. Youth soccer participation has grown in recent years, and futbol's popularity among the youth will positively impact the pool of high-level athletes, which will eventually help the sport to rise on the world stage. The exposure of soccer on American soil during the 2026 World Cup will also pay dividends for years to come.

As I think of sport parallels, my mind goes back to 1992, when Team USA was finally allowed to field an NBA roster on the international world stage at the Olympics. For decades, I would tell anyone who would listen that this was the greatest sports team ever assembled. This roster included iconic NBA players led by Jordan, Magic, Bird, and Barkley. Eleven of the twelve are now in the NBA Hall of Fame.

The Dream Team won eight

of the '92 Olympic games by an average of 44 points, and head coach Chuck Daly never called a timeout during the entire tournament.

I remember purchasing a USA Basketball cap during the 1992 SCORE International tour in Costa Rica where I was the head basketball coach of a boys high school all-star team. In some small way, my team was lifted by the pride knowing we were representing our nation for two weeks on a much smaller stage than the Dream Team.

Several years ago, I was listening to the Dan LeBatard Show, and that day, I finally looked at the 1992 Olympics objectively. Despite the name recognition and enormous talent on the Dream Team, I realized that the competition TeamUSA faced paled in comparison to what USA Basketball has faced in the 2000's. For those who watch professional basketball, it doesn't take long to realize that many of the top players in the NBA are international.

While there is no way to know, given the age of some of the Dream Team, were they the most talented roster to ever represent TeamUSA?

I believe USA Soccer parallels what I am describing in the rise of international basketball. I'm certain USA Soccer will not catch up as quickly as international hoops caught USA Basketball. The rise of soccer versus basketball has to do with roster construction. A 5-person starting lineup versus an 11-person lineup is significantly different. The addition of one superstar can make a bigger difference on the hardwood than on the pitch.

It will be a slow burn, but Team USA Soccer will eventually gain relevance on the world stage.

Caitlin Effect. The WNBA's Caitlin Clark impact on women's basketball is unprecedented. Her popularity began as a student-athlete at Iowa, which culminated as a two-time NCAA D-I national player of the year, D-I all-time leading scorer who

led the Cyclones to the national runner-up. I have watched more talented women's players, but I have never seen a woman have the fan base and attract national corporate sponsors like Caitlin.

Google reports WNBA revenue has increased by 25% since Caitlin was drafted #1 by the Indian Fever in the 2024 draft. Fever games drive TV viewership numbers like no other team, and teams are forced to NBA arenas to accommodate the fandom to watch her play in-person. League merchandise sales have tripled. The Caitlin Effect is real.

Clark has garnered much attention for the "treatment" she receives by other WNBA players. Caitlin has been the target of hard fouls that dominate the national conversation surrounding the sport.

Social media has turned the "treatment" of Clark into a combination of race and sex orientation. In reality, top picks in the NBA have received the treatment Caitlin has been re-

ceiving for years. The WNBA has embraced "all news is good news", and the unintended Caitlin Effect has her in the spotlight at times for all the wrong reasons.

Self-absorbed UConn head women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma recently commented on the Caitlin Effect. "Because the bandwagon and the fandom became so obsessed with the whole thing, it turned into a cause," Auriemma said. "... Not every foul is a good foul. Not every foul's a bad foul, but there are fouls that are flagrant -- but that's all they are. They are not a referendum on America, which is what the whole thing has become."

There is a lot of truth in Geno's comment. Caitlin didn't ask for extra attention. She just wants to play ball.

Follow Tony Duckworth on the X platform at @tonyduckworthsr or email him at tonduckworthsr@gmail.com. Duckworth is a native of Macon and is the President and CEO of the Albany Area YMCA.

EARTHWEEK

Diary of a Changing World

By Steve Newman

Climate Risks

The United Nations is urging countries across Europe, North America and Central Asia to redesign roads, railways, ports and airports to withstand increasingly severe climate impacts.

A new report by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe warns that transport systems will face more flooding, extreme heat, sea-level rise and thawing Arctic permafrost.

Flooding already accounts for nearly three-quarters of anticipated annual climate damage to transport.

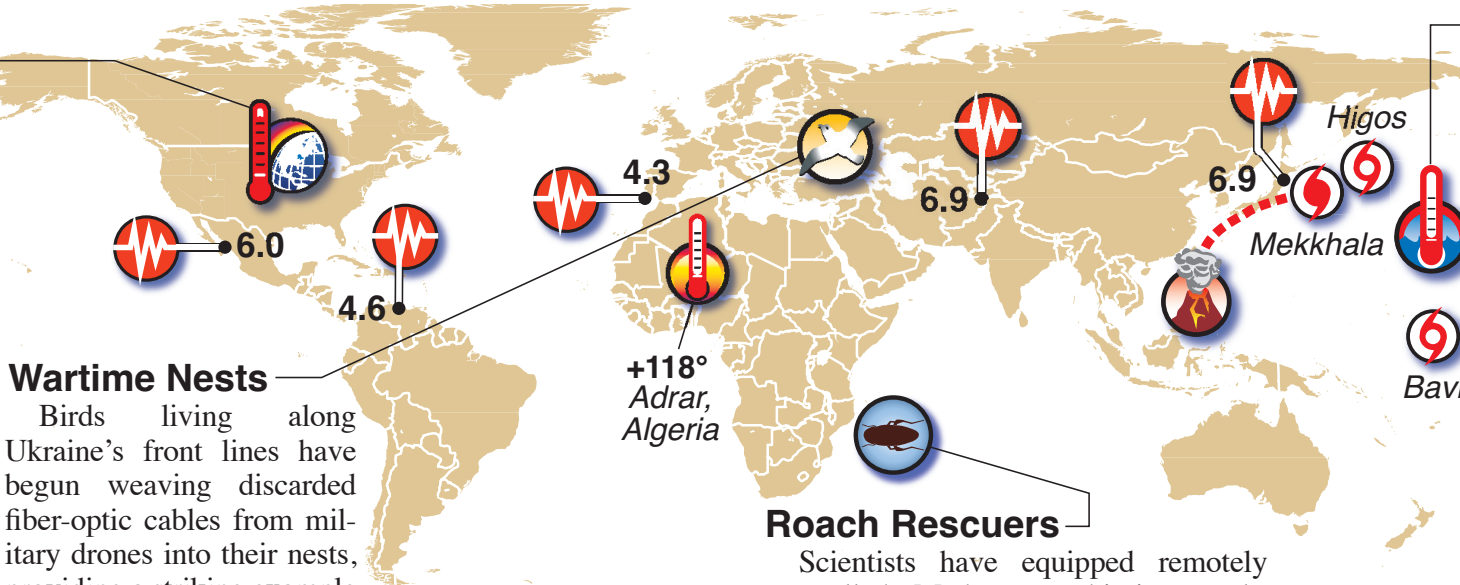
The report also warns that stronger coastal storms could increasingly disrupt ports, airports and global supply chains.

Earthquakes

More than 10 people were injured by a magnitude 6.9 temblor in northeastern Japan.

- An area from Afghanistan to New Delhi was rocked by a powerful Hindu Kush quake that injured 20.

- Earth movements were also felt in southern Portugal, northwestern Mexico and Venezuela’s quake disaster zone.



Wartime Nests

Birds living along Ukraine’s front lines have begun weaving discarded fiber-optic cables from military drones into their nests, providing a striking example of wildlife adapting to a war-altered landscape.

Researchers say the ultra-thin cables, which make drones immune to electronic jamming, now blanket parts of the battlefield after more than four years of fighting.

Scientists will analyze DNA left in several nests to identify the bird species using the synthetic material and determine how widespread the behavior has become.

Although the cables may strengthen nests, researchers warn they could also entangle birds and other wildlife, and pose other hazards.

One of the unusual nests has been added to Ukraine’s National Museum.

Steam Eruption

A steam-driven eruption blasted ash and volcanic gases nearly 4,000 feet above the crater of Taal Volcano, which lies south of the Philippine capital of Manila.

The brief phreatomagmatic eruption occurred when hot volcanic material interacted with water in the volcano’s crater lake, producing a towering plume of ash and steam.

No injuries, significant ashfall or disruptions to air travel were immediately reported.

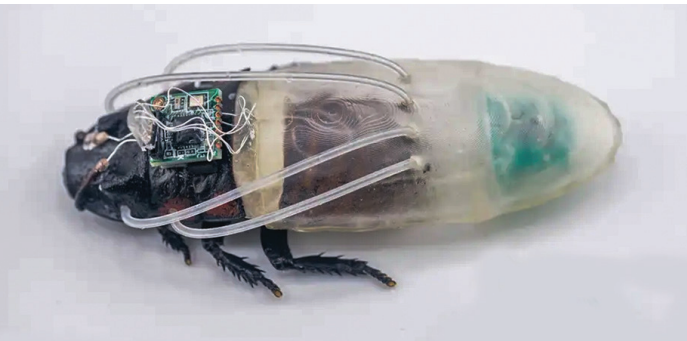
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Roach Rescuers

Scientists have equipped remotely controlled Madagascar hissing cockroaches with tiny 3D-printed diving suits that allow them to breathe and walk underwater for up to three hours.

The biohybrid insects generate their own oxygen through a miniature chemical reaction, enabling them to explore flooded tunnels and debris where conventional robots often fail.

Researchers say the technology could someday help locate survivors trapped after earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.



The new cyborg cockroaches can wear a suit for underwater breathing and can fit into tight spaces due to their size. Photo: NTU Singapore

Record Heat

The world’s oceans recorded their warmest June since modern measurements began, with average global sea-surface temperatures reaching a record 69.8°F, according to the European Union’s Copernicus Marine Service.

Marine heat waves expanded to cover about 82% of the global ocean during the first half of 2026, with the Mediterranean, central North Atlantic and equatorial Pacific among the hardest-hit regions.

Scientists say the record warmth reflects the combined effects of long-term human-caused climate warming and the early development of a potentially powerful El Niño.

Tropical Cyclones

One person was killed and three injured in eastern Japan by severe conditions created by Tropical Storm Higos and former Typhoon Mekkhala, which struck in rapid succession.

- Tropical Storm Bavi formed near the Marshall Islands and was on track to strike the Northern Mariana Islands or Guam as a intense typhoon the following week.

Obituary announcements



Robert Michael Ashton
Mr. Robert Michael Ashton, 80, of Leesburg, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, July 6, 2026. Born on September 8, 1945, in Texarkana, TX, Mr. Ashton was the son of the late Robert and Marjorie Paige Ashton. He proudly served our country in the United States Air Force and retired from Miller Brewer in HR management. He loved coaching softball and soccer and enjoyed bowling. He greatly enjoyed sports especially when his children and grandchildren were involved in playing. Robert enjoyed the outdoors and keeping his grass cut. He was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church and will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. In addition to his parents, Mr. Ashton was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Linda Hatcher Ashton. Those left to cherish his memory include his 3 children, Bryan M. Ashton of Leesburg, Pam K. Goodwin and Louie of Leesburg, and Jeff Ashton and Kali of Cordele; and his 7 grandchildren, Kasie, Tyler, Abby, Toni, Cole, Brody, and Amilia. The family will host a memorial service at a later date. Joseph W. Jones Funeral Home of Leesburg has been entrusted with the care of the Ashton family.

William “Bill” Hale Crawley, Sr.
Mr. William “Bill” Hale Crawley, Sr., 79, of Sylvester died Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at his residence surrounded by his family. The funeral service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 11, 2026, in the Banks Funeral Home Chapel with interment will follow in the Salem Church Cemetery in Tift County. Mr. Crawley was born on July 14, 1946, in Lake Whales, FL to the late O.Z. and Janet Hobbs

Crawley. He had lived in Worth County for the past 40 years. Mr. Crawley was a Veteran having served honorably in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam War. He worked as an Electrician for many years at Miller Brewing Company before retiring. Mr. Crawley enjoyed hunting, playing blue grass music, and spending time with his family. Survivors include his children, Billy Crawley, Jr. (Kay), Bridget Crawley, Brian Crawley (Debbie), LeAnne Malone, and Austin Matthew Crawley; 15 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; siblings, Gloria Smith (Wayne), Leese Thompson (Graham), and Mark Crawley; along with a host of extended family members and friends. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 2:00 PM until the Service Hour at Banks Funeral Home Chapel. Please sign our online guest registry at www.banksfh.com. Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

Gerald “Wayne” Holmes
Gerald “Wayne” Holmes, 77, of Morgan, Georgia, passed away peacefully at his residence on Thursday, July 2, 2026 surrounded by the love of his family. Graveside funeral services will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Morgan City Cemetery, Morgan GA. Rev. A.B. Stroud will officiate. Serving as Honorary pallbearers are Dean Sizemore, Mark Daniels, Chase Sizemore, Christopher Olsen Mike Varnum, Dewayne Beckam and Mack Jones.

Wayne was born on June 18, 1949, in Columbus, GA, to the late Sylvester and Fay Harrington Holmes. As a young boy, he started working the family farm with his father located in Cuthbert, GA before eventually settling in Morgan his home, where he spent the past 50 years building a life centered on family, hard work, and friendships.

He graduated from Randolph County High School, where he played football, and later attended Andrew College in Cuthbert, where he graduated. Wayne later started his own business, Holmes Remodeling, and spent many years doing construction and home remodeling for folks all across Southwest Georgia.

Wayne never met a stranger and enjoyed life’s simple pleasures. Whether he was cheering on the Georgia Bulldogs with a loud “Go Dawgs!”, pulling for the Atlanta Braves, or spending time at the lake with family and friends, he treasured every moment. He loved summer afternoons on

the porch with a cold beer in hand, relaxing at the lake house, and making memories on the beaches of St. George Island. Above all else, Wayne loved his family. His greatest joy came from spending time with his children, grandchildren, and the many people he loved.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sylvester and Fay Holmes; his beloved daughter, Priscilla Holmes Boyce; and his grandson, Benjamin “B.J.” Jason McCrary.

Survivors include is his loving wife of 55 years, Nelline “Nell” Sizemore Holmes of Morgan; his children, Patricia Neil McCrary (Ricky) of Albany, Ritchie Lee Holmes (Patty) of Morgan, Kim Sebastian (Tony) of Leesburg, and Tiffany Holmes Rowe of Albany; his grandchildren, Melanie Arnold of Morgan, Andrea Arnold (Chad) of Leesburg, Michael Brandon Holmes of Morgan, Joshua Wayne Boyce of Lakeland, Florida, Jenni-fer Rae Boyce of Lakeland, Florida, Morgan Allen Rowe of Charleston, South Carolina, and Savana Grace Sebastian of Dunwoody; his sisters, Sylvia Holmes of Huntsville, Alabama, and Patsy “Pat” Holmes of Newnan; along with numerous extended family members.

The family will receive friends at Mathews Funeral Home on Sunday, July 5, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

*“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;”*
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

From 2A RITZ

Renewed preservation efforts began in the late 1980s under former state Rep. Mary Young Cummings and other community advocates determined to preserve Harlem’s legacy. The Ritz underwent a partial restoration and re-opened in December 1991 alongside the newly constructed Ritz Cultural Center.

The project transformed the facility into a community arts center serving Albany’s youth while hosting cultural performances and educational programming. Although it represented renewed investment in Harlem, sustaining operations proved difficult.

Funding challenges forced the Cultural Center to close in 2006, and the facility has remained largely unused. The theater appeared destined to become another forgotten landmark.

Then, in 2018, a twist of fate once again placed the Ritz in the spotlight. Advocates learned a proposed transportation center would require demolition of surrounding properties, including the theater’s adjoining Cultural Center.

While the theater itself might have remained standing, supporters argued that losing the Cultural Center would effectively doom any future restoration because essential backstage and support spaces would disappear.

Community leaders mobilized quickly, and SOWEGA Rising launched its “Save the Ritz! Save Harlem!” campaign, collecting hundreds of petition signatures while organizing residents and preservation advocates.

Public pressure worked.

In January 2020, city officials agreed to redesign the transportation center to preserve both the theater and the Cultural Center. The decision ensured Harlem’s most recognizable landmark would survive long enough for another opportunity at restoration.

The architectural plans approved Tuesday represent the most ambitious restoration in the building’s history.

Rather than simply renovating the theater, architects hope to reverse many of the alterations made during the 1991 project and recover much of the building’s original appearance.

Project architect Bill Dunwoody told commissioners the goal is restoration, not renovation.

“We focus on the historic theater, trying to bring it back to its original glory,” Dunwoody said while presenting the final design.

Plans call for restoring decorative plasterwork, re-opening the balcony, replicating historic storefront windows, repairing the building envelope, modernizing electrical and fire protection systems, installing new theatrical lighting and sound equipment, and converting the balcony back into public seating.

“The balcony has really not been used,” Dunwoody told commissioners. “A really key part of the project was to put the balcony back as it used to be.”

The renovated theater will seat approximately 275 patrons while preserving as many historic architectural features as possible. The adjoining Cultural Center will receive accessibility improvements, renovated restrooms, updated finishes and a new concession area.

Commissioners acknowledged the temptation to reduce costs through value engineering but emphasized preserving the theater’s historic character.

“I think we need to realize this is a long-term investment and stick with what we have,” Mayor Bo Dorough said before the commission unanimously approved the design plans.

Organizations, including the Harlem Renaissance Corporation, Mt. Zion’s Community Reinvestment Corporation and numerous preservation advocates, envision the Ritz as the anchor of a broader Harlem Renaissance Project.

The initiative seeks not only to restore the theater but also to revive Harlem as a center for housing, entrepreneurship, cultural tourism, arts programming and black-owned business development.

Historic preservation experts often describe landmark buildings such as the Ritz Theatre as economic catalysts. In that vision, the Ritz once again becomes what it was nearly a century ago — not simply a theater, but the neighborhood’s front porch.

It welcomed moviegoers during segregation, stood near the center of a movement for civil rights, and survived urban decline, financial hardship and the threat of demolition.

Now, nearly 100 years after the Gortatowsky brothers first opened its doors, another generation is attempting what others before them believed possible: that restoring one historic theater might help restore an entire neighborhood defined by its cultural heritage and civil rights history.

If the current restoration succeeds, the next act may belong not only to the Ritz Theatre, but to Harlem itself.

Obituary announcements

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.

Renovating?

Explore these lending options



(MCC) The cost of homeownership extends well beyond closing day. Homeowners want to make their properties their own, and that may involve a lengthy list of renovations to improve both the inside and outside of the property. When it comes to funding these renovations, homeowners have different options. The right choice may come down to how much equity a person has in their home and how one prefers to receive and pay back the money.

• **Home equity line of credit (HELOC):** A HELOC uses a home's equity as collateral and functions like a credit card, says NerdWallet. Borrowers are approved for a maximum credit limit and can get money during a "draw" period and only pay interest on what they use during that period. The draw period is usually 10 years. This makes it a viable option for ongoing renovations. It's important to note that although a HELOC is highly flexible and a person only pays for what they use, these loans can feature variable

interest rates.

• **Cash-out refinance:** When current market interest rates are lower than the rate on a person's existing mortgage, a cash-out refinance can free up money for high-cost renovations. Essentially, a borrower replaces their current mortgage with a new, larger mortgage and takes the difference between the two loans in cash at closing to fund the renovations. Since the loan is usually locked in with a fixed rate, the monthly payment remains the same, says Chase Bank.

• **Home improvement loan:** People who have smaller projects or no home equity can work with a bank to get an unsecured loan that will provide a lump sum. These loans do not require a home as collateral, but will be based on credit score and other factors, and typically carry higher interest rates. U.S. Bank says funding can happen quite quickly, instead of waiting for a refinancing situation that requires a new closing.

• **Credit cards:** Some people may

choose to finance renovations on a credit card. This is best for minor, do-it-yourself projects that can be realistically paid off quickly and on cards that advertise an introductory 0 percent APR offer. This means the borrowing is free if paid off on time. Borrowers who use existing cards with higher interest rates (often 20 percent or more) should pay off the balance or face steep interest charges.

• **Government-backed loans:** Borrowers may want to investigate loans that are backed by the United States government. These are issued for safety upgrades or when buying a fixer upper to revitalize a neighborhood. The Federal Housing Administration offers an FHA 203(k) loan to borrowers with lower credit scores. Fannie Mae HomeStyle Renovation Loan is an alternative to the FHA loan that allows for more luxury upgrades but requires a higher credit score.

Individuals can do their homework about the best funding vehicles to pay for home renovations.

Special Photo: MCC

Homeowners want to make their properties their own, and that may involve a lengthy list of renovations to improve both the inside and outside of the property. When it comes to funding these renovations, homeowners have different options.



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

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- ☐ I will make other arrangements for my donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



Special Photo: MCC

The complexity of a housing transaction inspires the vast majority of buyers and sellers to seek expert assistance

How to find the right

real estate professional

(MCC) Buying and selling a home are multifaceted processes that often are made much easier with the help of a qualified real estate professional. Indeed, the complexity of a housing transaction inspires the vast majority of buyers and sellers to seek expert assistance.

Data from the National Association of Realtors 2025 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers indicates that 88 percent of buyers and 91 percent of sellers use a real estate agent to facilitate their transactions. However, one must first navigate the vast landscape of licensed professionals, and selection of the right professional is crucial. Here's how to do just that.

Seek personal referrals

One of the first places to start is with friends, neighbors or family members. Housingwire says about 40 percent of people find their agents through a referral. A personal referral typically offers insight about real estate pros that can in-

form if the person is communicative and reliable. Superior negotiation skills also might be best advertised by former clients than online profiles.

Prioritize experience

A professional's level of experience is important. The market often is saturated with part-time or inexperienced intermediaries because the industry typically has low barriers to entry and relies on fixed commission structures. Although there are some anomalies, veteran real estate pros who have been active for many years tend to close sales more successfully than novices. HomeLight data suggests top-performing professionals can sell homes for up to 10 percent more than average.

Look through online platforms

Rely on platforms like Zillow, Realtor.com and others to review sales history, specialties and client feedback. Also read online biographies to narrow down prospects

who seem like they will be the right fit.

Prepare questions

It's wise to interview a couple of professionals before settling on one. The NAR urges individuals to prioritize experience, honesty and trustworthiness. When interviewing, ask about current client load, marketing strategies, experience, and how a professional handles challenges like bidding wars or low inventory. Pay attention to details to determine if a pro has a handle on local market knowledge, including current trends.

Trust your instincts

Sometimes buyers and sellers ultimately go with what their gut is telling them. If a professional gives off the right vibes and seems to gel with your style and goals, then that may be the person for you.

Buying and selling a home is made more manageable with the guidance of a real estate professional who will be there every step of the way.



Debbie Fulford

Associate Broker, CRS, ABR

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Albany, GA 31707

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Outdoor danger may be CUTE



Special Photos: Mia Tinsley



Special Photo: Mia Tinsley

The “cute” critters seen outdoors often are a danger to humans.

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – There’s a fine line between curiosity and stupidity. Spend enough time outdoors during the summer in southwest Georgia, and you soon learn another reality: Just because it’s cute doesn’t mean it can’t hurt you.

This proved to be the case when a 5-year-old Valdosta girl was attacked by a rabid fox while playing on the front porch of her home. Rabies is a viral disease found in mammals. In Georgia small mammals, including coyotes, raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes are the most common carriers of the deadly virus.

Rabies is transmitted from the bite of an infected animal, and if left untreated can travel through the victim’s nerves to the brain, where it can cause encephalopathy and, ultimately, death.

Although the disease is most commonly spread by a bite from an infected animal, it can also be spread when the saliva of the animal comes in contact with the mucous membranes of a victim’s eyes, mouth, nose or an open wound. Domestic pets, including dogs, cats and livestock, also may be infected. For that reason, dogs, cats and ferrets must be “currently vaccinated” with a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine.

In Georgia a veterinarian has the discretion to administer a one-year or three-year vaccine for dogs and cats with a booster given one year after the initial dose. Ferrets must be vaccinated annually. These immunization requirements are stringently enforced to not only protect pets but the humans they have contact with.

When a “currently vaccinated” animal bites a person, the animal is quarantined and observed for 10 days. The other alternative is to euthanize the animal in question and test for the disease. Rabid animals may stagger, or appear restless or aggressive. They may have difficulty walking or appear to be choking.

However, the most dangerous characteristic is they may appear to be unnaturally friendly to humans. It is a misconception that rabid animals can be spotted easily because they drool and foam at the mouth. These signs may never occur or occur late in the stages of the disease. Any non-domestic or stray animal acting abnormally should be suspected of being a carrier of the disease.

Early symptoms of rabies in humans may include fever, headache, and general malaise.

Later signs of encephalopathy include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, paralysis, hyper-salivation, hallucinations, difficulty swallowing and a fear of water. Death usually occurs within days of the onset of symptoms.

Unfortunately, symptoms do not always present early. It is important to thoroughly clean any animal bite as soon as possible to help reduce the likelihood of both infection and possible rabies transmission. There is no known treatment for rabies once the symptoms of the illness have developed. Rabies can be prevented with immediate post-exposure care. Therefore, it is critical to consult a physician immediately for treatment and post-exposure options.

A physician will determine whether a post-exposure human rabies immune globulin and vaccine are recommended.

Human preventive vaccination is only recommended for laboratory workers, spelunkers, veterinarians, vet techs, kennel workers, animal control and wildlife personnel, as well as taxidermists. Some persons considering specific foreign travel destinations may require a vaccine as well.

If rabies isn’t enough to worry about, alligator attacks in neighboring states in the past few weeks are proof that not all animal threats are land-based. Recent studies by researchers in Florida indicate that approximately 96% of attacks are caused by “risky human behavior.” Most bites occur when people swim or wade in areas where alligators are known to live.

The study went on to highlight that these human activities in the waters they inhabit triggered natural hunting or defensive responses from the alligators. Alligators tend to be more responsive or aggressive during mating season, making these actions even more dangerous.

Female gators are very protective of their nesting area and their young.

(Decades ago, I found several freshly hatched baby gators on the Notchaway Creek in Terrell County. When I pulled the first one from the water, it started making a croaking sound similar in some regard to the chirping of a baby bird. Curious to see what would happen if the chirping continued, I put the baby alligator and several others in a plastic bucket on the bank of the creek. I had moved about 20 feet away from it when the mother gator launched herself at her crying young, knocking the bucket and babies back into

the tannin-stained waters of the creek.)

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources cautions people against feeding alligators as it creates an association between humans and a food source. Do not dispose of fish or food scraps in the areas around docks or where you might swim. Do not approach alligators, and do not walk the water’s edge, especially at dusk and dawn when alligators are most active.

Individuals should report any aggressive alligator behavior to the Georgia DNR for proper management actions. Although alligators were hunted to the point of near extinction by the early 20th century, their populations have rebounded dramatically at the same time that human encroachment on their water-side habitat increased.

Today state wildlife management agencies are working to strike a balance between minimizing conflicts between alligators and humans while protecting the alligator population from over-harvest. As a result, the Georgia DNR and other wildlife agencies in the Southeast urge outdoors enthusiasts to be “gator wise.” For more information, visit <https://www.gatorwise.org>.

Over the past decades, the black bear population in Georgia has increased steadily to an estimated 5,100 bears. Following the first fatal bear attack in Florida history a few weeks ago, Georgians are being warned to learn more about the bruins that call our state home.

Although black bears are currently not established in our corner of the state, they are becoming more common around some of the state’s most popular outdoor tourism destinations.

Some basic rules lay the foundation for avoiding dangerous encounters:

- Do not approach a bear if you see it first.
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- Camp away from dense cover and away from natural food sources.
- Do not leave scraps or food laying around your campsite.
- Do not store food in your tent
- Keep dogs on a leash and children in sight.
- Stay alert and stay together as a group, making noise periodically giving bears the opportunity to avoid contact.

While bear sightings are rare in southwest Georgia, the animals have been spotted here. With the statewide population

growing, three areas of the state have stable and growing populations: the north Georgia mountains, along the Ocmulgee River basin in central Georgia and at the Okefenokee Swamp in south-



Special Photo: Mia Tinsley

east Georgia.

Bears also are established throughout Florida, with an estimated population of more than 1,000 living in the panhandle along the Georgia border. With the Apalachicola-Chatahoochee-Flint River Basin offering excellent habitat for both the central Georgia population and Florida population to expand, they may be here sooner than expected.

For more information, visit <https://bearwise.org>.

With bears and alligators in Georgia approaching weights of 700 pounds, it’s hard to take the danger of an insect that’s less than a half-inch long and weighs a fraction of an ounce seriously. However, yellow jackets and their kin are responsible for dispensing a great deal of the pain and suffering experienced by outdoor enthusiasts in Georgia.

Yellow jackets are predatory social wasps that tend to live in large subterranean colonies, providing little warning of their existence until disturbed.



Special Photo:

They are extremely protective of these colonies, which also may be found in tree cavities, stumps and animal burrows. These nests can hold between 5,000 to 15,000 cells during the summer months. In winter the nest declines with only the fertilized queen surviving by overwintering in a protected location.

In spring, the nesting cycle begins again. However, during a warm winter, the colony may not collapse totally and can still present a danger to anyone unknowingly passing near its entrances. Yellow jackets have lance-like serrated stingers. Unfortunately for their victims, the stinger, or barb, may become detached. They also have the ability to sting repeatedly.

Although their venom is painful, the primary danger of serious consequences are related to allergic reactions, or in some cases, the high volume of total stings administered.

Yellow jackets are predatory

omnivores that eat other insects, carrion and fruit. This presents a secondary threat to those enjoying the outdoors. They are drawn to human foods and beverages near their colonies, including trash or a meal served outdoors.

Trash should be sealed tightly in a container or trash bags. This requires a bit of caution to ensure that a diner doesn’t inadvertently bite down on a marauding yellow jacket. A person’s lips are very sensitive to the venom of a yellow jacket. Those who feel a vibration coming from a drink can as they raise it for a cold sip should also beware.

The danger is higher in the spring when adult yellow jackets seek sugary fruit and flower nectars. Keeping a clean campsite and outdoor dining area can reduce the chance of human-yellow jacket encounters. Don’t leave sweet drinks sitting around. Yellow jacket traps or protein baits may help, but this is somewhat questionable as they work by actually attracting the insects. Anyone who uses them should be sure and place them away from dining and activity areas.

Long-sleeved pants and shirts can help prevent stings, and the insects are less active in the cooler temperatures of early morning or late evening.

Adults as well as children need to understand that although an animal may appear to be cute and playful, it can carry a serious disease with deadly consequences.

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Miscellaneous

Employer: Phoebe Physician Group, Inc.
Position: Psychiatrist
Location: Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia
Duties: As a psychiatrist, physician will diagnose mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders and prescribe, direct, and administer psychotherapeutic treatments or medications to treat such disorders in adult patients.
Minimum Requirements: Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from an accredited medical school in the U.S. (or foreign equivalent). Completion of 4-year U.S. residency in psychiatry. 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

Miscellaneous

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Must be board eligible in psychiatry.
Resume to: Margaret Hatcher, mmhatcher@phoebehealth.com

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

Garage Sale

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE!
Saturday, July 11
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
1157 Dawson Rd
U-Vest Building
Household items, home decor, name brand clothes and shoes, lots of baby items, costume jewelry, comforters (different sizes), baby crib, small china cabinet and much more!
Grilled hot dogs & hamburgers sold.
Car Wash! Great deals!!

Estate Sales

Estate Yard Sale
LightHouse Ministries: US 19 South Putney, Ga. July 11 starts at 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Kitchen items, clothes, shoes home decor and more.

Miscellaneous for sale

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

JOBS

Full-Time

Public Works Director City of Edison

The City of Edison is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Director. This position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and managing all operations of the Public Works Department for City of Edison. This position oversees Infrastructure maintenance and development, including roads, bridges, drainage systems, and fleet management.

Applications with a complete job description may be obtained from the City of Edison Administrative Office located at 19437 Hartford St., Edison, Ga from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. Applications will be accepted until August 7th , 2026.

Southwest Georgia Nephrology Clinic, PC is seeking a Physician – Nephrology (multiple openings available). Must have M.D. or foreign equiv., completion of Internal Med Residency and Nephrology Fellowship and BC/BE in Nephrology. Must possess or be eligible for a GA med. license. Locations: Dougherty, Early, Sumter, Mitchell, Terrell, Lee & Worth counties, GA. If interested, mail resume to Louise Girard, Practice Admin., 1200 N. Jefferson St., Albany, GA 31701; louiseg@swganephrology.net.

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

Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids

A-653 INVITATION TO BID Landscaping Services BID REF. #27-004
Sealed bids will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, GA, 31701, until 2:30 PM, August 10, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be at 10:00 AM, July 16, in the Procurement division office. A 5% Bid Bond is required of all bidders. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Destin Adams, Buyer I, dadams@albanyga.gov
b/y/ Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
July 11, 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, GA 31707, has been delivered to the Secretary of State in accordance with the applicable provisions of the laws of Georgia.
July 4, 11, 2026

Debtors & Creditors

A-642 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF Elizabeth Nandan Wuller, Deceased
All creditors of the estate of Elizabeth Nandan Wuller, deceased, late of DOUGHERTY 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.
Lawrence Travis Walden
Administrator of the estate of Elizabeth Nandan Wuller, deceased
510 Greenwood Drive
Albany, GA 31707
O.C.G.A 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 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

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 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.
Debra Farmer
Administrator of the estate of Oscar Lawrence Hayes, deceased
2402 Pendleton Street
Albany, GA 31721
O.C.G.A 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-662 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of Hershell Eugene (Gene) Hitchcock, 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.
This 10th day of July, 2026
Jessica Hitchcock
2311 Forest Glen Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20910
703-823-4517
July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

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
c/o Christopher A. Flowers.
504 N. Jefferson Street

Debtors & Creditors

Albany, GA 31701
July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

A-600 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
All creditors of the Estate of June Marie Glover deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us. This 19th day of June, 2026.
Steven R. Glover,
Administrator of the Estate of June Marie
256 Martindale Dr.
Albany, GA 31721
June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

A-601 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
All creditors of the Estate of Bobby Frank Glover deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their 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-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-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-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 Charlie 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 Charlie R. Little
c/o John M. Moorhead, Esquire
314 W. Residence Avenue
Albany, Georgia 31701
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-643 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY.
IN RE: ESTATE OF JUDY L. KIDD, deceased
All creditors of the estate of Judy L. Kidd, 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 hereby required to make immediate payment to me.
This 30th day of June, 2026.
s/Jennifer K. Trapnell
Jennifer K. Trapnell
Executrix of the Estate of Judy L. Kidd, deceased
c/o Patrick S. Flynn, LLC
P.O. Box 7
Albany, GA 31702
July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 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

Debtors & Creditors

persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
This 8th day of June, 2026.
Leslie Patricia Mayne 1924
Marticote Circle Tallahassee, FL 32303
Willis A. DuVall
P. O. Box 128 Edison, GA 39846
June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Divorces

A-580
Dougherty COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF GEORGIA
Petitioner: 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
State of 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

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, RJ, EJ, all unknown biological fathers, putative fathers, legal fathers, or any other individuals alleging custody or any other individuals who might be the father of a female child J.H. a.k.a. B.G.H. B/F, born to Elizabeth Ann Hicks on 07/28/2024.
A petition was filed in this Court by Social Services Case Manager 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 the Juvenile Court of 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

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD
CALL 229-888-9300
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
(Publishes on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday)

Juvenile Court

Post Office Box 2321
Albany, Georgia 31702
Phone (229) 573-7225/wjgodfrey@wjgodfrey.com
Georgia Bar Number 076119
June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

Miscellaneous

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"
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

A-660 CITY OF ALBANY MUNICIPAL COURT CITY OF ALBANY, Petitioner, vs. 1015 Crawford Dr., Albany, Georgia, bearing Tax ID# 00001/00023/144; and ANY AND ALL HEIRS AT LAW OF EUGENE BARBER, JR., Property Owners; AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1015 CRAWFORD DR., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).
LEGAL NOTICE
TO: ANY AND ALL HEIRS AT LAW OF EUGENE BARBER, JR., AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1015 CRAWFORD DR., ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA:
You are hereby notified that a Petition To Remedy Code and Ordinance Violations has been filed concerning the property located at 1015 Crawford Dr. in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows: The Eastern one-half (1/2) of Lot 29 of Columbia Acres Subdivision according to a map or plat of same as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 254 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the 24th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the 24th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
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Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the 24th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
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Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the 24th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the 24th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being described as beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 1, go thence in a Westerly direction along the North R/W of Crawford Drive a distance of 75.0' to a point; run thence in a Northerly direction a distance of 160.0' to a point to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances

Probate Court Administration

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-636 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: SYDNEY NELSON CONNER, III
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-185
Vickie Harper has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **SYDNEY NELSON CONNER, III**, 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 **August 3, 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 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-585 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: JIMMY E. MARTIN
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-207
Genelle Denise Martin has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **JIMMY E. MARTIN**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **July 13, 2026**.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge, Probate Court Dougherty County, GA P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102

June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2026

A-647 GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT

IN RE: ESTATE OF: BETTY TAYLOR
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-228
Donna Kaye Barwick has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **BETTY TAYLOR**, 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 **August 3, 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 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

Probate Court Misc.

A-654 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF FRED WOODROW KEGLER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-ES-231
PETITION BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WAIVER OF BOND AND/OR GRANT OF CERTAIN POWERS
NOTICE

Jason Jerome Kegler has petitioned for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or for the grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261 in regard to the above estate. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **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

Probate Court Misc.

you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Judge of the Probate Court Dougherty County Probate Court 225 Pine Ave, Suite 123 Albany, GA 31702 229-431-2102

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

Probate Court 12 mth Support

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

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

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

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before July 20, 2026. Be notified further: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Leisa G. Blount Probate Judge P.O. Box 1827 Albany, GA 31702 (229) 431-2102

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

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 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

Public Hearings

A-655 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ASSIGNMENT PUBLIC NOTICE July 8, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is applying to assume Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) responsibilities under an Assignment Program authorized by the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program, 23 U.S.C. § 327. Under this program, GDOT will assume responsibility for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other Federal environmental laws pertaining to the review and approval of GDOT's highway projects. GDOT's application is available on GDOT's website at: <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/NEPAAssignment.aspx>

Comments on GDOT's application can be mailed or emailed to the person below or submitted directly through GDOT's website (above) and will be accepted until the close of business on August 21. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

Please direct all comments to: Amber Phillips, State Environmental Administrator, One Georgia Center, 16th Floor, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, (404) 631-1117 or email to: Program.Assignment@dot.ga.gov

July 11, 18, 2026

A-641 Public Notice WIOA Local Plan Available for Public Review and Comment

The Southwest Georgia Workforce Development Board 2024-2027 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan Revision will be available for public review and comment from July 6, 2026 through August 7, 2026. The plan will be available on our website at www.worksourcesouthwestgeorgia.org. Attn: Pascha Spence WorkSource Southwest Georgia P. O. Box 647 Camilla, Georgia 31730 Phone: 229-336-2378 Fax: 229-336-8190 pspence@colquittga.gov www.worksourcesouthwestgeorgia.org

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2026 and should be directed to Pascha Spence as stated above.

July 11, 25, 2026

Public Sales/ Auctions

A-648 NOTICE OF SALE Family Heirloom Storage of Albany 431 S. Mock Rd Albany GA 31705

Personal property consisting of sofas, TVs, clothes, boxes, household goods and other personal property used in home, office or garage will be sold or otherwise disposed of at public sale on the date & time indicated below to satisfy Owners Lien for rent & fees due in accordance with Georgia Statutes: Self-Storage Act, All items or spaces may not be available for sale. Credit cards only for all purchases & tax resale certificates required, if applicable. **OWNER RETAINS THE RIGHT TO BID**

M006 A. Peterson
M005 A. Johnson
P001 P. Freeman
J011 J. Anderson
H031 B. Ferrell
L014 I. James

Auction will be held at www.bid13.com and will end on or after 11:00AM on 07/27/2026

July 11, 18, 2026

A-646 Notice of Public Sale

Ledo Self Storage 1661 Ledo Rd. Albany, GA 31707 (229) 490-4960. Property of the following tenant(s) will be sold to satisfy rental liens in accordance with the Georgia Code 10-4 -213 et seq for Georgia Lien Statues.

All items will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Sales will be conducted online at storageauctions.com July 30, 2026 at 10AM EST. All goods will be sold AS IS condition. All items or spaces may not be available at time of sale. All sales are final, and a \$100 refundable cleaning deposit is required for all sales.

The following units will be auctioned. Unit B44 Sekithia Austin-Household Goods.

Unit C51 Dezarae White-Furniture

Unit D45 Kourtney Wright-Household Goods

July 11, 18, 2026

A-657 UNKNOWN VEHICLES STRUMS ELITE TOWING & RECOVERY

You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is:

Strum's Elite Towing & Recovery 2800 Phillips Dr Albany GA 31721

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

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

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

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

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

VIN: KMHC74AE5HU197429
Year: 2017
Make: HYUN
Model: Accent

Public Sales/ Auctions

VIN: 1HGGC1654WA048557
Year: 1998
Make: HONDA
Model: ACCORD

July 11, 18, 2026

A-656 ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (TOWING OR STORAGE COMPANY)

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.

The vehicles are currently located at 1541 E BROAD AVE Albany, GA 31705

The vehicles subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

Vehicle Make: NISSAN
Vehicle ID #: 1N4AL3AP6F899523
Year: 2015
Model: ALTIMA
Vehicle License #: State GA

Vehicle Make: KIA
Year: 2023
Model: RIO
Vehicle ID #: 3KPA2A4D0PE612949.

Vehicle License #: CZX2849
State GA

Vehicle Make: KIA
Vehicle ID #: KNAGM4A78F5640293

Year: 2015
Model: OPTIMA LX
Vehicle License #: State GA

Vehicle Make: RAM
Vehicle ID #: 1C6RR6GT5ES249848

Year: 2015
Model: 1500
Vehicle License #: State GA

Vehicle Make: TOYOTA
Vehicle ID #: 4T1BK36B08U315491
Year: 2008
Model: AVALON
Vehicle License #: State GA

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately: Business Name: TONY'S TOWING & TONY AUTO SALES 229 1541 E BROAD AVE ALBANY GA 31705 229 405 3930

July 11, 18, 2026

Service by Publication

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

DONTRAVIOUS ANTWAN BURR, Plaintiff, v. RODDRIZEKUS P STARLING and KOFI DEMETRICK SOLOMON, Defendants. CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: STSV2025000841

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
To: Roddrizekus 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-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

Foreclosures

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
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law 10050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 500

Atlanta, Ga 30338
(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-598 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 Martha Peterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Reliance First Capital, LLC, dated July 12, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 5000, Page 92, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Reliance First Capital, LLC by assignment recorded on June 25, 2025 in Book 5309 Page 193 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of One Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty and 0/100 dollars (\$187,220.00), 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 August 4, 2026, the following described property: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY, STATE OF GEORGIA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Being more particularly described as Lot 27 of Oak Hill Subdivision according to a map or plat recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide C-48 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Parcel ID: 044-2/00007/027

Commonly known as **3701 CASTLE PINE Lane, 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, 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: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC they can be contacted at (800) 561-4567 for Loss Mitigation Dept. or by writing to 500 N. State College Blvd, Suites 1030, 1300 and 1400, Orange, California 92868, 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 Martha Peterson or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 3701 Castle Pines Ln, 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.

Reliance First Capital, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Martha Peterson. Brock & Scott, PLLC 4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Suite 310

Atlanta, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S file no.: 25-16714

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-530 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from RICKY T BOGES to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF GEORGIA, LLC, dated June 14, 2019, recorded June 18, 2019, in Book 4611, Page 37-53, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Six and 00/100 dollars (\$17,826.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Dougherty County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the **first Tuesday in 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 THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, DESCRIBED AS ALL OF LOT 25 OF AUDUBON PLANTATION, PHASE 1, ACCORDING TO A PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE C -13(A), IN THE OFFICE OF

Foreclosures

fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as **2909 Autumn Avenue, Albany, GA 31721** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Jeffrey D. Thomas or tenant or tenants. Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd. Coppell, TX 75019 1-888-480-2432 Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA as Successor By Merger to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. as agent and Attorney in Fact for Jeffrey D. Thomas Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1006-2732A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1006-2732A

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-631
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
DOUGHERTY COUNTY

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from Jenna C Wirtz Chang to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Better Mortgage Corporation, Isaoca, its successors and assigns and recorded in Deed Book 4725, Page 20, Dougherty County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$153,000.00 with interest on the unpaid balance until paid, the following described property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at 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 August, 2026**, to wit: August 04, 2026, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 37 of the Second Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly known as all of Lot 28 of St. Andrews Subdivision, Section 1, according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 163, (Plat Cabinet 1 , Slide B-40), and a part of Lot 265 of St. Andrews Subdivision, Section 2, according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 30, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-51), in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the intersection of the east right-of-way of East Alberson Drive with the South right-of-way of Wexford Drive and run thence in a northeasterly direction along the south right-of-way of Wexford Drive, a distance of 140.63 feet to the point of beginning. From said point of beginning, continue along the south right-of-way of Wexford Drive around a curve with a chord bearing north 57 degrees 18 minutes 43 seconds east a distance of 109.99 feet to a point; thence run south 36 degrees 33 minutes 19 seconds east a distance of 260.92 feet to a point; thence run south 43 degrees 18 minutes 07 seconds west a distance of 81.78 feet to a point; thence run south 08 degrees 19 minutes 09 seconds west a distance of 111.92 feet to a point; thence run south 87 degrees 43 minutes 56 seconds west a distance of 119.10 feet to a point; thence run north 07 degrees 56 minutes 12 seconds east a distance 164.14 feet to a point; thence run north 25 degrees 59 minutes 18 seconds west a distance of 180.93 feet to a point located on the south right of-way of Wexford Drive and the point of beginning. Said tract contains 1.131 acres according to plat of survey entitled "Property" of Philip J. Derwinski and Geraldine Derwinski" dated August 15, 1994, prepared by William H. Spires, Jr., a Georgia Registered Land Surveyor #2527. Said plat being incorporated herein and by specific reference thereto being made a part of this description. **Being real property commonly known as 3528 Wexford Drive, Albany, GA 31721.**

The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of said debt per the terms of the note and other possible defaults by the borrower or the successor thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street

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improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:
RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing LLC
446 Wrenplace Road
Fort Mill, SC 29715
877-426-8805

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require TH MSR Holdings LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. TH MSR Holdings LLC as Attorney in

Fact for Jenna C Wirtz Chang
Attorney Contact:
Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC
3000 Langford Road, Building 100
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Phone: 404-793-1447
Fax: 404-738-1558
25GA404-0049
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-629
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
DOUGHERTY COUNTY

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from CHRISTINE V WILLIAMS to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns and recorded in Deed Book 5329, Page 233-256, Dougherty County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$127,000.00 with interest on the unpaid balance until paid, the following described property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at 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 August, 2026**, to wit: August 04, 2026, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF THE LOT NO. 4 AND THE EAST ONE HALF OF LOT NO. 3 IN BLOCK "S" OF THE WILDCROSS (WILDERS CROSSING) SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 195 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE A-25), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY.

Being real property commonly known as 1144 Benjamin Ave, ALBANY, GA 31707.

The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of said debt per the terms of the note and other possible defaults by the borrower or the successor thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:
Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC
8950 Cypress Waters Blvd.
Coppell, TX 75019
888-613-2432

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Rocket Mortgage, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC as Attorney in Fact for CHRISTINE V WILLIAMS
Attorney Contact:
Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC
3000 Langford Road, Building 100
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Phone: 404-793-1447
Fax: 404-738-1558
26-00052-GA

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-630
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by AZURINTHIA WALKER to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORP. in the original principal amount of \$104,000.00 dated January 22, 2008, and recorded in Deed Book 3441, Page 266, Dougherty County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2017-FRE2, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE IN Deed

Foreclosures

Book 5380, Page 380, 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:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 338 IN THE FIRST LAND DISTRICT, CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL OF LOT 14 OF RIVER ROAD SUBDIVISION, PHASE II, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS THE SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE C-57-E, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Said property being known as: **603 STORY RD, ALBANY, GA 31701**
To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are AZURINTHIA WALKER or tenant(s). The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.
3217 S. Decker Lake Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
800-635-9698

Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2017-FRE2, U.S.BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE,

as Attorney-in-Fact for AZURINTHIA WALKER
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 407-321-7112
Firm File No. 26-411703

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-633
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Jennifer D Clark to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for First Bank Mortgage a division of First Bank of Georgia, its successors and assigns dated October 29, 2008, recorded in Deed Book 3544, Page 276, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, and as modified by that certain Loan Modification Agreement recorded in Deed Book 5067, Page 53, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as trust transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF2 ACQUISITION TRUST by assignment recorded in Deed Book 4945, Page 266, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$123,500.00), 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 August, 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.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST 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

Foreclosures

negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Selene Finance LP, 3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5th Floor, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75019, 8777683759.

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 **2011 Sharon Drive, 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.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST as Attorney in Fact for Jennifer D Clark
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 the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as All of Lot 51 of Gailshar Gardens Subdivision "E," Section II, according to the map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 270 (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-8), in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Subject to any and all easements and restrictions of record. Parcel ID No. 000NN/00005/022
Property Address: 2011 Sharon Avenue Albany, GA 31707
FW August 4, 2026
Our file no. 23-12941GA
23-12941GA

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-604
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
UNDER POWER
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Deed to Secure Debt, Assignment of Rents and Security Agreement (the "Security Deed") given by Renova Property Management LLC, a Georgia limited liability company, to Rain City Capital, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, dated July 2, 2025, and recorded on July 3, 2025 in Deed Book 5312 at Page 186 (Document #D2025-003698), Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described Property to secure a certain Secured Note in the original principal amount of \$174,980.00, with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Court House 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 **August 4, 2026** (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described Property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and City of Albany and being more particularly described as follows:

All of Lots 14 and 15, Block 4, Palmyra Heights Subdivision "C" according to a Map or Plat of said Subdivision recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 184, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.
Subject to visible easements and restrictions and easements of record.
Address: 1114 5th Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707
Parcel: 0000G/00036/013
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Property is Renova Property Management LLC, or tenant(s). Said Property is more commonly known as **1114 5th Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707 (Parcel #0000G/00036/013)**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said Property, if any.

U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 is the current holder of the Security Deed, by instrument, dated June 10, 2026 and recorded on June 12, 2026 in Deed Book 5385 at Page 45 (Document #D2026-003511), Dougherty County, Georgia Records.

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, amount other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as

Foreclosures

and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, you are not entitled by law to an amendment or modification of the terms of your loan. The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1. To discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure, U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 can be contacted at: U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1

c/o Tandem Servicing LLC
Attn: Tiffany Anderson
12131 113 Avenue NE, Suite 201, Kirkland, Washington 98034
Tel: (425) 588-0039
E-Mail: tiffany.a@tandemservicing.com

Said Property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the Property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the Property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right to redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Security Deed and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1, as agent and/or Attorney in Fact for Renova Property Management LLC. The below law firm may be held to be acting as a debt collector under Federal law. If so, any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Attorney Contact: Michael J. Palumbo, Esquire
Gingo Palumbo Law Group, LLC
4700 Rockside Road, Suite 440, Independence, Ohio 44131
Tel: (216) 503-9512
E-Mail: michael@gpnlawllc.com
David Metzger, Esquire
Williams Teusink, LLC
312 Sycamore Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030
Tel: (404) 373-9590
E-Mail: dmetzger@williamsteusink.com

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-603
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
UNDER POWER
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Deed to Secure Debt, Assignment of Rents and Security Agreement (the "Security Deed") given by Renova Property Management LLC, a Georgia limited liability company, to Rain City Capital, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, dated July 30, 2025, and recorded on January 21, 2026 in Deed Book 5365 at Page 268 (Document #D2026-000388), Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described Property to secure a certain Secured Note in the original principal amount of \$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 Court House 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 **August 4, 2026** (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described Property: The Land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Dougherty, State of GA, and is described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and City of Albany, described as follows: Beginning on the Northwest corner of Lot Number Seventy-Nine (79) on North Street of said City, run a line South along North Monroe Street seventy-five (75) feet; thence East one hundred and five (105) feet to the alley; thence West along the alley one hundred and five (105) feet to the beginning point.
Address: 406 North Monroe Street, Albany, Georgia 31701
Parcel: 000CC/00032/029

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Property is Renova Property Management LLC, or tenant(s). Said Property is more commonly known as **406 North Monroe Street, Albany, Georgia 31701 (Parcel #000CC/00032/029)**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said Property, if any.

U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 is the current holder of the Security Deed, by instrument, dated June 10, 2026 and recorded on June 12, 2026 in Deed Book 5385 at Page 41 (Document #D2026-003510), Dougherty County, Georgia Records.

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

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failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, you are not entitled by law to an amendment or modification of the terms of your loan. The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1. To discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure, U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 can be contacted at: U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1

c/o Tandem Servicing LLC
Attn: Tiffany Anderson
12131 113 Avenue NE, Suite 201, Kirkland, Washington 98034
Tel: (425) 588-0039
E-Mail: tiffany.a@tandemservicing.com

Said Property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the Property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the Property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right to redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Security Deed and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1, as agent and/or Attorney in Fact for Renova Property Management LLC. The below law firm may be held to be acting as a debt collector under Federal law. If so, any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Attorney Contact: Michael J. Palumbo, Esquire
Gingo Palumbo Law Group, LLC
4700 Rockside Road, Suite 440, Independence, Ohio 44131
Tel: (216) 503-9512
E-Mail: michael@gpnlawllc.com
David Metzger, Esquire
Williams Teusink, LLC
312 Sycamore Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030
Tel: (404) 373-9590
E-Mail: dmetzger@williamsteusink.com

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-644
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Commercial Deed to Secure Debt, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing and Assignment of Leases and Rents from WIL 1401 Whispering Pines LLC, a Georgia limited liability company ("Grantor"), to and in favor of Pacific Private Money, Inc., a California corporation, dated May 03, 2022, and recorded May 10, 2022 in Deed Book 4973, Page 228, Dougherty County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), securing that certain Promissory Note dated May 5, 2022 in the original principal amount of \$9,000,000.00 (the "Note"); as assigned to Saluda Grade Mortgage Funding LLC, pursuant to that certain Assignment of Commercial Mortgage, Security Agreement, Fixture Filing and Assignment of Leases and Rents, dated as of May 5, 2022, recorded November 27, 2023, in Deed Book 5145, Page 339, aforesaid records; and as assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RTL1 ("Lender") pursuant to that certain Assignment of Security Deed/Mortgage, recorded January 2, 2024, in Deed Book 5154, Page 104, aforesaid records (the "Last Assignment"); which Last Assignment as affected by that certain Affidavit Related to Title Made Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-2-20, recorded September 23, 2025, in Deed Book 5337, Page 22, aforesaid records; which Security Deed as affected by that certain Default Judgment Final Order recorded May 6, 2026, in Deed Book 5379, Page 299, aforesaid records; there will be sold at public outcry by Lender as attorney-in-fact of Grantor to the highest bidder for cash between the legal hours for sale before the Courthouse door in Dougherty County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in August 2026, the following described property (the "Premises") to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 415, FIRST LAND DISTRICT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION AT THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ENGLISH ROAD AND THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GORDON AVENUE, AND RUN THENCE NORTH 70

DEGREES 14 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GORDON AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 525.79 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF A 100 FOOT GEORGIA POWER COMPANY EASEMENT TO AN IRON PIN AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 70 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF GORDON AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 382.02 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE WEST LINE OF A 50-FOOT DRAINAGE EASEMENT, AS SHOWN ON A MAP OR PLAT OF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES, SECTION 1, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 333 AND 334, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA; RUN THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EASEMENT RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 702.10 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE

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SAID PLAT OF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES SECTION 1; RUN THENCE SOUTH 30 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 12 FEET TO A SET RAILROAD SPIKE; RUN THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 200.84 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; RUN THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 145.41 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 44 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 932.35 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF ENGLISH ROAD; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREE 20 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 361.86 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE NORTH 30 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED GEORGIA POWER COMPANY 100-FOOT EASEMENT A DISTANCE OF 998.19 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GORDON AVENUE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AS SET FORTH ON PLAT OF SURVEY OF WINDOVER APARTMENTS PREPARED BY MALCOLM BUMSED, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1691, DATED MAY 20, 1988. Properly commonly known as: **2304 W. GORDON AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA, 31707**

The indebtedness evidenced by the Note is due and payable and remains unpaid. The Security Deed therefore has become and is now foreclosable according to its terms. Accordingly, the Premises will be sold at public outcry pursuant to the terms of the power of sale provided in the Security Deed.

The Premises will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis without recourse against Lender and without representation or warranty of any kind or nature whatsoever by Lender with respect thereto.

The proceeds of the sale are to be applied first to the expenses of the sale and all proceedings in connection therewith, including attorneys' fees (notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees having been given), then to the payment of all sums secured by the Security Deed, and the remainder, if any, will be paid to the person or persons legally entitled thereto, all as provided in the Note and Security Deed. The Premises shall be sold as the property of Grantor, subject to all restrictions, easements and other matters of record that are prior to the Security Deed and to which the Security Deed is subject and to any unpaid city, county and state ad valorem taxes or assessments relating to the Premises.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Saluda Grade Alternative Mortgage Trust 2021-RTL1, as agent for Lender, 8180 E. Keiser Boulevard, Anaheim, California 92808; (914) 261-1349. Please understand that the secured creditor is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Premises is Grantor, WT 2304 W Gordon, LLC, or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **2304 W. GORDON AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA, 31707.**

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB,
not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of **SG Alternative Title Trust 2021-RLT1**
as Attorney-in-Fact for
WT 2304 W Gordon, LLC

William. O Tate
McCalla Raymer Leibert, Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Road
Roswell, Georgia 30076
(678) 281-6473
william.tate@mccalla.com
July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-649
10578482
Notice of Sale Under Power.

State of Georgia, County of Dougherty. Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by Ronald J. Breedlove, An Unmarried Man to Rocket Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") As Nominee For Quicken Loans Inc. , dated 12/30/2016, and Recorded on 01/25/2017 as Book No. 4387 and Page No. 293-310, Dougherty County, Georgia records, as last assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$39,150.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Dougherty County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in August, 2026, the following described property: Tax ID Number(S): 000MM/00017/003 Land Situated In The County Of Dougherty In The State Of Ga Being All Of Lot 1 Of Hilltop Acres Subdivision, Section "1"

According To A Map Or Plat Of Same As Recorded In Plat Book 5, Page 101 (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-58) In The Office Of The Clerk Of The Superior Court Of Dougherty County, Georgia. The Property Address And Tax Parcel Identification Number Listed Are Provided Solely For Informational Purposes. Commonly Known As: **1901 Stuart Ave, Albany, GA 31707-1705** The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt 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 Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Rocket Mortgage, LLC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property, Rocket Mortgage, LLC S/B/M Nationstar Mortgage LLC, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with Rocket Mortgage, LLC (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, Rocket Mortgage, LLC S/B/M Nationstar Mortgage LLC may be contacted at:

Foreclosures

Rocket Mortgage, LLC S/B/M Nationstar Mortgage LLC, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd., Coppell, TX 75019, 877-450-8638. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as 1901 Stuart Ave, Albany, Georgia 31707 is/are: Ronald J. Breedlove, An Unmarried Man or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Rocket Mortgage, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Ronald J. Breedlove, An Unmarried Man. This Law Firm Is Acting As A Debt Collector Attempting To Collect A Debt. Any Information Obtained Will Be Used For That Purpose. 00000010578482 Barrett Daffin Frappier Turner & Engel, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341-5398.
July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 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

Calhoun Co. Legals

A-635
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CALHOUN
IN RE: ESTATE OF Deanna Diane Pietras, Deceased

Calhoun Co. Legals

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 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-628
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Mary Grace Holtzaple a/k/a Mary G. Holtzaple 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. Holtzaple c/o Broel Law, LLC
Title: Executor
Address: 331 N. Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060
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



7/12/26

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S	S	O	W	S	I	K	S												

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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.

“ C R J E S M C Z S A M S D A J A D J Q Y D U
R Y D Z C R J E K L Q Y O M L Z S D U . . . A Y D
A D J Q Y D U E J C F A Y J A A U O C Z S A M
A D J Q Y K D R M L B F Q Y J Z S D K O E A O B D . ”
— D B B J X C A W S D U J B F

Previous Solution: "I had no illusions that it was me on my own. I was supported by so many amazing people ... competitors and teammates." — Rick Hansen

TODAY'S CLUE: I s i e n b e O

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 not as much (4)	_____
2 first moves in chess (8)	_____
3 maleness (11)	_____
4 eye socket (5)	_____
5 film director Peter (4)	_____
6 the “G” in e.g. (6)	_____
7 reply dramatically (9)	_____

LE	BIT	MA	OPE	UL
GS	GRA	CT	WE	ERR
IR	OV	TY	SC	NIN
INI	EA	SS	TIA	OR

Thursday's Answers: 1. MENTOR 2. AGILITY 3. MALLET 4. SWELLS 5. SEINE 6. ANNETTE 7. PANOPLY

7/10

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

“OPPOSITE DAY”
BY WILL NEDIGER
& BETH RUBIN

ACROSS

- Option B precursor
- Creature in “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”
- Winter resort rentals
- Supermodel Kate
- Old Renault
- Apple tablet
- Penny
- Each
- Not suitable
- Mandala medium, often
- “___ you asked ...”
- Count (on)
- Took unnecessary risks, in a British idiom
- WNW opposite
- Love, in Italian
- Asian language
- Handel oratorio
- Former
- All excited
- Ginger ___
- Backup for a proofreader, perhaps
- Lightweight fabric
- Romance
- “C’est la ___!”
- Trolley car
- Celebrity couple
- Pres. on a dime
- Imrie of “The Thursday Murder Club”
- Square things
- Grow increasingly recalcitrant
- 2028 Olympics host: Abbr.
- “The Fresh Prince of ___-Air” ___ acid
- Apology starter
- Male swan
- Suffer public humiliation
- 2024 Olympics host
- Newark’s county
- Permit
- Burden
- Lasting mark
- Org. nicknamed “No Such Agency”
- Owens
- Nimble
- 2010 animated film featuring Princess Fiona
- Singer ___ King Cole

- Game for little batters
- Hazardous gas
- Goes on and on
- Finish
- OB test
- Reuben sandwich bread
- Oxymoron, or what can be found five times in this puzzle
- Flared skirt style
- Voting group
- Inbox message
- Demolish
- Ice sheet
- 85-Across figure
- Mother-of-pearl
- Rude one
- Throw out
- “Easier ___ than done”
- Woolen cloth

DOWN

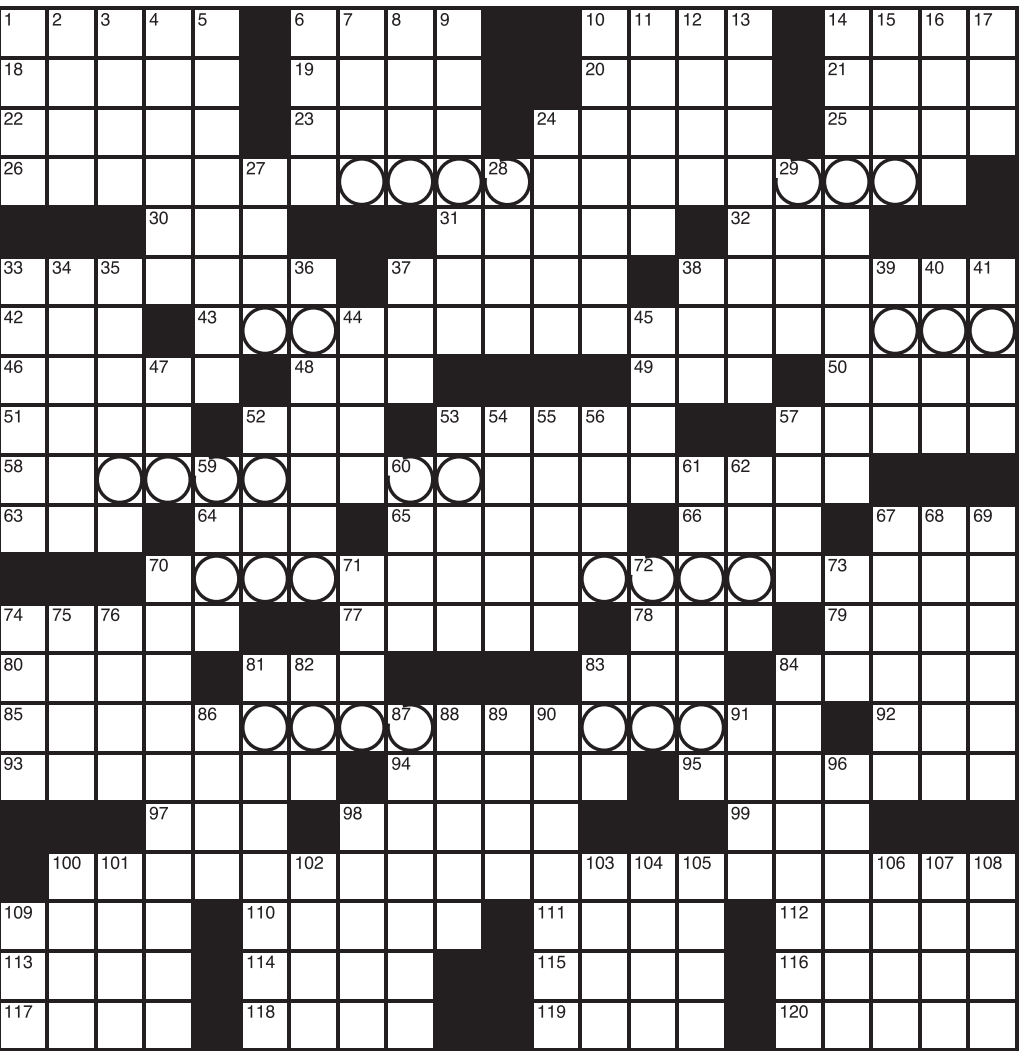
- “And also ...”
- Singer and civil rights activist
- Horne
- Palm berry

- City where pizza was invented
- ___ well
- Frisbee, e.g.
- Birthstone between sapphire and topaz
- Paul who played twins in “There Will Be Blood”
- “Most likely ...”
- Anabella of “Tulsa King”
- ___ cloth:
- Ghanaian textile
- Move slowly
- Digital protection device?
- Figure that comes with strings attached
- Accepting customers
- “Deal!”
- Intel gatherer
- Small porch
- Campus leader
- Mideast leader
- Urchin
- Beach city near Pepperdine

- Powerful groups
- ___ Falls
- Convention
- “What a bore”
- Soup often garnished with bean sprouts
- Nev. neighbor
- Wrap with tzatziki
- Tilt
- “Hanna” star
- Creed-Miles
- Having trouble deciding
- Physiologist
- Pavlov
- Given to moping, maybe
- Sense
- Unresponsive states
- Party-planning site
- Massachusetts home of the Tanglewood Music Festival
- Wrinkle remover
- Quaint word of despair
- Many execs
- Lasses

- Pardon
- Vivid vegetable
- Pivoty tooth
- Eye-related
- Attacks from all sides
- Figure who manipulates flames in a Nickelodeon fantasy series
- Phobia
- Villainous Count of kid-lit
- Confused state
- Note-passer’s utterance
- Head or heart follower
- Valuable to collectors
- Annual Player Selection Meeting, informally
- Step on the scale?
- Largest Chinese ethnic group
- Military encampment unit

- Philosopher
- Immanuel
- Winter stoats
- “Lovecraft Country” actor
- Courtney B. ___
- Revise
- Reddish-brown tea
- Work hard for
- Grandma, to some
- “Farewell, amigos!”
- “Farewell, amici!”
- Ricelike pasta
- French greeting
- Tokarczuk who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature
- Onigiri wrapper
- Like cupcakes but not muffins, usually
- Compete against the clock
- Slimy mud
- Toboggan, e.g.
- Texter’s “Just a moment”



7/12/26

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Contact - Free

News Delivery

to keep you connected from home

Release Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

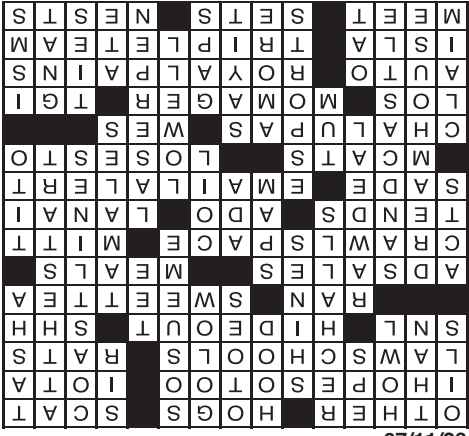
ACROSS

- Bernardine
- Straniero
- React to a riot, maybe
- Short releases
- Pool areas?
- Under the ___
- Missouri River people
- Play dirty
- “What are you gonna do about it?”
- Title for David Attenborough
- Areas affected by current events
- Initially
- Gospel singer
- Cobbs
- Lights up
- Top choice
- Short end of the stick
- Traditional Christmas fare for some Latinos
- Panto units
- Three-story abode in Barbie pink
- Structure affected by current events
- Musubi meat
- Statute mandating curb cuts, for short
- with a Chemical and Physical Foundations section, for short
- Ends up behind
- Fried Mexican dishes
- “Yellowstone” star Bentley
- Todos ___ dias: every day, in Spanish
- Rep who is also the parent of a child star, perhaps
- ___ Fridays
- Lincoln, e.g.
- Major annoyances
- Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
- Defend aggressively
- Convene
- Solidifies
- Creates a cozy home

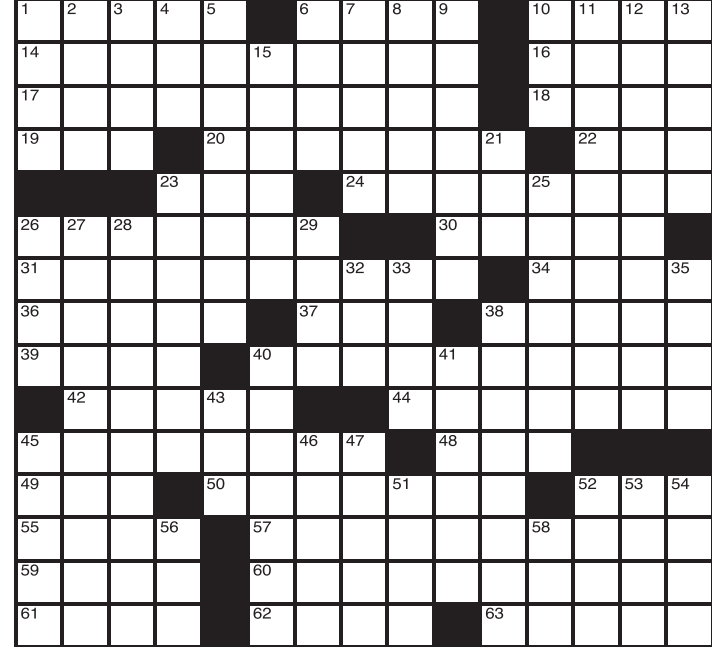
- Comparison word
- 4 hair
- Bandleader
- Puente
- Pocket-size pointer
- Field for a competitive
- Valorant player
- Former mill town in the Boston metro area
- Belly

- Feature of type
- 44 Progressive request
- Subject for Elena Ferrante
- “Stop beating around the bush!”
- Concerns for some orthodontists
- 52 Connections
- Minor annoyance
- 54 Belief systems
- 56 ___ latte
- 58 Put away

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



07/11/26



By Rafael Musa

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07/11/26

TV - What to watch

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SNUFFY SMITH

HOO-DOO WOODS ?!
I DO WOODS !!

BUT NOT THESE !!

I DON'T LIKE GOIN' THIS WAY, SNUFFY !! A LOTTA **STRANGE THINGS** HAVE HAPPENED IN THESE WOODS !!

BAH !!
OL' WIVES' TALES !!

WE BEEN THIS WAY **PLENTY**'A TIMES, LUKEY, AN' NUTHIN' EVER HAPPENED TO **US !!**

YEAH, WELL, IT'S ONLY A MATTER'A TIME IF'N WE KEEP **PUSHIN'** OUR LUCK !!

YA DON'T HAFTA BE A'SCARED, 'CUZ I GOT US COVERED !! I ALWAYS CARRY A **POCKETFUL'A GOOD LUCK CHARMS !!**

UH-OH !! WE MAY WANNA START WALKIN' A LIL' **FASTER !!**

WHAT ?!
WHY ?!

WELL... IT WUZ KINDA **DARK** IN TH' KITCHEN THIS MORNIN'...

AN' DANGED IF'N I DIDN'T GRAB A FISTFUL OF **CHEERIOS** 'STEAD'A **LUCKY CHARMS !!**

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top 10 movies!

1. **Toy Story 5**
(PG) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen
2. **Supergirl**
(PG-13) Milly Alcock, David Corenswet
3. **Obsession**
(R) Michael Johnston, Inde Navarrette
4. **Jackass: Best and Last**
(R) Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O
5. **Disclosure Day**
(PG-13) Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor
6. **Backrooms**
(R) Chiwetel Ejiofor, Renate Reinsve
7. **Scary Movie**
(R) Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans
8. **BLEACH: Thousand-Year Blood War - The Calamity**
(NR) Fumiko Orikasa, Masakazu Morita
9. **Masters of the Universe**
(PG-13) Nicholas Galitzine, Camila Mendes
10. **Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu**
(PG-13) Pedro Pascal, Brendan Wayne

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 signature look (5)
- 2 painter's mark (11)
- 3 "Wuthering Heights" Brontë (5)
- 4 bountifulness (11)
- 5 not that (4)
- 6 squirrel's nest (4)
- 7 Turkish inland sea (7)

SOLUTIONS

Friday's Answers: 1. LESS 2. OPENINGS 3. MASCULINITY 4. ORBIT 5. WEIR 6. GRATIA 7. OVERREACT

7/11

Amber Waves

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.

"WC QGSO ZGB XWM CBHM JC GUU, TG TOC W TFWNN GU AWC OH, XGSO EWXP ... EBC JM CQO CQOWCOH, CQO UJFS XGSSWMKN ZGB." — SWHCJM NXGHNONO

Previous Solution: "I was going to get a teacher when I was much younger ... the teacher said that trying to teach me would change my style." — Ella Fitzgerald

TODAY'S CLUE: H equals H

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What to watch SATURDAY

July 11, 2026

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

Wimbledon: Ladies' Final

ESPN, 11 a.m. Live

The Wimbledon ladies' singles final match at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club airs live on ESPN.

Cooking With Choi

Food Network, noon ■ **New Series**

Esther Choi teaches how to make two types of kimchi, a fast mak kimchi that's ready in just days, as well as Halmoni's kimchi, her grandmother's recipe. Plus, Esther shares how to make kimchi fried rice and bossam, Korean pork belly wraps.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Le Million
TCM, noon

TCM presents a musical matinee in *Le Million* (1931), a classic French comedy that's celebrated as a masterpiece of early sound cinema and a major influence on Hollywood comedies. This lively picture, directed by René Clair, follows a poor artist who discovers he has won the lottery, only to lose the ticket in a frantic chase through Paris. Released just a few years after the birth of the "talkie," when most early sound films were clunky and dialogue-heavy, Clair used sound to create cinematic rhythm and comedy. Instead of just recording actors talking, he treated the entire movie like a dance, replacing background noises with playful sound effects, operatic choruses and

'O Little Christmas Market'

HALLMARK MEDIA

MLB Baseball: Boston at N.Y. Mets

FS1, 4 p.m. Live

Game 2 of a three-game set at New York's Citi Field has Willson Contreras and the Red Sox facing Juan Soto and the Mets.

TOBIS SOUND COMPANY

perfectly timed musical cues. *Le Million's* frantic story of the misplaced lottery ticket directly influenced comedy legends like the Marx Brothers and Charlie Chaplin, and proved that sound could enhance a film without detracting from the visuals.

World Cup: Quarterfinals

FOX, beginning at 5 p.m. Live

The semifinal round will be set following today's quarterfinal matches in Miami and Kansas City.

O Little Christmas Market

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ **Original Film**

When a corporate developer plans to tear down the town's Christmas market, a gifted miniature artist (Katherine Barrell) risks losing the legacy she holds dear. A chance meeting at a train station with an architect (Stephen Huszar) sparks an unexpected connection. Their bond is tested when she learns his firm is behind the buyout. Together, they must find a way to merge their dreams and save the market, discovering that in order to endure, love requires taking a leap of faith.

He Couldn't Let Go

Lifetime, 8 p.m. ■ **Original Film**

Mariana Cruz (Christina Milian) excels at reading body language and is able to understand people's truths. After an intense work encounter leaves a disgruntled colleague on the run, Mariana realizes that something is deeply wrong and suddenly she's caught in a terrifying fight for her own survival. Steven Strait, Annie Gonzalez and Gregg Wayans also star.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

'The A-Team'

DOUG CURRANDOUG CURRAN

Final Destination Bloodlines (2025, Horror) Kaitlyn Santa Juana, Teo Briones **HBO, 6:05 p.m.**

Small Fry (2011, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Disney, 6:50 p.m.**

Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt **E!, 7 p.m.**

Sonic the Hedgehog (2020, Family) James Marsden, Jim Carrey **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Breaking In (2018, Suspense) Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke **VH1, 8 p.m.**

He Couldn't Let Go (2024, Suspense) Christina Milian, Steven Strait **Lifetime, 8 p.m.**

Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

Ocean's Thirteen (2007, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Brad Pitt **Bravo, 9:30 p.m.**

Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall **BET, 10 p.m.**

Fool's Gold (2008, Action) Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson **IFC, 11 p.m.**

The A-Team (2010, Action) Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper **FXM, 11:45 p.m.**

From the editors of **weekly tv** TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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The Ultimate Guide for What to Watch Now!
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What to watch SUNDAY

July 12, 2026

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

Collector’s Call

MeTV, 6:30 p.m.

The series heads to Oak Creek, Wisconsin, to meet George Simonson, who isn’t just a toy collector — he’s a collector of collections. After decades of collecting thousands of toys, he has amassed an entire basement filled with shelves and shelves of complete toy lines from the 1980s. On hand with host Lisa Whelchel is expert appraiser/toy shop owner Jonathan Schoonveld. Together, they travel through George’s archive of ’80s toy nostalgia, including his World Wrestling Federation action figure collection, the entire line from the popular Japanese cartoon *ThunderCats* and the toy line from the iconic TV sensation *The A-Team*.

Patience

PBS, 8 p.m.

A Viking expert dies before a big controversial speech, and Patience (Ella Maisy Purvis) finds a coded message hinting at foul play in the new episode “The Runes.” As another scholar is targeted, she and Frankie (Jessica Hynes) race to uncover the truth.

The Westies

MGM+, 9 p.m. ■ **New Series**

The Westies is a gritty and kinetic crime drama centering on New York City’s infamously violent Irish gang of the same name. The series is set in the early 1980s, when the construction of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on the Westies’ home turf in Hell’s Kitchen promises a financial windfall. Despite being outnumbered by the Italian Mafia, the Westies’ legendary brutality and cunning have given them the leverage necessary to share the spoils through a fragile détente. But internal conflict between the brash younger generation and the old-school leadership threatens to set a match to this powder keg, which will sweep the Westies into the FBI’s ever-deepening investigation into organized crime.



‘The Westies’

BROOKE PALMER

Grantchester

PBS, 9 p.m.

Alphy’s (Rishi Nair) faith is shaken after a murder exposes corruption in the church’s inner circle.

100 Cooks

Food Network, 9 p.m.

All remaining 14 cooks compete over the course of three challenges: a luxury dinner battle, a pizza faceoff and a summer potluck team challenge. Judges Alex Guarnaschelli and Nick DiGiovanni leave only eight cooks standing.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Grace Kelly Double Feature

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

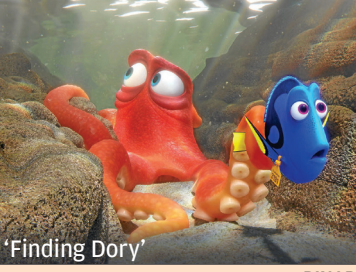
Sit back, relax and enjoy two classic 1950s films starring the radiant and timeless Grace Kelly. **Rear Window** (1954) and **High Society** (pictured) — which premiered 70 years ago on July 17, 1956 — both showcase Kelly at the peak of her Hollywood stardom, where she was often cast as an elegant, poised leading lady. In both films, she plays a refined, upper-class character — Lisa Fremont in Alfred Hitchcock’s *Rear Window* and Tracy Lord in Charles Walters’ *High Society* — who reinforces her screen image as sophisticated, cool and effortlessly glamorous. Together, the films highlight the range of her star persona,



MGM

moving from suspenseful romantic tension in Hitchcock’s thriller to light, musical comedy alongside Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby in *High Society*. Remarkably, Kelly, who won a Best Actress Oscar for her role in 1954’s *The Country Girl*, stepped away from acting after *High Society*, as the 26-year-old retired to marry Prince Rainier III and become Princess of Monaco.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



PIXAR

Breaking In (2018, Suspense) Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke **VH1, 6 p.m.**

Project Hail Mary (2026, Science fiction) Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller **MGM, 6:20 p.m.**

The Poseidon Adventure (1972, Adventure) Gene Hackman, Ernest Borgnine **Sundance, 7 p.m.**

Transformers (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson **CW, 7 p.m.**

Ocean’s Twelve (2004, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Brad Pitt **E!, 8 p.m.**

Someone’s Always Watching (2026, Suspense) Ella Frazee, Mike Markoff **Lifetime, 8 p.m.**

What About Bob? (1991, Drama) Bill Murray, Richard Dreyfuss **ABC, 8:30 p.m.**

My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei **CMT, 9 p.m.**

Finding Dory (2016, Children) Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks **Freeform, 9:25 p.m.**

Enough (2002, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Major League II (1994, Comedy) Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger **BBC America, 10:30 p.m.**

Red 2 (2013, Action) Bruce Willis, John Malkovich **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

The Breakfast Club (1985, Comedy-drama) Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald **AMC, 11:30 p.m.**

From the editors of **weekly tv**
TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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What to watch MONDAY

July 13, 2026

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

MLB Home Run Derby

Netflix, 8 p.m. Live

Baseball’s biggest sluggers swing for the fences at Philadelphia’s Citizens Bank Park as part of the MLB All-Star Game festivities. Cal Raleigh of the Seattle Mariners won last year’s contest.

Dancing With the Stars: The Next Pro

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This new dance series takes the spotlight off the celebrity and focuses on the pro, following 12 professional dancers pursuing a contract to work on Season 35 of *Dancing With the Stars* this fall. Last year’s Mirrorball winner Robert Irwin will host the show, which was shot in his homeland of Australia. Each episode will see the competing performers take on different challenges as they learn the ins and outs of technique, storytelling through dance, creating a wow moment, and more. The judging panel will have a rotating guest seat for current or former *DWTS* pros and two mainstays: three-time Mirrorball champ Mark Ballas and his mother, Shirley, a judge on the U.K.’s *Strictly Come Dancing*.



‘Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro’

DISNEY

All American

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

The two-hour premiere picks up six months after the Season 7 cliffhanger and spans just one pivotal week in the lives of the Beverly and Crenshaw crew. Executive producer and showrunner Nkechi Okoro Carroll says, “To our fans who have rocked with us faithfully for over a hundred episodes, we hope you enjoy this final season as much as we enjoyed making it. Thanks for taking this ride with us.

The Quiz With Balls

FOX, 9 p.m.

Basketball’s most famous rivalry continues in the new episode “Harlem Globetrotters vs. Washington Generals.” Players answer trivia questions and try to stay dry as they go for the \$100,000 grand prize. Jay Pharoah hosts.

Pitmasters

Food Network, 9 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This weeklong BBQ competition is unlike anything ever attempted on Food Network. The competition is set deep in the wilderness, where teams of the most notable pitmasters will push the boundaries of what BBQ can be as they compete over live fire, cooking from sunrise to sunset to sunrise again, fighting for their share of up to \$50,000 in prize money.

Independent Lens

PBS, 10 p.m.

In “Flood,” filmmaker Katy Scoggin seeks to reconnect with her estranged father, who works as an elementary school science teacher in Southern California. He is the only evangelical left in the family, and as they face their differences on faith, family and belonging, their journey becomes a portrait of empathy and resilience.



AVCO EMBASSY PICTURES

(1970), Cash in 1961’s **Door-to-Door Maniac** (originally titled *Five Minutes to Live*), Ricky Nelson in *Rio Bravo* (1959), Connie Francis in *Looking for Love* (1964) and the Fab Four in *A Hard Day’s Night* (1964).

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



CLAY ENOS

Undertone (2025, Horror) Nina Kiri, Adam DiMarco **HBO, 6:25 p.m.**

The Outsiders (1983, Drama) Matt Dillon, C. Thomas Howell **BBC America, 7 p.m.**

Enough (2002, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell **VH1, 7:30 p.m.**

Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill, Amy Adams **TNT, 7:30 p.m.**

Descendants 2 (2017, Children) Dove Cameron, Cameron Boyce **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Violent Night (2022, Action) David Harbour, John Leguizamo **SYFY, 8 p.m.**

Toy Story 2 (1999, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

Stand by Me (1986, Comedy-drama) Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

“Wuthering Heights” (2026, Romance) Margot Robbie, Jacob Elordi **HBO, 9:40 p.m.**

The Green Mile (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks, David Morse **AMC, 10 p.m.**

Joker: Folie à Deux (2024, Musical) Joaquin Phoenix, Lady Gaga **TNT, 10:15 p.m.**

The Green Hornet (2011, Action) Seth Rogen, Jay Chou **SYFY, 10:30 p.m.**

Wildcat (2025, Suspense) Kate Beckinsale, Lewis Tan **MGM, 11:20 p.m.**

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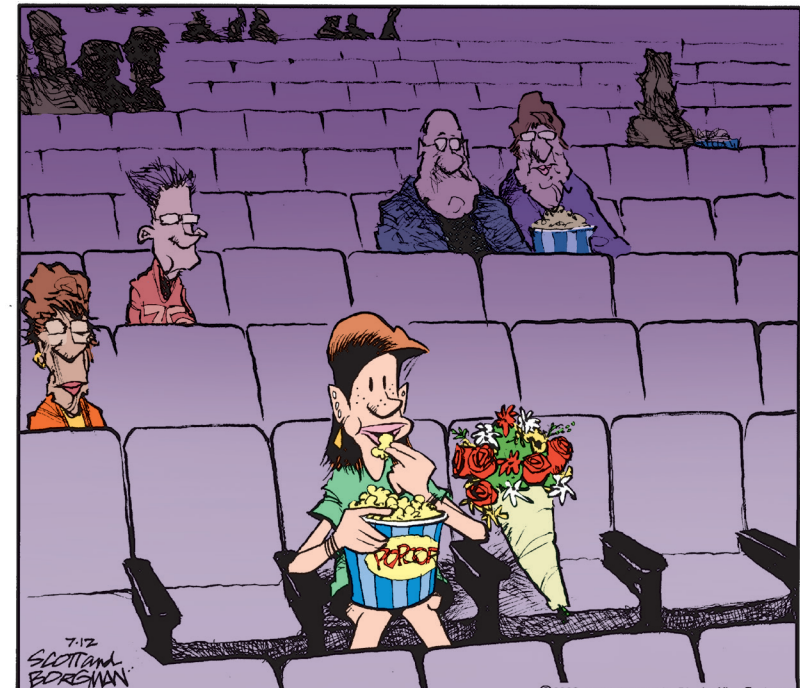
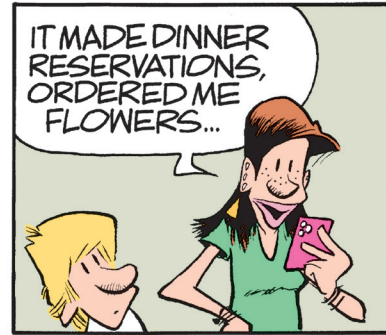
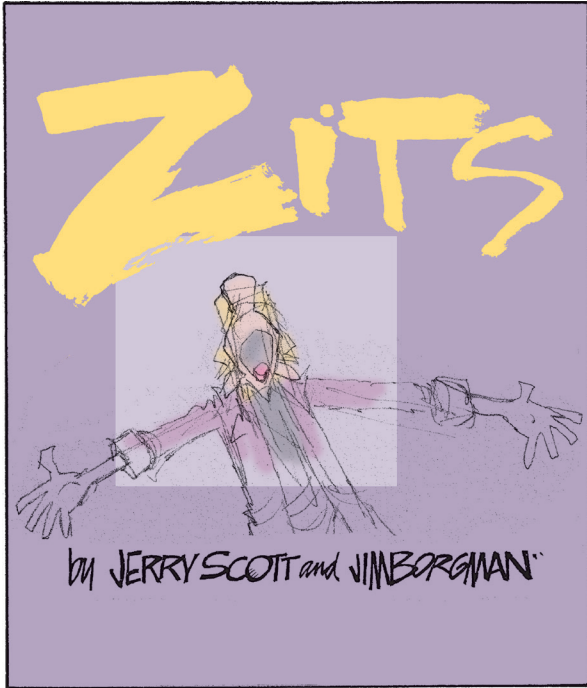
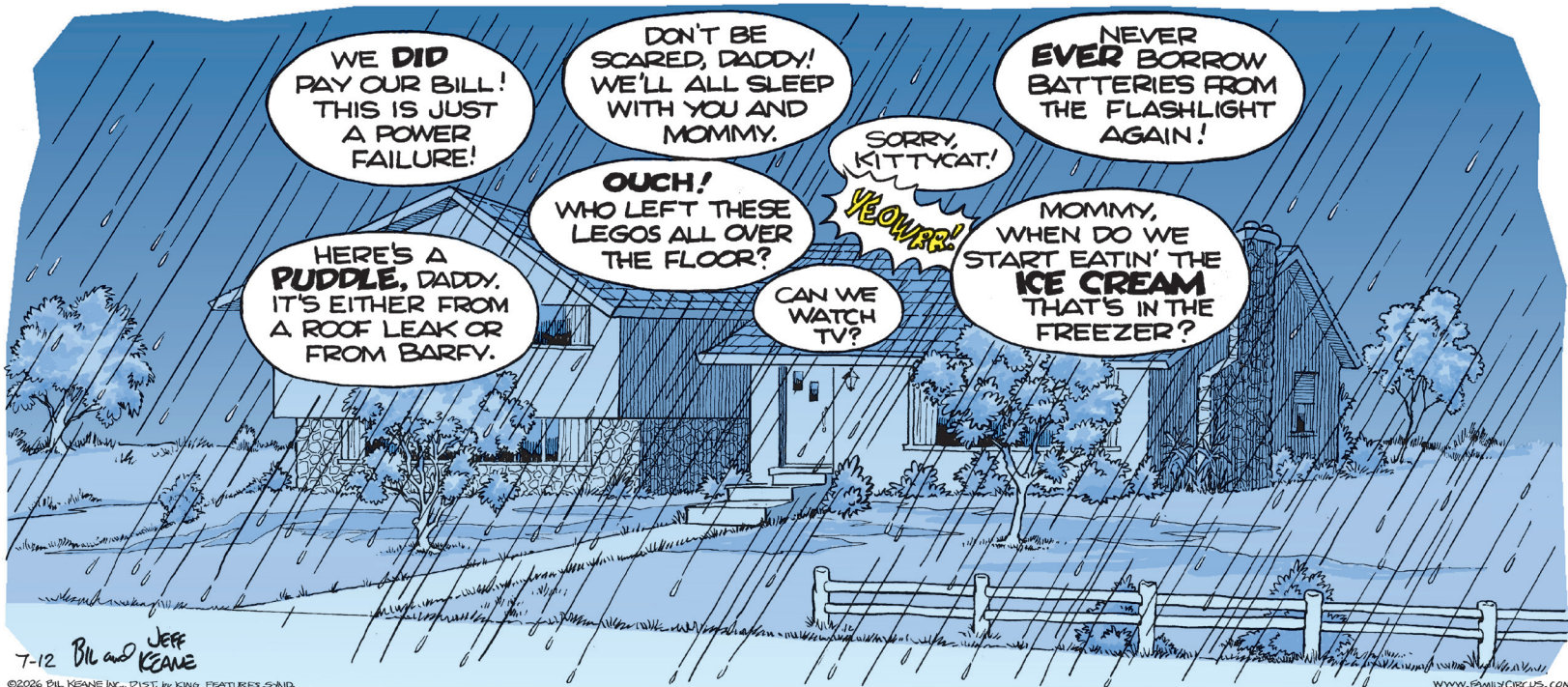
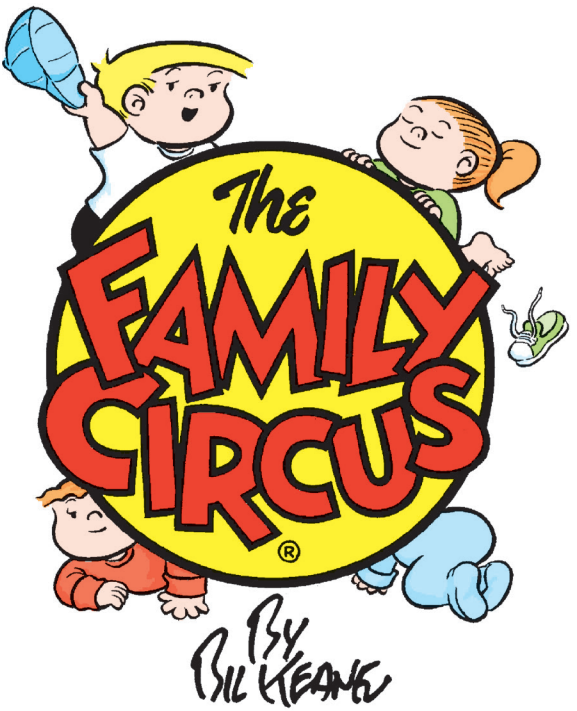
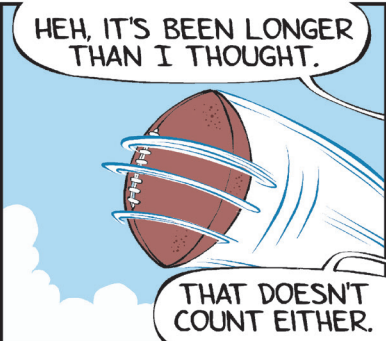
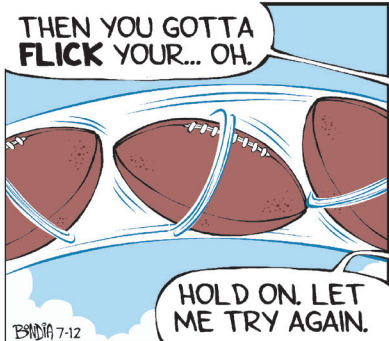
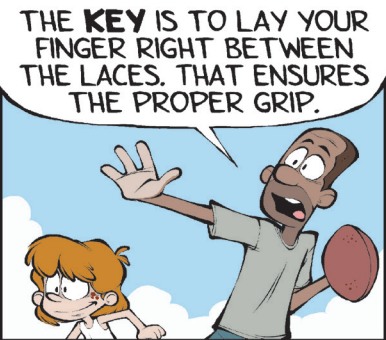
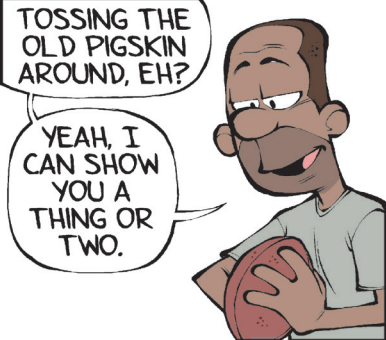
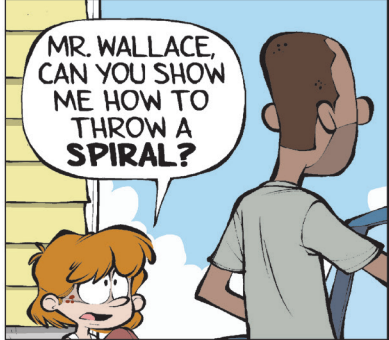
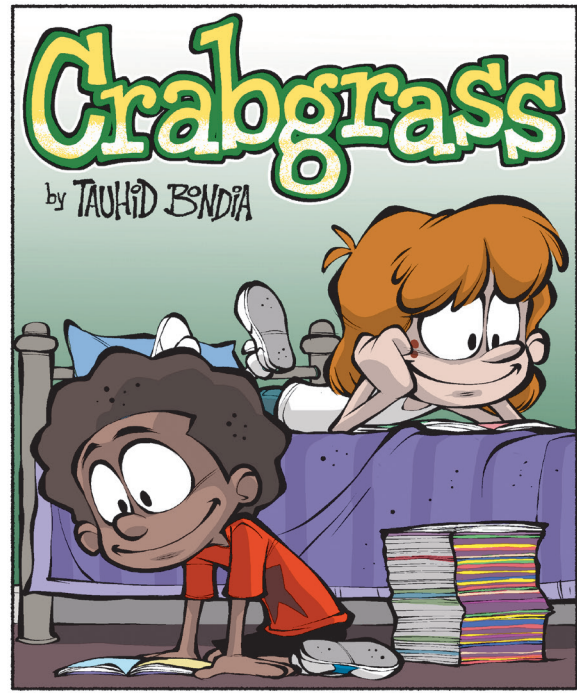
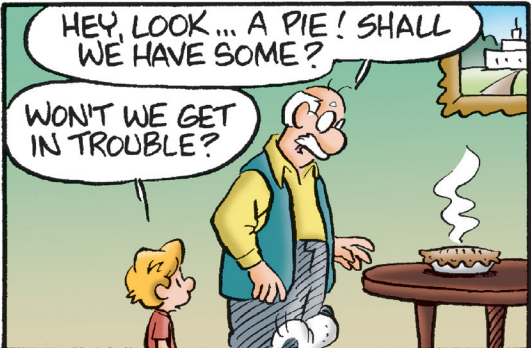
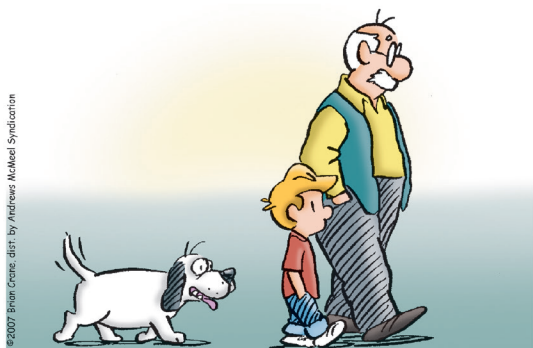
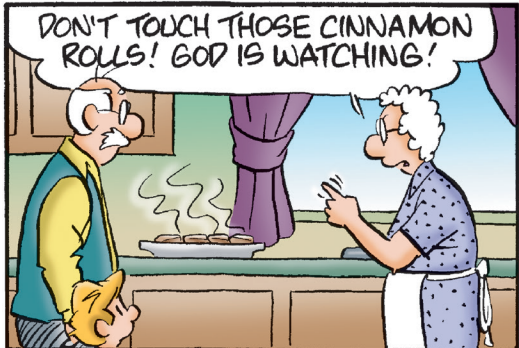
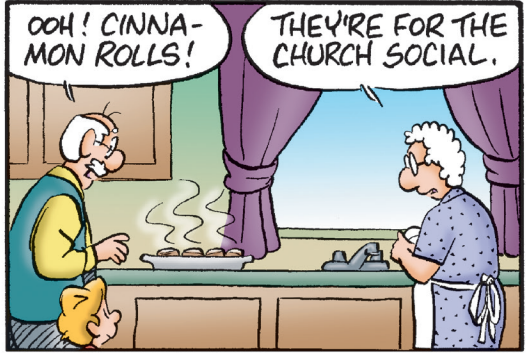
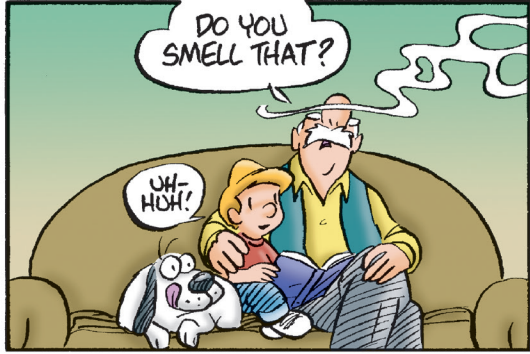
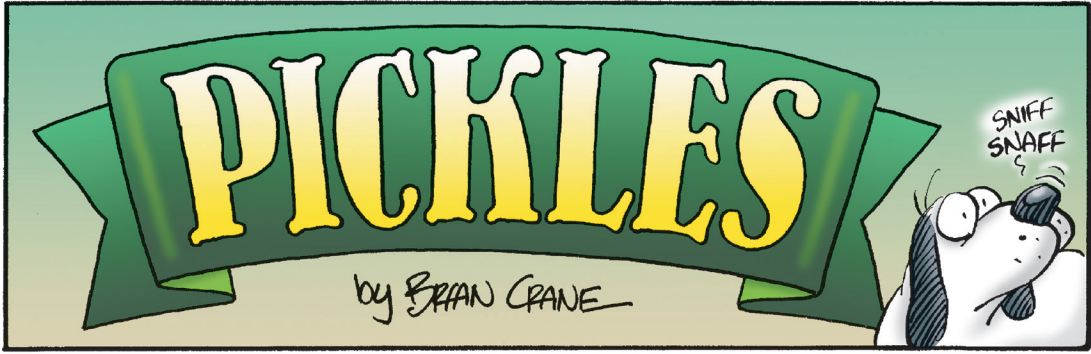
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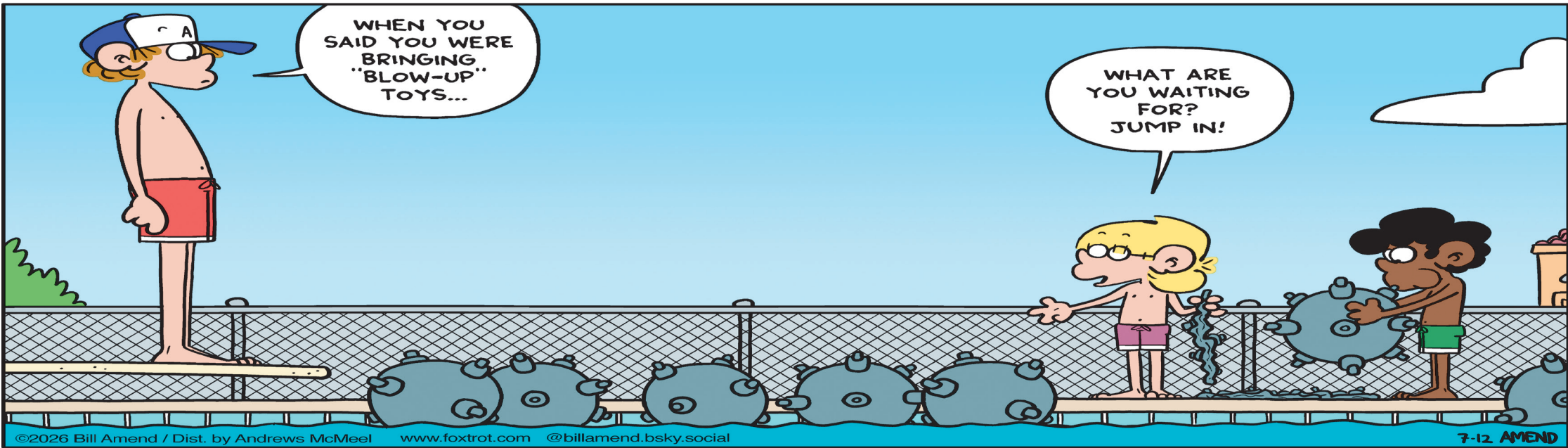
Weekend Comics

JULY 11-12, 2026

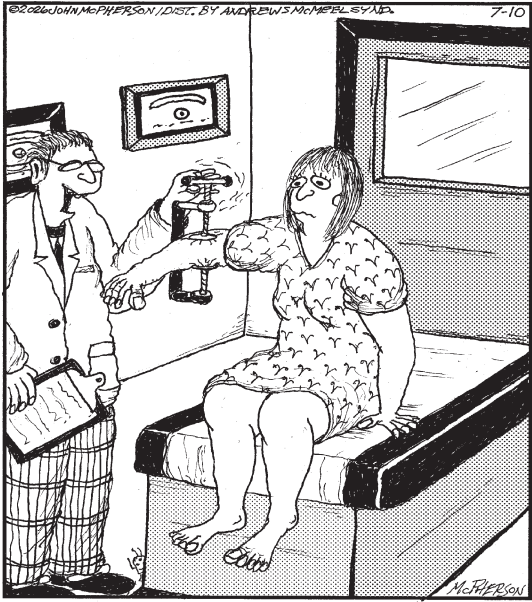


FoxTrot

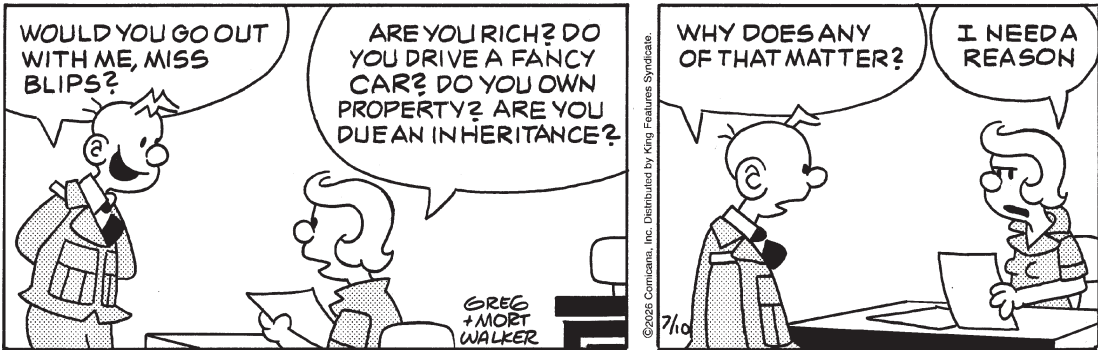
by Bill Amend



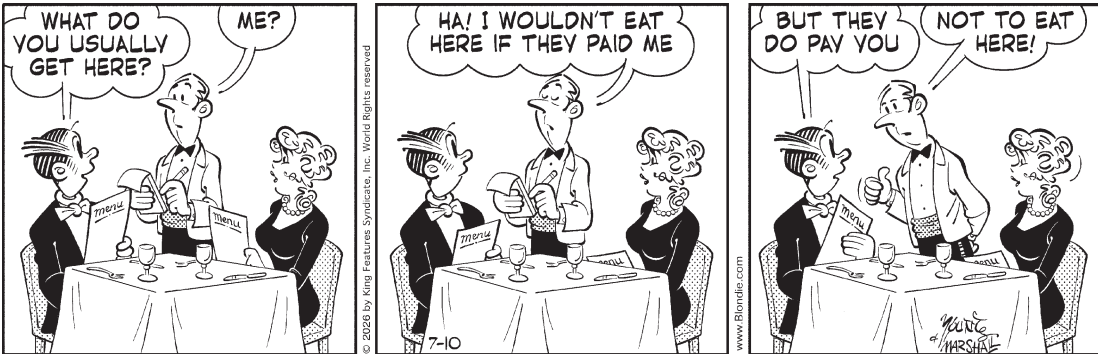
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



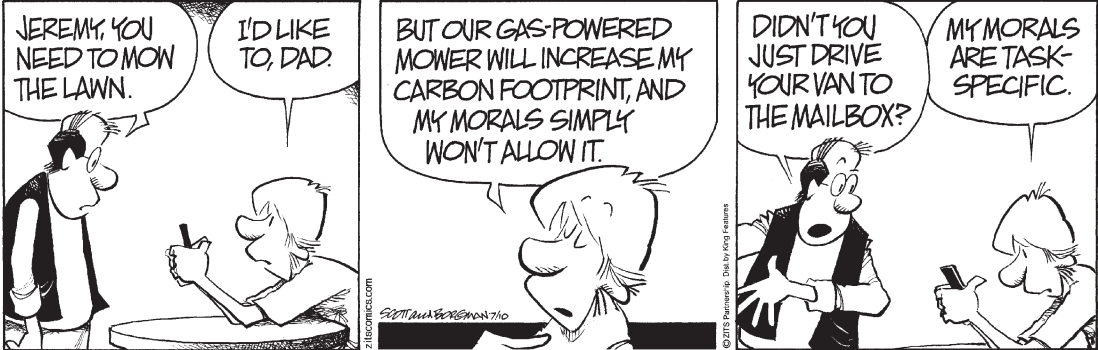
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



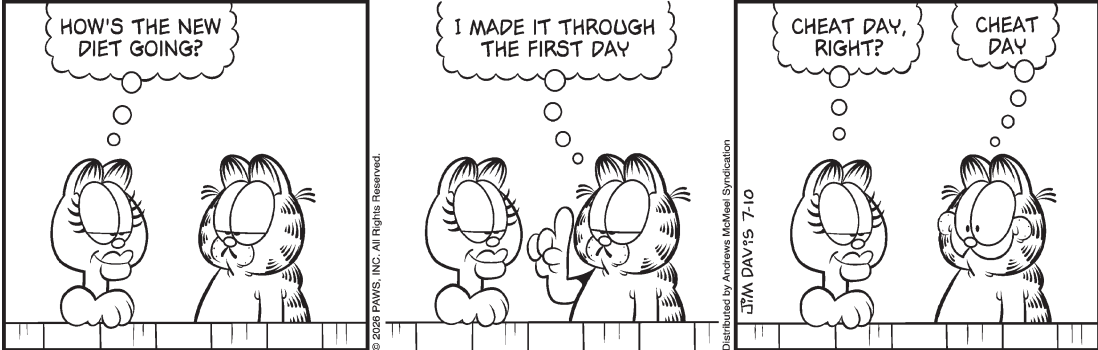
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

gal lop

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 into a gallop

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- Places to feel kneaded?
 - Peter or Paul, but not Mary
 - Vocal quality
 - Part of some forests
 - Land parcel
 - On the road
 - Slogan on a very thorough pet sitter's business card?
 - "Exodus" Oscar nominee Sal
 - Anger
 - Snap
 - Carson successor
 - iPhone platform
 - Checkers side
 - Upgrade one's cookie supply?
 - Sweet sandwich
 - Word on a bottle of Château Margaux
 - El Prado, por ejemplo
 - Cause of statistical misrepresentation
 - Colon units
 - Ordered from DoorDash, perhaps
 - Flight status abbr.
 - Part of many a lunch special
 - Newest resident of the Land of Enchantment?
 - Mex. neighbor
 - Green around the gills
 - From the top
 - Late bloomer
 - Toots and the Maytals, for one
 - Aptly named hybrids
 - Treatment for anemia, or a treatment given to 16-, 28-, and 48-Across?
 - Four-ward acronym
 - Plum kin
 - Major disappointment
 - Gym reps
 - Actress Daly
 - Bajo opposite
- DOWN**
- Word with lift or lodge
 - Political research center
 - Dessert option
 - Share, in a way
 - "Doctor Who" actress Catherine
 - Think tank members, often
 - Modern art?
 - Purify
 - Softest mineral on the Mohs scale
 - Tot's scrape
 - Childcare providers
 - Unsilently sight
 - Celtic artwork feature
 - Sufficient, once
 - Name on some Canadian pumps
 - For
 - Pronoun option
 - College domain
 - Sony record label
 - Invoice no.
 - Kertuffle
 - Passing thoughts?
 - Food Network host Garten
 - Tap
 - Bard's sphere
 - Used car caveat
 - Hollywood innovation of the 1920s
 - Swell
 - Actor Vigoda
 - Generate more revenue than
 - Tap
 - Target score at Augusta
 - Some coolers
 - Pledge rival
 - Second-oldest Ivy
 - "The Lion King" lion
 - Rolls-Royce trunk
 - Hill dwellers
 - Joy
 - Practice, as a trade
 - "...on my watch!"
 - Cube root of eight

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

O	I	T	V		E	N	A	L		S	L	E	S
M	O	T	B		E	O	T	S		L	O	G	E
L	N	E	W	E	T	d	N	S	N	O	R	I	
		S	I	T	G	N	D	N	V	B	V	K	S
H	E	L	S	V		M	E	N	V		T	T	I
V	S	N	A	B	V	B	E	J	V	L	N	V	S
d	N	O	S	H	V	E		N	I	E	L	V	
		S	L	O	D		S	V	I	B			
O	E	S	N	V		N	B	C	O	E	B	O	
S	H	E	J	V	M	E	D	V	L	O	D	E	O
S	O	I			O	N	E	T	O	L	O	H	d
E	S	N	E	C	N	I	O	E	N	I	W		
E	N	I	T	E	J	E	H	L	K	T	V	M	I
A	V	M	V		E	R	C	V					
E	N	O	T		H	V	S	L		S	V	S	K

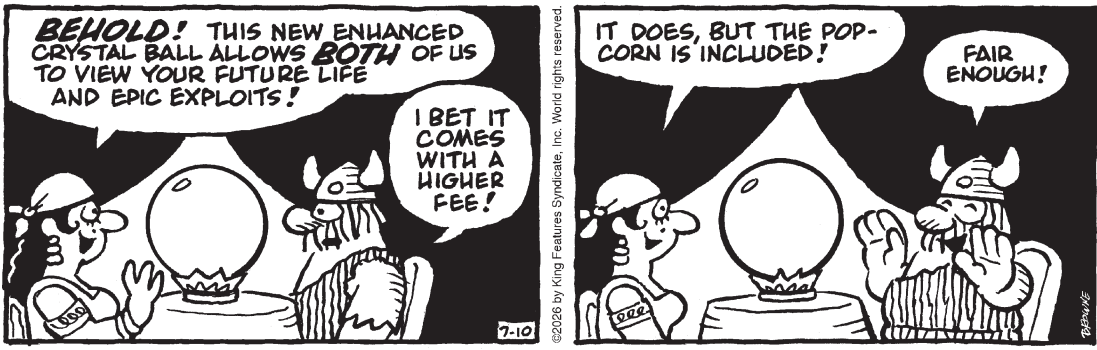
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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16					17					18				
			19					20					21	
22	23					24	25				26			
27					28	29				30	31			
32				33		34				35				
				36	37				38	39				
40	41	42					43				44	45	46	47
48						49	50				51		52	
53						54					55	56		
57				58	59				60	61				
	62							63					64	65
	66					67					68			
	69					70					71			

By Mike Peluso
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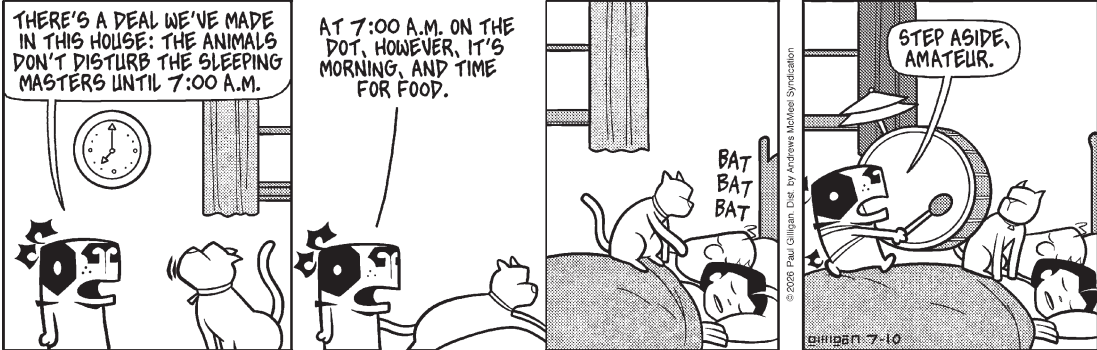
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

CROATIA'S DALMATIAN COAST

Solution: 9 letters

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

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7/10

Archipelago, Baroque, Bays, Bell Towers, Black Risotto, Brudet, Byzantine, Canyon, Capes, Cathedrals, Channel, Cheese, Cliffs, Cres, Fishing, Fjords, Hvar, Inlets, Karst, Korcula, Krk, Limestone, Liqueur, Maritime, Monasteries, Octopus, Olives, Pula, Reefs, Romanesque, Ruins, Salt, Soparnik, Split, Trogir, Valley, Vis

TODAY'S ANSWER: Vineyards

ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

PHILLIP, DO YOU HAVE THE SPF 50?

IT'S IN THE CUBBY ON THE PORT SIDE!

CAN YOU PLEASE JUST SAY RIGHT OR LEFT, DEAR?

BETHANY! WE USE NAUTICAL TERMS ON THIS BOAT!

STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE A SAILOR, PHILLIP!

DONT DISRESPECT EL CAPITAN, BETHANY!!

BETHANY WILL NOT LIKE THE USE OF "EL CAPITAN."

"ELCAPITAN" MAY END UP IN THE BRIG.

7-12

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON

PLEASE REMOVE YOUR SHOES AND PLACE THEM IN A BIN ON THE CONVEYOR.

MAN, I HATE AIR TRAVEL.

7-12

THE BORN LOSER®

by Art & Chip Sansom

OH, GLADYS, DEAR?

ARE YOU STILL PLANNING ON ME GOING SHOPPING WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON?

YES, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT! WHY?

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ARNIE JUST TEXTED ME, WOULD YOU MIND IF I WENT GOLFING WITH HIM INSTEAD?

YES! I WOULD MIND VERY MUCH! YOU MAY NOT GO GOLFING WITH ARNIE! YOU'RE SHOPPING WITH ME AS WE PLANNED!

THEY SAY, WHEN YOU'VE LIVED WITH SOMEONE LONG ENOUGH, YOU CAN FINISH EACH OTHER'S SENTENCES!

Jeff MacNelly's **Shoe**

By Ben Lansing & Susie MacNelly

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT TREETOPS?

WELL, IT'S THE ONLY TOWN I KNOW...

WHERE BOTH SIDES OF THE TRACK ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF TOWN.

© 26 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM Susie MacNelly Lansing 7/12

LAZY & FUNNY

I LOVE JULY... WARM WEATHER, GOOFING OFF OUTSIDE. IT'S GREAT!

THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD MAKE IT BETTER IS IF WE HAD CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

CAROLERS COULD GET ICED TEA INSTEAD OF HOT CHOCOLATE. SANTA WOULD WEAR RED SHORTS AND ENTER HOUSES THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...

... WE'D HAVE POPSICLES INSTEAD OF CANDY CANES! UGLY T-SHIRTS INSTEAD OF UGLY SWEATERS! WATER SKIS INSTEAD OF ICE SKATES!

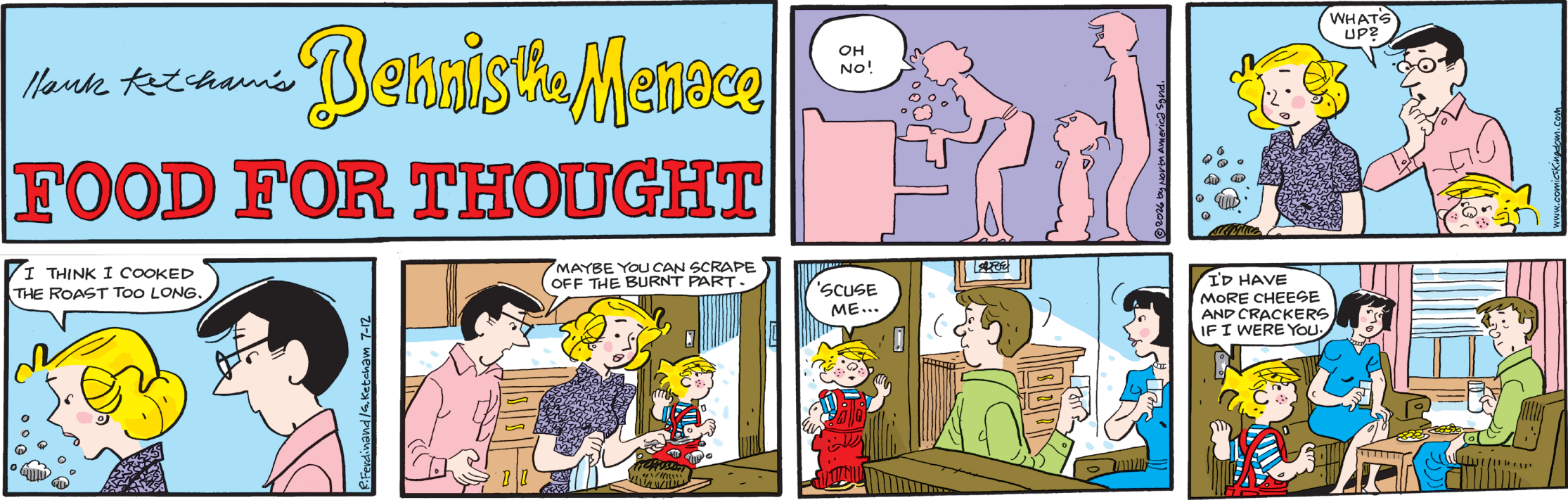
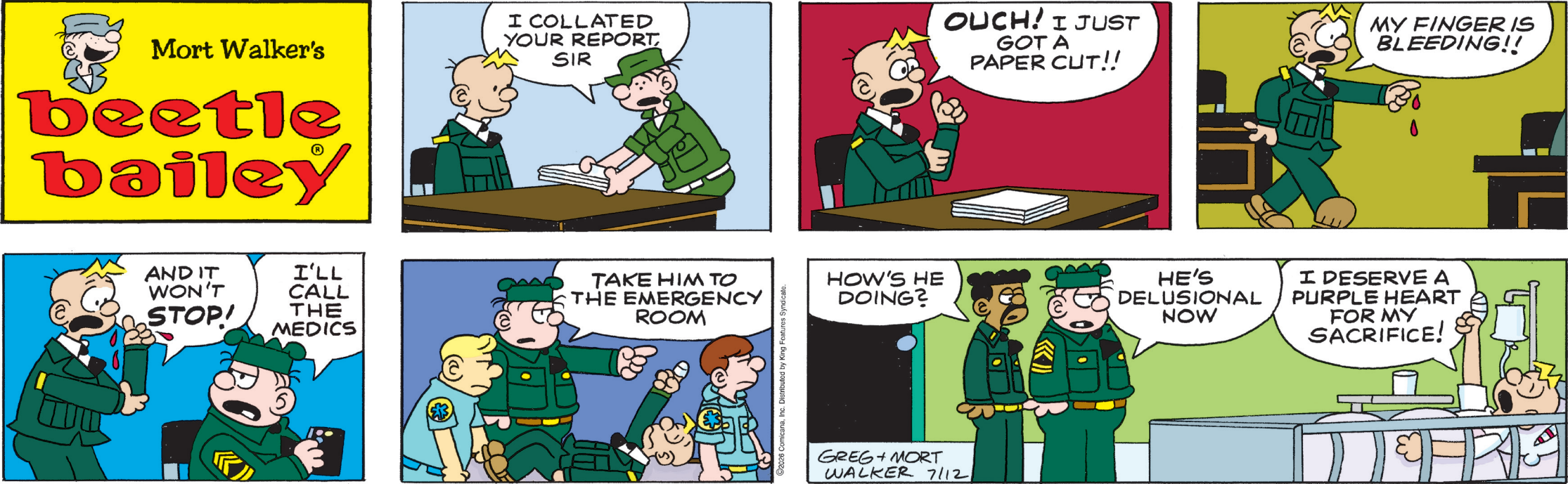
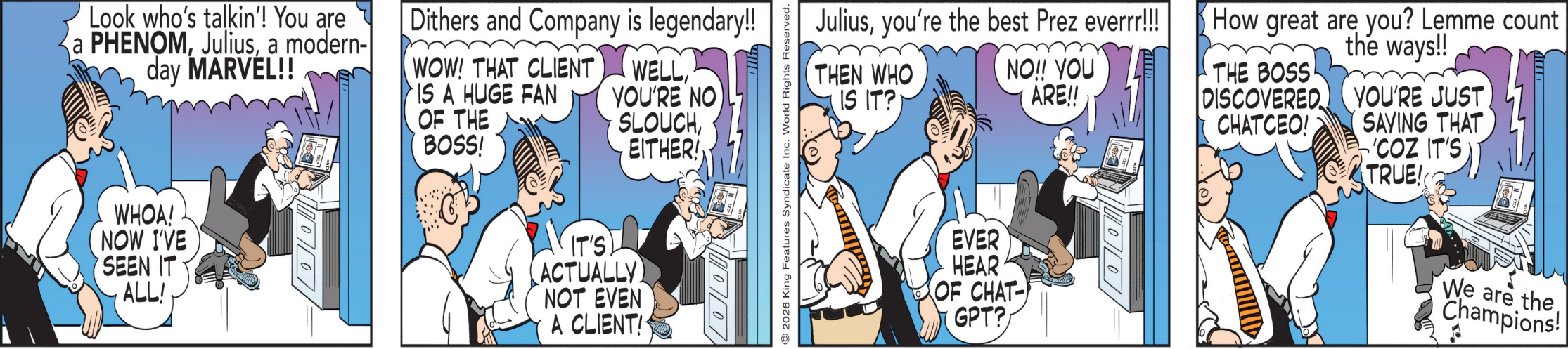
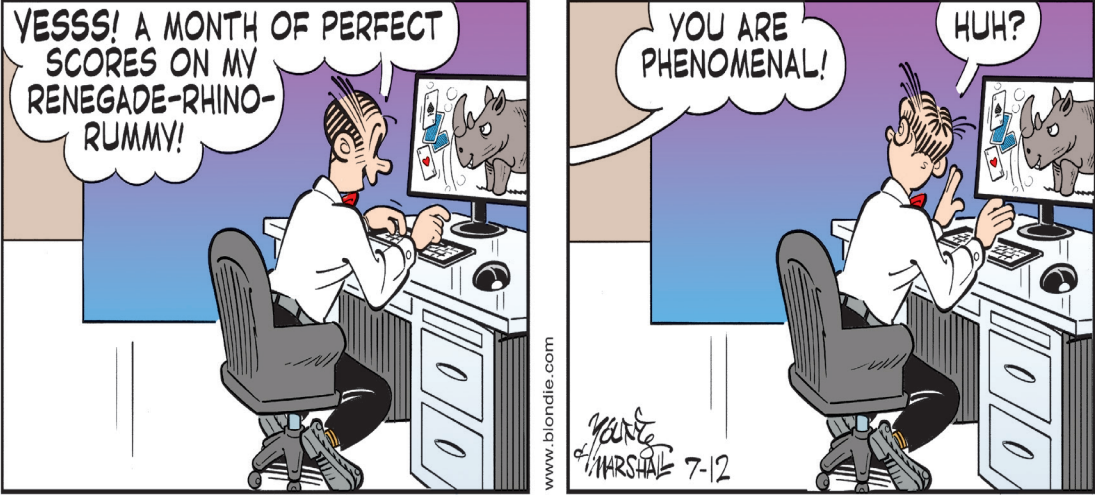
BUT WOULD THE NAUGHTY ONES STILL GET COAL? HMM... THAT WOULDN'T WORK. IT WOULD BURN HOLES IN THEIR STOCKINGS.

SO LET'S ENJOY SUMMER NOW AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS LATER! YES, BY GOLLY! FIRST OUTDOOR FOLLY, THEN INDOOR JOLLY... WITH LOTS OF HOLLY!

7-12

BLONDIE

BY DEAN KURTZ & JOHN MARSHALL



CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

