

Perspectives
Carlton Fletcher
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The Albany HERALD

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Raising Cane's
New chicken restaurant opening
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WEEKEND

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

Georgia Trust for Local News partners with local supporters to acquire two historic newspapers

Staff Reports
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DUBLIN – The Georgia Trust for Local News has purchased The Macon Telegraph and The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer in a landmark transaction that puts two storied newspapers under local control and nonprofit ownership. The Telegraph has operated as a journalistic mainstay in middle

Georgia for 200 years and has a legacy of community-changing investigative journalism, including a Pulitzer Prize for specialized reporting. The Ledger-Enquirer has long been Columbus' leading news source and has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for public service. For both papers, this is the first change of ownership in 20 years. The Georgia Trust is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Local News,

a nonprofit that acquires, stabilizes and revitalizes news organizations across the country. Thanks to support from local funders in Macon and Columbus, these vital civic institutions will benefit from the National Trust's model for sustaining trusted sources of local news. Including today's acquisitions from McClatchy Media, the Georgia Trust now operates 21 local newspapers and digital platforms across middle,

west and south Georgia – covering a geography of more than 1 million people. That includes an expanded presence in Macon, where it currently operates The Macon Melody, plus expansion into Columbus, the state's second-largest city. The Columbus coverage area includes the western part of the state and eastern sections of Alabama. The



See **PARTNERS**, 2A
CYNTHIA DUBOSE

Adult leadership group spreads concept to high school students



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
Charani Srikakulapu, left, and Baileigh Taylor participate in an ice-breaking exercise on Wednesday during the first of three days of activities in the Albany Junior Leaders program. The program is a class project for participants in the 2026 Leadership Albany Inc. class.

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Leadership Albany Inc. has been providing training and networking for individuals looking to move the community forward since 1984, and now some of those participating in the 2026 class are spreading that concept

to area high school students. This week, about 15 Dougherty County high school sophomores, juniors and seniors took part in the first Albany Junior Leaders class. The leadership class was the community project for a group of the Leadership Albany Class of 2026. The students

kicked the three-day training program off on Wednesday at Albany Technical College, followed by sessions at Thonateeska Heritage Center on Thursday and ending on Friday at the Resora conference center,

See **CONCEPT**, 11A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Generations of family farming continue across southwest Georgia, where changing land values and increasing demand for rural acreage are reshaping conversations about agricultural property assessments.

Lee County homeowners have until Aug. 1 to claim property tax exemptions

By Kathryn Crockett
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LEESBURG – Lee County homeowners have until Aug. 1 to apply for homestead and other property tax exemptions for the 2026 tax year, a deadline members of the Lee County Board of Tax Assessors highlighted Monday as they encouraged eligible residents to take advantage of available tax relief.

The board postponed action on a batch of exemption applications during its July meeting to allow members additional time to individually review each request before the filing deadline passes. Chairman Philip Husain said the board wants to ensure

every application receives careful consideration while still allowing residents time to submit new exemptions before the Aug. 1 deadline. The meeting also focused extensively on educating property owners about the county's appeals process, particularly addressing concerns that have surfaced following last year's county-wide property reassessment. Chief Appraiser Doug Goodin explained that while most taxpayers file appeals because they believe their property's value is too high, the appeals process occasionally reveals information that results in a property's assessed value increasing

See **TAX**, 2A

Dawson Council approves \$400,000 lifeline in emergency meeting as financial accountability remains elusive

By Kathryn Crockett
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DAWSON – Less than a week after city officials publicly acknowledged the city of Dawson cannot continue operating without additional financing, the Dawson City Council convened a hastily called emergency meeting Tuesday evening and unanimously approved authority to borrow up to \$400,000 through a tax anticipation note. The meeting lasted less than 10 minutes.

Although several members of the public attended hoping to ask questions about the city's worsening financial condition and the proposed borrowing, no public comment period was included on the agenda, and no public comments were accepted before the council voted unanimously to approve the measure. The emergency meeting followed last week's regular council meeting, during which city officials presented financial reports showing the city

is operating with a structural budget deficit and lacks sufficient cash flow to continue meeting expenses without outside funding. Officials also acknowledged that multiple annual financial audits remain incomplete, limiting the city's financing options while the city works to stabilize its finances. Tuesday's meeting produced no additional financial reports, no updated budget documents and no discussion

See **APPROVES** 2A



Submitted Photo

Georgia Community Bank's Dawson branch will provide the city of Dawson with a tax anticipation line of credit of up to \$400,000 after the City Council unanimously approved the emergency financing during a special meeting Tuesday.

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

APPROVES

regarding how the borrowed funds would be monitored or reported to the public.

The resolution authorizes Dawson to issue a Tax Anticipation Note structured as a revolving line of credit with Georgia Community Bank in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Unlike a traditional municipal bond issued for capital projects, a tax anticipation note is short-term borrowing intended to provide cash flow until property taxes are collected later in the year.

Under the agreement approved Tuesday:

The city may draw money as needed, up to \$400,000.

Interest will accrue only on amounts actually borrowed.

The interest rate is 5.60% annually.

The note matures Dec. 31, 2026.

Georgia Community Bank will serve as the lender.

The city pledges its full faith and credit to repay the obligation using future tax revenues.

Rather than receiving the full \$400,000 immediately, the agreement establishes a line of credit that city officials may draw upon throughout the remainder of the year. Each withdrawal will simply be recorded on an attached schedule of draws, with interest calculated only on the outstanding balance.

The resolution further states the borrowed money may be used to pay current operating expenses, accrued interest, attorney fees associated with issuing the note and other costs of the borrowing.

The emergency borrowing comes just days after city officials presented council members with financial information showing Dawson's recurring revenues are insufficient to cover recurring operating expenses.

Documents discussed during last week's meeting projected recurring revenues of approximately \$5.88 million against planned expenditures of roughly \$6.18 million, leaving the city dependent on transfers from its Public Utilities Fund while seeking temporary financing to continue operations.

Officials acknowledged the city has been unable to complete annual audits dating back to 2023 and said those audits must be completed as part of broader efforts to restore financial stability.

City leaders described the proposed line of credit as necessary to cover payroll and other operating expenses while the city works through its financial recovery.

Despite the significance of authorizing as much as \$400,000 in emergency borrowing, Tuesday's meeting included virtually no discussion beyond reading and approving the resolution.

Council members were not presented with updated financial statements showing the city's current cash position.

Despite authorizing as much

as \$400,000 in emergency borrowing, city officials offered little explanation of how the line of credit will be managed. The council was not told how much of the available funds the city expects to draw immediately, which operating expenses would take priority, what safeguards or internal controls would govern future withdrawals, how often council members would receive updates on the outstanding balance, or what financial benchmarks would determine whether additional borrowing would become necessary.

The resolution itself authorizes the borrowing but does not require public reporting each time funds are drawn, establish spending priorities beyond "current expenses," or require periodic reports to the council regarding the status of the line of credit.

The meeting consisted almost entirely of approving the financing resolution before adjourning.

For citizens seeking addi-

tional information about the city's financial condition, the emergency session provided few new answers beyond authorizing the borrowing itself.

The amended Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget has not been publicly presented despite significant changes in the city's finances. Likewise, the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget referenced during recent meetings has not yet been made available for public review.

The absence of those documents leaves the public unable to determine whether the tax anticipation note represents a temporary cash-flow solution or addresses a more fundamental structural deficit.

The resolution states Georgia law allows municipalities to obtain temporary loans in anticipation of property tax collections provided statutory borrowing limits are met. City officials certified the proposed borrowing complies with those requirements.

According to the resolution, the city's maximum legal bor-

rowing authority equals 75% of the taxes collected during calendar year 2025. Based on approximately \$924,715 in tax collections last year, Dawson's statutory borrowing limit would be approximately \$693,536, placing the proposed \$400,000 line of credit within the legal threshold.

Officials also certified the city has no unpaid tax anticipation borrowing from previous years and pledged that total obligations incurred during 2026 will not exceed anticipated revenues for the year.

Tuesday's emergency meeting marks the latest development in months of increasing scrutiny surrounding Dawson's finances.

Recent council meetings have focused on past due audits, budget shortfalls, questions surrounding city equipment purchases, incomplete financial records, inter-fund transfers, and repeated requests by council members, citizens and the media for greater financial transparency.

From 1A

TAX

rather than decreasing.

That possibility, board members emphasized, is not a penalty for filing an appeal.

Instead, it is the result of the Tax Assessor's Office fulfilling its legal responsibility to maintain accurate property records.

"When someone files an appeal, we have the right to inspect the property," Goodin explained. "If we discover something that's not reflected on the property's record card, we're obligated to correct it."

Examples include swimming pools, detached garages, workshops, additions, enclosed porches or other improvements that may have been constructed after the property was last reviewed. In other cases, inspectors

may find that structures listed on the property's record card have been demolished or removed, resulting in a lower valuation.

Board member Amanda Wiley said the board recognized that homeowners sometimes perceive those discoveries as retaliation for filing an appeal, even though the discrepancies simply reflect outdated property records.

To address those concerns, the board discussed implementing a more transparent notification process.

Rather than updating a property's value without explanation, the Tax Assessor's Office will first leave a door hanger notifying the homeowner that an item differing from the official property record was observed during the inspection. The office will then mail a letter identifying the discrepancy, estimating its impact on the property's value and inviting the homeowner to discuss the findings before the information is officially added to the property's record card.

The goal, Husain said, is to ensure property owners understand why a change is being made before receiving an updated assessment notice.

"We're trying to avoid someone feeling like because they appealed, suddenly their value increased," Wiley said during the discussion. "We're just trying to make sure what's on the property record is accurate."

Goodin encouraged residents to periodically review their own property record cards through QPublic, the county's online property database, where records for every parcel are publicly available.

Each property record card contains information used to

calculate a property's value, including square footage, construction details, outbuildings, pools and other improvements. Homeowners can compare that information with their property and notify the Tax Assessor's Office if something is incorrect.

Officials noted that errors occur in both directions. Some records may include improvements that no longer exist, while others may fail to include additions that have been constructed over the years.

"If it's simply incorrect, call us," Goodin said, explaining that factual errors often can be corrected without requiring a formal appeal.

The meeting also offered insight into one of the most common questions county residents have asked since last year's reassessment: Why did property values increase so dramatically?

Goodin said the increases were necessary to bring Lee County back into compliance with Georgia appraisal standards after property values had lagged behind the rapidly appreciating real estate market for several years.

Under Georgia law, the Department of Revenue annually analyzes property sales to ensure county assessments closely reflect actual market value. Counties that consistently assess property well below market value can fall outside the state's required appraisal ratio and be cited for noncompliance.

According to Goodin, Lee County had remained below the state's acceptable standards because values were not keeping pace with market sales.

One example discussed during the meeting involved agricultural land. Goodin said

many categories of farmland had been assessed at less than \$2,000 per acre even as verified market sales frequently ranged between approximately \$5,000 and \$7,000 per acre. Those sales, he said, required reassessments to bring values closer to actual market conditions.

Among those asking questions was lifelong Lee County resident and landowner Michael Stevens, whose family's property on Stocks Dairy Road has been part of the historic Stocks Dairy for generations. Stevens questioned whether rising sales prices for recreational tracts and plantations are artificially inflating the value of long-held working farms.

"We have a heritage farm. We're part of Stocks Dairy's farm, and we've been there forever. It was my granddad-

See **TAX**, 11A



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

PARTNERS

purchase of these newspapers from one of the country's largest media companies marks a new phase of growth for the entire National Trust, which also operates state trusts in Maine and Colorado.

"This is a great day for local news in Georgia," Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust for Local News, said. "These vital community assets will not only be preserved but also reinvigorated and strengthened for a vibrant future."

To mark the acquisition, the Georgia Trust will temporarily remove The Ledger-Enquirer's and The Telegraph's

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE OF BEER AND WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **Kiaara Americus LLC**, doing business as **New Era Albany**, located at **906 N Slappey Blvd., Albany, Georgia 31701**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **off-premises package** sell of beer and wine for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the Albany Herald on **July 16th, 18th and 21st** in compliance with applicable law.

digital paywalls to welcome all members of the community to connect with these publications.

The National Trust's growth model leverages catalytic philanthropic investment to accelerate local publishers' ability to drive earned revenue from subscriptions, advertising, events and other emerging sources.

In 2024, with a \$5 million grant from Knight Foundation, the National Trust for Local News launched a startup community newsroom, The Macon Melody. The community journalism produced by Georgia Trust reporters in Macon quickly established The Melody as a vital local resource and partner in Middle Georgia. Knight Foundation's support strengthened the infrastructure that makes today's acquisitions possible.

Another steadfast supporter of the Georgia Trust is the Peyton Anderson Foundation. To honor the legacy of Peyton T. Anderson Jr., former owner and publisher of The Telegraph, the Peyton Anderson Foundation is providing funding for the acquisition of The Telegraph.

The Melody and The Telegraph will bring their strengths together into a single news source. Operating as The Telegraph, this combined publication will blend the scale, domain authority and subscriber base of The Telegraph with the community-first voice, local relationships and entrepreneurial muscle of The Melody. Later this summer, The Melody will become a section within The Telegraph highlighting the people, places and moments that are the rhythm of Macon. The Telegraph newsroom will be housed in Mercer University's Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism.

Funding for the acquisition of The Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus was provided by a grant from The Local News and Information Fund at the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley. Through the Community Foundation, more than a dozen individuals and community stakeholders contributed to the fund's support of The Ledger-Enquirer acquisition, underscoring the enthusiastic local support for the newspaper's future under nonprofit ownership.

The Ledger-Enquirer newsroom will move to a space on Broadway, in Columbus' central business district. The space is rented from CSU Properties, the charitable arm that manages real estate holdings for the benefit of Columbus State University. CSU and the Georgia Trust for Local News are in talks to bolster collaboration that will allow students to gain hands-on experience at the publication.

The acquisition comes on the heels of the Georgia Trust for Local News' hiring of a new executive director, Cynthia DuBose, who started in her role on June 1.

While the National Trust provides the capital and runway to transform local newsrooms into modern enterprises, the state trusts ensure each newsroom relies on local management driving on-the-ground operations – a role DuBose is leading in tandem with Georgia Trust newsrooms throughout the state.

"What makes this historic transaction especially exciting is the groundswell of national, statewide and community-based financial support to enable these storied publications' shift to nonprofit ownership and local management," DuBose said. "Under the Georgia Trust's stewardship, these publications will recapture their role in civic leadership, and ensure a strong commitment to hyper-local coverage and enhanced community engagement."

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Partnership could be on your mind; someone close could offer both spontaneity and clear logic. The foundation you build for yourself and for your life is what supports your efforts — build it strong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Forcing the fun or the self-expression makes these ephemeral moments pour out between your fingers like grains of sand. Some things only flow in freedom and without control or restraint.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Cooperation isn't motivated by force or insistence — find more effective ways to inspire others to pull together, this true in family systems too. Happiness can't be forced either. Hold off on money moves for a few days.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The more it's pushing itself out of your mouth, the more you should think before you say it — today's not a good day for letting just anything fly. The reaction could seem harsh in its level of misunderstanding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Financial impulses are not your friend, neither are flashy financial investments or purchases for the purpose of impressing others. That's not how you build your value in your own eyes, or anyone else's.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Friends can share ideas, offer support, and see you when you feel invisible. Don't do any kind of foolish action, today could again tempt you toward a clown move that could backfire spectacularly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotion that doesn't juice happiness or goodness is one that should be processed and released, not one to defend and hold onto. Do not jump to conclusions today, they could easily be dead wrong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let a friend do something self-sabotaging, if you're the one tempted, let yourself be talked off the ledge. If you know useful things, share them, it's not a time in the world to hoard knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep yourself inside the box today even if you strongly feel that something more exciting is called for. It's not. Not today. Stick to what has historically worked. A shared situation could improve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your focus could be shifting from expanded knowledge to putting that knowledge to use in a practical setting. A partnership or collaboration could soon become more profitable and more able to attract investment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The urge could feel logical, but the motives may not be pure. Be sure you're coming from higher guidance and integrity and not just wanting to justify something. Focus on completing projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Creative expression satisfies something deep when you express strictly for yourself and not only for the judgment of others. Don't force someone close into anything; keep your own boundaries solid.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Take a deep breath; 2026 should start getting easier now. Some of the issues you faced down in the earlier portion of the year have built new strength, and fewer tests should arise. Some genuine divine protection can shield you in July and bring gifts and blessings. Insight into your sacred journey should reveal more of the path forward. Early August drops a big ball of fear but most likely without any corresponding problem—don't let it unpack and set up shop. An opportunity to increase cash flow or bring in a new income stream could arise August/September. In September, do not take action on a deeply emotional feeling or reaction, no matter how strongly you feel in the moment, it's likely a trap to test your wisdom and discernment. Give thanks for October's blessings — likely intel you've been waiting for, and a very happy surprise.



AD 64 - The Great Fire of Rome destroys half of the city over a six day period

1290 - The Edict of Expulsion issued by King Edward I of England banished all approx. 16,000 Jews from England

1914 - The U.S. Congress forms the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps which gives official status to aircraft in the U.S. Army

1925 - Adolf Hitler publishes Mein Kampf

1968 - Intel is founded in Mountain View, CA

Mountain View, CA

1969 - U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy crashes his car at Chappaquiddick Island, MA, killing his passenger Mary Jo Kopechne

1984 - In San Ysidro, CA, at a McDonald's restaurant, James Oliver Huberty opens fire, killing 21 and injuring 19 people before being shot dead by police

2013 - With up to \$20 billion in debt, Detroit files for the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Insurance Nerd Day
- National Bridal Sale Day
- National Caviar Day
- National Sour Candy Day
- National Woodie Wagon Day
- Nelson Mandela International Day

- Perfect Family Day
- Strawberry Rhubarb Wine Day
- Toss Away the "Could Haves" and "Should Haves" Day
- Women's Dive Day
- World Listening Day

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."

Marie Curie,
scientist (1867-1934)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

The Regional Commission touts its latest million-dollar giveaway as a great thing for people in southwest Georgia. But let's be real: This is just another freebie for a group that has been receiving them all their lives, from cradle to old age. Professional free-loaders.

You Republicans and Democrats: The way you're acting, you're really pushing for a third or fourth party coming into power.

Yes, let's focus a little closer to home. These squawkers who waste all their time serving as what they call "key-board warriors" are some of the biggest time-wasters around. How about doing a little looking beyond what the partisan crowd tells you to do and decide for yourself what is best for your community?

The city manager reported this week that the Albany Police Department staffing is close to 90 to 100%. Then the chief reports that at one red light at Oakridge and Radium Springs Road there were 1,129 drivers running that light in one day. One day. That is 47 each hour. To have 1,129 people running one red light in 24 hours tells everyone the intelligence of Albany drivers.

How ridiculous is it to have an "electoral college" that decides our presidential elections based on delegates from each state? Our democracy is supposedly based on "one man, one vote," but that is not the case. We should do away with this archaic system and base our elections on popular vote alone, no matter what state a person lives in.

A city and county government audit is needed for Albany and Dougherty County immediately. Not only are our elected officials horrible, they put friends, neighbors and other unqualified individuals in jobs that we as taxpayers fund. And in many of these jobs, the hires do nothing. Shameful.

Any elected official who refuses to enforce the laws of this land should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and removed from office.

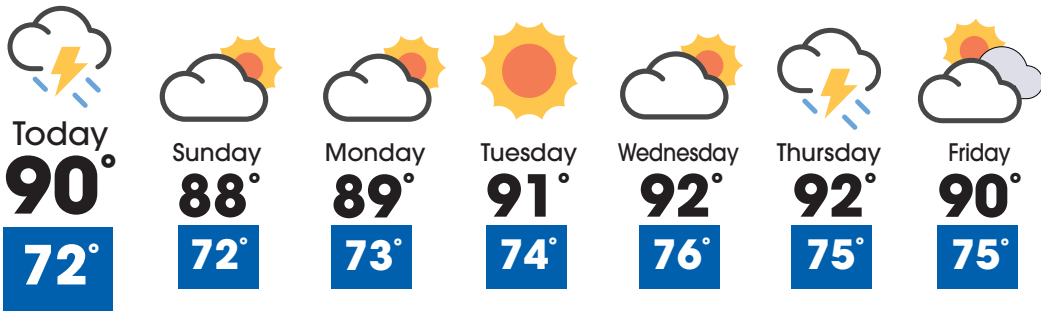
Why don't Albany City officials regularly canvas our neighborhoods for wellness checks at derelict homes, code violations, and criminal activity? We shouldn't have to call 311 a dozen times to report blatant drug activity day and night. Governmental laziness starts with our commissioners, and it's pathetic. Perhaps some of the employees regularly sleeping at their desks at the government center should get out in the community and earn their paycheck.

The 19th Amendment extended voting rights to women. Many vote with emotion instead of reason.

You want to know why we have so many career criminals in Albany and Dougherty County? Just spend a day at the courthouse. Criminals are run through the court system like livestock, turned out into the community to commit more crime. The police do their jobs, then the court system lets the criminals go.

Admit nothing, deny everything, and make counter allegations. That's effectively the strategy for the document known as the "autopsy" of the Democrats' 2024 defeat.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Counting your tricks as declarer or a defender is a basic play principle. It may not be a bad idea to count your opponents'

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

tricks as well. If you are defending against 3NT and can count nine tricks for declarer, you had better take five first.

In today's deal, East had overcalled in hearts, so West led the seven against 3NT. Dummy played low, and since East knew that South must hold the king and didn't want to let South score two heart tricks, East followed with the eight.

OVERTRICK

That defense was penny wise and 730 points worth of foolishness. When South took the king, he swiftly cashed six diamonds and three clubs for an overtrick.

East can see that declarer can win six diamond tricks (even if he lacks the queen) and two clubs (with a finesse if need-

ed). Though South's negative double promised four cards in spades, East's only chance is to grab his ace of hearts and shift to the deuce of spades. With West holding K-J-9-5, the defense can take four spades for down one.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S 7 4 H Q 4 D A K J 10 9 3 C A Q 6. You open one diamond, your partner bids one heart, you jump to three diamonds and he rebids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's three hearts is forcing. Since your three diamonds promised a long, strong suit, it would make little sense for him to bid again with a weak hand. Raise to four hearts. If he happens to be interested in slam and cue-bids four spades next, you might jump to six hearts.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Cousin's dire premonition haunts divorcée

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I am currently going through a terrible divorce that has left me nearly destitute in my mid-40s with a 3-year-old child to raise alone. In one last ditch effort to save our home, I decided to take in a renter. My cousin, who is also experiencing financial difficulties, agreed to move in for one to two years to help out.

I also live with chronic pain and several autoimmune diagnoses. Maintaining my health and stress levels is a delicate dance that I struggle with constantly on top of now experiencing this difficult divorce and unexpected single parenthood.

Two days after my cousin arrived, he confided in me that the reason he moved in was because he had a premonition that sometime in the next two years something permanently debilitating will happen to me, and that my 75-year-old mother will die suddenly.

I'm not sure if it's rational on my part, (or his), but I feel deceived by this and like a black pall (literally), now covers a situation which had otherwise seemed so positive and life-affirming.

At the time when he said this I was shocked and the only thing I managed in response was that it wouldn't really be a surprise since my illnesses are degenerative, and I of course am getting older, but now I find that I don't really even want to be around him as his words have left me feeling emotionally bruised, battered and deflated to say the least.

Am I supposed to be grateful for this information? How do I tell my cousin that his "insight" was actually really hurtful and to never mention it again or it

might be permanently damaging to our relationship?

— *Grave-ly Concerned*

Dear Concerned: I'm so sorry for the difficult period you're in and especially sorry that you have to deal with this highly inappropriate comment. You should first decide if you still feel safe with this person. Talk to friends, or other relatives, to get their read of him. He may truly believe he is being helpful (though I struggle to see how). But it's important that you have other eyes on your household.

If you do decide you need to have him stay, have a frank and direct conversation about what he said. You can say exactly what's on your mind. "I found it very scary and hurtful to hear your premonition. That's not information that helps me and I hope you can understand the stress it adds to my already full plate. If we are going to live together, we need to establish what's appropriate to say and do. Is that something you can agree to?"

It's important for you and for your child that you are being supported, emotionally and financially. If your cousin can't exercise good judgment, you may be better off finding and vetting a roommate.

Dear Eric: In two months, my 18-year-old daughter will be moving into a dorm room 1,400 miles away from home. Due to (what she considers) an embarrassing, chronic GI issue, she requires a private dorm room and bathroom.

She is absolutely adamant about not talking about her bowel issues with anyone, including her therapist.

I can imagine that, at some



Eric Thomas

point, one of her new friends is going to ask her why she needs a room all to herself. How could she respond in a way that satisfies their curiosity while maintaining her privacy and dignity?

— *Proactive in the Northeast*

Dear Proactive: A solution could be as simple as saying "it's a medical accommodation" and leaving it at that. But if she's sensitive about even suggesting that there's any problem whatsoever, she may have to lie and say something like "it's what my parents want."

Lying isn't the best policy, of course. But she has to decide for herself that this situation is fine, there's no shame in it and it doesn't warrant discussion.

She will probably go through some trial and error, as is the nature of many early college interactions. But that trial and error will be helpful because it will teach her what she's comfortable saying, which is a skill she'll need throughout life.

She may also learn that most people's curiosity is idle at best. She will learn that most people aren't thinking about us as much as we think they are. Ultimately, the other students may simply be envious that she got a single and they didn't.

It may be helpful for you to de-emphasize the importance of this scenario to her. Presumably she doesn't have the school's only private dorm room. There are plenty of reasons why people need or want private rooms and bathrooms. Instead of preparing to field questions about why she's different, it will be helpful to remember that she's more like everyone else than not.

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 Sumter to host free Children’s Health Fair

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Phoebe Sumter Medical Center will host an upcoming Children’s Health Fair, a community-focused event offering free health screenings and family friendly activities, on Aug. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will take place at the Columns Building at Boone Park, 408 Rucker Street in Americus.

This fun and informative health fair is open to children ages 5 to 17, with free screenings for weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), and blood pressure. In addition to health checks, families can enjoy music, games, and a healthy lunch provided to all participating children.

“We prioritize the health and well-being of children in our community, and events like this play a vital role in connecting with families and equipping them with resources to encourage healthy living,” Carlyle Walton, Phoebe Sumter Medical Center’s president, said.

Attendees also will receive: Free fruit and vegetable boxes (1 per family, while supplies last) in partnership with Healthy Sumter and Flint River Fresh.

Free back-to-school supplies (while supplies last) in partnership with Walmart and Zeta Phi Beta Inc.

Adult supervision is required for all children attending the event. For more information, call (229) 931-6812.

Children’s Health Fair

Saturday,
August 1, 2026
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Columns Building at Boone Park
408 Rucker Street | Americus

Phoebe Sumter



Special Illustration: Phoebe



File Photo

The Albany Police Department’s Traffic Unit is investigating a deadly crash on the Liberty Expressway Tuesday. One person was killed and two injured in the accident.

One dead, two injured in Liberty Expressway accident

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — One person died and two others were taken to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital with injuries after a fatal accident on the 300 block of the Liberty Expressway Tuesday.

Tyrian Jenkins, 19, who was driving northbound in a BMW, crossed the median into the expressway’s

southbound lanes and collided with a Ford Explorer. The crash occurred at 8:02 a.m., police said.

Jenkins was pronounced dead at the scene.

A passenger in the BMW and the driver of the Ford Explorer sustained injuries and were transported to Phoebe.

The Albany Police Department’s Traffic Unit is investigating this incident.



Special Photo

Raising Cane’s restaurant at 2616 Dawson Road will open July 21.

Raising Cane’s restaurant set to open July 21

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

and southwest Georgia diners are invited to take part in the July 21 opening of the Raising Cane’s restaurant at 2616 Dawson Road with a celebration the whole community is invited to enjoy.

Located across the street from the Albany Mall, the award-winning Chicken Finger Brand brings its signature One Love – Craveable Chicken Finger Meals – to the Good Life City for the first time, with premium chicken, marinated for at least 24 hours and cooked fresh for each order. No heat lamps. No warm-

ALBANY — City of Albany

ers. Just quality chicken made right, every time.

One hundred thirty-one local crew members put care into every detail: whipping up award-winning Cane’s Sauce daily, buttering and grilling each slice of Cane’s Toast, mixing fresh cole slaw, salting fries, squeezing lemons for lemonade and brewing tea daily. From the Kids Combo to the Caniac Combo, every meal is a fresh, flavorful experience that embodies the quality and dedication Cane’s is famous for, restaurant officials said.

Inside the restaurant’s spacious dining room, customers are welcomed by

a display celebrating Raising Cane’s story alongside the local pride of the community the crew is proud to serve. Photo-lined walls feature Cane’s beloved yellow Labrador mascot, Cane III, and images that trace the brand’s beginnings, highlighting Todd Graves’ journey from boilermaker and sockeye salmon fisherman to Raising Cane’s owner and founder.

Locally inspired artwork, memorabilia and design elements pay tribute to Albany’s people, places and traditions, creating a space that reflects the city’s unique character.



Raphael Warnock

Report: 2 million children have lost Medicaid under Trump

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new report from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families finds that more than 2 million children have lost Medicaid coverage since President Trump took office in January 2025. This drop in the number of children covered by Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is alarming, as nearly half of all U.S. kids rely on the programs for health coverage.

“This report should trouble the moral conscience of all Americans,” Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock said. “Two million vulnerable children

have lost health care coverage for the sake of a billionaire tax break. That is a moral failure by our government and a betrayal of our responsibility to protect our children.”

Warnock has long championed efforts to expand affordable health care access. In June, he forced a vote to expand transparency surrounding Medicaid coverage loss nationwide. His effort to release the data was blocked by Senate Republicans 52-46. Last spring, the senator released findings that the best way to get the most Americans working is to invest in Medicaid, making health care accessible to eligible Americans.

Georgia’s Path2College 529 Plan improvements take effect

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp recently highlighted two major enhancements to Georgia’s Path2College 529 Plan designed to help families save more effectively for future education costs. SB 556, signed by Kemp in May, raises the maximum account balance for Path2College 529 Plan accounts from \$235,000 to \$550,000.

In addition, the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan (GHESP) Board has approved a waiver of the state administrative fee, further reducing costs for account holders and making the Path2College 529 Plan the lowest-cost college savings plan in the nation.

“Our state is one of the best in the nation for both quality of higher education and affordability, and raising the 529 Plan limit helps ensure that remains so well into the future,” Kemp said in a news release. “By making it even easier for parents to save for their child’s college tuition, we’re strengthening the future

of our state and its economy.”

“These important changes will allow Georgia families to save more for education while benefiting from the most affordable 529 plan in the country,” Steve McCoy, Georgia’s state treasurer, whose office administers the Path2College 529 Plan, said. “By increasing the account balance limit and waiving the state administrative fee, we are reinforcing our commitment to helping families meet their long-term education goals.”

Path2College is Georgia’s official 529 plan, offering families a state income tax deduction, tax-deferred growth, and tax-free withdrawals when used for qualified education expenses. Funds can be used for a wide range of educational pathways, including traditional college programs, technical colleges, some apprenticeship programs, K-12 tuition, and qualified education loan repayment. Individuals can open accounts for themselves, their children, or other loved ones, and the plan provides a variety of investment options suited to

different savings timelines and risk preferences.

The Path2College 529 Plan is overseen by the GHESP Board, which continues to focus on accessibility, low costs, and strong long-term value for Georgia residents. In 2025, the GHESP Board was recognized by Morningstar for demonstrating “a strong commitment to serving education savers” and for “exceptional leadership.”

Contributions up to \$8,000 per year, per beneficiary, are eligible for a Georgia state income tax deduction for those filing a joint return; and \$4,000 per year, per beneficiary, for those filing a single return. Savings in the state’s Path2College 529 Plan can be used at accredited schools in the United States and some abroad, and savings can be used for vocational/technical education, an undergraduate degree, post-graduate work, as well as K-12 education. Accounts can be opened with as little as \$25.



File Photo

Recent enhancements to Georgia’s Path2College 529 Plan are designed to help families save more effectively for future education costs.

SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX
SQUAWKBOX@ALBANYHERALD.COM

So our United Way of Southwest Georgia is in a financial jam? Is anyone surprised? They bring an Albany native back home to run the local chapter. He is associated with preacher Lorenzo. With nonprofits popping up everywhere, they continue to get a hard look from working, taxpaying Americans. It seems every organization in Albany is a nonprofit. I think people are tired of them.

The lack of fear of the police and courts is what fuels the thug culture.

Say 100 different people visit the \$500,000 skate park in the next 5 or 10 years. That’s ambitious, as it will likely be the same 10-25 skaters over those years. But let’s go with it. That is \$5,000 per skater. Yikes. You just raised my property taxes, my alley is a mess, and the police and firefighters take an hour to come after you call. A skate park sounds great, but how is this good spending judgement? Albany’s local government needs to get its house in order.

Quite hilarious, Squawker: Because Democrats, and now a whole lot of Republicans, don’t bow down and worship the person who would be king, you say Democrats “hate this country” and “support Communism.” Actually, it’s the other way around: People who disregard the Constitution because of their own greed and corruption are the ones who are not true Americans.

While the GBI is in town, it would be wise to investigate Albany and Dougherty leadership for a recent track record of seemingly spitting in the face of working families and taxpayers, while making sure friendly contractors are paid for silly projects (virtual tours) and scams for the poor (an overpriced summer camp).

Burt Jones has not endorsed fellow Republican Rick Jackson after Jackson beat Jones in the Republican primary. Why? Because even Jones knows Jackson is a con man who is only hungry for power.

Albany and Dougherty County have always had lousy politicians. This group today is no different, just of different backgrounds. Maybe your contempt for them has to do with the fact that they are not from the once-dominant background.

What is wrong with people today? These people getting killed because they will not obey law enforcement personnel orders are asking to get shot. You do not drive off with a cop hanging on your door. You do not run when asked to stop. It is not the cops, it is people thinking they can disobey cops. America has got to get back to honoring our law enforcement.

If the Braves don’t add a starting pitcher who can last more than two or three innings, their playoff hopes are doomed.

How much longer are the Braves going to continue using Kim at short? He has the worst batting average in baseball. Send him down to AAA to give him an opportunity to work on his hitting.

Omar Salaam’s African festival is racist. He’s pandering to a specific group while shunning others. Of course, the city and county are OK with that.

COLUMNIST ■ STACEY ABRAMS:

Disaster recovery cannot depend on presidential whims

As hurricane season begins, Georgians should understand a dangerous truth: Disaster recovery depends not only on the strength of our communities, but how the government decides to respond. Will they choose competence, compassion and accountability or cruelty, neglect and political retribution?

Across the South, we’ve seen both responses, often in the same state for the same disaster. I grew up in Mississippi and came of age in Georgia, and I’ve personally seen the difference.

Here in Georgia, we have experienced nine federally declared disasters since the pandemic. These weather events — tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, winter storms — create damage on a scale that means affected communities cannot recover alone. We survive and rebuild by pulling together and martialing a response that includes state and federal resources. When we do it right, we are more resilient so that our communities are less vulnerable to future disasters.

A familiar chain of events follows disaster. In the immediate aftermath, true stories abound about the best of our neighbors and what our society can do. We rush to help one another with basic necessities; we rally around impacted communities with donations, and we promise to be with them every step of the way as they recover.

Soon, the news cycle moves on. That’s often when only government intervention can move the work forward, but then the pace of recovery tends to slow dramatically. Rebuilding our homes and infrastructure can take years, and the process of accessing the funds needed to recover is agonizingly slow.

The problem we are now facing is that while the science is clear in showing that a warming climate is causing more dangerous, more fre-



quent, more costly disasters, our government capacity for disaster response is shrinking and largely dependent on an autocrat’s whims.

FEMA, the agency responsible for immediate disaster response and long-term recovery support, has been pushed into instability. The agency has lost experienced staff, leadership posts have gone unfilled and critical preparedness programs have been canceled, frozen or delayed. These are the very programs that help state and local governments prepare before disaster strikes: strengthening infrastructure, reducing flood risk, hardening public facilities and making communities more resilient. And it’s no wonder the agency is losing its footing: President Trump has expressed a desire to shutter the agency altogether and push the burden of disaster recovery onto the states alone.

Even when federal aid exists, communities cannot access much of it unless the president approves a disaster declaration. That means one person can determine whether families receive emergency supplies, whether local governments can begin rebuilding and whether communities can access long-term recovery dollars. In the hands of a responsible leader, that authority can speed relief. In the hands of an authoritarian leader, it can become another instrument of control.

Since taking office for the second

time, Trump has denied at least 23 requests for aid from states, many from Democrat-led states, and left many more unanswered. With disaster declaration powers, Trump can decide whether or not you and your neighbors have short-term assistance like generators, bottled water, or agents to help you with filing cumbersome requests for more assistance. His decision also determines whether or not your community will be eligible for the long-term assistance that comes to communities via block grants.

Sadly, the president, aided and abetted by Congress, is willing to let Americans suffer as retribution for leaders who disagree with their policies. Sometimes, responses are unnecessarily delayed, leaving even citizens who have supported him to wonder if help or when help is coming.

Republicans’ collective lack of concern in the wake of disasters has already impacted Georgians this year. When a winter storm hit eight counties this January, Georgians waited 78 days to be told there would be no disaster declaration and no federal assistance, despite a Republican governor making the ask.

So much of our ability to recover from disaster could be determined by someone who is animated by revenge and petty grievances. Worse, it can be exacerbated by powerful legislative leaders who

refuse to publicly hold their party accountable. Autocracy may start with one man, but authoritarianism often has a cheering section.

In a state where Republicans in Congress outnumber Democrats, and Georgia has healthy representation in the federal cabinet, delays and denials are more than cruelty. They are complicity in action.

Legislative leaders must resist the propaganda that would shift responsibility for natural disaster recovery to states, municipalities, and people already suffering. Appointed officials from the Small Business Administration to the VA must muster the courage to point out that a failing economy means that building and fortifying our local networks of care is more important than ever. They asked for power, now they must use it for the people at home.

But we can’t wait for politicians to save us. This year, hurricane preparedness needs to stretch far beyond buying enough batteries and bottled waters for our household. To prepare for dangerous weather, we must strengthen our communities with networks of care. Engage with your city and county governments and ask about their disaster readiness in light of decreased funding for emergencies.

Nonprofits and grassroots organizations working locally are an indicator of community resilience; invest time and resources in supporting their missions. Find and join local mutual aid networks. Get to know your neighbors and talk about how you can pool resources in the event of disaster.

We can only survive natural disasters the same way that we survive authoritarianism, economic hardship, or anything outside of our control: by working together to survive and then rebuild something better.

Democrats eat their own while letting sex predator Trump off the hook

Democratic politicians, as they regularly do, have displayed an inverted double standard regarding the Graham Platner affair and serial sexual abuser Donald Trump. Usually, a political party covers up its own misbehavior even as it accuses its political opponents of similar misdeeds. Instead, the Democrats drive out their own accused — e.g., New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., and others, while giving Donald Trump, the all-time giant, recidivist, boastful, sexual predator, a free pass.

Notice the unusual silence of Donald Trump on the high-profile controversy involving Platner. For good reason; he has constrained his frothy mouth. Why provoke the self-immolating Democrats or the media to turn their laser beam focus on Trump’s assaults of women? After all, he has gotten away with physical and verbal misogynistic behavior for years.

Back in 2016–2017, Democrats and their allies tried to nail Trump on his many sexual exploits with public condemnations. They did far too little. After Democrats won the House of Representatives in 2018, they conducted no public hearings. (Remember, President Bill Clinton was impeached on Dec. 19, 1998, for “lying about sex.”) Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s impeachment resolution in 2019 contained no mention of the allegations of Trump’s pre-presidential crimes and misdeeds.

It was not until 2024 (or 2025) that one intrepid Democrat, Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., teamed up with Republican Thomas Massie, R-Ky., to get legislation through the House demanding the release

of the Epstein files that revealed Trump’s closeness to the pedophile. Files were revealed, including one message that Trump sent about Epstein, saying they both liked their females “on the young side.” More files are yet to be released about Trump and Epstein by the resistant Justice Department run by Trump’s former personal lawyer, Todd Blanche.

To say that the Democrats, apart from the Epstein saga, have missed many opportunities to relentlessly hold Trump responsible and make him pay a political price in the 2020 and 2024 elections is incontrovertible.

More than 60 women have stepped forward to charge Trump with specifics about their being sexually assaulted. They have mostly remained outspoken. He has charged them with lying, defamed them harshly, and even sued some of them to intimidate other victims from coming forward. Against Trump, women have to be courageous.

People sometimes forget how brazen and boastful Trump has been about his aggressive extramarital sexual exploits and prowess. He publicly spoke about his celebrity status, allowing him to grab women by their genitals. On the Howard Stern Show, he, a married man, assured Stern’s national audience that he believed he could seduce Princess Diana. He has paid hush money to an adult film star to cover up one episode during his current wife’s pregnancy.

When women accuse Trump of

sexual abuses, he charges them with lying or revealingly saying things like “She’s not my type.”

While Democrats in Congress overlooked the numerous claims from women asserting that Trump assaulted them, they mostly treated “accusations” by women against elected Democrats as “convictions” without waiting for Congressional Ethics Committees to conclude their inquiries or giving the accused a fair hearing. After Franken’s forced resignation by his fellow Democratic senators, one of them, a regretful Sen. Patrick Leahy, later called his vote the worst vote in his long Senate career.

By contrast, look at how the Republicans stuck by Supreme Court nominees Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh, or later Defense Department Secretary nominee Pete Hegseth.

Moreover, Trump lost two tort cases brought by E. Jean Carroll with damages totaling more than \$90 million, still unpaid, despite the Supreme Court’s refusal to take the initial case on appeal. Trump regularly stonewalls and delays cases against him. Endless delay has been the M.O. of Trump’s lawyers in the hundreds of cases he has initiated to wear down his opponents or to impose a war of attrition on the plaintiffs until they either give up or settle for little.

In late February 2020, I decided to test directly whether the Congressional Democrats were going to stop letting Trump get away with what were state crimes and violations of federal cam-



NADER

paign laws while the 2020 presidential re-election campaign by Trump was heating up. I wrote an open letter to the Women in Congress (suggested by male legislators for greater effect) recounting in some detail the violent sexual rapaciousness of Trump in the context of Congressional responsibility under our Constitution and federal and state felony laws. Delivered in person to about 110 Congressional offices, the letter, calling for public hearings and subpoenaing Trump to testify under oath, received no response and only three acknowledgements.

However, in my conversations with indignant Congressional staff, they did respond. They, in frustration, said it was all up to “the commander,” Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who did not reply. Others added that Trump was teflon, or, implied with their facial expressions, taking action would only trigger threats from his MAGA crowd to them and their relatives.

Foreshadowing this reaction, my letter asked: “Has Donald Trump — the bully and sexual predator — become too terrible to challenge, too much of a criminal sexual marauder gravely abusing his power and public trust to justify impeachment and removal from office?”

Soon after delivering the letter, I called several national women’s groups, a major law firm representing some of these women under oath, and reporters/columnists who went after Trump in 2017. None of them was interested in pursuing Trump through any Congressional action or reporting.

For them, it was over in Washington. Trump had triumphed.

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —
LOCAL NEWS

**TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE**

*“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead
wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit,
and not in the oldness of the letter.”*
Romans 7:6

COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

Looking for a modern-day Rosa Parks

“They’re beating plowshares into swords For this tired old man that we elected king. Arm-chair warriors often fail, And we’ve been poisoned by these fairy tales.”

— Don Henley

Over the July 4th holiday, I had an opportunity to watch a documentary that, partially, focused on the life of Rosa Parks and the stand she took that led to the Montgomery (Alabama) Bus Boycott.

Parks’ story has become an iconic part of the story of the national civil rights movement, and rightly so. But her story goes well beyond the simple refusal to give up a seat on a bus to a white man, as the law ordered. What followed her action is as important – and maybe even moreso – than the actions of this one brave woman.

The city of Montgomery passed a law that said front seats in public transportation were reserved for white riders. If any black rider was seated in the front half of the bus and a white rider got on, the black rider was ordered to move to the back of the bus.

The year was 1955, and while the civil rights movement was slowly building momentum in the United States, laws such as the one enacted in Montgomery were common. And while many individuals hoping to tarnish Parks’ legacy have claimed over the years that she “only refused to give up her seat because she was tired after a day’s work,” Parks – who was an active participant in the growing civil rights movement – denied that claim until the time of her death, declaring, “Yes, I was tired. Tired of the way black people were being treated.”

In the aftermath of Parks’ famous refusal to give up her seat – she was arrested and fined \$14 – there grew a movement that, in retrospect, is perhaps one of the most courageous and impressive of the national battle for civil rights.

Parks’ arrest led to a boycott of public transportation in Montgomery, a brave movement that proved to weary African Americans that they had weapons of their own that they could use in their quest for equal opportunity under the law. For a little more than a year, black citizens in Montgomery refused to utilize public transportation in the city, costing the city millions of dollars it had budgeted for that year-plus.

Just as Parks proved to be a brave face of the resistance to Jim Crow laws, the brave – and unsung – black heroes of the city who were inconvenienced considerably but refused to ride and pay their fares to the city’s public transportation system deserve as much credit as Parks. They had to find alternate means of transportation, and many of them ended up walking to and from their jobs rather than give in and pay into the racist transportation system.

And they stuck to their convictions, despite the hard-

ships, for a little more than a year. Finally, after realizing the gaping holes in their budget brought on by the refusal of Montgomery blacks to pay for rides so long as they were treated as second- or third-class citizens, city leaders gave in, and in late 1956, public transportation in the city was formally integrated.

I thought about Parks and those brave boycotters – and others like them, some even here in Albany during the 1960s – as I dejectedly read the news feeds coming out of our nation’s capital during the holiday. People of all political persuasions were regulars on news shows, blogs, public appearances and just about every other form of media possible, complaining about the blundering attempts of the Trump administration to tear down the foundations of the documents that made our country great and remake it in their own evil image.

Sadly, though, I noticed that, except for an occasional mass protest that initially left participants feeling relatively safe – that is, until federal agents, especially ICE agents, started killing unarmed and peaceful U.S. citizens in the streets – there has been little organized resistance to Trump and his administration’s heavy-handed attempts to run this country as their own private fiefdom.

Where, I wondered, are the people willing to take a stand against this modern-day tyranny? Where are the people willing to give up some of their creature comforts – as the citizens of Montgomery did – in an effort to right institutional wrongs? Where are the Rosa Parkses of the 21st century?

I know, I know. With the current administration using “payback” tactics as a means of governing and illegally withholding funds to show groups who anger the president that he’s “the boss,” speaking out or taking actions against the ruling elite actually does come with elements of danger. But as the people of Montgomery showed the world, when enough people stand up for what’s right and are brave enough to take on the blowback, good things can happen.

No, the man sitting in the White House will not “back down,” even if the whole world knows he should. He’s too entitled and has been given the power by an ever-shrinking part of the population that says, no matter what inanity he speaks or does, “He’s doing what we voted for him to do.” ... even as the world crumbles around them.

Maybe there are no more Rosa Parkses in this country willing to do what needs to be done to stop a corrupt government. But the more people are willing to speak out – and even stand up to the tyranny – the more likely the cowards in Congress and on the Supreme Court will find the courage to stop this madman and the sycophants in his inner circle before it’s too late.

COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

Holding doors in Manhattan

We arrived in New York City and tried our best to avoid the chaotic crowds of pedestrians downtown. But this proved to be difficult inasmuch as our cab driver was driving on the sidewalks. We tried to ask him to slow down, but he was too busy on a video call.

Ah, New York. Don’t get me wrong. I appreciate this place, but I appreciate it in much the same way I appreciate, say, dental implants. This is a stressful city. Namely, because everyone here is in a big hurry. You can feel everyone’s energy constantly pulsing around you with the intensity of a trauma unit.

Downtown, I was perpetually approached by people on the street who were either trying to sell me something, trying to save my eternal soul, trying to collect my spare change, or attempting to welcome me into a reputable place of business with a name like, “G-String Theory.” Meanwhile, I was dodging bike messengers traveling upwards of 60 mph whose pupils were the size of subatomic particles.

Years ago, the first time I visited New York City, one of the first things I learned was that few residents know what to do when they meet someone who holds open the door for them. I was

raised to hold open the door for anyone approaching a place of business, restaurant, community establishment, or penal institution. So I held the door for an elderly woman who was exiting a restaurant.

She looked at me aghast and said, “What, you don’t think I can open my own door?”

“Huh?” I replied. “Are you a sexist?” “No, ma’am, it’s just ...” “Ma’am!?” Who you callin’ ma’am? Are you saying I’m old?”

“No, ma’am ... I mean, Miss, I was just ...”

Then she cracked a smile. “Relax,” she said with a grin, “I’m only teasing. Welcome to New York.”

Then she touched my shoulder and added quite sincerely, “Now give me your [bleeping] wallet.”

Then we just laughed and laughed. But not very hard.

So everyone in New York is very cool. They wear the latest fashions and the most current trends. New York is a place so hip that coolness experts call it “the pelvis of America.”

Here, they wear high-end shoes and brandish the most geometric hairstyles. Walking around this place while clad in my khaki shorts and my “George” T-shirt purchased directly from Wal-

mart (\$6.98) makes me feel about as hip as a root canal.

The people here are so cool that even their pets wear sunglasses. Seriously. I saw a guy downtown whose chihuahua was wearing aviator shades. The dog’s name was Taco. Taco was very fun, and he even had a tip jar.

Whenever Taco had to use the bathroom, if there were no trees around, his owner would unfurl a small piece of absorbent astroturfing and place it on the sidewalk directly beneath Taco’s little anatomical region. During Taco’s moment of evacuation reverie, his owner would play a recording of Richard Strauss’s “Zarathustra,” the opening theme of “2001: A Space Odyssey,” and passersby would applaud heartily. Taco earned many tips for this.

“New York,” his owner remarked. “Hell of a place.”

We spent most of the day exploring. We even rode the subways, which was fun. One nervous and jittery subway passenger was looking at me as though he recognized me. I know he was thinking this because he was mumbling, “You look like Brandon.”

“Brandon must be a very handsome man,” I replied.

“Brandon eats [bleep]!” he shouted.

I smiled. “Maybe Brandon has a nutritional deficiency.”

“Brandon can go to hell.”

I offered a friendly grin and jingled the change in my pocket. “We’re already there, brother.”

After an interesting subway ride, we did some sightseeing, then stopped at a coffee shop to address our physiological need for caffeine.

Inside the shop was a young man, dressed in rags. He was hanging out at the counter, speaking to the baristas in gibberish.

“Do you want any coffee, Brandon?” my wife.

I smiled. But not with my heart.

“Yes, please.”

I kept watching the young man in rags. A few of the young man’s words were recognizable, but most of them were unintelligible vowel sounds.

But the baristas just patiently listened to him as a long line of customers grew behind the young man. The servers just nodded and smiled at the young man even though they obviously

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

Braves organist is a most valuable player

Atlanta Braves fans are familiar with the names Matt Olson, Ozzie Albies and Chris Sale. These are among the many All-Star-caliber players we cheer for at Truist Park 81 games a year.

All of those guys get plenty of media coverage, becoming household names among baseball fans. But there are so many people off the field who deserve our praise as well.

From the parking lot attendants, to the food workers, ushers, security officers and more. I can’t leave out the video, radio and social media crew, the in-game entertainment staff, world-class TV broadcaster Brandon Gaudin, and opera singer Timothy Miller, who delivers perfect renditions of “God Bless America” at Sunday home games.

One of the Braves’ unsung heroes is a soft-spoken musical genius named Matthew Kaminski. Since 2008, the organist has observed every home game from his perch in the press box, earning wide acclaim as the best in the business.

Kaminski could take the easy way out, limiting his repertoire to the usual clap-along standards. Instead, he is truly engaged in the game, and communicates regularly via social media with his massive fan base.

During pre-game warm-ups, he sits at his Hammond organ, and provides background music for early-arriving fans. Better yet, it’s a different set list each day. If it’s unusually warm or chilly, Kaminski will play weather-themed songs like “Heat Wave” or “Cold As Ice.” Even a lengthy rain delay goes down easier when he plays “Singing in the Rain,” “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head,” and

“Here Comes That Rainy Day Feeling.”

If an artist of great fame has recently passed away, like Brian Wilson, fans will hear Kaminski’s favorite Beach Boys tunes played as a tribute.

If the opposing team is the Mets, you can expect “New York, New York,” just as you can expect songs about Chicago and Los Angeles when the Cubs or Dodgers are in town.

Kaminski’s main claim to fame is finding clever walk-up songs for each player from the visiting team. For well-liked former Braves like Freddie Freeman and Dansby Swanson, he’ll greet them with the 1976 John Sebastian hit, “Welcome Back.” Whether a player’s name is common or distinctive, Kaminski’s “play it by ear” encyclopedic mind is filled with a world of possibilities.

Ian Happ of the Cubs will be serenaded with a multitude of happy-titled songs. Former Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart was greeted with “Old McDonald.” (The old farmer had a barn, get it?) When Kevin Newman played for the Pirates, Kaminski played the “Seinfeld” theme song. After all, Seinfeld’s nemesis “Newman” forever etched the name into TV history.

I first met Kaminski after a 19-inning, 7-hour marathon game in 2011. The game ended in the wee hours of the morning, and my family had been trying to guess Kaminski’s walk-up songs. This was a welcome distraction as the game dragged on. As we were exiting the game, we encountered Kaminski, who couldn’t have been any nicer, even after a long night at the “office.”

A few months later, I saw him perform at an Oktoberfest event at Rock City in Chattanooga. I learned he is also an expert accordionist, as he kept people dancing the polka.

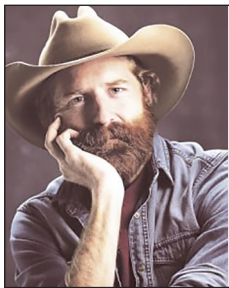
Recently, Kaminski got national attention for a viral moment in which he played a small, but important role. At the height of World Cup soccer fever, he had noticed that fans worldwide had adopted John Denver’s “Take Me Home Country Roads” as a sing-along anthem. During a Braves game, Kaminski casually played a few notes from the song as Matt Olson stepped up to the plate. Even after Kaminski stopped playing, Braves fans kept on singing. Seconds later, Olson sent a home run into the right field seats. This sequence of events has been viewed by tens of millions.

On social media, Kaminski posted, “Sometimes something purely coincidental turns into something beautiful and magical. Playing ‘Country Roads’ with the fans joining in and continuing to sing, all while Matt Olson hit a home run, was one of those magical moments. I’ll remember it forever.”

Matthew Kaminski is humbled when fans tell him how much they enjoy his talent, and his sense of humor. He is truly a most valuable player.



CARROLL



DIETRICH

Trio of races part of Flint River Entertainment Complex Race Series

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY - Area runners will have ample opportunity to show off their winning technique as Michelob Ultra and the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. present the fifth annual Flint River Entertainment Complex (FREC) 5K Race Series, hosted at Veterans Park Amphitheatre in downtown Albany.

Each race in the three-race series will feature its own unique course. Races and their scheduled dates include:

Oct. 3 at 9 a.m. -- Pink Run presented by Phoebe Putney Health System;

Oct. 24 at 9 a.m. -- Monster Dash presented by GA's Own Credit Union;

Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. - Turkey Trot presented by CBS 44.

Runners who want to participate in any one of the three races may do so. Registration is \$30 per race, and entrants get an official race T-shirt for that race.

Runners who want to participate in the Pink Run, Monster Dash and Turkey Trot -- all three races in the se-

ries -- will pay a \$75 registration fee and receive individual T-shirts from each race. Commemorative race series finisher medals also will be given to participants who complete all three races.

A 1-mile fun run will be held as part of each race in the series. The \$10 race fee does not include a T-shirt.

Registration is now open for the FREC 5K Race Series and the Fun Run. To register, or receive additional information, go to <https://flintriverentertainmentcomplex.com/tag/race-series/>.



Registration is now open for the three races that have been planned as part of the Flint River Entertainment Complex Race Series.

Special Illustration

Georgia, other states reach settlement agreement with 23andMe

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr has announced that his office has joined with 41 other attorneys general in reaching a settlement with the bankruptcy trustee for 23andMe. This settlement resolves allegations stemming from a 2023 breach that compromised the genetic data of 6.9 million customers worldwide and includes \$150 million in allowed claims for states.

Due to the finite amount of funds in the bankruptcy estate and numerous other claims, recovery is limited to \$18 million but will be paid out of available bankruptcy funds immediately. Of the \$18 million, Georgia will receive \$452,232.00. 23andMe also agreed to a \$46.75 million class-action settlement in the bankruptcy to provide relief to affected U.S. consumers who submitted claims by Feb. 17.

In October 2023, direct-to-consumer genetic testing company 23andMe announced that it had discovered a data breach in which 6.9 million consumers were affected, including 171,125 in Georgia. This breach exposed a wide range of data about 23andMe customers, including genetic ancestry information, and subsets of this data were subsequently published for sale on the dark web.

23andMe learned about the breach months after impacted personal information was publicly available. 23andMe first denied a breach and then, once it confirmed the breach, blamed consumers for how their accounts were set up or how passwords were used. 23andMe initially accepted no responsibility for

the credential stuffing breach, which was particularly egregious considering 23andMe's partnership with MyHeritage, which itself was compromised years prior to the breach, exposing thousands of credentials shared between the websites.

In the immediate aftermath of the data breach, the attorneys general launched a multistate investigation and found that 23andMe engaged in unreasonable data security practices, including, but not limited to:

Failing to employ safeguards against credential stuffing attacks, including comparing passwords against blocklists of known breached passwords or requiring multifactor authentication;

Failing to implement appropriate rate limiting or intrusion prevention;

Failing to implement logging and monitoring or other tools likely to detect a data breach;

Failing to appropriately investigate and/or address unusual login patterns, including, for example, a massive spike in login attempts;

Failing to remediate known vulnerabilities; and

Failing to properly review and test design features.

In March 2025, 23andMe filed for bankruptcy protection, and states subsequently filed claims related to the data breach investigation. As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, the assets – notably 23andMe's consumer data – were sold to TTAM Research Institute, a nonprofit formed by 23andMe founder and former CEO Anne Wojcicki. The terms of the sale included many information and data security requirements that likely would have been included in a settlement with



Chris Carr

23andMe had it not filed for bankruptcy.

Such terms included enhanced data security requirements, appropriate risk analysis, the addition of an Advisory Board, agreeing to be bound by comprehensive privacy laws without exception, and continuing to offer consumer deletion rights. These terms will make sure that TTAM Research Institute, now reregistered as 23andMe Research Institute, will be a safer custodian of genetic data moving forward.

Carr joined the attorneys general of Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia in today's settlement.

To delete genetic data from 23andMe:

Go to 23andMe.com and

sign in to your account.

Click on your profile in the upper right-hand corner of the site, then click "Settings."

Scroll to the section at the very bottom of the page called "23andMe Data" and click the oval button that says, "View."

Check the boxes of any data you would like to download and click "Request Download." This step is optional and can take up to 30 days. You can continue with the following steps while you wait.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the red button that says, "Permanently Delete Data."

You will receive an email with the subject line "23andMe Delete Account Request." Open it, and click the button that says, "Permanently Delete All Records." Your data will not be deleted unless you complete this step.

For additional information on how to delete your 23andMe account, visit the following page on the company's website: Requesting 23andMe Account Closure.

For additional tips on how to protect your personal information and reduce the risk of identity theft, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division website.



Special Photo: U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jemmia Blockett, a native of Valdosta, serves in the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Harry S. Truman, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier operating out of Norfolk, Va.

Valdosta native serves on USS Harry S. Truman

By Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist John Osborne
Navy Office of Community Outreach

NORFOLK, Va. - Petty Officer 3rd Class Jemmia Blockett, a native of Valdosta, serves in the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Harry S. Truman, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier operating out of Norfolk, Va.

Blockett graduated from Valdosta High School in 2022. The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Valdosta.

"Back home, I was part of the Navy Junior ROTC, which paved the way for me to join the Navy," Blockett said.

Blockett joined the Navy three years ago. Today, she serves as a culinary specialist.

"My mom, dad and grandma pushed me to join, and I'm so glad they did," Blockett said. "Both of my parents served in the Army, and my grandma was in the Women's Army Corps, so I'm proud to carry on the tradition."

Aircraft carriers are the centerpiece of America's naval forces. For more than 100 years, they have projected power, sustained sea control, bolstered deterrence, provided humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maintained enduring commitments worldwide.

Among the largest warships in the world, USS Harry S. Truman is longer than three football fields at 1,092 feet. The ship is 252 feet wide and weighs more than 100,000 tons. More than 5,000 sailors serve aboard these self-contained mobile airports.

According to Navy officials, aircraft carriers are versatile and have unique mission capabilities that make them a more strategic asset for the Navy than fixed-site bases. They are often the first response in a global crisis because of their ability to operate freely in international waters anywhere on the world's oceans. In addition, no other weapon system can deploy and operate forward with a full-sized aircraft carrier's speed, endurance, agility and combat capability of its air wing.

Blockett has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I am most proud of becoming the commanding officer's cook," Blockett said. "That is not a job many people have a chance to do, so I consider myself the lucky one of the bunch."

This year, the Navy is commemorating its contribution to the nation's defense as the United States celebrates 250 years of independence. According to Navy officials, for more than 250 years, the Navy has sailed the globe defending freedom and protecting prosperity.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

"Serving in the Navy has taught me a lot about myself and has allowed me to do things I thought I couldn't," Blockett said.

Blockett said she is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I want to thank my family and one of my best friends, Charity Dennis, who pushed me to join and ship out with her," Blockett said. "She didn't take no for an answer and I'm so grateful. I also want to thank retired Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Sheldon Wilis, who was my Navy JROTC instructor in high school, for starting me out on the right path."

Automotive cleaning products distributor to bring 160 new jobs to Henry County

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Highline Warren, an American vertically integrated distributor of automotive aftermarket and cleaning products, is investing \$170 million in a new logistics and operations center in McDonough. The multi-year investment will create 160 new jobs.

"Like so many other businesses, Highline Warren recognizes Georgia's advantages when it comes to affordably producing and efficiently moving products to market," Gov. Brian Kemp said. "With reliable logistics infrastructure that includes the fastest growing port on the East Coast, our state offers unmatched connectivity and a highly-skilled workforce that leads to success. This investment will further grow opportunities for hard-working Georgians, and I want to thank Highline Warren for choosing us."

Headquartered in the United

States, Highline Warren distributes and manufactures maintenance and cleaning solutions for automotive, home, commercial and industrial applications. Through a network of facilities spanning the country, the company produces, sources and delivers more than 30,000 consumable products, including automotive fluids, chemicals, filters and cleaning solutions. The company currently employs an estimated 1,700 workers and serves thousands of customers across North America.

"This investment reflects our continued focus on strengthening our network to better serve our customers," Darcy Curran, CEO of Highline Warren, said. "McDonough and the state of Georgia offer a strategic location with access to a skilled workforce and strong logistics connections to global markets. The region also provides access to our first port of entry on the East Coast, enhancing our ability to move products efficiently,

simplify the supply chain for our customers, and support our long-term growth."

The new Highline Warren facility will be located at 830 Highway 42 South, the former Zinus building, in McDonough. Over 1.1 million square feet, the building will serve as a key operations center and is being designed to support future operational expansion as business needs evolve. The facility will be outfitted with advanced infrastructure and technology to support efficient operations, designed to deliver strong product availability, a high level of customer satisfaction, and reliable delivery to 95% of the U.S. population within two days. Operations are expected to begin in late 2026. Highline Warren will begin hiring later this year, and interested individuals can learn more at www.highlinewarren.com/job-openings.

"The City of McDonough is pleased to welcome this \$170 million investment, which will enhance our thriving economy

and bring 160 new jobs closer to home for our residents," McDonough Mayor Kamali "Kam" Varner said.

Assistant Director of Global Commerce John Soper represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the Henry County Development Authority, Georgia EMC and Metro Atlanta Chamber.

"Georgia's automotive industry continues to grow at every level of the supply chain, from manufacturing next-generation hybrid and electric vehicles to the products and services that keep them on the road," GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "Highline Warren's investment strengthens that ecosystem and reflects why companies continue to choose Georgia every day: unmatched connectivity, a highly skilled workforce, and access to customers. Congratulations to Highline Warren and our partners in Henry County."

Financial party is over for many state school districts

By Jeff Amy
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA — After years of spending rapidly increasing revenues on new programs and pay increases, many of Georgia’s school districts are beginning to tighten their belts.

Most of the state’s 180 traditional K-12 public school districts have set spending plans for the budget year that began July 1. While a few are still giving pay raises, others are eliminating vacant positions as enrollment falls and property tax growth flattens. Many districts are dipping into savings accounts that ballooned during the pandemic to avoid spending cuts, at least for one more year.

What’s happening isn’t a financial crisis, like the aftermath of the Great Recession, when Georgia school districts laid off thousands of teachers and imposed pay cuts on many more. Districts are avoiding raising property tax rates amid voter discontent over tax bills. But there’s a definite shift in the wind, with contraction on the horizon, as student numbers shrink and Republicans clamor for property tax cuts. “We’re at the point where things are about to shift,” said Valdosta Superintendent Craig Lockhart.

Thanks to increases in state spending, growth in property values and a deluge of pandemic-era federal aid, Georgia’s school systems saw big growth in recent years.

Total revenue and spending both rose by almost 50% from 2018 to 2024, according to data from the Georgia Department of Audit and Accounts. Districts rolled up big savings accounts, with unassigned fund balances jumping from \$2.4 billion statewide in 2019 to \$5.2 billion in 2024.

Schools boosted pay. The average Georgia teacher made \$67,641 in 2024, according to the Southern Regional Education Board, up from \$56,329 in 2018, although that increase fell behind the rate of inflation.

Districts also hired more. From 2019 to 2025, schools statewide hired the equivalent of 18,000 more full-time employees, boosting headcount by 8% even as enrollment fell 1%, according to the Economics Lab at Georgetown University.

“They weren’t only piling the money up, they were adding staff in a lot of cases,” Kyle Wingfield, president and CEO of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, a free-market think tank, said.

But during budget discussions in May and June, many district leaders said the party’s over.

“There will be hurdles that we have to overcome from a revenue standpoint, especially to maintain our current educational service level,” Coweta County Superintendent Evan Horton told school board members May 18.

The 23,000-student district



Special Photo: Justin Taylor via Georgia Recorder

After years of spending rapidly increasing revenues on new programs and pay increases, many of Georgia’s school districts are beginning to tighten their belts.

eliminated teaching positions, mostly in high schools, administrators said.

“Through attrition, we’re reducing 47 teaching positions. No one is losing a job,” Assistant Superintendent Keith Chapman told Coweta board members.

A number of districts are balancing budgets by dipping into reserves. The Georgia Recorder found that six of Georgia’s 10 largest school districts plan to spend down accumulated cash this year, using \$175 million in savings overall.

Some withdrawals are small

— Cobb County plans to spend \$6 million, an amount that frugal spending or higher-than-expected property tax collections could make up. But Fulton County plans to spend \$57 million of its \$269 million fund balance. The district with 85,000 students says it’s using its savings as a cushion while it whittles down expenses to a sustainable level over multiple years.

Some reductions could be painful. Fulton County’s budget includes a furlough day next May, cutting pay for all employees by one day. Districts relied heavily on fur-

loughs to save money during the recession.

The furlough day may not happen. Fulton County also proposed a one-day furlough in the just-ended budget, but found enough money to pay employees for their full contracts. But Chief Financial Officer Marvin Dereef said he couldn’t remember when Fulton last furloughed employees.

“I guess it has been a very long time,” he said.

Some districts are still spending. Cherokee County plans a 3% pay raise. Atlanta is giving a 1% pay raise and plans to cut its property tax rate. But most districts fear revenue constrained by limits on property taxes and declining enrollment, while insurance and pension costs keep rising.

Enrollment in Georgia peaked at 1.77 million students in 2019, never fully recovered after the pandemic, and has been falling since 2023, driven mostly by fewer children being born. State aid is generally sent to districts on a per-student basis, so fewer students means less state money.

“The new reality for most of these districts is going to be declining enrollment,” Wingfield said.

Districts could turn to local

taxes for more revenue, but angry taxpayers and Republican lawmakers are limiting their taxing power. Gov. Brian Kemp signed a law in May that caps property tax assessments at the rate of inflation, meaning districts won’t benefit as much from collecting the same tax rate on rising property values. The 2026 law came after most districts opted out of an earlier cap passed by voters in 2024.

Some districts are already hitting limits on property tax collections. Fulton County has been under a local assessment cap, and after lawmakers approved additional senior citizen exemptions, the district expects property tax revenue to fall from \$856 million to \$830 million. In 40,000-student Cherokee County, district officials say that 30% of total property value is now exempt from taxation.

Valdosta’s Lockhart says that crunch portends hard choices.

“You cut as much as you can, but you get to a place where you can no longer provide quality service,” Lockhart said. “I’m both an educator and a homeowner. I don’t want my taxes raised. However, I have a sworn duty to take care of my students.”

Former High Museum executive faces prison for theft

By Ty Tagami
Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Brady Lum liked to play music, but he did not like to pay for his hobby. Instead, he used the Southeast’s leading visual arts museum as a piggy bank, according to federal court documents.

Lum, 59, of Atlanta, pleaded guilty to stealing from the High Museum of Art during his nearly seven years as its chief operating officer, using creative accounting to disguise purchases of music lessons, luxury guitars and other musical and woodworking equipment.

The High receives money from the federal government, so the FBI got involved, leading to a charge of theft from a federally funded institution.

Lum pleaded guilty in the Atlanta federal courtroom of Judge Michael L. Brown, accepting a deal that could put him behind bars for up to a decade and that will require restitution.

Lum, who was the High COO until December, was charged on April 14, according to his docket sheet filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

The charging document said

Lum used various schemes to cover his tracks, including altered invoices and accounting adjustments.

For instance, in November 2024, he used the High’s online expense platform to alter a \$9,147.87 invoice for a guitar and accessories to appear as a purchase of a speaker array, subwoofers and equipment cases, the document said.

The office of U.S. Attorney Theodore S. Hertzberg prosecuted the case and said in a statement that Lum had engineered more than 700 reimbursements totaling more than \$600,000.

“Over several years, Lum deceptively plundered the southeast’s premier museum of visual art,” Hertzberg said in the statement.

The FBI seized Lum’s ill-

goten goods, and now he has to repay the victims — with interest, according to the plea agreement he signed.

Lum remains free on bond pending his Nov. 2 sentencing.

The plea deal said Lum could be ordered to serve anywhere from zero to 10 years in prison, with prosecutors recommending a sentence at the low end. Lum also faces supervised release of zero to three years.

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — Three area students pursuing careers in health care and related fields have received scholarships from the Tift Regional Medical Center Foundation.

The TRMC Foundation recently presented the fourth annual Terry Arthur Physician Assistant Scholarship to Julie Funk of Sycamore and awarded the 2026 Ilse Boyette Book Scholarship to Magdaleno Coronado and Kayden Daniels.

Funk recently graduated magna cum laude from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with a concentration in biochemistry and pre-professional studies. This fall, she will attend Florida State University as one of 60 students selected for the university’s Physician Assistant Class of 2028.

“The Terry Arthur Physician Assistant Scholarship is funded through contributions from area physician assistants and honors Terry Arthur, Tifton’s first physician assistant and a founding member of the Georgia Association of Physician Assistant,” Mandy Brooks, executive director of the TRMC Foundation, said.

Arthur graduated from the University of Alabama



Special Photo: Tift Regional Medical Center

Scholarships awarded by the Tift Regional Medical Center Foundation went to, Kayden Daniels, middle in first photo; Julie Funk, middle in second photo; and Magdelano Coronado, left in third photo.

at Birmingham in 1973 and joined Tifton Medical Clinic, now Southwell Medical Clinic. He currently works part-time at the Tift Regional Heart and Vascular Center. Throughout his career, Arthur has helped train physician assistant students and mentor physician assistant graduates.

The TRMC Foundation, Henry Boyette and his family also presented the Ilse Boyette Book Scholarship to Coronado and Daniels. The scholarship was established in memory of Ilse Boyette and her passion for nursing and the medical profession.

Coronado is enrolled at Wiregrass Georgia Technical

College, where he is pursuing a licensed practical nursing degree. He said he plans to continue his education and become a registered nurse. Coronado also works at Tift Regional Medical Center as a patient access specialist.

Daniels recently graduated from Tift County High School, where she completed the Veterinary Science and Allied Health pathways while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She will attend the University of Georgia this fall to pursue a degree in animal health with the goal of becoming a veterinarian.

Each Ilse Boyette Book Scholarship recipient receives a \$500 cash award

to assist with book expenses at the educational institution of their choice. Funding is provided through the Ilse Boyette Memorial and proceeds from the Tour de Tifton, sponsored by the Tiftarea YMCA.

“Through these scholarship programs, the foundation honors the legacies of local health care leaders while helping students take the next step toward careers that will serve patients, families and communities,” Brooks said.

For more information about the scholarships or to support the TRMC Foundation, call (229) 391-3310 or visit www.trmcf.com.

Jamaican citizen charged with illegally possessing firearm

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — U.S. Attorney Will Keyes announced the unsealing of a criminal complaint charging a Jamaican citizen and music artist residing in the United States on an O-1B visa, with possession of a firearm by a prohibited person after he was allegedly caught with multiple guns and 92 rounds of ammunition after fleeing deputies in Turner County in November.

Ackeme Jermane Campbell, 32, of Jamaica and Davenport, Fla., who is in the United States on an O-1B non-immigrant visa, is charged by criminal complaint with one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. Campbell faces a

maximum sentence of 15 years in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. The complaint was filed in the Middle District of Georgia.

Campbell was arrested in Miami on July 5 and was detained without bond at his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez in the Southern District of Florida. Campbell is in federal custody.

According to the criminal complaint and court documents, Campbell, a music artist performing professionally as Chronic Law, was residing and performing in the United States pursuant to an O-1B non-immigrant visa. Campbell was allegedly driving a vehicle at an excessive speed in Turner County. When deputies

attempted to pull him over, Campbell fled, driving the car at over 120 miles per hour.

As captured on body camera, when the chase concluded, officers discovered that Campbell allegedly had a semiautomatic pistol with one magazine and 12 rounds of ammunition; a semiautomatic pistol with two magazines and 31 rounds of ammunition; a semiautomatic rifle with two magazines and 49 rounds of ammunition; and a gun that was reported stolen from Miami.

Campbell allegedly admitted to agents that the firearms belonged to him and that he had not applied for the necessary waivers permitting ownership, as it is illegal for a visa holder to have firearms. As

alleged, Campbell’s affiliation with a criminal gang and his high risk of flight from the country, coupled with the serious nature of the crime and the number of firearms and ammunition in his possession, determined his detention by the court without bond.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations, and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime.

FBI Miami, FBI Atlanta, and the Turner County Sheriff’s Office are investigating the case.



Special Logo

Assistant U.S. Attorney Shiante McMahon of the Middle District of Georgia is prosecuting the case for the government, with assistance from Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Pasek from the Southern District of Florida.

Braves sign 11 draft picks, land coveted prep pitcher

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

The Atlanta Braves used a creative draft strategy to secure one of the most coveted high school pitchers in this year's MLB Draft, signing third-round pick Jensen Hirschhorn to a record-setting bonus after convincing first-round selections AJ Gracia and Carter Beck to accept below-slot deals.

The Braves have signed 11 of the first 12 players they selected in last week's draft, with only seventh-round catcher Jack Brenner of Fond du Lac High School in Wisconsin remaining unsigned.

While Gracia, the ninth overall pick, was Atlanta's highest selection, the club's financial maneuvering revealed just how highly it valued Hirschhorn, a 6-foot-7 right-hander from Kingsburg High School in California. Hirschhorn agreed to a \$3,997,500 signing bonus — the largest ever awarded to a player selected after the second round in MLB Draft history — persuading him to forgo his commitment to LSU.

"There's not a whole lot he can't do," Braves vice president of amateur scouting Ronit Shah said. "He's athletic. He's a big-time basketball guy. We're really excited to see what he can

do. He throws a ton of strikes. We saw him in the summer at a big-time event, the Area Code Games. He struck out nine guys in three innings. It's hard to do better than that."

Gracia signed for \$3,997,500 despite the ninth pick carrying a slot value of \$6,675,300, allowing the Braves to save \$2,677,800 against their bonus pool.

Atlanta also saved money with its second first-round selection, outfielder Carter Beck of Indiana State. Beck signed for \$2,684,100, nearly \$895,000 below his assigned slot value of \$3,578,800.

The combined savings of

\$3,572,500 gave the Braves the flexibility to spend aggressively on prep pitching.

Second-round pick Kaiden McCarthy, a right-hander from Vermont Academy, received a \$2,497,500 bonus, \$415,600 above slot. Hirschhorn's deal came in \$3,023,800 above his assigned slot value.

Overall, Atlanta went \$3.57 million under slot with its first two selections and \$3.44 million over slot with its next two picks.

The Braves entered the draft with a bonus pool of \$15,870,800 to sign players selected in the first 10 rounds and any players chosen later who receive

bonuses exceeding \$150,000. Clubs exceeding their bonus pool by more than 5 percent face financial penalties and the loss of future draft picks.

Atlanta also signed the following players:

Fourth round: RHP Cole Dennis (Bishop Snyder High School), \$523,280.

Fifth round: LHP Wil Libbert (Ole Miss), \$447,500.

Sixth round: RHP Tyson Grulkowski (Muskego High School), \$597,500.

Eighth round: C Jacob Jarrell (Clemson), \$500.

Ninth round: OF Parker Brosius (Georgia Tech), \$500.

Tenth round: 1B Ben Zei-

gler-Namoa (Hawaii), \$500.

Eleventh round: 3B Ryne Barker (Casteel High School), \$697,500.

Jarrell, Brosius and Zeigler-Namoa had exhausted their collegiate eligibility, giving the Braves little competition in negotiations and allowing the club to sign each for the minimum \$500 bonus.

Even after Barker's signing bonus counted against the bonus pool, Atlanta still had more than \$430,000 available, leaving enough financial flexibility to continue negotiations with Brenner, who is committed to Oklahoma, the defending College World Series champion.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Monroe football 'getting better'

Building on the progress he saw during Tuesday's padded camp in Tifton, Monroe head coach Bo Daniels had the Tornados back on the practice field Wednesday morning after a film session, emphasizing technique and fundamentals. "We are definitely getting better," Daniels said after Monroe competed against Tift County, Bainbridge, Mitchell County and several other teams.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County football players from left, Larry Jackson, Amari Turner and Shavezz Dixon display the Trojans' 2026 discount cards, which are now on sale for \$30 as part of the football program's annual fundraiser. The cards include more than \$150 in free offers, plus buy-one, get-one deals and discounts from participating businesses through June 2027, with proceeds benefiting the Lee County football program.

Nationally ranked Lee County football offers discount cards

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — The Lee County football team is already earning national recognition before the first kickoff of the season.

Now the Trojans are asking the community to help them score another victory.

Fresh off being ranked No. 93 in the nation in this week's MaxPreps preseason Top 100 poll, Lee County players have begun selling discount cards to raise money for the football program. The \$30 cards feature more than \$150 in free items, along with numerous buy-one, get-one offers and discounts from local businesses through June 2027.

For many supporters, the card can pay for itself after just a few uses.

Among the featured offers are a free Bloomin' Onion at Outback Steakhouse, a scoop of chicken salad, \$30 off an oil change, a T-shirt from Knights Apparel and discounts from a variety of participating businesses throughout the area.

Players are selling both local and na-

tional discount cards through July 30.

Customers can purchase a card by paying players with cash or check, payable to the Lee County Touchdown Club, or by scanning the QR code printed on each card to complete the purchase online. Buyers using the online option should be sure to select the player they are purchasing from so credit is applied correctly.

The fundraiser also offers a national discount option. Players can share a personalized QR code or online link through text message, allowing friends and family outside Southwest Georgia to support the program. National card purchasers receive an email with an invitation code and instructions for activating a cash-back savings app.

Those purchasing local cards will receive them directly from the player.

Organizers say the local card includes more than \$150 in free merchandise and menu items before accounting for the additional buy-one, get-one offers and other discounts available throughout the year.

All sales must be completed by July 30.

Walker wants Lady Eagles tested early

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

DAWSON — Ashley Walker isn't interested in protecting his softball team.

He's interested in preparing it.

That's why the Terrell Academy coach has built one of the toughest schedules in the GIAA, one that features every defending state champion and offers little chance to ease into the season. The Lady Eagles open Aug. 4 in Damascus against defending GIAA Class AA champion Southwest Georgia before embarking on a schedule Walker hopes will forge a championship-caliber team by October.

Walker knows the approach could cost his team a few games. He also believes it could pay off when the games matter most.

"We might lose some games," Walker said. "But I want us to be battle-tested once we get to the tournament in October."

That process begins next week when the Lady Eagles travel to Georgia Southern University for a three-day Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp. Terrell Academy expects to play four or five games during the camp while continuing to shape a team that graduated four seniors from last year's region championship squad.

"We are going to use that time to build ourselves as a team," Walker said. "I see a good softball team. But we've got some holes to fill and our main goal right now is finding out how the puzzle is going to fit together."

Walker likes the pieces he has.

The Lady Eagles return four seniors from a team that finished 21-8, won the region championship and finished No. 2 in the final GIAA MaxPreps rankings. Senior Karoline Pressley returns after serving as Terrell Academy's No. 1 pitcher last season, giving the Lady Eagles an experienced arm around which to build.

Several familiar faces from Terrell Academy's GIAA state championship basketball team are also back on the softball diamond, including Hadley Webb and Lily Addison.

Walker expects both to play key roles.

"Lily is moving from first base to work behind the plate," he said. "Hadley is going to be an im-



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

portant big bat for our team this year."

Depth could prove to be another strength.

Walker said the Lady Eagles have four seniors and a balanced roster throughout the remaining classes, while an incoming freshman class has already begun pushing veterans for playing time during preseason workouts.

"We have a very balanced team," Walker said. "We've got four seniors, and about four in each grade. We have some really talented freshmen coming in and pushing for time right now."

The regular season won't offer many breathers.

Terrell Academy moves into a revamped region that includes nine-time defending GIAA state champion Westfield, along with Deerfield-Windsor, Tiftarea and Central Fellowship. Walker welcomes the opportunity to see the state's best teams before the postseason arrives.

"Westfield is on top of the mountain and has been for a long time," Walker said. "I like that we are now in the same region because we will see that level of competition earlier and help us get better as we head toward the state tournament."

There is risk in playing the best teams on the schedule before Labor Day. There is also opportunity.

Walker would rather expose his team to pressure now than introduce it in October.

If his plan works, the Lady Eagles won't arrive at the state tournament wondering whether they're ready.

They'll already know.

NFL suspends Cowboys' Snowden three games

Field Level Media

The NFL suspended Dallas Cowboys defensive end Charles Snowden for the first three games of the 2026 regular season on Tuesday.

NFL Network reported the suspension is related to a violation of the league's personal conduct policy.

Snowden, now 28, was arrested while a member of the Las Vegas Raiders in December 2024 and charged with driving under the influence, a misdemeanor as a first-time offender. Las Vegas police said his blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit after he was found

See **SNOWDEN**, 10A



Special Photo: Stephen R. Sylvanie-Imagn Images

Dallas Cowboys defensive end Charles Snowden will miss the first three games of the 2026 season after the NFL suspended him for violating the league's personal conduct policy.

Argentina strikes late, ends England’s dream

By Jeff Reynolds,
Field Level Media

ATLANTA — Five minutes from erasing decades of anguish, England turned passive. The painful result: two more assists for Lionel Messi, one more World Cup final for Argentina.

“We were so close,” England coach Thomas Tuchel said following the 2-1 defeat Wednesday at Atlanta Stadium during a dour postgame session rolling on as Argentina celebrated with song, dance and degrees of disbelief alongside home fans seated behind the winner’s goal. “But couldn’t keep the level after we scored. We deserved to be up 1-0. ... we got passive.”

Defense dominated in the first World Cup semifinal without a shot in goal in the first half since 1966 as sparring — and a little extra — led to 19 total fouls.

Then the defending, three-time world champs blitzed England with goals in the 85th and 92nd minutes, sparking a party in Atlanta Stadium and advancing to the World Cup final on Sunday for the seventh time in the country’s history.

“Enjoy it,” Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. “Everybody should be thanking the players. This group is difficult to explain. Honestly. ... I know that you recognize and acknowledge and are very well aware of how special this team is. This is all thanks to them. I want to thank them.”

Messi, 39, attempted only one shot in the match and spent most of the post-game, on-field party as a passive observer seated near the spot on the pitch where Enzo Fernandez changed England’s weekend plans a short time earlier.

Following Fernandez’s lead, Lautaro Martinez secured Argentina’s place in the World Cup final with the game-winning goal seven minutes later, in another dramatic comeback for a 2-1 victory on Wednesday afternoon.

Two possessions after he fired a rising missile deflected over the net by England keeper Jordan Pickford, Fernandez used a Messi assist for a replay of almost the same shot, but planted this one into the left corner of the net in the 85th minute. In the first two minutes of extra time, Martinez settled in front of Pickford at the left edge of the goal and headed a Messi pass by Pickford to cap a stirring rally.

“We conceded too many chances,” England’s 6-foot-7 supersub Dan Burn said. “When you get that close to the World Cup final after so many years, yeah, it hurts.”

Argentina will meet Spain on Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J., with a chance to claim a fourth title.



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Argentina’s Enzo Fernandez celebrates after scoring the equalizer on an assist from Lionel Messi during Wednesday’s 2-1 comeback victory over England in the FIFA World Cup semifinals in Atlanta. Messi assisted on both second-half goals as Argentina advanced to Sunday’s championship match against Spain

“It’s a dream to play in the World Cup final again,” Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes said. “If this next game goes well, we’re going to be the champion of the Americas and champions of the world.”

Messi has eight goals and four assists in this World Cup and a tournament-record 12 career assists after two on Wednesday.

For more than 80 minutes, all signs were pointing to England getting its first World Cup championship bid in decades.

With Argentina’s defense backpedaling, Anthony Gordon broke the deadlock in the 55th minute. It was one of only five shots on goal Wednesday for England.

He tallied the game’s first goal on a brilliant assist from Morgan Rogers, who was fed by Declan Rice. Rogers recovered the ball outside the box right of the goal and found Gordon streaking ahead of defenders to deflect the pass with the side of his right foot for the score.

But England’s euphoria ended in familiar fashion.

“I wish I had the answer,” Pickford said. “Obviously very, very proud of what we’ve done in this tournament. But there’s very fine lines in this tournament.”

Moments later, England defender Djed Spence caught up to Giuliano Simeone, who had space

and pace behind coverage on what would have been a clean shot from close range. The maligned Spence delivered one of the tackles of the tournament, covering significant distance to dislodge the ball inside the box.

Before a hydration break as the 70th minute approached, Pickford made his own bid for England’s gold star defensive play of the game. He got his right hand on a ball sailing for the right corner of the goal to make a deflection and diving save to his right, keeping the score 1-0. Only inches spared the Three Lions and Pickford from the equalizer courtesy of Alexis Mac Allister in the 76th minute when he met a cross from Rodrigo DePaul near the penalty spot but the shot cannoned off the right post.

La Scaloneta tested Pickford immediately out of the halftime break. Julian Alvarez ripped two shots approaching from Pickford’s left to spike the energy and decibel level in the dome, but missed both. The second sank into the outside of the net.

“I think this team plays the best when we are facing challenging situations, when we’re facing adversity,” Scaloni said. “We had a challenging game. A challenging situation. There was blood in the water and we went for it. That’s what I saw in the players as well.”

Messi and Argentina also threatened late

in the first half, first when Messi danced free of Harry Kane near midfield and drew a yellow card on midfielder Elliot Anderson. The possession nearly ended in a goal by Fernandez, who tallied the decisive quarterfinal goal to eliminate Egypt last week in the round of 16. His clean strike from outside the box whizzed over the top right corner of the bar in the 39th minute and the first half ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Kane paid homage to Messi’s role in directing Argentina’s rally and playing as you’d expect from “the greatest player of all-time.”

The second-half wizardry was no surprise in the winner’s locker room.

“They don’t feel the weight on their shoulders. Messi today, the last 15, 20, 25 minutes, anytime he could, he just got the ball,” Scaloni said. “When you see that kind of grit, that kind of show. They’re playing like their 7- or 8-year-olds. They’re not thinking about if they miss. They’re not thinking about anything else. They’re thinking about football.”

Messi appeared to gain some extra motivation from a contentious war of words with England.

Referee Ismail Elfath helped separate England’s Jude Bellingham and Messi when the match opened with a no-call on a forearm from Fernandez to the back of Anderson’s head, one of multiple chest-thumping exchanges between the teams in the first half.

Bellingham also appeared to provoke Argentina at the end of the game as the team started celebrating near midfield, moving toward the group huddle and slapping Argentina defender Valentin Barco on the back of his head.

England missed three chances in the first half. The initial shot could’ve been confused for a pass. It came when right back Reece James one-touched a pass from Rogers and looked for his first score of the World Cup. His low, soft try from right of the penalty area was easily smothered at ankle height by Emiliano Martinez.

Before the late onslaught, Messi, playing in his sixth World Cup and 206th international match for Argentina, had a clean look outside the box in the 83rd minute but pushed it wide left.

Argentina finished with 15 attempts on goal to five for England, which squares off with France in the third-place match in Miami Gardens, Fla. on Saturday.

Spain can break a tie with Italy with a victory. La Roja carries a 37-match unbeaten streak — 30 wins, seven draws — into the championship match, vying to win the World Cup for the second time (2010).

MLB wants stiff penalties for players who skip 2028 Olympics

Field Level Media

Major League Baseball players who decline to participate in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles without an approved excuse could face a lengthy league suspension, multiple outlets reported.

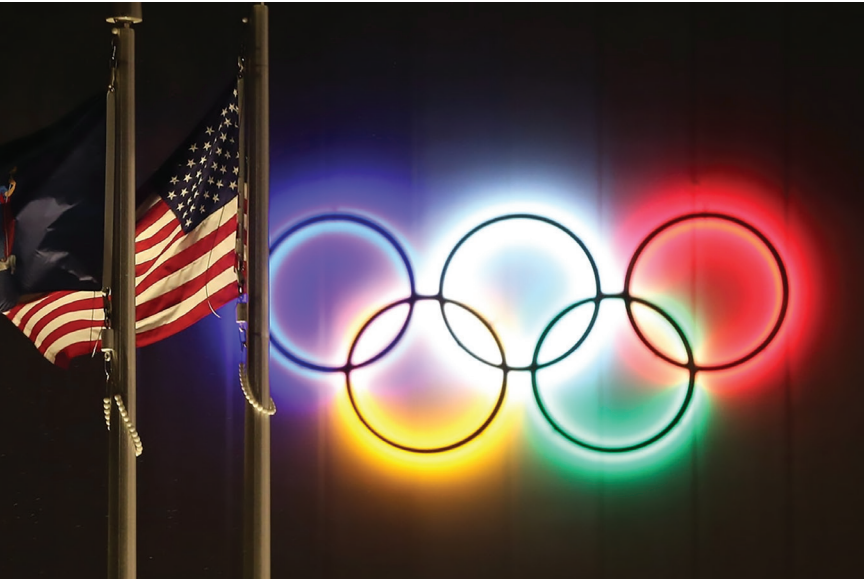
Such players would be placed on a restricted list — without earning pay or service time — from as early as July 10 through Aug. 3, 2028, according to a copy of the MLB proposal reviewed by The Athletic. That’s a 25-day span.

Placement on the injured list would count as an approved excuse, and those players would receive salary and service time. However, they would not be allowed to return to regular-season action until after Aug. 3.

MLB Player Association head Bruce Meyer called the league’s proposal “extreme.”

Commissioner Rob Manfred countered Tuesday that the 2028 Summer Games are “a unique opportunity to market the sport with our very, very best players.”

“It is a disruptive undertaking for us,” Manfred said. “Put money to one side. You’re disrupting an entire season, and if we’re going to undertake that effort, we want our



Special Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News

Olympic rings glow outside a venue as Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association continue negotiations over player participation in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. MLB has proposed significant penalties for players who decline to participate without an approved excuse.

very best out there so that people see how great our game really is.”

The participation of MLB players in the L.A. Games is still being hammered out between the MLB, MLBPA, the LA28 organizing committee, the International Olympic Committee and the World Baseball Softball Confederation.

According to Front Office Sports, the unresolved issues include player accommodations, insurance

and tickets.

The baseball portion of the 2028 Olympics — consisting of the United States, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and three countries determined by upcoming qualifiers — is scheduled for July 13-19. The first half of the MLB regular season would wrap up on July 9, with the All-Star Game on July 11 and the regular season resuming on July 21.

nine starts at defensive end for the Raiders last season, making 28 tackles with three sacks, five tackles for loss, two passes defended and one interception.

He has career totals of 67 tackles, 4.5 sacks, eight tackles for loss, six passes defended and one interception in 33 games (18 starts) for the Chicago Bears (two games in 2021) and Raiders (2024-25). He also spent time in 2022 with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ practice squad.

Snowden was waived by the Raid-

ers in May and signed a one-year, \$1.1 million contract with the Cowboys on June 18.

He is allowed to participate in all preseason activities, including training camp and games, with the suspension taking effect when rosters reduce to 53 players.

The Cowboys open the season Sept. 13 with a visit to the New York Giants, followed by a home game on Sept. 20 against the Washington Commanders and a Sept. 27 clash with the Baltimore Ravens in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Special Photo: Mark J. Rebilas-Imagn Images

Ole Miss defensive lineman Princewill Umanmielen is one of two former Rebel players who could face legal action after transferring to LSU without reportedly satisfying buyout provisions in their revenue-sharing agreements with Ole Miss.

Ole Miss could sue players who followed Kiffin to LSU

Field Level Media

Ole Miss could sue two players who followed former Rebels coach Lane Kiffin to LSU and haven’t yet paid their contract buyouts, athletic director Keith Carter told the Clarion Ledger in an interview last week.

Defensive lineman Princewill Umanmielen and offensive tackle Devin Harper both signed revenue-sharing deals after initially deciding to stay at Ole Miss and now join their former coach in Baton Rouge, La. However, both changed their minds and ended up transferring after spending one season each with the Rebels.

To get the money owed to the university for breaching those agreements, Carter said the school may need to take the players to court.

“That would be an option, going and asking a court to get that money for you,” Carter told the Clarion Ledger. “Contracts are with the players. LSU could pay that on behalf of the players. So we’re kind of exploring all of that right now.”

Umanmielen transferred from Nebraska to Ole Miss ahead of the 2025 season, leading the Rebels in sacks (nine) and tackles for loss (13) along with 44 tackles, 13 quarter-

back hurries and one interception.

Harper was a four-star recruit in the 2025 class, appearing in six games as a true freshman for Ole Miss.

Carter declined to disclose how much money Ole Miss is owed, but On3 Sports reported that it’s just under \$1 million combined. Carter said it’s traditional for the players’ new schools to handle those buyouts, with Ole Miss covering a few for transfers it has added in the transfer portal era.

“Having signed a brand-new rev share contract basically a week or two before wanting to leave, those are the kind (of situations) that put you in a bind, especially there in the portal cycle,” Carter said. “Those two we’re going to continue to figure out how to collect. We feel like based on the contract we deserve to collect.”

There’s been no love lost this off-season between Kiffin and Ole Miss after he left for LSU a week before the Rebels made the College Football Playoff.

Defensive coordinator Pete Golding was promoted to interim coach and then full-time coach, leading Ole Miss to the CFP semifinals with wins over Tulane and Georgia before falling to Miami.

From 9A SNOWDEN

asleep in his SUV.

He initially pled not guilty, but in January entered a no-contest plea. He was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and attend coroner’s and DUI courses. The charge will be reduced to reckless driving on the condition that he completes his plea agreement.

Snowden played 15 games with

EARTHWEEK

Diary of a Changing World

By Steve Newman

Solar Weather

Powerful geomagnetic storms may influence weather on Earth within hours or days, according to a new study published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, which found shifts in precipitation, temperature, atmospheric pressure and other conditions following bursts of solar activity.

Researchers analyzed 67 years of hourly space-weather and atmospheric records across North America and found that stronger geomagnetic storms were generally associated with larger weather anomalies.

Effects varied by region and season, with summer and winter solar storms more often linked to lower precipitation. Winter storms were also associated with warmer-than-normal conditions in parts of the West Coast, with cooling across much of the rest of the country.

Earthquakes

Tremors were felt during the week in Okinawa, the far southern Philippines, the coast of central Chile, Costa Rica, northern New Mexico and California's Napa Valley.

Amazonian Gains

After years of alarming losses, the Brazilian Amazon is offering a rare measure of good news.

Satellite observations show forest clearing has fallen to its lowest 12-month level since Brazil's current rapid-monitoring record began in 2014, continuing a decline that has accelerated in recent years.

The improvement means fewer trees cut, less habitat destroyed and less pressure on Indigenous lands and protected forests.

It also suggests that stronger enforcement and renewed environmental oversight can make a difference in one of the world's most important ecosystems.

The decline offers hope, but the dry season will test whether Brazil can protect against a hotter, fire-prone future under climate change.

Etna Eruption

Renewed eruptive activity at Sicily's Mount Etna sent dense clouds of ash above the famed volcano and forced a temporary shutdown of nearby Catania Airport, disrupting travel for thousands of passengers.

Nearly all flights were canceled or diverted as volcanic ash fell across a wide area and aviation authorities raised the alert level to red.

The eruption developed after days of renewed unrest at the volcano, while prevailing winds carried ash toward populated areas.

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Sino Twisters

Exceedingly rare tornadoes tore through China's central Hubei province, killing at least 11 people, injuring more than 330 others and damaging thousands of homes. High winds around the funnels overturned vehicles and hurled trucks into the air.

Local media also reported that a 30-year-old man was blown out of his 12th-floor apartment along with his furniture and survived, but with critical injuries.



Solar storms send charged particles toward Earth, where they interact with its magnetic field and alter the weather below. Illustration: Earthweek/Firefly

Deadly Heat

Europe's late-June heat-wave may have killed roughly 20,000 people from June 22-28, according to an analysis by Christopher Callahan of Indiana University.

Other scientists cautioned that the actual toll will take months to determine.

The extreme June heat was shaped by a persistent heat dome, but human-caused climate change has sharply raised the temperature baseline on which weather now operates.

Researchers say decades of largely uncurbed greenhouse-gas emissions have intensified dangerous heat.

That add that worse consequences are likely unless governments rapidly reduce emissions from coal, oil and gas and accelerate the shift to low-carbon energy.

Tropical Cyclones

Category-5 Typhoon Bavi caused catastrophic damage on Rota, in the Northern Mariana Islands.

- Typhoon Maysak unleashed deadly flooding across southern China, trapping residents on rooftops.

- Minimal Tropical Storm Douglas formed briefly between Hawaii and Mexico.

From 2A

TAX

dy's property," Stevens told the board. He later added, "It just seems to me that there's other farms that have sold that have driven up the price tremendously. ... But it just seems like that shouldn't be the case if it's a heritage farm or something like that."

That exchange also gave Goodin the opportunity to explain that conservation-use properties are taxed differently than fair market value and that the agricultural reassessment was driven by multiple verified sales reviewed by the Georgia Department of Revenue, not isolated transactions.

The compliance issue affects more than residential property owners. Goodin explained that Georgia uses county appraisal ratios to determine how public utilities — including railroads, telecommunications companies and electric utilities — are taxed.

When a county's appraisal ratio falls below state standards, utility companies receive a reduced assessment ratio, lowering the amount of property taxes they pay locally. If a county remains out of compliance for an extended period, it can also face financial penalties from the state.

"Our job is to present a tax digest that's in compliance with the regulations of the state," Goodin said. "Nobody likes the Tax Assessor's Office -- I get it -- but that's what we're required to do."

Board members stressed

that while the Tax Assessor's Office is responsible for determining fair market values, it does not determine how much property owners ultimately pay in taxes. Those decisions are made by the county commission, school board and other taxing authorities through the annual millage rate process.

Husain and Wiley both noted that an increase in assessed value does not necessarily produce an equal increase in a tax bill because local governments may reduce, or "roll back," their millage rates as property values rise.

The board also discussed Lee County's floating homestead exemption, which limits annual increases in taxable value for qualifying homeowners on county taxes. In Georgia, homeowners who own and live in their home as their legal residence can apply for a homestead exemption through their county tax assessor's office. Once approved, the exemption reduces the taxable value of the home for one or more taxing authorities, lowering the annual property tax bill.

Officials encouraged residents to learn about the homestead exemption and other available property tax relief programs before the Aug. 1 filing deadline, which was extended this year from the state's traditional April 1 deadline to give homeowners additional time to apply.

Property owners seeking a homestead exemption or wishing to review their property record card may contact the Lee County Tax Assessor's Office or visit the county's QPublic website.

Taste flavors from around the globe without leaving your kitchen

By StatePoint

The flavors and aromas of global cuisines are closer than ever — no passport or flights required. "With a thoughtfully curated spice collection, home chefs can transport their senses anywhere in the world, while adding depth and incredible flavor to every dish," says Giovanna DiLegge, vice president of Marketing, McCormick & Company.

Featuring 72 distinctive herbs and spices, including an extensive selection of certified organic varieties, the McCormick Gourmet Collection offers a refined approach to everyday cooking. Sourced from regions known for their exceptional quality, the collection makes it easy to explore global flavors in your kitchen.

And to help get you started on your global culinary journey, McCormick is sharing a recipe for one of Spain's most iconic dishes: Spanish Paella Mixta. Paella pairs tender seafood with saffron-infused rice and the smoky depth of paprika. Designed for sharing, it's best served straight from the pan and finished with fresh parsley and bright lemon wedges.

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 medium sweet onions, chopped
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, chopped
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Paprika
- 8 ounces dry-cured Spanish chorizo,

- cut on a bias into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Coarse Ground Black Pepper, divided
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Sea Salt Grinder, divided
- 1-pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, trimmed and quartered
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) petite diced tomatoes
- 2 cups of short or medium grain rice, such as bomba or Calasparra
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Saffron, crumbled
- 1-pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 12 fresh mussels, cleaned and rinsed
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- Chopped fresh parsley
- Fresh lemon wedges, to serve

Instructions:

1. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in large, wide bottom skillet (or paella pan) on medium-high heat. Add onions, garlic, bell pepper, paprika, and 1/4 teaspoon each of the black pepper and salt. Cook and stir for 6 to 8 minutes or until fragrant and softened. Remove sofrito from the pan to a large plate.
2. Add chorizo to the pan; cook and stir 4 to 6 minutes, until well-browned. Transfer to a plate with sofrito. Heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil in pan. Add chicken and sprinkle with remaining 1/4 teaspoon black pepper and 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Cook just until

chicken is browned on all sides, about 6 minutes. Remove from pan; set aside with sofrito and chorizo.

3. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil and diced tomatoes to the pan. Cook, stirring occasionally until slightly caramelized and liquid has reduced, about 6 to 8 minutes. Add rice; cook and stir just until rice is fragrant and slightly translucent. Return sofrito mixture, chicken and chorizo to pan. Stir in stock, white wine, saffron and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low. Simmer 20 minutes or until rice has absorbed most of the liquid.

Tip: Test rice for doneness, it should be al dente — firm, with a slight chew. If rice is too hard, stir in up to 1/4 cup of warm stock. Cover and cook 3 to 5 minutes longer before adding seafood.

4. Nest shrimp and mussels into rice. Sprinkle with peas. Partially cover pan and cook on medium heat 10 minutes or until shrimp are pink and mussels have opened. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Stir before serving. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley and lemon wedges, if desired.

For more information about the collection and for more global recipes, visit mccormick.com/gourmet.

From the floral complexity of golden-hued saffron to the balanced sweetness of vibrant red paprika, all you need are the right spices and seasonings to explore a world of flavor in your very own kitchen.



From 1A

CONCEPT

The goal is to give the students the same benefits that the adults get from Leadership Albany, said Cassandra Kinsler, the project manager for the effort and founder of the nonprofit group the Dedicated Opinionated Purposeful Educated (DOPE) Squad.

"This was lifted from Leadership Albany," she said. "The purpose of Albany Junior Leaders is to pull together leaders from all over the community. We wanted to give these youths the same experience and the same exposure we're getting in Leadership Albany."

Leadership Albany Inc. trains a class of about 30 community members over an 11-month period each year, with about

nine class days during that time and two retreats to other communities, board member Lisa Stephens said. A fireside chat in October will feature former Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor as the leader.

The Leadership Albany classes are made up of about 30 participants from various industries, education levels and economic backgrounds.

"They are exposed to issues and topics that are impor-

tant to Albany and southwest Georgia," Stephens said. "As a board member, seeing the members of Leadership Albany come together to start a program, to see them come together and see a problem and turn it into action ... it's exciting."

Each class of Leadership Albany is broken into four groups that each select a different community project.

The other projects for the

class of 2026 include a swim safety program to provide supplies at Driskell Park, one that is enhancing a community directory that was created by one of the groups last year and one that is working on providing financial literacy in the community.

"We wanted them to formulate the project, identify the needs and put it into action," Stephens said.

The plan is for the Albany

Junior Leaders program to extend beyond just a 2026 project.

"This is something we're hoping to grow," Kinsler said. "We would like it to grow beyond Leadership Albany, to grow beyond us. This is definitely a resume-builder for them. We will be doing community projects in the future. They'll be able to take this with them for the rest of their lives."

Tips to determine how big a home you really need

(MCC) Shopping for a new home is an exciting experience. As prospective buyers shop around and attend open houses, they are likely to fine-tune their list of what they need and what they want in their next home.

One choice buyers will be faced with is how much home to buy. Determining how much square footage an ideal home should have can be difficult. While many home buyers can envision themselves enjoying a palatial estate, square footage is a significant variable in regard to home prices. When trying to determine how much home to buy, prospective home buyers can ask themselves a range of questions to help make that decision.

How much can I afford?

Home buyers' budgetary considerations should extend beyond the asking price of a home and into what they will be able to afford should they purchase a particular property. Projected monthly mortgage payments can be easy to determine, but utilities can fluctuate considerably from home to home. Energy prices are fluid, but the more square footage a home has, the higher utility bills are likely to be. When determining how much home you should buy, you first need to identify what you can afford, and that mock budget should include estimates regarding monthly utilities. In addition, upgrading and renovating a larger property is likely to cost more, so that's another budget-related variable to consider when determining how much home to buy.

How much home can I take care of?

Seasoned homeowners know that the work required to own a home never ceases. First-time buyers must keep that in mind when shopping for a home. A home with lots of square foot-



Special Photo: MCC

When trying to determine how much home to buy, prospective home buyers can ask themselves a range of questions to help make that decision.

age will require more daily and long-term maintenance than a smaller home. If you don't have the time, the means or the will to keep up with maintaining a property, then perhaps a home with a small footprint in terms of square footage is for you. If taking care of the home is not a concern, then extra square footage may not be a deterrent.

How significant a variable is ZIP code when selling a home?

Another variable to consider when determining square footage is the ZIP code of a home. Selling might not be foremost on the minds of prospective buyers, but a large home in a town with a poor school district and safety concerns is unlikely

to generate as great a return on investment as a smaller home in a town with a reputation for great schools and little crime. However, the real estate

market is forever in flux, so prospective buyers who prefer a larger home but don't want to break the bank to purchase one are urged to work with a real estate professional to identify areas that might be up-and-coming and offer the best of both worlds. That's no small task, but local real estate agents and realtors can be invaluable assets in such pursuits.

How much home do I need?

Of course, how much home a buyer needs is a unique and important variable. But this also is a difficult question to answer. Buyers who plan to grow their families will need enough space to accommodate everyone who eventually lives under their roof. Couples buying a home together who discuss how big a family they want to have can use that discussion to inform how large a home to buy. Buyers who like to get out and about can ask how much time they're likely to spend at home and use that to determine how much square footage they need at home.

The ideal amount of square footage in a home varies from buyer to buyer. Determining what suits you may come down to how you answer a variety of questions.



What buyers can do to improve chances their offer is accepted

(MCC) The real estate market can be highly competitive. When inventory is limited and prices are high, prospective buyers must be ready to pounce and make an offer before the competition kicks up and the home is off the market.

The ability to move quickly with an offer can help buyers land a home in a competitive market, but that decisiveness may not be enough to ensure an offer is accepted. Buyers accustomed to the home buying process know there's no guarantee an offer will be accepted, but they can take steps to improve their chances of standing out in a competitive market where sellers may be fielding multiple offers at once.

• Use recent sales data to inform your offer. Though there are places with non-disclosure laws that do not mandate property sales prices be made public, such data is readily available in many areas. That information can be invaluable to home buyers in competitive real estate markets because it gives them a strong idea of how much homes have been going for in towns and even specific neighborhoods they're targeting with their search. That data also tends to be relied upon when sellers list their homes. Sellers may see how much a neighbor's home sold for and use that to set the price of their own homes. With that knowledge in hand, buyers can tailor their offers to reflect recent sales figures.

• Obtain a mortgage preapproval. Bank of America notes that a mortgage pre-qualification estimates what buyers might be able to borrow based on a credit check and information they provide, such as income data. Once that information is provided, prospective buyers may obtain a preapproval if a lender deems them creditworthy. A preapproval is important because it shows sellers that a buyer has the credit and financial backing necessary to follow through on an offer. Many sellers ask if bidders are preapproved because the preapproval facilitates a quicker sale.

• Increase your earnest money offer if you're truly committed to buying a particular home. Fulton Bank advises buyers to offer more earnest money, which is akin to a good faith deposit toward the purchase of a home. A typical earnest money deposit may be somewhere between 1 and 3 percent of the purchase price, but an earnest money offer of 5 percent may indicate to sellers that you're a committed buyer. But Fulton Bank notes that buyers who rescind their offers may or may not have their earnest money offer refunded.

• Speak to your agent or realtor about including an escalation clause. It's always best that buyers work with a real estate agent or realtor when looking for a home. When you find a property that interests you in a competitive market, discuss with your real estate representative if an escalation clause might boost the chances that your offer is accepted. Rocket Mortgage notes that an escalation clause is part of a real estate contract that indicates a buyer is willing to automatically raise their offer on a home if the seller receives a higher offer. The escalation clause indicates the most a buyer is willing to offer. The inclusion of an escalation clause is a big decision, which is why it can be so helpful to speak with your representative before deciding for or against including one in your offer.

Special Photo: MCC
The real estate market can be highly competitive.

How to make a real estate listing stand out

(MCC) The real estate market is notably competitive. While the competitive nature of real estate is often discussed in terms of buying, sellers might face some stiff competition when trying to make their properties stand out.

The popularity of real estate listing websites like Zillow, Trulia and Redfin has made it easier than ever for buyers to find properties for sale. But those sites feature so many listings that it's not always easy for sellers to make their properties stand out. With that in mind, homeowners can work with their real estate agents or realtors to tailor a listing that's sure to draw the attention of buyers.

• Identify what makes your property unique. Homeowners can take a tour of their properties with their real estate representative to identify what makes their homes and grounds unique. Details like the number of bedrooms and bathrooms and the total square footage certainly draw the attention of buyers, but neighborhoods tend to

feature similarly sized properties. But an emphasis on unique features, whether it's a fully finished basement or a recently remodeled outdoor living space, can make a listing stand out.

• Read a listing as if you were a prospective buyer. In addition to emphasizing the unique features of your home, you can read a draft of your listing to see if it would appeal to you if you were a buyer. Does the listing adequately convey what makes your property special? Is there enough information about the property? Does the listing get into specifics or is the description generalized? Buyers will look at an assortment of listings, and it can be easy to confuse one with another. Concise but detailed characterizations can increase the chances buyers remember your listing.

• Emphasize key characteristics in bullet points. A listing that's too wordy may not be read in full, but work with your real estate representative to identify points of emphasis and even list

those as bullet points to make the listing more reader-friendly.

• Be honest. Buyers come from all walks of life, but none want to read a listing and then feel as if they've been misled upon visiting a property. While it may seem as though everyone wants a move-in ready home, many buyers will not scoff at a listing that notes DIY potential. At the same time, if a home is indeed move-in ready, emphasize that so buyers who don't want to swing any hammers know they won't have to if they buy your home. An honest characterization will attract buyers, while a misleading description of the property will come across as a red flag that will make buyers wonder what else sellers might be hiding.

• Highlight the area as well. Buyers aren't just investing in a home, they're investing in a place to set down roots. Consider the town where you live and use the listing to highlight its strong points. If your town is a walkable locale with a thriving local shopping and food



Special Photo: MCC

Homeowners can work with their real estate agents or realtors to tailor a listing that's sure to draw the attention of buyers.

district, emphasize that in your listing. If the town boasts a top-notch school system, be sure to allude to that in the listing.

Sellers and their real estate representatives can employ various measures when writing a property listing to make it stand out.





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Underground water supply in south Georgia is focus of data center debate



Staff Photo: Tom Seegmueller

As local communities debate allowing data centers, one of the primary issues is water usage.

By Tom Seegmueller
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – This month the debate over the potential benefits or detriments of data centers has reached a fever pitch in southwest Georgia. While proponents tout them as a source of economic salvation for struggling rural counties, opponents warn that they may have an irreversible impact on one of the region's most valuable natural resources: water.

It would not be unrealistic to say that water has been the lifeblood of southwest Georgia and Albany in particular. Historical records and earlier archeological evidence reveal that the earliest inhabitants of the region were flourishing along the main arteries and tributaries of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin long before Europeans “discovered” the region.

Albany was founded in 1836 at the head of navigation on the Flint River. Beyond the abundant water sources, the numerous natural and artesian springs in the region were believed to provide evidence of an “unlimited” source of water in subterranean cavities. These springs exist where a porous rock layer like sand or limestone is sandwiched between two layers of nonporous shale or clay. The combination results in a subterranean water trap or aquifer.

Rainwater or snow infiltrates the porous layers in a recharge area and percolates down, creating weight in the water column resulting in hydrostatic pressure. The water in these aquifers can be released in three ways. The first method of release is from a standard spring, or gravity spring, where the water table of an unconfined aquifer meets the surface. The water in this case is driven solely by gravity, and the rate of flow will fluctuate significantly with local rainfall or drought.

Radium Springs is the best example of the phenomenon as Georgia's only first-magnitude spring with a discharge of up to 70,000 gallons per minute at times.

The second natural method of release is an artesian spring, which occurs when a geological opening taps into a confined, pressurized aquifer. The flow from these springs is constant and self-sustaining because it relies on the hydrostatic pressure generated by difference in elevation between the point where the water escapes and the elevation of the associated recharge area.

The third method of accessing water is from man-made artesian wells scattered across the Coastal and Dougherty Plains. An artesian well is cre-

ated when a well opening is drilled into the aquifer at a site where the ground level is below the hydraulic head of the aquifer. Water will then flow out under pressure relative to the differences in those levels similar to an artesian spring.

Although the water flowing freely from Radium and other springs in the region had provided evidence of the aquatic resources below the earth's surface, no one was able to successfully tap into Georgia's subterranean aquifers until 1881.

In 1879, Col. John Porter Fort

would not be wise.

However, several life experiences convinced Fort that the goal was worth his personal effort and expense. He remembered his father explaining how an ancient ocean had once covered the region with its shoreline running from Columbus to Augusta. Several years later, he observed a layer of blue marl clay on the banks of the Chattahoochee River near Eufaula, Ala. He had seen similar deposits near Brunswick.

“I took what seemed to be the logical position that this

would flow uninterrupted for 19 years before a deteriorated pipe stopped its flow for a few days while repairs were made.

Following his success, the city of Albany and the railroad immediately began drilling their own wells. Although Fort was happy to silence skeptics with the success of his first well, his ultimate goal was to prove that artesian wells could be used to irrigate crops, increasing both production and land values in the Dougherty Plain.

“A large section of southern Georgia is subject to summer droughts, when crops burn

By the early 20th century, farmers scattered across south Georgia from Brunswick to Albany were successfully using small-scale irrigation systems. These systems and many of the early municipal artesian water systems began to take advantage of the water found in the Claiborne aquifer, which could be reached at depths varying between 200 to 400 feet.

Even these rudimentary demands gave an early warning that the water below was not unlimited when the Claiborne first went dry in 1910. However, the boom was on and the solution at the time seemed simple and may have been the origins of the current mantra to, “drill, baby, drill.” Soon wells were being bored into the larger Floridian and Cretaceous aquifers to meet growing demands for water in the region.

In the 1970s, the advent of center-pivot irrigation systems, broader crop diversity and farm mechanization would lead to a 12-fold in-

crease in water usage in the region. Satellite studies indicate that from 1976 to 2013, center-pivot systems in the Coastal Plain increased by 4,500% with a corresponding increase of 2,000% in irrigated acreage in the region.

A modern center-pivot system is capable of pumping 1,000 gallons a minute through an 8-inch pipe that can stretch for a quarter of a mile. Approximately 10,000 such systems currently cover a million acres of farmland in south Georgia. Another half-million acres of orchards are irrigated by other means. Demand on the aquifers and surface water in the region increased dramatically from less than 30 million gallons a day in 1960 to almost 600 million gallons a day in 1980.

By the 1980s, unchecked pumping led to what is known as the Claiborne Disaster. Agricultural demands and the growing demands of municipal Albany led to the hydraulic head of the Claiborne aquifer dropping by 70 feet and that of the Clayton Aquifer dropping by 170 feet. Radium Springs acting as the proverbial ca-

nary in the coal mine ceased to flow for the first time in recorded history. These growing demands on regional water resources would lead to a decade of Tri-State Water Wars between Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Currently, the dispute has subsided with Alabama recently dismissing a case against Georgia. This is the first time since 1989 that there is no active litigation related to water in the ACF basin.

However, just when things seemed to be settling down, an unforeseen demand on the region's water resources has created headlines. Seemingly overnight, rural communities in southwest Georgia have become potential sites targeted for the construction of data centers. The primary reason for data centers is the easy access to the large volumes of water required to cool the heat generated by these facilities. Today we have a far better understanding of the aquifers trapped below the Coastal Plain. Although Fort was correct in many of his assumptions about the underground river flowing under Georgia, we now know that it is not limitless. Over-pumping can cause long-term declines, and the deeper aquifers we depend upon today take longer to recharge.

Recharging an aquifer is more complicated than merely catching rainwater in a cistern. Local recharge into the Floridian Aquifer can occur over days and months. However, regional recharge of the aquifer can take years or decades. Some studies indicate 10- to 25-year lags in recharge capacity.

Current reports indicate that data centers can consume millions of gallons of water annually, with larger facilities demanding as much as 5 million gallons a day. Water consumption is only one of the concerns related to these centers: Noise pollution, overall economic impact, public utility demands, and imminent domain are issues of concern as well.

However, easily accessible water in rural areas facing economic challenges make southwest Georgia communities likely targets for the construction of data centers and the infrastructure to support them. While many who question the impact data centers and the associated infrastructure may have on the region are not old enough to remember those arguments, many remember another environmental truth from the 1970s: “Use plastic. Save a tree.” was so logical, it seemed irrefutable. It's too bad we didn't ask about microplastics.



Staff Photos: Tom Seegmueller

and a partner purchased several properties in the western part of Dougherty County. He considered the 2,500 acres at Hickory Level Plantation to be some of the most fertile land in the region. However, the poor quality of water found there, and the high level of malaria made the logic of the purchase questionable.

“The question of obtaining pure water there became so important that at one time it looked as though the place would have to be abandoned if some solution were not found,” Fort recalled.

Initially, he considered a series of large cisterns to catch rainwater from the roofs of buildings on the property. However, expense and the danger of contamination made the option unfeasible. Fort then turned his attention to the possibility of drilling an artesian well on the property.

The summer of 1880 was dry, and “there was a great deal of sickness on the place.” As a result, Fort wrote a series of articles in the ‘Macon Telegraph’ and ‘Albany News and Advertiser’ seeking financial support to bore a well on the property by highlighting the benefits it would bring to Albany and the Southwestern Railroad Co. Neither the city nor the railroad offered any support for Fort's plan. Several similar attempts had been made in the state, including an 1850 attempt in Albany, leading many to believe that investing in another effort

deposit extended under all southern Georgia, far down in the earth,” Fort wrote.

Perhaps even more compelling was a visit he made to Wakulla Spring while serving as a Confederate cavalry scout near Saint Marks, Fla.

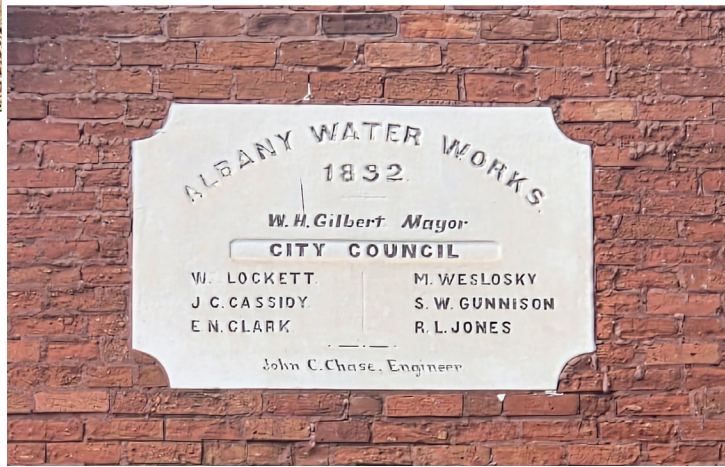
“Here was a river as large as the Chattahoochee or larger, rising up out of the ground,” Fort wrote. “Whence came this water? The natural answer seemed: an underground river flowing under Georgia, which had been prevented from rising to the surface by some natural obstruction, namely earth, impervious to water.”

Fort began boring his well at Hickory Level on Feb. 1, 1881 and had not succeeded in striking water after six months of drilling. At a depth of 400 feet, he did strike the layer of blue marl he had anticipated. Throughout that summer, Fort faced skepticism and ridicule for his efforts.

Fort traveled to Macon on Aug. 1 to oversee other projects on his properties. On Aug. 4, he received a telegram: “Water flowing at seven gallons per minute.” He took the train to Ducker Station the next day. Harry Edwards of the Macon Telegraph traveled with him.

“We went out at once, and it was satisfying to see the little well,” Fort said. “It was an inspiring and a satisfying sight to see the water flowing from the pipe.”

The well would be drilled to a final depth of 550 feet at a total cost of \$1,100. It



badly, sometimes being totally destroyed,” he wrote. “It is good land and, with the help of commercial fertilizer and water, could make over a hundred bushels of corn and two bales of cotton to the acre. This section is geologically in the tertiary system, and I believe that in it everywhere artesian water is available.”

Fort would prove his theory by boring a second well near Albany. Again, at a depth of 550 feet, he struck water. This time with a rate of flow measured at 35,000 gallons a day. From the well he fed a man-made pond that retained 400,000 gallons of water which he used to successfully irrigate a 14-acre field using the furrow system.

The first municipal artesian well in Albany was completed in 1882. Five years later, there would be 15 wells in the city, with Albany becoming a tourist attraction at least partly because of the high quality of the water. This would lead the Albany City Commission to adopt the artesian well as the city's emblem, acknowledging its reputation as “the Artesian City” in 1887.

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Miscellaneous

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Garage Sale

YARD SALE, July 17 & 18. 8 am until. 295 Flowing Well Road, Leesburg, GA 31763. Any questions, call or text 229-894-8048. Everything from lots of antique furniture, chest drawer, twin bed frames, queen mattress, what-nots, end tables, pictures, stove. Plenty of clothes for everyone going cheap. Everything will be inside and outside. Full house of everything. Rain or Shine.

Large house clean out yard sale: 3209 Lancaster Lane Albany. Fri. July 17th & Sat. July 18th 7:30a-3p.

Yard Sale - house hold items, clothes, tools, furniture. 99 Senah Dr. Leesburg, Ga 31763. Saturday 8a-2p.

JOB

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. Contact the office at 229-835-2269. 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.

Albany Legals

Adoptions

A-670
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In Re: Adoption of Petition of LALIA ALEXANDRIA BONNER and LONDON ALEXANDER BONNER, by and NOTICE OF PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS TO: NARVEZ WARREN the Presumed Legal Father, of a LALIA ALEXANDRIA BONNER, born in 2017. You are hereby notified that an Adoption Petition for LALIA ALEXANDRIA BONNER and LONDON ALEXANDER BONNER has been filed in the above-styled Court by JULIUS LOUD., through his attorney, Christopher A. Flowers of Smith & Flowers Law, P.C. Civil Action File No. 26A14-3. The mother of the child has consented to the adoption. Pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 19-8-10 and 19-8-11 and other pertinent laws, you are advised that a hearing has been scheduled for August 26, 2026, at 02:00 p.m. before the Honorable Victoria Johnson. Further, you are advised that you have the right to appear at said hearing. You should contact the attorney for Petitioner, Christopher A. Flowers, Smith & Flowers Law, P.C. P.O. Box 70879, Albany, Georgia 31708/ 504 N. Jefferson Street, Albany, Georgia 31701, telephone 229-434-1070 for further information. All notices to or correspondence with the Petitioner and copies of all pleadings or proceedings you may file in any court in regard to the above-referenced Child should be served upon him. Dated this 10th day of July, 2026.
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2026

Construction/Service Bids

A-682
INVITATION TO BID
Pole Inspection Corrective Action For Partial Circuits Out of Substation #3 and #7
BID REF. #27-007
Sealed bids will be received by City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM on August 14, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference and site visit will be 10:00 AM on July 22, at the Procurement office. A 5% Bid Bond is required for bid submittal. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Joshua Williams, Procurement Manager, at jswilliams@albanyga.gov.
By: Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
July 18, 2026

A-676
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DARTS – US 82 & US 19 Corridor Commuted Shed Study
PROPOSAL REF. #27-005
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 5:00 PM, on August 17, 2026. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held in the Procurement division office and through Zoom, on July 20, at 10:00 AM. Zoom credentials are contained in the proposal documents. Proposal documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Destin Adams, Buyer I, at dadams@albanyga.gov.
By: Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
July 18, 2026

A-640
The Dougherty County School System Logistical Services Department, located at 601 Flint Ave., Albany, GA 31701, will receive sealed Bids/Proposals for **009-SNS-2027 for Hood Cleaning Services for School Nutrition on July 28, 2026 at 11:00 AM.** Bid documents may be obtained from our website at www.docoschools.org. Minority business enterprises are encouraged to submit bids. By: Sharonda Thompson, Director of Logistical Services
July 18, 2026

A-680
INVITATION TO BID
Speed Table Construction
BID REF. #27-006
Sealed bids will be received by City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM on August 17, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be at 10:00 AM on July 22, in the Procurement Division office. A 5% Bid Bond is required for bid submittal. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Destiny Solomon, Buyer I, at dsolomon@albanyga.gov.
By: Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
July 18, 2026

A-674
INVITATION TO BID
Ritz Theatre Renovation
BID REF. #27-003
Sealed bids will be received by City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM on August 11, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on July 16, at 10:00 AM through Zoom. Zoom credentials are contained in the bid documents. A 5% bid bond is required. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Ricky Gladney, Buyer I, at rlgladney@albanyga.gov.
By: Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer
July 18, 2026

Debtors & Creditors

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-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-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

Debtors & Creditors

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 Charles R. Little of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This 3rd day of June 2026.
James F. Little, Executor of the Estate of Charles R. Little
c/o John M. Moorhead, Esquire 314 W. Residence Avenue
Albany, Georgia 31701
June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2026

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

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 said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator. 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-663
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
All creditors of the Estate of Remell W. Jackson 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 9th day of July, 2026.

Debtors & Creditors

Rhondie Girard Jackson
Administrator of the Estate of Remell W. Jackson 400 Badin Ct
Macon, GA 31220
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 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-664
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF RALPH EDWARD TOHOLSKY, DECEASED
All creditors of the estate of Ralph Edward Toholsky, 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 Ralph Edward Toholsky. This 9th day of July, 2026.
Judy Ann Toholsky, Executor of the Ralph Edward Toholsky, Estate
1802 Devon Drive
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
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 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-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
Executor 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

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 the 26th day of June, 2026.
Judge Joseph W. Dent
Dougherty County Superior Court
State of Georgia
July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

Miscellaneous

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

Miscellaneous

CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1015 CRAWFORD DR., ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA:
CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-35
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 located at the Law Enforcement Center, 201 W. Oglethorpe Blvd., Albany, Georgia, why the relief requested in said Petition should not be granted and the Code violations remedied and the nuisance abated at your expense. Let this notice be published and posted as required by law.
Witness the Honorable Ingrid Driskell, Chief Judge, Municipal Court.
Michael M. Custer
Ga. Bar No. 525350
Attorney for Petitioner
222 Pine Ave., Suite 560
Albany, Georgia 31701
(229) 431-2805 (office)
mcuster@albanyga.gov
July 11, 18, 2026

A-652
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
TAKE NOTICE THAT:
The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:
1415 E. Residence Ave. More particularly described as the following : all that tract or parcel land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being ALL of LOT 8, 9 BLK N. Jackson Heights, Section "A" Subdivision, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 252, Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after 5th day of August, 2026.
The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5th of August 2025 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Deed Book 5339 at page 312-312. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 1st of September 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:
Terry Medlock
734 Cedar Ave.,
Albany, GA 31701
Please be governed accordingly,
Terry Medlock
July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2026

A-618
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA BY ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THAT ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY KNOWN AS "THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE ACT OF 1965"
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. 580
Albany, GA 31701
229.431.2805 (office)
229.431.3206 (facsimile)
July 4, 11, 18, 2026

Name Changes

A-623
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
STATE OF GEORGIA
DOUGHERTY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, GERELINE COE BUTLER, by and through her attorney of record, MARK T. PHILLIPS, filed her Petition to the Superior Court of DOUGHERTY County, Georgia, on the 23rd day of June 2026, praying for a change of name from GERELINE COE BUTLER to the name GERALDINE COE. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objection to such name change. Objection must be filed with said Court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said petition.
This the 23rd day of June 2026.
MARK T. PHILLIPS
Post Office Box 70728

Name Changes

Albany, Georgia 317082-0728
(229) 439-9100
Mark@pnpclaw.com
July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

A-672
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Dougherty COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In re the name change of: Matthew Dakota Callahan
Civil Action File No. 26-SUCV-647-2
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
filed a petition in the Superior Court I, Matthew Dakota Callahan, filed a petition in the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 28th day of May, 2026, to change my name from Matthew Dakota Callahan to Matthew Dakota Young. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.
Signed this 28th day of May, 2026.
Matthew Callahan, Petitioner
3713 Radial Avenue
Albany Ga 31705
229-894-6422
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2026

Forfeiture/Seizure

A-684
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY
There will be sold at Public Outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, before the courthouse door in Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, between the legal hours of sale, on the second Tuesday in August, 2026, the following tracts, separately and individually, in order to collect on the judgment listed below:
Parcel 00157/00007/0027
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and being all of Lot 27 College Park Subdivision section six as shown of plat of survey recorded in plow cabinet 1, slide C-9 in land records of Dougherty County, Georgia in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Dougherty County, Georgia. Said plat being made a part of this described by reference. Also known as **2514 Toni Lynn Lane, Albany, GA 31705.**
Said one-half interest in said land is found in the possession of Shirley Franklin Smith, Jr. (II) and was levied on as the property of Shirley Franklin Smith, Jr. (II) to satisfy a fi fa. against him in favor of the Estate of Shirley Franklin Smith, Sr. from the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, Civil Action No. SUCV2024000451, in the amount of \$1,017,579.20, recorded in Lien Book 600, page 459, Dougherty County Public Records. Said sale is subject to ad valorem taxes for the year 2025 and all previous years if unpaid. Any and all bids are subject to refusal.
./s/ Captain Jason Carter
Sheriff, Dougherty County, Georgia
Spurlin & Spurlin, LLC
1510 Whiddon Mill Road
Post Office Box 7566
Tifton, GA 31793
(229) 391-9106
johnspurlin@spurlinlaw.com
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2026

Probate Court Administration

A-610
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY
PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: RAY ANTHONY REESE
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-183
Ray Anthony Northern has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **RAY ANTHONY REESE**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **July 27, 2026.**
All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Leisa G. Blount
Judge, Probate Court
Dougherty County, GA
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
July 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026

A-667
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY
PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: OSCAR C. FULLER, JR.
ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-240
Yahya Abbree has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **OSCAR C. FULLER, JR.**, 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 10, 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

Probate Court Administration

Judge, Probate Court
Dougherty County, GA
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 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

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

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 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-659
GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT
IN RE: ESTATE OF: CONSTANCE COLEMAN
ESTATE FILE NO: 2025-ES-436
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The Petition of **Johnnie Coleman** for a year's support from the estate of **CONSTANCE COLEMAN**, Deceased, for Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before **August 10, 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

Probate Court 12 mth Support

Judge, Probate Court
Dougherty County, GA
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702
(229) 431-2102
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 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

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

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

Probate Court Discharge

A-661
NOTICE
PROBATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
ESTATE NO: 2024-ES-396
PETITION OF WANDA HARRIS FOR DISCHARGE AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ESTATE OF: MINNIE LEE KING
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Probate Court Discharge

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this Court on or before July 28, 2026.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

LEISA G. BLOUNT, PROBATE JUDGE
Dougherty County Probate Court
Post Office Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702-1827
(229) 431-2102
July 18, 2026

Public Hearings

A-668
Public Notice
The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, located at 181 East Broad Street in Camilla, GA, is issuing a Request for Qualifications to assess potentially environmentally hazardous sites and assist with the management and execution of an EPA Brownfields Grant and future related projects within a fourteen-county area of the Southwest Georgia region. If you are interested in receiving the Request for Qualifications document, please contact: Barbara Reddick, Deputy Director PO Box 346, Camilla, GA 31730
breddick@swgrc.org
Or you may access the document electronically at https://www.swgrc.org/public-notices under "Request for Qualifications". Proposals will be due no later than Monday August 10, by 4 PM EST.
July 18, 2026

A-675
The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council will hold its regularly scheduled Council meetings at The Camilla Depot, located at 212 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia on the following dates, beginning at 7:00 PM:
July 30, 2026
August 27, 2026
September 24, 2026
December 17, 2026

On October 29, 2026, an Executive Committee (only) will be held at the same location, beginning at 5:00 PM. Please check our website at https://www.swgrc.org/council for any updates or changes to the regularly scheduled meetings, and for information on any called Committee meeting announcements.
July 18, 2026

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

Public Sales/ Auctions

A-681
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 Statutes. All items will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Sales will be conducted online at storageauctions.com August 6, 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 A3 Ariel Harvey-HH Goods.
Unit A5 Michael Hopkins-Furniture, HH Goods.
Unit C69 Aaron May-Furniture, HH Goods, Appliances.
Unit D59 Thomas Fogarty-HH Goods, Appliances.
Unit E49 Erika Warren-Appliances, HH Goods.
July 18, 25, 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

Public Sales/ Auctions

a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition.

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

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

VIN: JTDUBU4EE1BJ094928
Year: 2011
Make: TOYT
Model: Corolla

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

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

VIN: 1HGCG1654WA048557
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 #: 1N4AL3AP6FN899523
Year: 2015
Model: ALTIMA
Vehicle License #: State GA
Vehicle Make: KIA
Year: 2023
Model: RIO
Vehicle ID #: 3KPA24AD0PE612949.
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 #: 4T1BK36808U315491
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

A-671
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (TOWING OR STORAGE COMPANY)
You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19(a)(2), that the vehicles below 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 vehicles to satisfy the debt. The vehicles are currently located at 100 Baldwin Dr., Albany, GA 31707. Anyone with an ownership interest in these vehicles should contact the following business immediately.
Business Name: McGhee Tow & Recovery LLC
Address: 100 Baldwin Dr., Albany, GA 31707
Telephone #: 229-894-9158
Vehicle Make: Honda
Year: 2008
Model: Pilot
Vehicle ID#: 5FNYP28718B001492
Vehicle License#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Dodge
Year: 1999
Model: Ram 1500
Vehicle ID#: 3B7HC12Y8XG194897
Vehicle License#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Hyundai
Year: 2013
Model: Sonata
Vehicle ID#: 5NPEB4AC8DH057219
Vehicle License#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Nissan
Year: 2015
Model: Altima
Vehicle ID#: 1N4AL3AP3FC172643
Vehicle License#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Mercedes-Benz
Year: 2010
Model: C-Class
Vehicle WDDGF5EB3AR18003
Vehicle License#: ID#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Mercedes-Benz
Year: 2007
Model: S-Class
Vehicle ID#: WDDNG71X27A033341
Vehicle License#: State: GA
Vehicle Make: Kia
Year: 2006
Model: Optima
Vehicle ID#: KNAGD126565449127
Vehicle License#: RPT6758
State: GA
Vehicle Make: Honda
Year: 2013
Model: Accord
Vehicle ID#: 1HGCR2F51DA019563
Vehicle License#: State: State: July 18, 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-683
PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION
8-3-2026 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Strums Elite Towing & Recovery 2800 Phillips Dr ALBANY, GA 31721 229-319-5924

IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.C.G.A. SECTION 40-11-02, FIFTY-FOUR (54) ABANDONED, WRECKED AND STOLEN VEHICLES ARE TO BE AUCTIONED TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. TERMS OF PAYMENT: CASH, CASHIERS CHECK OR PERSONAL CHECK WITH LETTER OF CREDIT FROM YOUR BANK. 7% CAR PREMIUM CHARGE ON EACH PURCHASE. ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE: You are hereby, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (A) 2, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at: Strums Elite Towing & Recovery, 2800 Phillips Drive Albany GA 31721. Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the business above.

VIN: 1C4HJXEN1JW304448
Year: 2018
Make: JEEP
Model: Wrangler

VIN: 5XYKTDA28BG065957
Year: 2011
Make: KIA
Model: Sorento

VIN: 1G1BL52WXTR156554
Year: 1996
Make: Chev
Model: Caprice

VIN: WBADT43422GY42389
Year: 2002
Make: BMW
Model: 5 Series

VIN: 1N4AL3AP2GN340584
Year: 2016
Make: Nissan
Model: Altima

VIN: 2G1WC583889266583
Year: 2008
Make: Chev
Model: Impala

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

VIN: 4JGDM2DBXPA005316
Year: 2023
Make: Mercedes Benz
Model: EQS

VIN: 1GNEC13ZX2J148772
Year: 2002
Make: Chev
Model: Tahoe

VIN: 1GNEC13Z25R249973
Year: 2005
Make: Chev
Model: Tahoe
July 18, 25, 2026

A-669
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT
You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is: PAINT PRO TOWING, LLC
Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before: Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's Office or online at: www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.
1.) 2022 Nissan Sentra
Vin # 3N1AB8CV7NY271707
Case # 2026-161AV
July 18, 25, 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 Statutes. 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

Service by Publication

A-613
IN THE STATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
DONTRAVIOUS ANTWAN BURR, Plaintiff,
V.
RODDRIZEKUS P STARLING and

Service by Publication

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

A-685
TO: KENDALL HARRIS AND ANY UNKNOWN BIRTHFATHER

You have been identified as the biological father of Baby Boy Thiebaut born to Autumn Rose Thiebaut April 13, 2026, in Dougherty County, Georgia. The natural and legal mother of the child has surrendered her parental rights and custody to the child to Covenant Care Services, Inc. for adoption. If you have any interest in the child, please contact Covenant Care Service, Inc., 3950 Ridge Avenue, Macon, Georgia 31210, (478) 475-4990 or toll free 1-800-226-5683. If you do not file a response to this Petition with the Court within **thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice and provide a copy to me** as the attorney for Covenant Care Service, Inc., you will lose all rights you may have in and to the child and you will neither receive notice nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child, pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
NOTICE OF HEARING
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that counsel of record for Covenant Care Services, Inc., will bring its Petition to Terminate on for hearing before the Superior Court of Bibb County, Bibb County Courthouse, 601 Mulberry Street, Macon, Georgia, at **12:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**. THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE OF SAID HEARING.
H.J. STRICKLAND, JR., Georgia Bar No. 004450
Attorney for Covenant Care Services, Inc.
435 Second Street, P.O. Box 6437
Macon, Georgia 31208-6437
(478) 745-2821
July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2026

Trade Names

A-666
NOTICE OF TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, **The Medicine Man LLC**, whose registered office is **314 W. Residence Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31701**, is engaging in business in **Dougherty County, Georgia** under the trade name **"The Medicine Man's Corner"** with a principal place of business at **2416 Dawson Road, Suite 4, Albany, Georgia 31707**. The nature of the business is to **sell vitamins, dietary supplements, and alternative medicinal products**. The registration statement relating thereto, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 10-1-490, has been filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of **Dougherty County, Georgia**. Dated this 9th day of July 2026.
Janice H. Rouse, Manager
The Medicine Man LLC
July 18, 25, 2026

A-665
NOTICE OF TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, **The Medicine Man LLC**, whose registered office is **314 W. Residence Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31701**, is engaging in business in **Dougherty County, Georgia** under the trade name **"The Medicine Man"** with a principal place of business at **2416 Dawson Road, Suite 4, Albany, Georgia 31707**. The nature of the business is to **sell vitamins, dietary supplements, and alternative medicinal products**. The registration statement relating thereto, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 10-1-490, has been filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of **Dougherty County, Georgia**. Dated this 9th day of July 2026.
Janice H. Rouse, Manager
The Medicine Man LLC
July 18, 25, 2026

Foreclosures

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, SLIDE A-25), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY.

Foreclosures

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:
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 Wittz 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
25GA04-0049

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-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 last 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 RCF2 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 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

Foreclosures

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 RCF2 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-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-639
STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by ROBERT KRUSE to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC. in the original principal amount of \$92,297.00 dated March 26, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 4495, Page 77, Dougherty County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC in Deed Book 5012, Page 78, Dougherty County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for

Foreclosures

cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 8/4/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ADDRESS: **208 HIBISCUS ROAD ALBANY, GA 31705**

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 5 IN BLOCK "T" OF RADIUM SPRINGS, INC., SECTION ONE, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS THE SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 15 (PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE A-39), IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTION OF RECORD. PARCEL ID: 00008/00005/017

Said property being known as: 208 N HIBISCUS RD, ALBANY, GA 31705
To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are ROBERT KRUSE 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:

Rocket Mortgage LLC
8950 Cypress Waters Blvd.
Coppell, TX 75019
1-888-480-2432

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.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, as Attorney-in-Fact for ROBERT KRUSE

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470-321-7112
Firm File No. 26-242173

July 4, 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; thence North seventy five (75) 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, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Foreclosures

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@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@oplawllc.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-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 1013, 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

Foreclosures

which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Linda Whitlock aka Linda Whitlock, Malcolm Whitlock and/or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as Attorney-in-Fact for Malcolm Whitlock and Linda Whitlock Contact: PADGETT LAW GROUP, 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; telephone: (850) 422-2520 25-009677

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

A-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 Doughty, 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 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@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

Foreclosures

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@oplawllc.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-632
STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by JACKIE G BRIGGS to SUNTRUST MORTGAGE, INC. in the original principal amount of \$54,000.00 dated June 26, 2003, and recorded in Deed Book 2614 , Page 337, Dougherty County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to TOWD POINT MORTGAGE TRUST 2019-4, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE in Deed Book 5380 , Page 636, 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 DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS ALL OF LOT 34 OF GAILSHAR GARDENS SUBDIVISION "B", ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 186 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Said property being known as: **1906 GAIL AVE, ALBANY, GA 31707**

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are JACKIE G BRIGGS 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.

TV-What to watch

RELEASE DATE—Sunday, July 19, 2026

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

“WHIRLWIND TOUR” BY REBECCA GOLDSTEIN

ACROSS

1 Two-headed muscle, informally

6 Witchy words

11 Kinney who writes the “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” books

15 Singular pronoun

18 Earthy colour

19 Sugar substitute?

20 R&B’s India, ____

21 Dory mover

22 Sign on rural roads

24 University of Montana’s home

26 Key hit in panic

27 Was more consuming?

28 Stays with a series of friends

30 Six-time NBA MVP Abdul-Jabbar

32 Juice option

33 College Park athlete, for short

34 Instruments in string quartets

36 Many a beach scavenger

39 In the left lane, say

42 Vegetables that may be chopped while wearing goggles

44 Actress Jessica

45 Curved line

46 Bronco or Mustang

47 “I’ve seen worse”

50 Savory potato patties in Indian cuisine

53 Lavish celebration

54 Flatbreads served with saag paneer

55 Spun records

56 Sat around

57 Almost-grads

58 Drive or park

59 Semana seventh

60 Race

61 Find common ground

66 Put pen to paper, say

68 Contains

69 Thread-bearing?

70 “Breaking Bad” org.

73 Living space?

74 Hilarious human

76 Crunchy salad bits

78 Shade source

79 “How rude!”

81 Project that kindergartners need to use their noodles for

83 Started syllable

84 Kyoto currency

85 Dance that tells a story

86 Bean

87 Bursts of light

90 Sleepover dudes

93 Site of a Herculean task

94 Digital extension?

95 Makes illegal

96 Mexican bucks

98 With 107-Across, reunite a musical group, or a hint to this puzzle’s circled letters

101 “Foundation” trilogy novelist

103 Isaac

106 LAX gatekeepers

107 Blissful

107 See 98-Across

110 Compete

111 Water-resistant wood

112 Rights activist Hernandez

113 Fun aunt’s movie date, maybe

114 The Oilers, on sports crawls

115 Some 35mm cameras

116 Fastened, in a way

117 Small pastries

DOWN

1 Portend

2 Keeps cold

3 Task managers?

4 “I’d rather ____ on the side of caution”

5 Cheese with a Romano variety

6 Bagel variety

7 History

8 Canal in upstate New York

9 “Encanto” songwriter —Manuel

10 Miranda

10 Hamstring exercise

11 Obstruct

12 Celebrity chef

13 Adjepong

13 Tilapia-and-tortilla dish

14 Admits, with “up”

15 Deli spear

16 Soccer period

17 History chapters

19 Loves (on)

23 Regret

25 Plural pronoun

29 Not new

31 Peerless?

32 Splotchy

34 Bobs and weaves?

35 Head in

37 Jacobson of “Long Story Short”

38 Cut on the ____

39 Poke

40 Undressed

41 Crossword diagram

43 Drive way?

45 Pint glass

48 Linger in the tub

49 Other, in Spanish

50 Not entirely open

51 Not entirely sober

52 Nice concept?

55 Party bowlful

58 Chromosome units

59 Private convos

60 Nurses

61 Actor Liu

62 French cabbage

63 Cereal grain

64 Swimmer with a saddle patch

65 “Wuthering Heights” setting

66 Google phone

67 Product of Chicago?

70 Parental figure for a queen

71 Unsettling

72 Cigna

73 Competitor

73 Feud

74 Some seeded loaves

75 Particle in a stellar wind

76 Salve

77 Puree in a breakfast bowl

78 Striped big cat

80 Where one may set their sights

81 “ ____ the word!”

82 Insignificant occurrence

85 Fanny pack alternative

88 Fill up

89 Drummer’s cymbals

90 Stan and ____ Berenstein of kid-lit

91 Provided clarity, in a way

92 Alvin and Theodore’s brother

95 Safe spaces?

97 Eggy drink

98 Donate

99 Oklahoma city

100 Winter hibernator

101 Anti-censorship org.

102 ____Ball: arcade game

104 Breakaway group

105 Trojan War god

108 Need a sick day, say

109 Argentine aunt

7/19/26

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top 10 movies

1. Minions & Monsters

(PG) Pierre Coffin, Trey Parker

2. Toy Story 5

(PG) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen

3. Young Washington

(PG-13) William Franklyn-Miller, Mary-Louise Parker

4. Supergirl

(PG-13) Milly Alcock, David Corenswet

5. Disclosure Day

(PG-13) Emily Blunt, Josh O’Connor

6. Obsession

(R) Michael Johnston, Inde Navarrette

7. Backrooms

(R) Chiwetel Ejiofor, Renate Reinsve

8. Jackass: Best and Last

(R) Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O

9. Scary Movie

(R) Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans

10. The Invite

(R) Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde

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9/26/7

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

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

What to watch

SATURDAY

July 18, 2026

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

Jaws

AMC, 7 p.m.

AMC continues to celebrate the film's 50th anniversary with the 1975 original and the 1978 *Jaws 2* follow-up airing back-to-back tonight. If movies nowadays are measured by opening weekend box office grosses and numbers of theaters, it's because this film truly set the pace. When it grossed \$21 million playing on over 400 screens in its first 10 days, *Jaws* in 1975 showed what was possible. It has since grossed close to half a billion dollars worldwide in 50 years. The famed soundtrack jump-started John Williams' career, which hit a crescendo two years later with *Star Wars*. *Jaws* won three Oscars — for film editing, sound and Williams' score — and was also nominated for Best Picture. Steven Spielberg was infamously not nominated for Best Director.

Snowbound for the Holidays

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Cassidy Evergreen (Vanessa Lengies) is an ambitious guest services manager who is determined to prove she's ready for the next step in her career. Her mother — and boss — Joanne (Kathryn Greenwood, *Ghosts*) sends her to Ridgeford Green to evaluate the future of the charming but struggling Linden Lodge. Upon arriving, she meets Trey Sanderson (Marcus Rosner), the lodge's devoted co-owner who is doing everything he can to preserve it alongside his spirited daughter, Lilly (Skywalker Hughes, *Joe Pickett*). As Cassidy becomes part of the local Christmas festival, she begins to discover the magic that makes Linden Lodge so special. Along

'Crowning at the Prom'

LIFETIME

the way, Cassidy finds herself drawn to Trey, Lilly and the close-knit community.

Crowning at the Prom

Lifetime, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Twenty-one years after starring as the titular teen in Lifetime's *Mom at Sixteen*, Danielle Panabaker is back on the network raising a child facing the same situation. “I’m a mom now, so I think I have more life experience and more perspective to bring,”

laughs *The Flash* alum, who plays Abigail Walker, a single mother determined to help her daughter Kat (Anwen O’Driscoll) land a rowing scholarship to Yale. Kat’s intense workouts, however, have masked the fact that she is six months pregnant. With prom days away and her college career at stake, she is forced to take some drastic actions to hide the truth, some of which may hit close to home for young viewers dealing with body image issues.

CATCH A CLASSIC

The Secret of Dr. Kildare

TCM, 10 a.m.

The popular Dr. Kildare series continues this morning with *The Secret of Dr. Kildare* (1939), one of MGM’s early entries in its long-running medical drama franchise starring Lew Ayres as young physician Dr. James Kildare and Lionel Barrymore as his gruff but brilliant mentor, Dr. Leonard Gillespie. This installment balances the familiar hospital setting with a more personal mystery, as Kildare treats a young woman whose unexplained blindness may have psychological roots. The film also gives Barrymore’s Dr. Gillespie a heavier

MGM

dramatic storyline, with the character facing his own serious illness while continuing to guide Kildare through the emotional demands of medicine.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE

‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2’

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Catch Me if You Can

(2002, Comedy-drama) Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks **E!, 6 p.m.**

The Wedding Singer

(1998, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore **Comedy Central, 6:30 p.m.**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

(2011, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **Paramount, 7 p.m.**

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle

(2017, Adventure) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart **Bravo, 7 p.m.**

The Princess Bride

(1987, Children) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright **IFC, 7:30 p.m.**

Cold Storage

(2026, Horror) Joe Keery, Georgina Campbell **MGM, 8 p.m.**

Marc by Sofia

(2025, Documentary) Marc Jacobs, Sofia Coppola **HBO, 8 p.m.**

Steel Magnolias

(1989, Comedy-drama) Sally Field, Dolly Parton **CMT, 9 p.m.**

The Dutchman

(2025, Suspense) André Holland, Kate Mara **SHO, 9 p.m.**

Spaceballs

(1987, Comedy) Mel Brooks, John Candy **IFC, 9:45 p.m.**

Norbit

(2007, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Thandie Newton **BET, 10 p.m.**

Trouble Man

(2025, Action) Michael Jai White, Cliff “Method Man” Smith **Starz, 11:45 p.m.**

From the editors of

TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

weekly tv

StayTuned

What2Watch All Month Long!

“BLUE” HEADS TO BOSTON

Donnie Wahlberg

OVER 500

StayTuned

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What to watch SUNDAY

July 19, 2026
All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Golf: The Open Championship: Final Round

NBC, USA Network & Peacock, beginning at 4 a.m. Live

The winner of the 154th Open Championship is presented with the Claret Jug trophy following today's final round at England's Royal Birkdale Golf Club.

FIFA World Cup: Final

FOX, 3 p.m. Live

After 103 matches, heartbreaking defeats and glorious victories, the world's biggest soccer tournament comes down to today's championship in New York/New Jersey.

Collector's Call

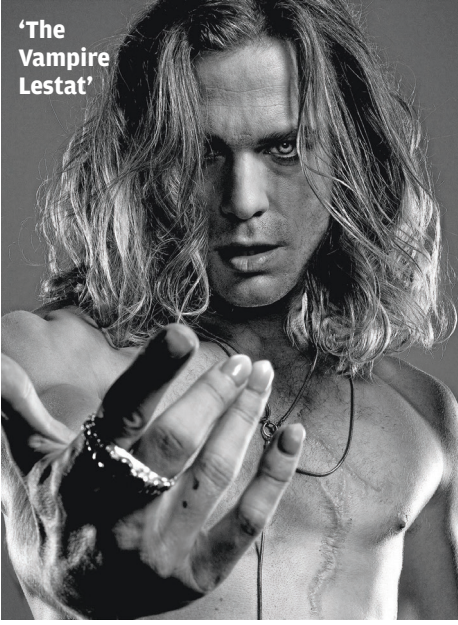
MeTV, 6:30 p.m.

Elvis Presley may be the King of Rock 'n' Roll, but Adam Holbrook from Malta, Illinois, just might be the king of collecting all things Elvis. After a lifetime of gathering treasures and more than 50 trips to Graceland, Adam and his partner, Mari Guerrero, share their finds on their popular YouTube channel with host Lisa Whelchel and general appraiser Kate Martin. Together, they shake, rattle and roll through Elvis history, from the King's own guitar pick to a quirky array of Presley-branded grooming items, and even the floor vent salvaged from Colonel Tom Parker's home. Kate appraises their collection before proposing a trade — unveiling a pristine vintage Presley travel case in hopes it's enough to convince them to let a beloved Elvis item leave the building.

NASCAR Cup Series: Window World 450

TNT & truTV, 7 p.m. Live

The penultimate race in the In-Season Challenge tournament has Tyler Reddick, Denny Hamlin, Ryan Blaney, Chase Elliott, Ty Gibbs, Kyle Larson and more of the Cup Series' best racing at North Carolina's North Wilkesboro Speedway.



FRANK W. OCKENFELS III, AMC

Holmes on Homes: Building a Legacy

HGTV, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Terrified their family's legacy could burn to the ground, a woman and her aging parents are desperate to address their hazardous bungalow. Now, Mike Holmes and his kids Michael Holmes Jr. and Sherry Holmes arrive to confront dangerous electrical issues and overhaul their underutilized basement.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Little Miss Markers

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM pairs two versions of **Little Miss Marker** tonight, offering a look at how Damon Runyon's sentimental gambling-world story changed across generations. First is the 1980 remake, starring Walter Matthau as Sorrowful Jones, a gruff bookie whose life is upended when a gambler leaves his young daughter as collateral for a bet. Julie Andrews, Tony Curtis, Bob Newhart, Lee Grant and Sara Stimson costar in the comedy-drama, which gives the Runyon material a later, star-packed studio treatment. After that comes the original **Little Miss Marker (1934, pictured)**, the film that helped solidify Shirley Temple as one of Hollywood's most beloved child stars. Temple plays the little girl who softens a group of horse-rac-

Patience

PBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode, a woman is found dead in the botanical gardens. Was she murdered or did she die of natural causes? Patience (Ella Maisy Purvis) suspects foul play, but Frankie (Jessica Hynes) needs to be convinced.

The Vampire Lestat

AMC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Does this mark the end of the tour for the now-famous vampire rock legend Lestat? Tonight's supersized episode will give us the answer and will be followed immediately by a special presentation of *The Vampire Lestat: After Dark*.

100 Cooks

Food Network, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Host Terry Crews welcomes eight cooks to the finale, and they work to impress judges Alex Guarnaschelli and Nick DiGiovanni over three challenges: breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the end, only one cook will take home a life-changing amount of money!

Grantchester

PBS, 9 p.m.

In this new episode, Cathy's (Kacey Ainsworth) triumph at CeCe's turns dark when a club manager is found dead and Al-phy (Rishi Nair) is discovered in the depths of an illegal poker game.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

ing gamblers, with Adolphe Menjou and Charles Bickford among the adults drawn into her orbit. Seen together, the films show why the story has remained adaptable and beloved.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (2022, Children) Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek Pinault **EL, 6 p.m.**

Apollo 13 (1995, Historical drama) Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton **Sundance, 7 p.m.**

Frozen (2013, Children) Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel **Disney, 7 p.m.**

The Replacements (2000, Comedy) Keanu Reeves, Gene Hackman **CW, 7:30 p.m.**

Maid in Manhattan (2002, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Speed (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper **ABC, 8:30 p.m.**

Bad Boys II (2003, Action) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith **VICE, 9 p.m.**

Predator (1987, Science fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers **BBC America, 9:45 p.m.**

Vegas Vacation (1997, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo **CMT, 9:45 p.m.**

Crowning at the Prom (2026, Drama) Danielle Panabaker, Anwen O'Driscoll **Lifetime, 10 p.m.**

Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Matt Damon, Tommy Lee Jones **FX, 10 p.m.**

Kicking & Screaming (1995, Comedy-drama) Josh Hamilton, Olivia d'Abo **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Ted (2012, Comedy) Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis **Starz, 11:05 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

What to watch MONDAY

July 20, 2026
All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Dancing With the Stars: The Next Pro

ABC, 8 p.m.

The competition continues in tonight's new episode — "Stories Without Words: Storytelling With Brandon Armstrong" — as the remaining 10 dancers are mentored by Brandon Armstrong in bringing a personal story to life through dance. They pair up to showcase connection, vulnerability and partnership, but as pressure mounts, those who fail to connect risk elimination.

All American

The CW, 8 p.m.

Jordan (Michael Evans Behling) seeks help from Layla (Greta Onieogou) as he wrestles with a life-changing job offer in the new episode.

The 1% Club

FOX, 8 p.m.

A choir serenades host Joel McHale with a custom anthem in the new episode "I'm Just Dumb," in which a world-record Guitar Hero champion and a professional entertainer with remarkable balancing skills are among 100 contestants competing for the chance to win up to \$100,000.



PETE DADDS, FOX

World War II With Tom Hanks

History, 8 p.m.

Two new episodes of the documentary series air tonight. In "No Surrender," Allied victory in Europe seems inevitable, but the fighting in the Pacific theater intensifies as the U.S. and Japan suffer terrible losses in the Philippines and on Iwo Jima. In "Last Days of the Reich," Allied armies are pushing toward Berlin on both fronts, but Adolf Hitler attempts a major offensive to turn the tide of the war at the Battle of the Bulge.

The Quiz With Balls

FOX, 9 p.m.

In tonight's new episode, a team of hunters goes up against a team of vegetarians in answering trivia questions and trying to stay dry as they go for the \$100,000 grand prize.

POV

PBS, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The new season of the documentary series begins with "The Dating Game." In China,

eligible men outnumber women by over 30 million. This leads three bachelors to embark on a seven-day dating camp led by one of the country's most sought-after relationship coaches. As the bachelors stumble through the camp's awkward challenges, they try to make sense of their authentic and constructed selves in order to find the self-confidence they need to land that date.

Lethally Blonde

Investigation Discovery, 10 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The Season 2 finale "To Live and Die in Hotlanta" explores the 2016 case of 19-year-old escort and rap video dancer Bridget Shiel, who was found naked and riddled with bullets in an Atlanta park. Years later, DNA evidence linked the brutal murder to a ruthless killer.

WNBA Basketball: Minnesota at Seattle

USA Network, 10 p.m. Live

Olivia Miles leads the Minnesota Lynx against Natisha Hiedeman and the Storm in Seattle.



SUNSET BOULEVARD

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Singers as Stars

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM's "Singers as Stars" Star of the Month celebration continues tonight with a lineup that moves from workplace comedy to fantasy, action and offbeat character pieces. The evening begins with 1980's **9 to 5 (pictured)**, the smash comedy starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton, whose title song became one of Parton's signature hits. The night's

TCM premiere is **Ruthless People** (1986), the dark comedy starring Bette Midler and Danny DeVito as a wildly mismatched married couple whose mutual hatred collides with a botched kidnapping plot. Midler's performance as the loud and unexpectedly resilient Barbara Stone gives the movie much of its comedy, especially as the kidnappers discover that her husband is in no hurry to pay her ransom. The rest of the lineup includes **The Wiz** (1978), with Diana Ross and Michael Jackson; **Truck Turner** (1974), starring Isaac Hayes; **One-Trick Pony** (1980), starring Paul Simon; **Ensign Pulver** (1964), with Tommy Sands; and **Ten Little Indians** (1965), featuring Fabian.

MOVIE NIGHT STARTS WITH

StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long!

\$3.99/Month CALL: 888-899-9992 Mention code: tune1

MOVIES TV GRIDS BEST BETS

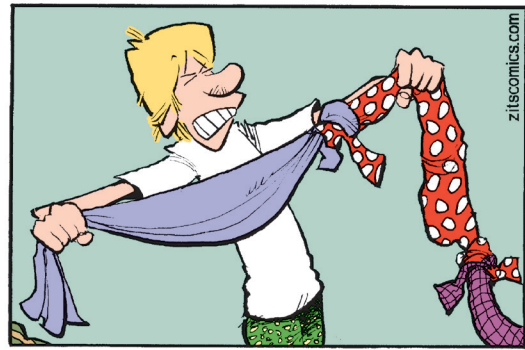
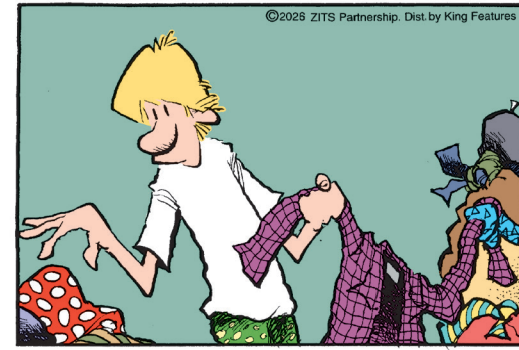
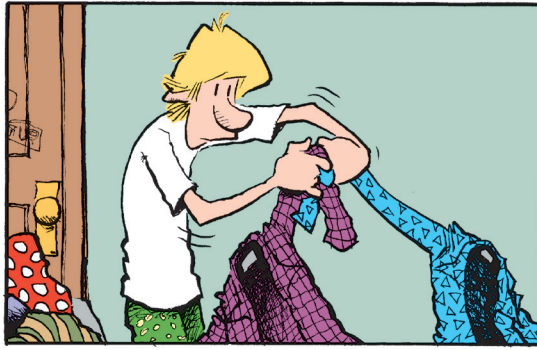
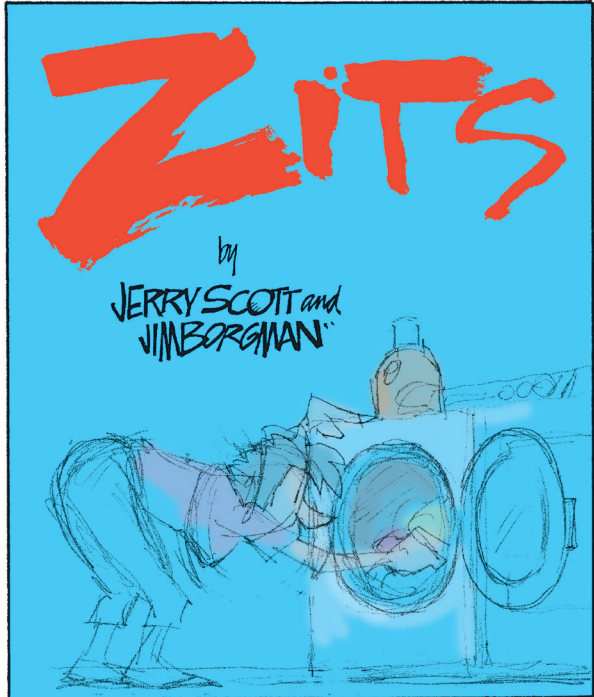
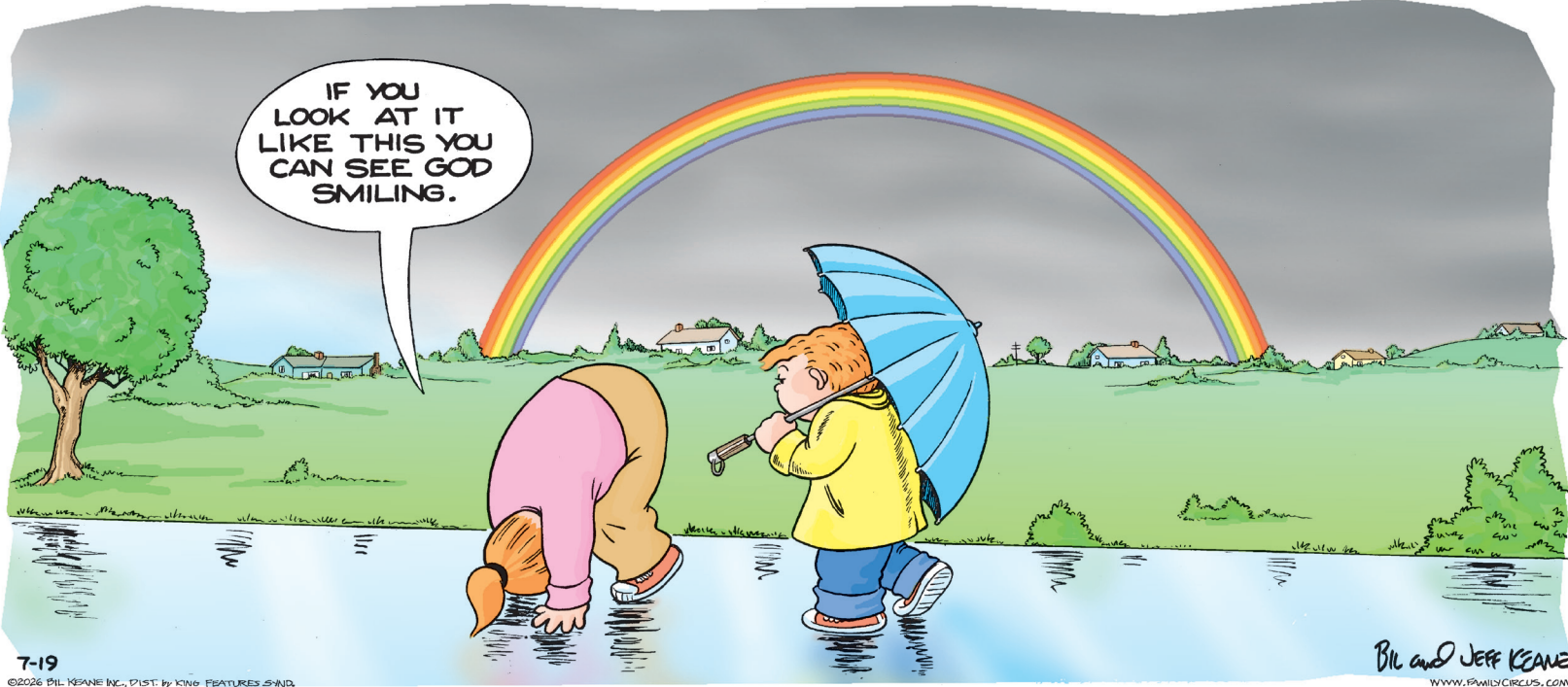
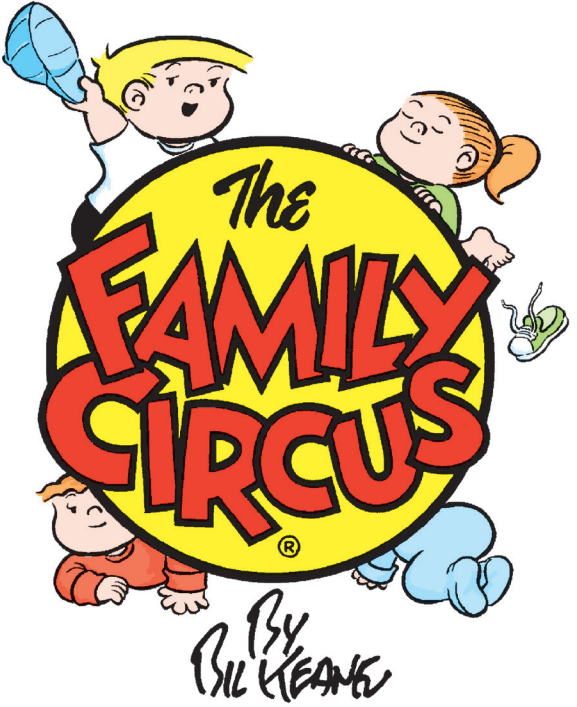
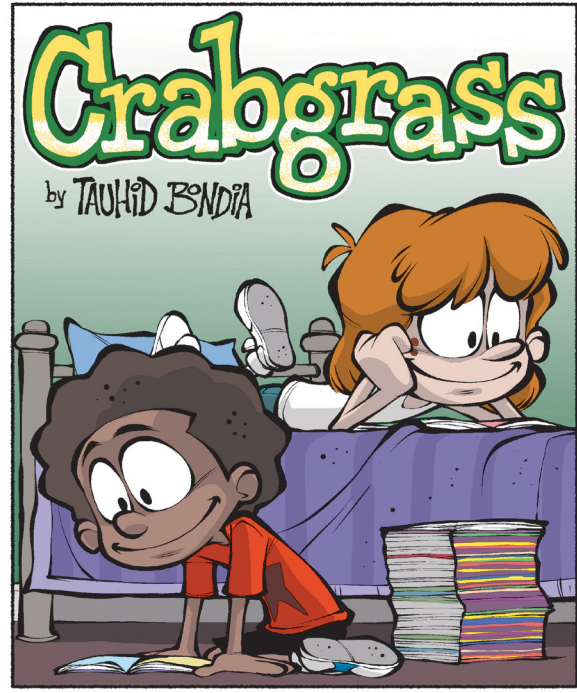
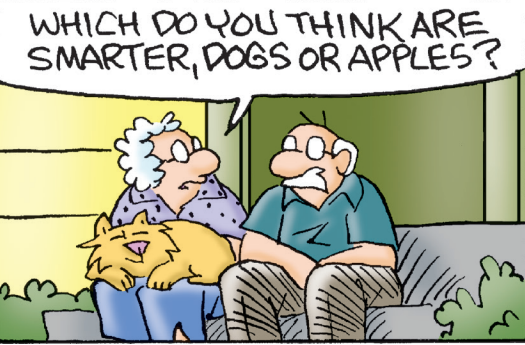
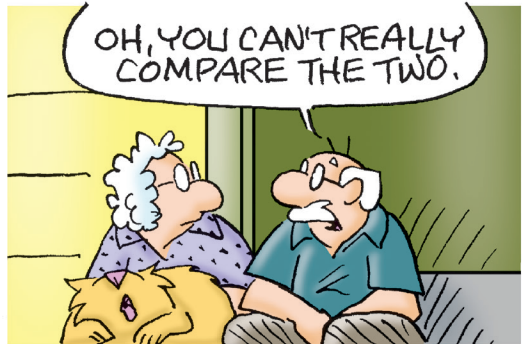
From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TV - What to watch

The Albany
HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

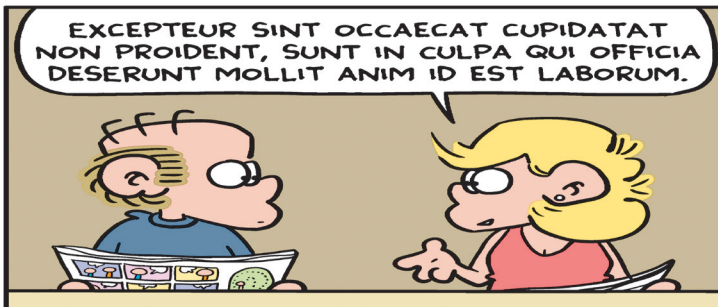
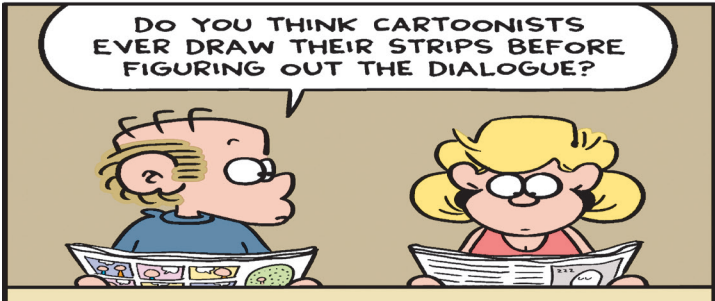
Weekend Comics

JULY 18-19, 2026



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



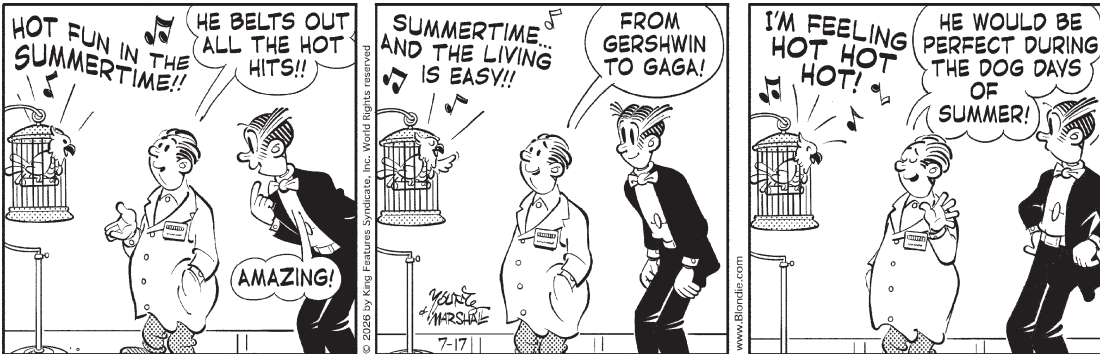
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



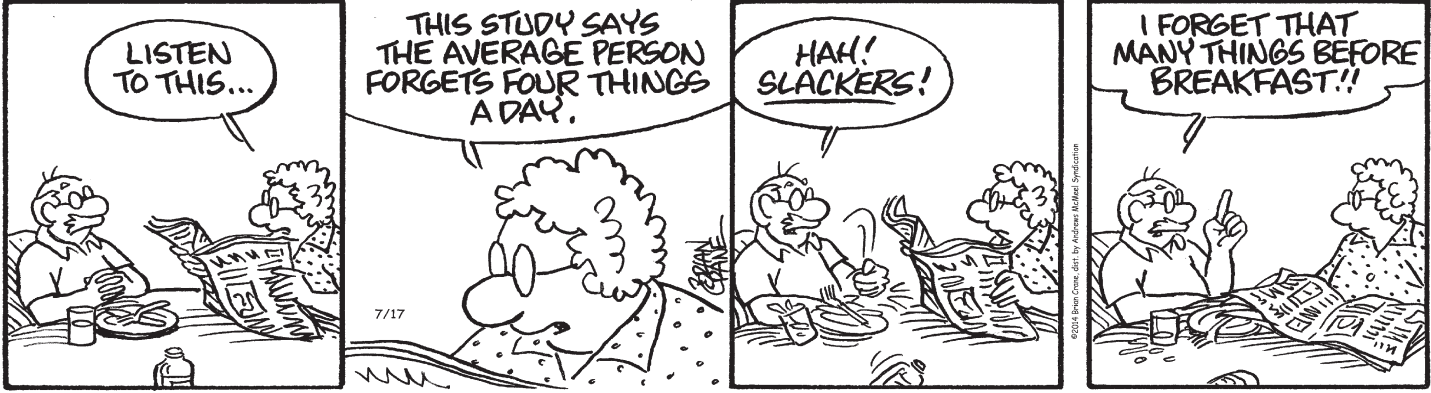
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FREE EE E

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: Free and easy

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Agreeing (with)
7 Unleash (on)
10 Chemically quiet
15 Rocker Dee
16 "Industry" network
17 Levi's Stadium player
18 Vague advice for space travelers worried about black holes?
20 Prickly plants
21 Green prefix
22 Folk icon Joan
23 Washed-out
24 Espresso froth
26 Air travel that's the fifth-best option?
28 Element of many English breakfast blends
30 Sci-fi beings
31 Vehicle with sliding doors
32 Waver
33 Group of badgers
35 Part of R&R
36 "My job is ranking people on a scale of 'miffed' to 'downright furious'"?
39 Catchall gp.
42 Bad-mouth
43 "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" singer
47 Sun Devils sch.
48 Snag
49 Treble-makers?
51 Juliet's response when her love asks what city is as eternal as their bond?
54 Colorful South Asian dresses
55 Running groups?
56 Aphrodite's son
58 Thai neighbor
59 Places for soaks
60 Helpful draw when trying to play a Q word in Scrabble?
63 Pair of hearts?
64 Enthusiast
65 Tinkled
66 Show emotion
67 Estadio cheer
68 Most easygoing

DOWN

1 Org. with a "Get Ready for Baby" page
2 Multiplication, to division
3 Bishop's domain
4 Hard to translate, in a way
5 Nancy Drew's boyfriend
6 Snag
7 Slip-ons lack
8 Third-largest of the Balearic Islands
9 Fish oil source
10 Like LOL, but not haha
11 Horan of One Direction
12 Lesotho, for one
13 Organ parts with rods and cones
14 Aquaman's staff
19 ___ pen
23 Honey or sugar
24 Feline
25 Pt. of USA
27 Far from far
29 Goods people
34 Scope rival
35 Wedding attire, for some

37 "Mambo Birdland" Grammy winner Puente
38 Low digits?
39 Milky Way kin
40 Silo
41 Indonesian island crossed by the equator
44 Bring up again
45 Colorful songbirds

46 Sourdough starter?
48 Charges
50 Product removed by shear force?
52 Value system
53 Heavy ___
57 Shut tight
60 Sci-fi craft
61 Thurman of "Gattaca"
62 Philly summer hrs.

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

L	S	E	X	V	T		E	T	O		L	O	V	E	R
C	E	S	N	W	V		N	V	E		V	I	R	L	V
E	T	I	L	N	E	T	I	L	N		S	H	L	V	B
	O	V	T		S	O	E	W		S	E	L	V	T	S
S	I	R	V	S		O	E	W		O	E	W	O	B	
S	H	E	L	E	O	M		L	E	O		N	S	V	
E	O	R	N	O	W		S	S	I	D		C	S	I	W
	E	L	V	H	I	E	L	V	H	I					
L	S	E	X	V	T		C		E	L	E	E	E	L	
N	V	A	S	L	E		V	E	L	W	V	S	L		
E	N	V	T		E	N	V	T		V	W	E	R	C	
C	I	T	T	V		Z	E	V	B		O	C	E		
I	L	O	V	O		D	I	O	A	V	D	I	O	A	V
H	E	N	I	N		O	B	H		E	D	I	N	S	
L	H	E	N	I		C	I	S		N	I	D	I	S	

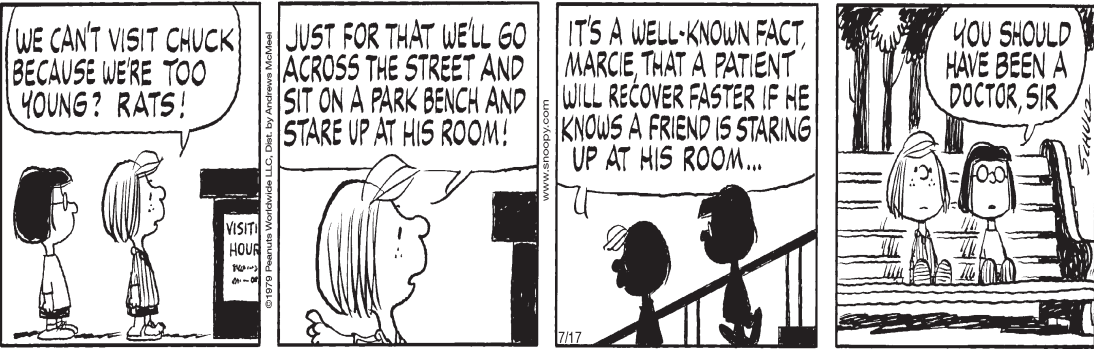
07/17/26

By Alex Russell Hayes & Brian Callahan
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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.

INBAR LAVI (ACTRESS)

Solution: 12 letters

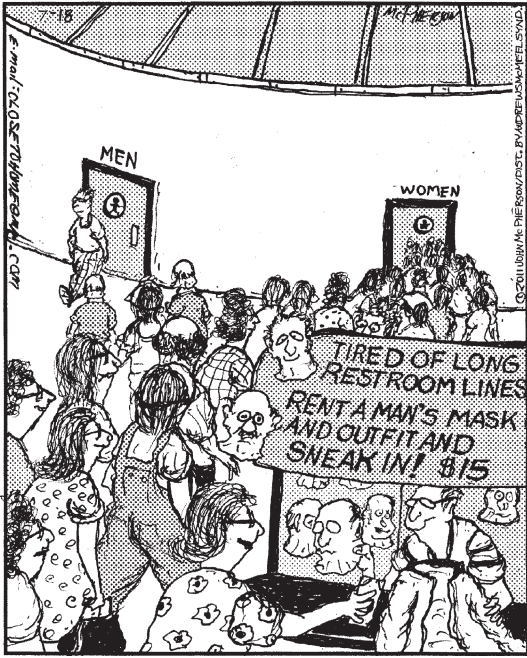
T	B	S	L	I	L	L	I	T	H	A	L	A	N	A
S	S	L	A	O	V	N	E	V	E	C	N	A	D	N
U	O	D	R	V	A	A	A	R	T	I	S	T	O	R
D	N	I	E	H	I	T	L	A	I	N	O	S	A	A
E	S	M	S	Y	H	B	R	A	V	O	I	C	A	L
T	O	P	A	G	O	I	K	A	E	R	B	V	U	E
A	F	O	I	X	K	L	L	D	P	E	I	C	M	B
L	A	S	T	S	H	I	P	E	I	V	I	M	A	A
E	N	T	A	V	A	J	M	M	A	F	A	U	H	D
R	A	E	M	C	E	O	I	R	E	R	U	S	S	O
G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

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Abelar, Alana, Artist, Bau, Bivas, Bravo, Break, Cameo, Cinema, Crash, CSI, Dance, Dotsen, Dust, Emma, Eve, Fauda, Film, Gang Related, Imposters, Inbar, Israeli, Jenna, Last Ship, Lavi, Lillith, Lori, Lucifer, Maddie, Max, Miami, Moroccan, Plain, Prison, Raviva, Russo, Shani, Sheba, Sight, Sonia, Sons of Anarchy, Underemployed, Vee, Veronica, Winsome

TODAY'S ANSWER: Black Diamond

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



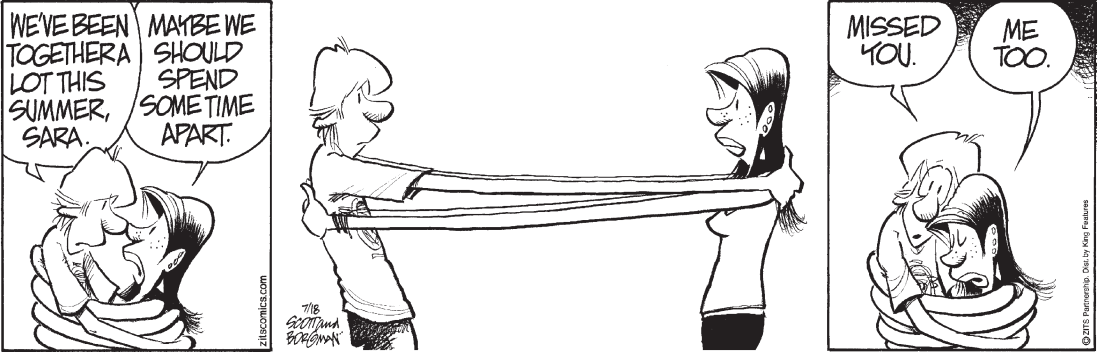
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

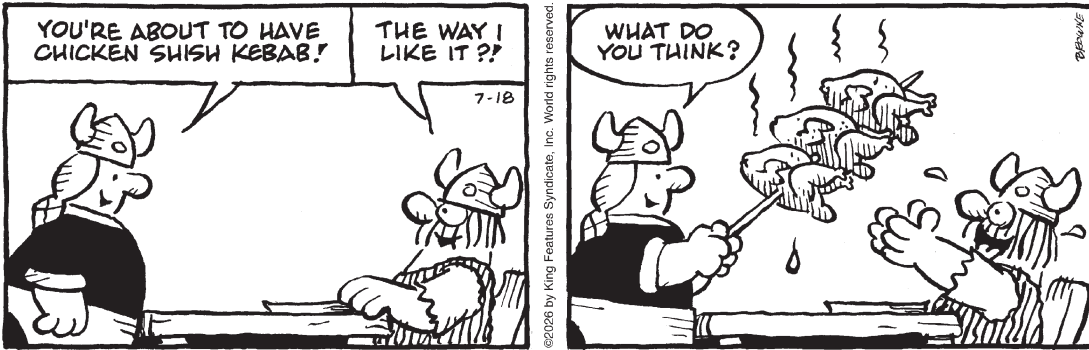
- ACROSS**
- 1 Moonshine container
4 "Frozen" queen
8 Ready, willing and —
12 Porter
13 Crucifix
14 Pome fruit
15 Office speaker system
17 Free ticket
18 Scottish girl
19 Sweet liqueur
21 Behave
23 Herbal drink
24 Dependable performer
28 Instant
32 Farm denizen
33 Fuss
34 Use a scythe
35 Homer Simpson's dad
36 "The Rookie" network
- DOWN**
- 1 Lockup
2 Arm bone
- 39 "— Just Seen a Face"
40 Like an unkempt yard
43 Farm bird
45 Writer — Fleming
47 Land parcel
48 Giant tombs of Egypt
52 Too
56 "The — Housewives of Rhode Island"
57 Waterfall
59 Diminutive suffix
60 Freshly
61 Avril follower
62 Mottled
63 Mend
64 Naval officer (Abbr.)

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

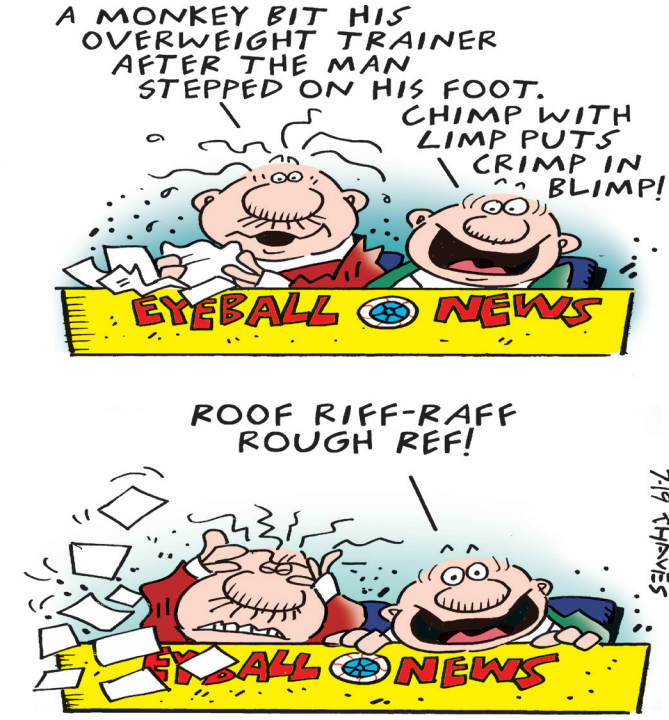
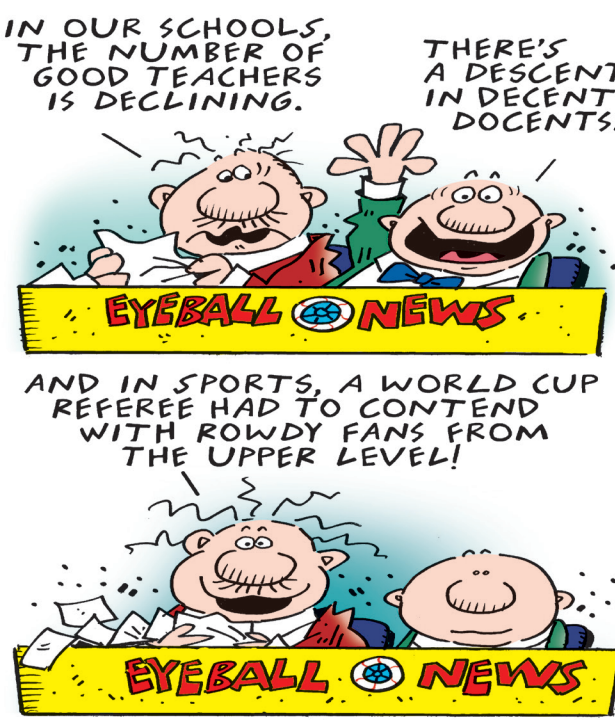
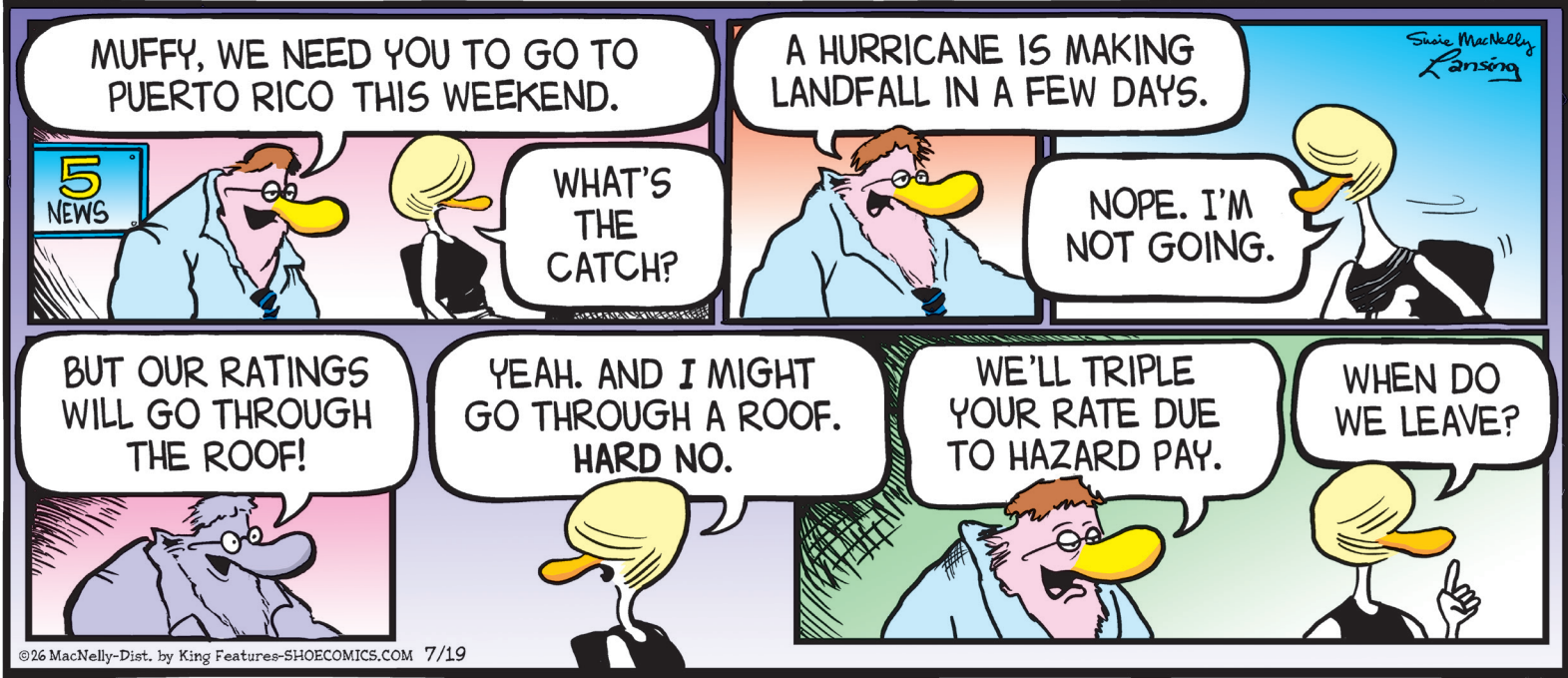
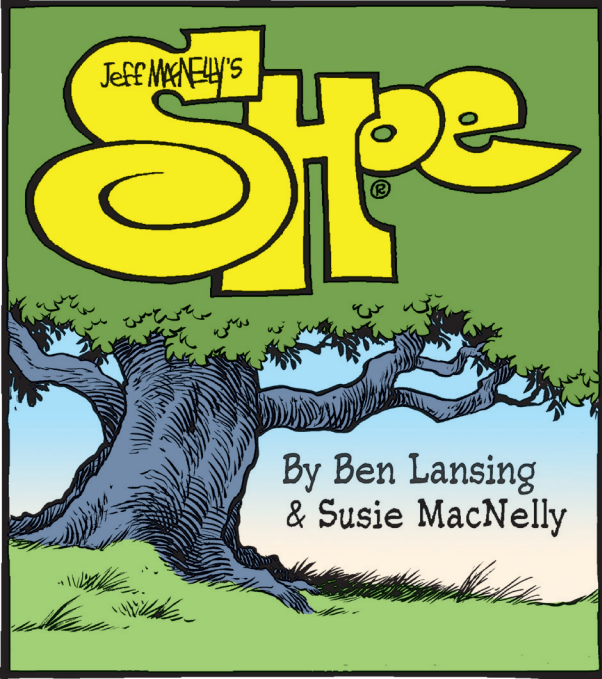
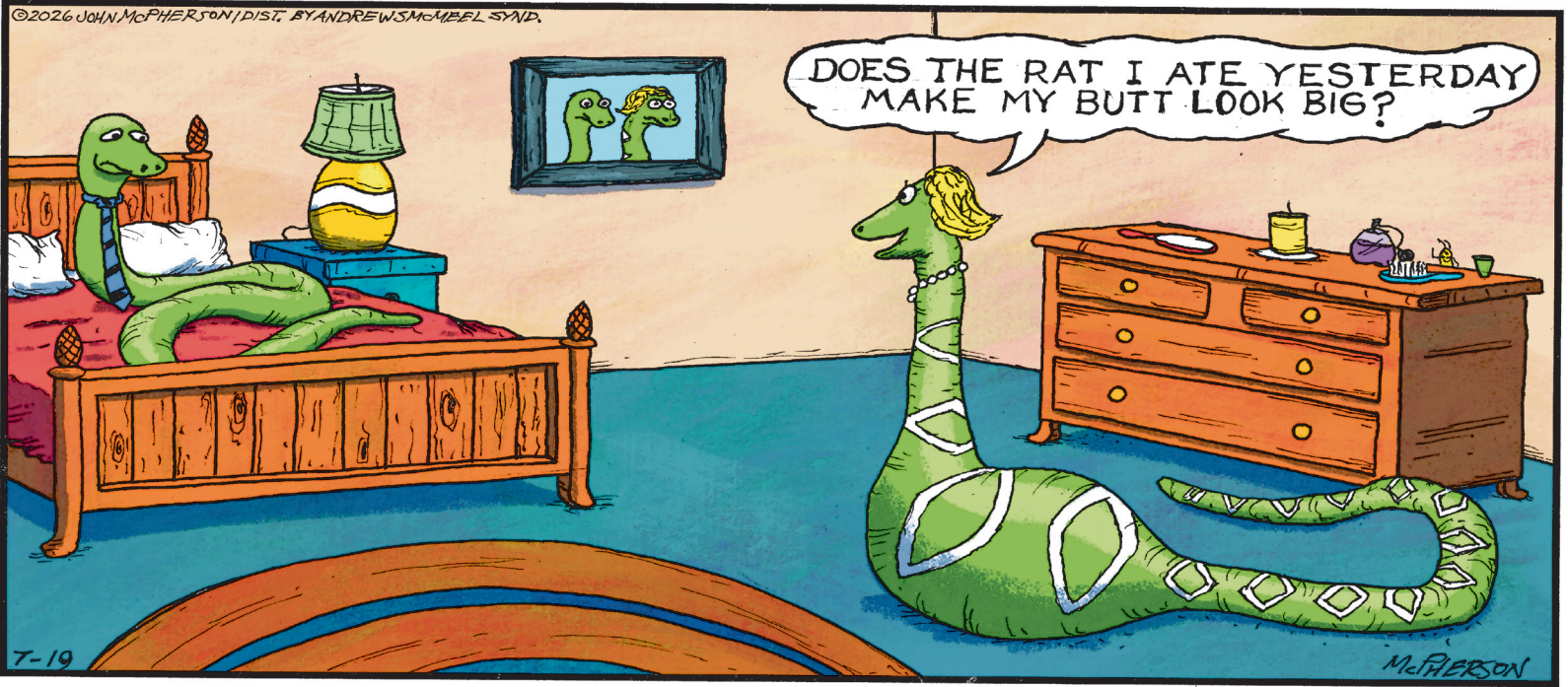
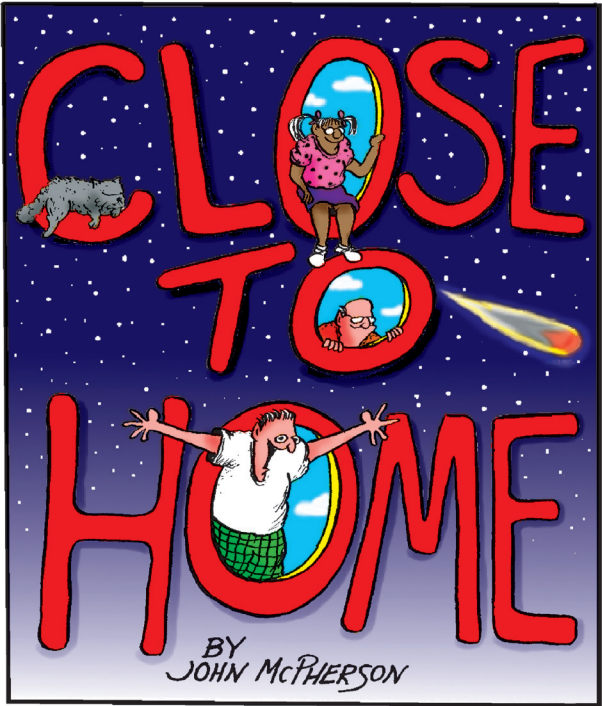
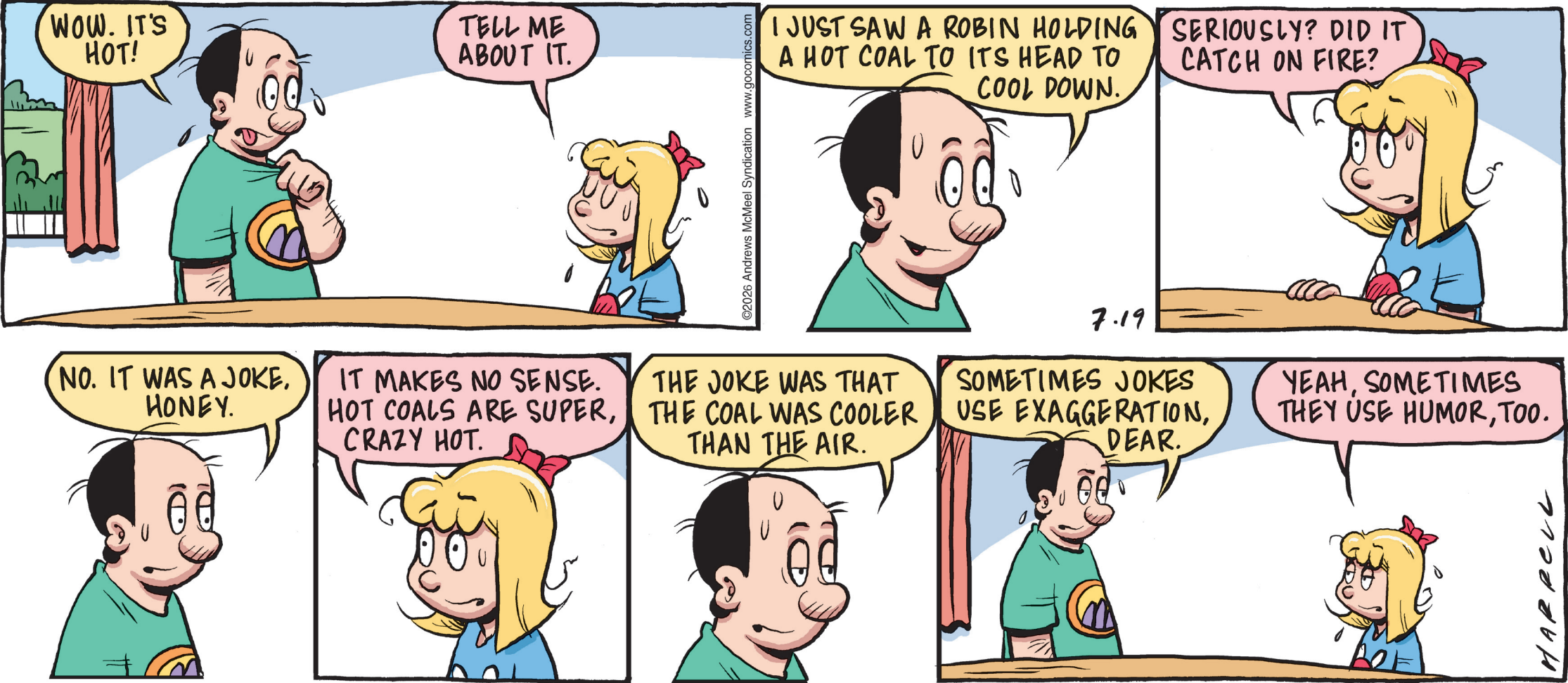
- 3 "As Good as It —"
4 Go wrong
5 Situated
6 Before long
7 Acknowledge
8 Seem to be
9 Pummel
10 Endure
- 11 Irish Gaelic
16 Birthright seller
20 Determine
22 Books pro
24 Liquefy
25 Terry garment
26 Pointed arch
27 Bellow
29 Faux: Abbr.
30 Inlet
31 Pitcher
37 Strengthen
38 Dove's cry
41 Used a phone
42 Root veggie
44 Asterisk
46 Kind of battery
48 Make ready
49 Himalayan monster
50 Appraise
51 Comedian — Carvey
53 Metallic fabric
54 Diagnostic image
55 —
58 Spunkmeyer cookies
58 Plant bristle

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL



BLONDIE

BY DEAN KURTZ & JOHN MARSHALL

TRIP

WHOA!

WHAM!

OWW

GROAN!

THIS HAD BETTER BE ONE AMAZING SLICE OF COLD PIZZA

Mort Walker's
beetle bailey

ALL DONE!

ALL DONE, SIR!

I FINISHED THE REPORT FOR YOU, BOSS

PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT

WHY NOT?

I'M A GENERAL

BUT YOU'RE ALSO OUR BOSS

AND MUCH MORE!

GOOD POINT

IT'S OUR HEAD HONCHO!

OUR BIG DADDY!

OUR SUPREME COMMANDER!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

Hank Ketchum's

Dennis the Menace

GRAY MATTER

!

DENNIS!

YEAH, MOM?

WHAT'S UP?

IT'S TIME TO ADDRESS...

...THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM!

CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ

POOR CHUCK...I HATE TO THINK OF HIM LYING UP THERE IN THAT HOSPITAL ROOM

YOU KIND OF LIKE CHUCK, DON'T YOU, SIR?

WELL, I...YOU KNOW... I FEEL SORT OF...YOU KNOW...HE...I...HE..

I LOVE CHUCK! I THINK HE'S REAL NEAT!

REAL NEAT? YOU THINK HE'S REAL NEAT?

I SURE DO! SOMEDAY I HOPE HE'LL ASK ME TO THE SENIOR PROM!

IN FACT, IF HE ASKED ME, I'D EVEN MARRY CHUCK!

COME WITH ME, MARCIE

IS THIS THE EMERGENCY ENTRANCE, MA'AM? WE'RE FRIENDS OF CHARLES BROWN

I HAVE ANOTHER PATIENT FOR YOU.. I THINK SHE'S SICKER THAN HE IS!

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

SORRY, I ACCIDENTALLY TOOK TWO LIDS FOR MY COFFEE CUP.

NO WORRIES.

REALLY? YOU HAVE NO WORRIES IN YOUR LIFE?

WELL, I DO.

YOU JUST MEAN NOT ABOUT THIS.

YES.

BUT REALLY—DID EITHER OF US EVER THINK A CUSTOMER TAKING AN EXTRA LID WOULD CAUSE YOU TO STAY UP AT NIGHT?

WE DID NOT.

SO RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND AND REPEAT AFTER ME... 'I WILL STOP USING THAT STUPID EXPRESSION.'

I WILL STOP USING THAT STUPID EXPRESSION.

THANKS FOR POINTING THAT OUT.

NO WORRIES.