



Perspectives
Marc Hyden
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Albany bridge
DOT: Fall
completion date
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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Larry Thomas, vice-chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Tax Assessors, left, and Chief Appraiser Adam Bridges give an update on the county's property revaluation process and mailing of valuation notices to the Dougherty County Commission on Monday.

Dougherty Board of Tax Assessors plans for thousands of appeals as revaluation nears completion

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — County tax officials are already preparing for what they believe could be thousands of appeals as the county's first comprehensive reassessment in nearly two decades nears completion.

During Tuesday's Board of Tax Assessors meeting, Chief Appraiser Adam Bridges told board members that staff is working through final quality-control reviews before the notices are mailed and have already begun planning for a significant increase in appeal hearings this year.

"We're working on a game plan to handle a huge number of people that may file appeals, and that may involve having some special called meetings between our regu-

lar meetings," Bridges said. "That way, we can either make changes or send them to the Board of Equalization just to process them out quicker."

Later in the meeting, Bridges said the office is preparing for the possibility of an extraordinary number of appeals.

"Internally through the office, we're prepared for the worst-case scenario ... three more meetings a week," he said. "We're prepared for the situation to have thousands of appeals if it happens."

The reassessment represents the first comprehensive countywide revaluation since 2007, when Dougherty County experienced a similarly large volume of appeals, adding insight into the extra

See ASSESSORS, 2A

2026 Dougherty County tax notices could bring shock to property owners

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — In a few weeks Dougherty County property owners will begin receiving letters from the tax office, and for some those numbers might initially cause some consternation.

That's because the 2026 notices will reflect the results of a countywide revaluation that could push up property

values for most taxpayers.

The message from tax officials this week is that the first reaction should not be panic as those notices will in many cases not tell the true story of how big a homeowner's tax obligation could be.

For residents with homestead exemptions, the increase in taxes owed will be limited by state legislation, approved in 2024, that limits annual increases in the

taxable assessed value of a home to the rate of inflation. The intent was to prevent big tax increases when there is a substantial increase in property values.

The Dougherty County Commission, which heard a presentation on Monday from tax officials, opted into the "Save Our Homes" act program last year.

Even in an extreme case of a home's valuation increasing

from \$100,000 to \$200,000, a taxpayer would pay taxes on the 100,000 value plus the rate of inflation, Larry Thomas, vice-chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Assessors, told commissioners.

That break does not apply to businesses and residents whose property does not have the homestead exemption.

See NOTICES, 2A

Third time's the charm? Developer brings plans for downtown hotel project to Albany Commission

Special Photo:

A rendering of the proposed front exterior of the The Gordon hotel shows the building with the historic brick work in a modern form.

The Albany City Commission has pledged \$9 million in loans toward the project that will transform the former Albany Water, Gas & Light building into a boutique hotel, if it comes to fruition.



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Members of the team that hopes to bring new life to the former Gordon Hotel/Albany Utilities and Rosenberg's/Albany Herald buildings in downtown Albany include, from left, project developer Elliott Estes, architect Eric Zuena, Artesian Constructors owner Glenn Sungfield and Findsome & Winmore designer Matt Certo, gather for a meeting at Singfield's Artesian Constructors offices.

Congress weighs packaging bill with implications for Albany manufacturers

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — A congressional hearing this week on proposed national packaging-labeling standards could have implications for several of southwest Georgia's largest manufacturers, many of which produce or package products shipped across state lines.

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade is scheduled to consider H.R. 6832, the Packaging and Claims Knowledge (PACK) Act, Wednesday as part of a broader hearing on consumer protection legislation.

The bill would establish a single federal framework governing voluntary "recyclable," "compostable" and "reus-

See PACKAGING, 2A

By Carlton Fletcher and Alan Mauldin
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany city commissioners got their first look Monday at a proposed downtown hotel and branding project with a major market chain.

A representatives of Woodmont Lodging, based in Bethesda, Md., presented renderings and drawings of plans to turn the former Water, Gas & Light building on Pine Avenue in Albany into a Marriott brand hotel, and the former Rosenberg Brothers Department Store/Albany Herald building into a hotel and extended-stay development.

Elliott Estes, founder and principal

for Woodmont Lodging, and members of his design team revealed the plans during a joint meeting with the Albany City Commission and the Albany Downtown Development Authority. The principals involved in the project met with community stakeholders before the city meeting to get input on the project.

Plans are for branding the hotel as a Marriott Tribute, the mid-market boutique designation for the brand.

In order to proceed with the plans, the company needs to have ownership of the properties located at 205-207 Pine Ave. and 126 N. Washington St.

In April the city loaned the company \$600,000 to develop architectural plans and get a guaranteed

maximum price for project construction. So far, that money has been used to produce a boundary and topography survey, engage a branding expert to provide a preliminary review and produce drawings, Estes told the group.

The concept is for the Water, Gas & Light building to be transformed into The Gordon, with 80 rooms, and the second building as Herald House, with larger rooms and kitchenettes for travelers staying for a week or longer.

"What we're trying to do is come in and learn the history, and more importantly where Albany is headed," Matt Zuena, managing principal for

See HOTEL, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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From 1A

HOTEL

ZDS Architecture & Interiors, said.”The Gordon’ is more of a story than just a hotel.”

The idea is for mystery and intrigue, such as The Bellyard in Atlanta, he said.

“We’re hanging onto the name Herald because we think it has history,” Zuena added.

Many of the historic elements of the former Herald building will be preserved, including the first-floor lobby and mezzanine area.

The two buildings could provide an opportunity for workforce training and entrepreneurship for Albany State University and Albany Technical College students, Estes said.

“Who we place in there will drive the direction of the project,” he said. “The project is very financable. It’s been proven time and time again to be feasible.

“When you talk about workforce opportunities, you’re often talking about culinary arts. It was very important to me that the students and residents of Albany have arts opportunities (performances) as well. The goal is to make sure our arts are celebrated.”

The development would bring up to 65 jobs, 94% of which would come with wages of more than \$21 an hour and more than 50% of which would pay more than \$25 per hour, Estes said. Top positions could pay in the \$55,000 to \$65,000 range.

Woodmont is the third development company to make a stab at the project after the first two efforts fizzled.

After hearing from the officials, the city commissioners and DDA members met in a closed session to discuss real estate. No decision was made during that session.

Prior to the joint commission/DDA meeting, Estes and members of his project team – Albany-based contractor Glenn Singfield with Artesian Construction, Matthew Certo with Findsome & Winmore, a Florida design/branding agency; Brian LaBrie with the Atlanta-based consulting agency

Ray, Ellis & LaBrie; and Zuena, the managing principal of Rhode Island-based ZDS Architecture and Interiors – met with community members to discuss possibilities for the project.

“I was drawn here by the opportunity,” Estes, whose Woodmont Lodging is located in Virginia, said at the gathering. “And during the ongoing process, I’ve become a believer.

“Southwest Georgia needs for Albany to be strong, and unless we do this project now, these two assets will be in danger of turning into snowglobes.”

Estes and his team members discussed specific issues of the proposed project and allowed community stakeholders to offer comments and ask questions during the lunch meeting, held at Artesian’s West Roosevelt Avenue offices.

Singfield said the community at large – and perhaps some Albany leaders – have not fully grasped the impact the project can have on Albany.

“We have to embrace this project; we all must become drum majors to lead it through the process,” Singfield said. “We have an honest developer in place, and he’s put together a good team. I think everyone involved wants this project to be successful.”

Certo said plans for The Gordon – the working title for the former hotel/utilities building – and Herald House, the former Rosenberg’s Department Store that served as home of The Albany Herald for more than three decades, are based on development of a full-service boutique, lifestyle hotel.

“If you want to call them our ‘competition,’ hotels like the St. Nicholas, the Hilton Garden Inn, the Courtyard/Fairfield cluster of facilities in northwest Albany, and the Merry Acres Inn, are among the hotels whose customers we’ll be after,” Certo said. “But we plan to offer experiences that none of the others can. And we’re not trying to take away those hotels’ customer base. Just two or three guests at each one.

Estes said the Gordon would be more like a proper hotel, although not one common in Albany and southwest Geor-

gia. Planned amenities include various meeting spaces, areas that would host entertainers, extended bar areas for people who want to “have a drink, hold a meeting, smoke a cigar or just relax,” a terrace offering access to outdoors dining and al fresco dining in an area along Pine Avenue..

Herald House would provide opportunities for travelers who are more interested in an extended stay, like traveling nurses.

Zuena said the renderings and plans shown at the meeting are his team’s “first pass at the project’s design,” and added that the scope of the project would depend on the eventual approval of a working budget.

“We’re drawing on the Southern culture of this community in our design work,” he said. “As for these finishes, we’ve put together our renderings based on the best materials available. Once the budget is set, we’ll make changes or value engineer to meet budget standards.”

Estes, who said his wife Maia’s long-ago relationship with community leaders like Charles and Shirley Sherrod drew his interest. And since coming here, he’s become engaged with the community.

“Coming here was not my idea,” he said. “My partner saw the RFP (request for proposals), and because of Maia’s ties to the city, I looked further into it. And now I am fully committed. I’m excited about what we can do together.”

Singfield said he’s stoked about the possibility of bringing a “life-altering” facility to the city he’s grown to love.

“We’ve got what we need in place to make this work,” he said. “But we need a total buy-in. I don’t know if the community at large and even some of our officials understand the impact this project can have on Albany, Georgia. If we don’t make this work, we’re giving away our future.”

And Estes assures all involved that he’s prepared to make the project work.

“Look, I’m not going to tell you I can do something when I can’t,” he said. “But I can do this.”

From 1A

ASSESSORS

preparation officials are now taking.

Board members recalled that process during Tuesday’s meeting, discussing how appeals were previously expedited by forwarding many cases directly to the Board of Equalization after staff review.

Bridges emphasized that many property owners confuse assessment notices with tax bills, a misconception the county is attempting to address before notices arrive. “This is not a tax deal,” he said, explaining that the Board of Assessors is responsible only for determining market value – not setting tax rates. “We don’t know what the millage rate is going to be.”

Because local governments have not yet adopted millage rates, Bridges said it will be virtually impossible for staff to estimate what an individual’s final tax bill will be.

“We don’t know what the millage rate is,” Bridges said. “So ... even trying to estimate what someone’s taxes are going to be is going to be next to impossible to calculate.”

Dougherty County commissioners have encouraged the Board of Tax Assessors to launch a public information campaign through social

media, local news outlets and the county website to help residents understand the difference between assessed value and property taxes before notices are mailed.

While the mailing schedule has been delayed several times, Bridges said the additional time has allowed staff to review data submitted by the county’s revaluation contractor and identify potential issues before they reach taxpayers.

“We are spending a lot of time behind the scenes making sure that our homestead bases are calculated correctly,” Bridges said. “That’s been another delay in the whole thing.”

Bridges said staff initially identified approximately 470 homestead exemption calculations that required correction. After weeks of review, that number has been reduced to roughly 70, with WinGAP – the computer-assisted mass appraisal software used to manage property records, valuations and tax digests – continuing to troubleshoot the remaining programming issues.

Bridges said the additional review is intended to prevent the types of calculation and data errors that have complicated recent countywide revaluations elsewhere, resulting in incorrect homestead calculations and additional work after assessment notices were mailed.

Bridges also explained that not every appeal will receive the same level of review.

Appeals that simply state taxes are too high without identifying an error in the property’s valuation will likely move directly to the Board of Equalization. Appeals identifying incorrect square footage, missing improvements or other physical inaccuracies will receive additional staff review before recommendations are presented to the Board of Assessors.

The meeting also highlighted the growing importance of Georgia’s floating homestead exemption following statewide tax law changes.

Bridges used an example of a home increasing in value from \$100,000 to \$200,000 after revaluation. For qualifying homeowners, taxable value could remain close to the previous year’s assessment – plus an inflation adjustment – rather than immediately increasing to full market value.

Although officials indicated the county’s revaluation contractor is expected to complete its work near the end of July, Bridges said staff will continue reviewing the data before approving the mailing of assessment notices.

“We’re trying to be ready,” he said. “Once we feel good about it, we can hit the button and send it and get the notices out as quickly as possible.”



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Georgia-Pacific’s Albany facility is one of several major southwest Georgia manufacturers with a stake in the proposed PACK Act, which would establish uniform federal standards for recyclable, compostable and reusable claims on consumer-product packaging.

From 1A

PACKAGING

able” claims on consumer-product packaging, replacing what supporters describe as a growing patchwork of state regulations. Companies choosing to make those claims would be required to

obtain certification from an accredited independent third party before placing them on packaging, with enforcement handled by the Federal Trade Commission.

For Albany, the proposal carries particular significance because of the region’s concentration of manufacturers and food processors, including Georgia-Pacific, Pratt Industries, Mars Wrigley, Procter & Gamble and Tara Foods,

whose products are distributed nationwide.

Lynn Dyer, president of AMERIPEN, said the legislation is intended to address a growing problem as individual states adopt their own definitions and labeling requirements for environmentally marketed packaging.

“We’ve been starting to see different states pass laws that have their own rules related to putting the word recycla-

ble or the word compostable or even reusable on packaging,” Dyer said. “When different states have different ideas of what’s recyclable, compostable or reusable, it’s really hard for a manufacturer to create national packaging or be able to sell products across the states.”

California has become one of the primary drivers of the discussion, she said, while states including Washington and Colorado have adopted their own compostable-labeling requirements.

“In Washington, you need to make sure that a compostable product has some green or brown on it. In Colorado, it needs to have a different color,” Dyer said. “You don’t want a situation where, if it’s sold in Georgia or Connecticut or Colorado, it’s a different color in every single state.”

Supporters argue the issue extends beyond manufacturers.

If companies determine the varying state requirements become too burdensome, Dyer said, some may simply remove recycling or

composting information from product packaging altogether.

“One of the options is, frankly, to just take the recyclable or compostable messaging off the product, and then the consumer won’t really know what to do,” she said. “Consumers will look directly on the package to say, ‘What am I supposed to do? Do I trash it? Do I recycle it? Do I compost it?’ Without that on-package messaging, it can be problematic for consumers.”

While AMERIPEN has not quantified the potential savings for Georgia manufacturers, Dyer said complying with multiple state standards adds costs throughout the supply chain.

“If throughout the entire supply chain costs go up to comply with all these different laws, then ultimately the consumer will potentially end up paying,” she said.

Environmental organizations have expressed concern in previous packaging debates that federal preemption could limit states’ ability to adopt stronger environmental standards.

Dyer said the PACK Act attempts to address those concerns by requiring independent verification before companies can make recyclable, compostable or reusable claims.

According to AMERIPEN, the legislation would not require companies to make environmental claims, nor would it affect broader state environmental policies such as extended producer responsibility programs. Instead, it focuses solely on establishing uniform national standards for the three covered claims while preserving state authority in other areas.

The legislation is one of several consumer-protection measures under consideration by the House subcommittee.

No committee vote is expected during Wednesday’s hearing, Dyer said supporters hope the legislation will next advance to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee before consideration by the full House while sponsors continue seeking a companion bill in the Senate.

From 1A

NOTICES

“The values have changed significantly,” Thomas said. “We’re just letting you know you’ll probably be getting calls.”

Thomas was not sure exactly when the notifications will be mailed, but property owners will have up to 45 days from receipt to file an appeal to make a case for why the valuation is too high.

After that process, the county will mail tax notices, said Shonna Josey, the county’s

tax director.

The two processes are separate, as the assessor’s office’s role is to provide an accurate valuation of property, while the tax director uses those valuations to calculate the amount of tax owed based on the tax millage rate set by the Dougherty County Commission.

The revaluation process, performed by a company hired by the commission, is the first full-scale revaluation undertaken in more than a decade.

“The (Georgia) Department of Revenue requires us to keep all values at fair market value,” Thomas said. “We want

to make sure that the property owners understand we have not done an overall revaluation for over 20 years. This is a normal process.”

County commissioners urged tax officials to work with the county’s public information officer to provide information ahead of the arrival of the notices.

“The tax bill that goes out later in the year is based on our revenue needs,” Commissioner Russell Gray said. “If there’s some good information shared with the public, it will help deal with the anxiety people have when they open these up.”

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

Industrial Manufacturing

OL THE WEEK

STAR BUSINESS

OF THE WEEK

2211

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Industrial Manufacturing as this week's Star Business of the Week.

Founded in 1979, Industrial Manufacturing was established to meet the needs of Albany's growing industrial community by providing emergency repairs and precision replacement parts. Over the years, the company has expanded its reach throughout the Southeast, becoming a trusted leader in high-precision OEM parts, just-in-time (JIT) stocked parts programs, custom fabrication, and innovative manufacturing solutions.

With a state-of-the-art facility featuring advanced computer numerical controlled (CNC) milling and turning centers, along with a fully integrated in-house engineering team, Industrial Manufacturing has earned both national and international recognition for designing automation systems, improving existing processes, and delivering exceptional quality under demanding deadlines.

Driven by a commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and customer service, Industrial Manufacturing continues to provide creative solutions that help businesses succeed while contributing to the strength of Albany's manufacturing industry.

The Star Business of the Week is presented by WALB News 10 and Fleming & Riles Insurance, with treats provided by Sugar Mama's Bakery.

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be expansive with your energy, be the example that shows the beauty that comes through when you're truly unafraid. One brave person can start a domino effect of joyous authenticity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone close could have the access or resources you need, or you might provide what's needed for them. Interdependence sustains and fulfills; good relationships need more than just chemistry.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A perfect fit could arise between task and skillset, making things go more smoothly. You may want to communicate but below-zero stars usually bring sub-par outcomes. Wait until Saturday or after.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Finances are in a growth phase. Expect assistance, protection, expansion, and greater clarity on steps needed over the next few weeks. Always do due diligence though, not everyone looks for a win-win.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your benevolence could be palpable, offer that strong shoulder to others. Expect growth in your life in general, you are in a phase of greater visibility now, more could be drawn to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There's a gentle thread of understanding weaving through this less-than-optimal day. Try to notice it and cultivate it, but expectations should still be sub-zero, just like today's stars. Work on being your best self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Money and other resources can flow in now, it takes more than just money to make things happen or get something off the ground. It's also a time to consider what you value and are willing to pursue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You might just be sharing your excitement and enthusiasm, but an envious person could see it as showing out. A time of building your offerings to the world

has arrived for the next month or so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Handle old business — learn the lesson, be accountable, make amends. There's so much relief when you're not holding deeply-buried shame for your own behavior. Do the work and feel the joy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hold off on any financial moves for a few days, even if something seems like a good idea. Underwater stars when you initiate something lead to underwater outcomes. Reach out to a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Partnership and friendship are both at the forefront now. These relationships can also include family and fur babies. Your patterns of relating across various relationships could be something to consider.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You might need to take on more responsibility for a month or so, for most of this time you should have both a good attitude and some assistance. An ideal job or gig is one that allows for a personal contribution.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: July should have been a good month after too many tests in early 2026, you should be able to take a breath and enjoy life being a little easier. More help from the Universe should bring answers, ideas, people, and tangible items needed now. Early August could pop with excitement — your reason for being could clarify and really make sense. You could be a little gobsmacked, but in a good way. Don't let the new insights worry you, give them time to integrate. Early September could bring a new source of cash flow, artistic talent, and plenty of rizz. Enjoy! Later in the month, don't entertain stupidity, especially in yourself, keep it tight. October could be another key period, your understanding of yourself and the world could increase exponentially. Then a gamble could pay off, or a happy surprise could land.



1929 - William A. Burt patents the typographer in the U.S. which is a precursor to the typewriter

1840 - The Province of Canada is created by the Act of Union

1885 - United States President Ulysses S. Grant dies of throat cancer

1903 - The Ford Motor Company sells its first car

1921 - The Communist Party of China (CPC) is formed

1942 - The Treblinka extermination camp is opened during the Holocaust

1961 - The Sandinista National Liberation Front is founded in Nicaragua

1962 - The International Agreement on the Neutrality of Laos is signed

1967 - Detroit, Michigan has one of the worst riots in

US History with 43 people killed, 342 injured and approximately 1,4000 buildings burned

1968 - An El Ai aircraft Boeing 707 on route from Rome, Italy to Lod, Israel with ten crew and 38 passengers is taken over by three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The plane was diverted to Algiers, and the hijacking ended after 40 days

1972 - The U.S. launches Landsat 1, the first Earth resources satellite

2015 - NASA announces discovery of Kepler-452b by Kepler

2018 - Greece experience their deadliest wildfire in history when a wildfire in East Attica caused the death of 102 people

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Gorgeous Grandma Day
- Hot Enough For Ya Day
- Mosquito Day
- National Refreshment Day - July 23, 2026 (Fourth Thursday in July)
- National Vanilla Ice

- Cream Day
- Peanut Butter and Chocolate Day
- Sprinkle Day
- World Sjogren's Day
- Yada, Yada, Yada Day

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

Sir Winston Churchill,
British prime minister (1874-1965)

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 reality is when you give gay people a month and veterans a day, I think you have widely lost sight of your values and priorities.

The good people of Albany eagerly await news of the nepotistic, crooked hire that our low-life City Commissioners make to replace Persley. It will clearly be one of their friends, cousins, pastor/deacons, fraternity brothers, or slimy business partners. God willing, the GBI is paying attention as well.

OK, Fletcher, you talk a good game, but let's get real: What are you willing to give up to try and take this country back, as you say? It's easy to sit alone in that bully pulpit and tell other people what they should do when you're not holding yourself to the same standards. Our country is fine. Our president is amazing. You, on the other hand, are all hat, no cattle.

While we have been stuck with this muppet of a county commission chairman for a few years now, it is still baffling that this man lives a far fancier life than most in his congregation for his "nonprofit" church, and he took taxpayer dollars from an equally shady U.S. Senator and seemingly spent none of it on low-income housing for the poor here that really needed it. Why do you people vote for this con artist? Are you a masochist?

I could only LOL and roll my eyes at the delusional report by CNBC that the Top 10 worst states to live in were red states. Hilarious. I can tell you the 10 red states they listed are outperforming any blue state.

Thank you, Albany Herald, for including stories about local people who have done something interesting or significant. Local TV -- I think that would be considered an oxymoron because they do no local coverage anymore -- is a waste of time ... unless you're interested in some family in Wisconsin.

One way we could all display our inner Rosa Parks is to stop voting these crooks into office on the national, state and local levels. We could go way back to drug-convicted Washington Mayor Marion Berry and talk about putting evil and self-serving people in office. Maybe we could do a little digging, ask some questions, before we give someone our precious vote just because he is the same race, goes to the same church or is a member of the same political party.

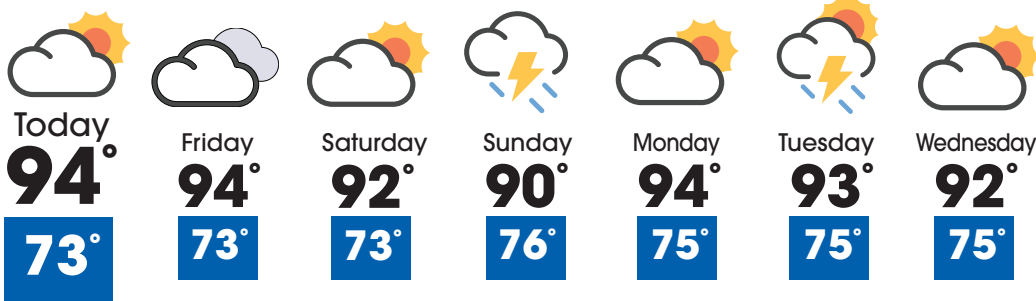
So Buddy Carter has close familial ties with neo-Nazis? That alone should preclude him from seeking any office, and it should lead to an investigation of his own ties to these scumbags. Sadly, though, the revelation will lead some equally sick scumbags to actually vote for him.

The accumulation of all powers -- legislative, executive and judiciary -- in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny. -- James Madison

We have cameras catching speeders everywhere now. Is the City Commission going to disclose to us what percentage of our collected money goes to New York or wherever the provider is based? Also, since cameras are writing tickets, where are the actual police officers we pay for? A call today to APD is still greeted by a bad attitude and a 45-minute wait.

ADS: Advertising can be placed by phone, email and/or in person Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am - 5 pm or call 229-888-9300. For classifieds and display/public notices/code ads email Phil Cody at phil.cody@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300. Our office is at 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31701. **BILLING:** Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, contact number: 229-888-9300.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Extra chance

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic says that if at first you don't succeed, you won't be a big favorite to succeed on later tries either. That may explain

NORTH			
♠ 4 2			
♥ K J 8 3			
♦ A 5 3			
♣ 7 6 4 3			
WEST		EAST	
♠ K J 9 5		♠ 10 8 7 6	
♥ 6 4		♥ 7 2	
♦ Q 6		♦ 10 9 8 7	
♣ Q J 10 8 2		♣ K 9 5	
SOUTH			
♠ A Q 3			
♥ A Q 10 9 5			
♦ K J 4 2			
♣ A			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		
Opening lead – ♣ Q			
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why Cy tends to put all his eggs into one leaky basket as declarer. In a penny game, Cy and North bid to a good six hearts. West led the queen of clubs, and Cy took the ace and drew trumps. He next led a diamond to his ace and back to his jack for a finesse. West won and led another club, and the Cynic ruffed and took the king of diamonds.

SPADE RUFFS

A 3-3 diamond break would have made the slam: Cy could have pitched a spade from dummy on his fourth diamond and ruffed two spades in dummy. As it was, he had to ruff his fourth diamond and try a spade to his queen. Down one. Cy gave himself one chance too few. After he draws trumps,



Frank Stewart

he must take the K-A of diamonds. If no queen fell, Cy would lead a third diamond toward his jack. If West had Q-10-x-x, Cy could still finesse in spades. The best play guards against Q-x of diamonds with West.

DAILY QUESTION

DAILY QUESTION
You hold: ♠♠ K J 9 5 ♥♥ 6 4 ♦♦ Q 6 ♣♣ Q J 10 8 2. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your left, opens one heart. Your partner doubles. The next player bids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your opponent's jump to three hearts is weak and preemptive. Partner has support for the unbid suits, especially for spades, and you seem to have about half the deck in high cards. That suggests you should compete at the three level. Bid three spades.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Mother wants to move, but adult child won't leave home

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I'm a senior with three grown kids. After divorcing young, I rebuilt my life, earned a degree and worked hard to save for retirement. Two of my children are independent, but my third child, with his family, still lives in my house despite many conversations and arguments about moving out.

This prevents me from selling my home as planned, forcing me to use up my savings for my relocation to a different home.

I feel manipulated and just want peace in retirement.

I am considering hiring a realtor and attorney to move forward, though I am concerned this will hurt my relationship with this child. Am I wrong for prioritizing myself now?

— Frustrated

Dear Frustrated: You're not wrong at all. To be frank, it's imperative that you make a change in this situation. You write that you don't want to hurt your relationship with your child, which is understandable, but it seems clear that the relationship is already hurting. You're not being respected or heard; this isn't healthy for anyone.

He may not want you to sell the house for a myriad of reasons, but you are the homeowner and it's the right choice for you. He should respect that and support you in your next step, rather than arguing with you.

You don't write whether your child is paying into the mortgage or paying you rent, although I suspect this isn't the case since you also write that you're using up your savings. It is absolutely fair for you to

say that this isn't working for you, emotionally or financially, and so you're making a change. Your child is not a minor. He can and should be responsible for providing for himself (and his family). You can help, of course, but this seems to go beyond help, especially because it's hurting you.

Contact the realtor and tell your son that you've decided to move forward. This doesn't need to be a discussion. If your child would like to purchase the home from you, that's great. But be firm about your decision to leave.

You have already discussed this at length, and it doesn't seem that your child can be collaborative about this. This puts you in an impossible position. He may continue to feel angry about it, but you can't be held captive by his anger. That emotion is his responsibility, as well.

Dear Eric: I am very punctual. Decades in business necessitated punctuality, and I carry being on time into my personal life. In my mind it is disrespectful to be late and waste the time of others.

My partner of many years is of a different mindset. While he is punctual for work, when it comes to personal plans or engagements, he is consistently 15 to 20 minutes late. I find it disrespectful and sometimes embarrassing. We have discussed this many times and he knows it upsets me, but the tardiness is a constant.

Any thoughts?

— Time After Time

Dear Time: OK, I don't want this to come across the wrong way so let me start by assuring you that you're not being unreasonable and that I



Eric Thomas

understand how frustrating it is to always be waiting for someone else.

However, you write that you're of the mindset that lateness is disrespectful and he feels otherwise. So, is there some freedom in interpreting his actions differently? That is to say, every time he's late, you may be thinking something along the lines of "this is insulting; this is disrespectful; why would someone who cares about me treat me like this?" All of that is understandable. But it's probably fair to say that he's not trying to insult you and that his lateness is not a reflection of the care he has for you, at least in his mind.

Changing the narrative around the action may take the temperature down a little bit. That doesn't mean it won't be annoying. But it may be helpful to think "this is something my partner does; I don't like it; I wish he didn't. But he's not intentionally trying to waste my time."

This is also not to say that all of this is on you. It's not. He's the late one. So, it will also be helpful to say to him, "this is an ongoing conflict between the two of us. I accept that this is the way you are; I hope you accept that this is the way I am. What can we do to solve it so that it doesn't continue to impact our relationship?"

One solution might be for him to set his appointments with you earlier so that he inadvertently shows up on time. He has to acknowledge that this is something that's creating an unnecessary roadblock in your relationship and that together you have the power to fix it.

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 rerichthomas.com.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

*“And ye shall seek me, and find me,
when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*
Jeremiah 29:13

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Don't blame data centers
for failed public policy

Data centers have become a kind of boogeyman among voters lately. Recent polling even suggests that new data center construction is less popular than the IRS. Only 27% of Americans at least somewhat favor new data center construction, according to Gallup. Meanwhile, YouGov found that 28% of Americans have a favorable view of the IRS.

This isn't an apples-to-apples comparison, but anytime an industry polls worse than the IRS, it's probably time to take stock in the situation. However, public sentiment might be missing the point. American data centers are a necessity in the digital age, but problems emerge when they are subsidized and the government doesn't adequately police them. Put simply, many of the complaints about data centers are really complaints about government policies related to them.

By way of background, "Data centers are large facilities that host file servers and networking equipment to store, process, and analyze information – capabilities that are critical for the growing use of AI," according to the Brookings Institution. In short, they enable us to enjoy the conveniences of a rapidly evolving digital world. But Georgians increasingly do not want them here.

Residents in Newnan, Marietta, Garden City, Forsyth and elsewhere have protested proposed data centers, pushed elected officials to reconsider approvals and made data center policy a hot topic in recent elections. Opposition depends on the individual. Yet the main arguments tend to center around data centers' electricity and water consumption and residential ratepayers subsidizing those needs; the fact that data centers receive generous government handouts; concerns over their environmental impact; and they can be eyesores. These are legitimate concerns stemming from data center development, but government policy often determines who bears the costs.

To begin with, industrial customers, like data centers, enjoy lower electricity rates than residential customers – 6.7 cents per kilowatt-hour vs. about 15 cents – and large load industrial customers are even allowed to shop around for their preferred electric provider. Residential customers are not afforded that privilege and seem, at least on paper, to pay higher rates that benefit Big Industry. These unfair realities stem directly from government regulation.

There has been further concern that residential ratepayers may be required to shoulder much of the costs of building new power plants to support the proliferation of data centers. The Public Service Commission instituted a rule – with ample loopholes – against this, but rules can seemingly change

on a whim, leaving Georgians worried.

Georgians have also been up in arms over the handouts that data centers have received from the state. "The policy has cost [Georgia] at least \$1.5 billion in lost revenue since its inception, including nearly \$500 million in Fiscal Year 2025 alone. ... About 70% of data center investment in Georgia would likely have occurred regardless of the tax break," GPB reported earlier this year. That is nothing short of a bad deal.

I sympathize with other Georgians who cry foul over the government picking winners and losers and forcing taxpayers to subsidize data centers. We shouldn't be tasked with unnecessarily propping up industries. Similarly, everyday Georgians shouldn't be on the hook for bankrolling water infrastructure development to benefit industry, although, as the Abundance Institute notes, fears that data centers will create a national water crisis appear vastly overblown.

I can also sympathize with those who don't want a hulking data center built in their proverbial backyard. Homeowners worry that data centers could be noisy, result in light pollution and adversely affect property values. These are fair concerns, but again, the government controls zoning decisions to determine where data centers can be situated.

As for the environment, these concerns merit discussion. However, there are realms of federal environmental law, state and federal environmental protection agencies and a robust legal system to keep companies accountable or else they face costly lawsuits and fines. The appropriate response is careful oversight and enforcement, not treating data centers as inherently undesirable.

In many ways, they are critical infrastructure that help foster the e-commerce on which we rely, burgeoning AI technology and aid our government and military that develops advanced technology. And Americans should want them housed domestically.

Even the data centers with technology and data that may seem innocuous could be dangerous in the wrong hands. Relying on overseas data centers could subject them to the whims of foreign intelligence agencies, meaning the technologies and all your personal information could be accessed by America's enemies.

The bottom line is that data centers are not evil. They are vital to our future, and over the long-run, we should want more of them built here. That said, there are myriad public policy failures related to them, which lawmakers have tried and failed to address. Until they do, data centers will continue taking the blame for misguided government regulations and remain as unpopular as the IRS.



HYDEN

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Living the life of a
faithful builder

David Bahnsen gave the commencement address at his daughter's high school graduation.

Late in the speech, his emotions began to rise, betraying the deep conviction behind his carefully chosen words.

Bahnsen is a noted author, economist and portfolio manager. He provides financial

commentary on cable news shows. He is a committed Christian, and his content reflects that worldview. His speech decried the extreme negativity pervasive in culture. Then he said, "Graduates, for my entire life, I've encountered two types of people:: those who build and those who destroy. God made you to be a builder. When we fall outside of God's will for our lives, outside of our created design, we inevitably become a destroyer. You will not believe the misery found in destroying things."

With emotion he added, "But you will not believe the joy that exists in building things. Choose wisely!"

The Bible reveals that God invites us into His creative activity. We are made in God's image with a charge to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. (Gen. 1:26-27) That gives us a role in

His grand plan for humanity – building a community of people that knows Him. God "gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself ... We are ambassadors for Christ." (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

God's earthly purpose for Christians in building families, relationships, businesses, institutions, and organizations is to reconcile people to their Creator. Influencing the culture contributes to that purpose. In "Restoring All Things" (2015), Smith and Stonestreet propose some questions to help you and your church find your place in this building enterprise. Here are their four: culture-building questions:

- What is good that I can promote, protect, and celebrate?
- What is missing that I can creatively contribute?
- What is evil that I can stop?
- What is broken that I can restore?

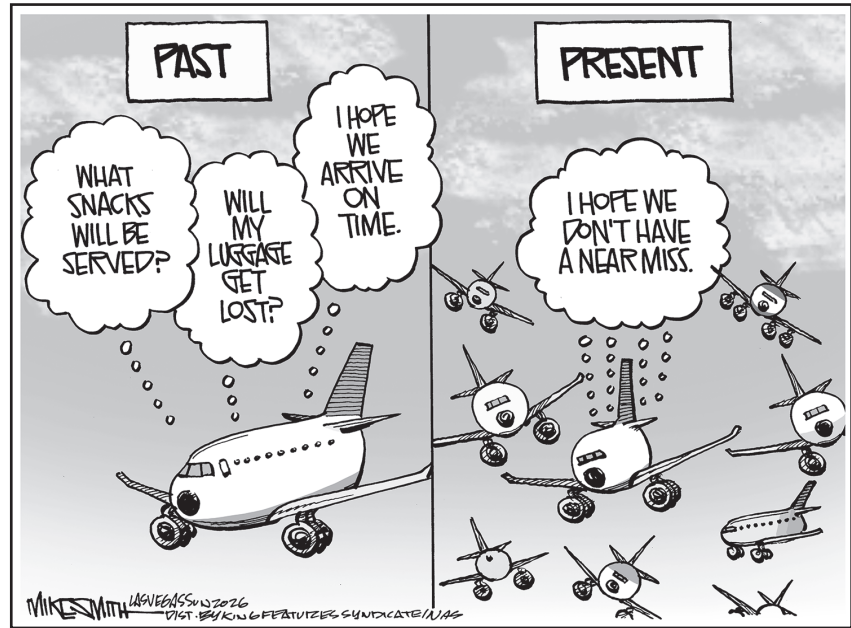
To that list I would add, what are the deceptions that I can disinfect with truth?

Bahnsen closed his speech saying, "I want for you a life filled with extraordinary peace and joy." Such is the life of a faithful builder.



FOWLER

The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.



COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Who can argue politics with a mouthful of barbecue?

Is there any way we can bridge the political, cultural and social abyss in which we find ourselves today? How about a plate of baby-back ribs, pulled pork slathered in Kinder's Original Barbecue Sauce, a slice of Texas Toast, baked beans, corn on the cob, sweet tea and some peach cobbler topped with vanilla ice cream?

It's hard to argue about stolen elections or letting boys play girl sports with your mouth full of such exquisite cuisine. Besides, what could be more American on our 250th anniversary than a good ol' barbecue? Yum! Yum!

That's the intention of Builders Movement, a non-partisan, nonprofit group that seeks to overcome "us vs. them" thinking and has organized an event -- the Builders BBQ -- that challenges Americans across

the country to "bite to unite" by inviting groups they see as different or who they don't usually hang out with, to host barbecues. The summer-long campaign kicked off this past month, and as of this writing, Builders Movement says it has received more than 100 sign-ups and an estimated 3,000 people are expected to attend in 30 states. And the numbers are growing.

"The response and enthusiasm for Builders BBQs has blown us away," Kristin Moss, the organization's chief marketing officer, said. "As the hosts were encouraged to invite someone who sees the world differently from them, this demand clearly shows us Americans have an appetite for the Builders Mindset -- connecting with people in their communities and reinforcing there's more

that unites us than divides us. And what better way to do that than over a cherished American tradition like BBQ!"

The Builder's BBQ even offers some conversation starters to get the ball rolling: "Is there something you admire about the other political side?" "Who is someone you admire that you don't always agree with?" "Think about the last 250 years in America. What's an example of a creative solution that required both sides to come together?"

With all due respect, I have some conversation starters I would offer just in case the participants don't admire someone on the other political side or would rather have a beer instead of having to come up with

any creative solutions at the moment.

Some suggestions: "Hello, stranger. Did you know that there is no word that rhymes with orange?" Or: "Hi, there! Did you know Napoleon Bonaparte was once attacked by a horde of rabbits?" Or: "The average person burps approximately 30 times per day. That says we've got us some serious burping to do, friend. Bring on the barbecue." (Note to the Builder's BBQ: Feel free to use these conversation starters.)

Are Georgians are showing up? The Builder's BBQ says yes. Why? According to the organization, "To build connection with community and immediate neighbors. One host shared that their guest list included



YARBROUGH

dish of pulled pork with a sliced Vidalia onion on the side, he might understand that he is the president of all the whole United States of America and not just president of a bunch of angry right-wing zealots. On second thought, I'm not sure there are enough pigs and cows willing to sacrifice their lives at the thought that it could actually happen.

So applause to Builders Movement for coming up with a civilized way to seek out what unites us rather than what divides us and doing it over a plate of barbecue with all the trimmings. They describe it as a summer event, but I would suggest that barbecue, like love, knows no season. The late American celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain once said, "Barbecue may not be the road to world peace, but it's a start." Amen.

What to watch THURSDAY

July 23, 2026

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

Surviving Earth

NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “When the Continents Collided,” a matriarch elephant leads her herd on a journey to find water, encountering an alien continent where they must adapt to a new way of life to survive.

Restaurant Impossible: Last Call

Food Network, 8 p.m. ■ New Series

This fresh take on a classic features acclaimed chef Aarón Sánchez and dynamic Canadian restaurateur Jen Aggas they rescue struggling restaurants across North America. Their goal is not to formulate quick fixes but instead dig into real problems, adapt to a new and challenging restaurant industry, and find solutions tailored to each business. While Jen tackles design and front-of-house issues, Aarón gets to work on the culinary side, each assessing exactly what needs to change for the restaurant to thrive. From horrendous Yelp reviews to feuding family members, each episode will reflect the varying challenges today’s restaurateurs face.

The Bear

FX, 9 p.m.

A seating chart complicates matters at the restaurant in the new episode “Focaccia.”

‘Stuart Fails to Save the Universe’



HBO MAX

Stuart Fails to Save the Universe

HBO Max ■ New Series

In this 10-episode comedy from Chuck Lorre Productions, comic book store owner Stuart Bloom (Kevin Connolly) is tasked with restoring reality after he breaks a device built by Sheldon and Leonard (yes, those guys!),

accidentally bringing about a multiverse Armageddon. Stuart is aided in this quest by his girlfriend Denise (Lauren Lapkus), geologist friend Bert (Brian Posehn) and quantum physicist/all-around pain in the butt Barry Kripke (John Ross Bowie). Along the way, they meet alternate-universe versions of characters we’ve come to know and love from *The Big Bang Theory*. As the title implies, things don’t go well.

CATCH A CLASSIC

The Carpenter Zone

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM’s Carpenter Zone theme continues tonight with a trio of horror classics that fit neatly into the kind of genre world associated with filmmaker John Carpenter. These films all feature a Gothic atmosphere, supernatural menaces, monsters and dread built

from forceful storytelling. The night begins with 1957’s **The Curse of Frankenstein (pictured)**, the Hammer horror landmark starring Peter Cushing as Victor Frankenstein and Christopher Lee as the Creature. **The Mummy** (1959) follows, reuniting Cushing and Lee in another Hammer revival of a classic monster. Then comes **Curse of the Demon** (1957), Jacques Tourneur’s eerie supernatural thriller about a skeptical psychologist drawn into a deadly occult curse.



WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



CLAUDETTE BARIUS

Independence Day (1996, Science fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman **FX, 6 p.m.**

Sonic the Hedgehog (2020, Family) James Marsden, Jim Carrey **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Us (2019, Horror) Lupita Nyong’o, Winston Duke **HBO, 7 p.m.**

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

Behind Closed Doors (2026, Suspense) Jennifer Pudavick, Dennis Andres **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Easy A (2010, Comedy) Emma Stone, Penn Badgley **E!, 8 p.m.**

A Knight’s Tale (2001, Action) Heath Ledger, Mark Addy **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Jack Reacher (2012, Action) Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

Bad Boys (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith **FX, 9:30 p.m.**

The House Bunny (2008, Comedy) Anna Faris, Colin Hanks **E!, 10 p.m.**

Breaking In (2018, Suspense) Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Deep Blue Sea (1999, Science fiction) Thomas Jane, Saffron Burrows **TNT, 10:50 p.m.**

Turbulence (2025, Suspense) Hera Hilmar, Jeremy Irvine **Starz, 11:15 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com **weekly tv**

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MOVIES TV GRIDS BEST BETS

What to watch FRIDAY

July 24, 2026

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

NASCAR Truck Series Race at Indianapolis

FS1, 8 p.m. Live

The 0.686-mile oval at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park welcomes Layne Riggs, Kaden Honeycutt, Chandler Smith and other stars of the Craftsman Truck Series for a 200-lap race.

Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives: Triple D Nation

Food Network, 9 p.m.

In tonight’s episode “Seafood, Schnitzel and Spam,” Guy Fieri is headed back to top spots serving up fresh takes. A New Orleans joint is going boat-to-table with boiled crawfish, a California diner is dishing out smoked spam loco moco and a Chicago beer bar is plating a primetime pork schnitzel sandwich.

Roast My Rental

HGTV, 10 p.m. ■ New Series

Comedian, truth-teller and design enthusiast Leslie Jones (*Saturday Night Live*) will crash America’s worst short-term rentals, whose viral photos of amenities gone wrong, misleading listings and brutally honest reviews have scared guests away. After Leslie’s hilarious roast of the property, she and an experienced design team led by HGTV’s home renovation expert Jasmine Roth will come to the rescue and help the owners clean up the chaos in just 72 hours, giving the “roastees” a chance at redemption when the next guests come to stay. “I think that people are going to laugh, maybe even cry a little (in one episode), but just feel good at the end,” Jones shares.



‘Roast My Rental’

HGTV

Mysteries From Above History, 10 p.m.

Each episode sets out to investigate significant historic and contemporary sites from the revealing vantage points of drone, satellite and aerial photography.

In “Archaeological Mysteries,” tonight’s reveals from above include an out-of-place relic from World War II, stone circles with “grave” intentions, ancient mounds in Illinois and remnants of a medieval village with a dark history.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Special Theme: Summer of Darkness

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM’s Summer of Darkness continues with a lineup built on corruption and fatal plans. The night begins with **Sunset Boulevard** (1950), Billy Wilder’s classic Hollywood noir starring Gloria Swanson as faded silent-film star Norma Desmond and William Holden as the struggling screenwriter who becomes trapped in her orbit. Next is **The Prowler (pictured)**, an unsettling 1951 noir starring Van Heflin as a police officer whose attraction to a lonely married woman leads



UNITED ARTISTS

him into a scheme built on manipulation and murder. The theme closes with **The Killing** (1956), Stanley Kubrick’s racetrack heist film starring Sterling Hayden.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

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

Napoleon Dynamite (2004, Comedy) Jon Heder, Jon Gries **IFC, 7 p.m.**

Thor: The Dark World (2013, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman **FX, 7 p.m.**

Coco (2017, Family) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (2022, Children) Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek Pinault **SYFY, 8 p.m.**

Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall **BET, 9 p.m.**

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen **TNT, 9 p.m.**

The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005, Romance-comedy) Steve Carell, Catherine Keener **IFC, 9:15 p.m.**

Big (1988, Children) Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Perkins **E!, 9:30 p.m.**

Her Husband’s Double Life (2026, Suspense) Tanisha Thammavongsa, Justin Nurse **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (2023, Family) Jane Fonda, Lana Condor **SYFY, 10 p.m.**

Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright **Bravo, 11 p.m.**

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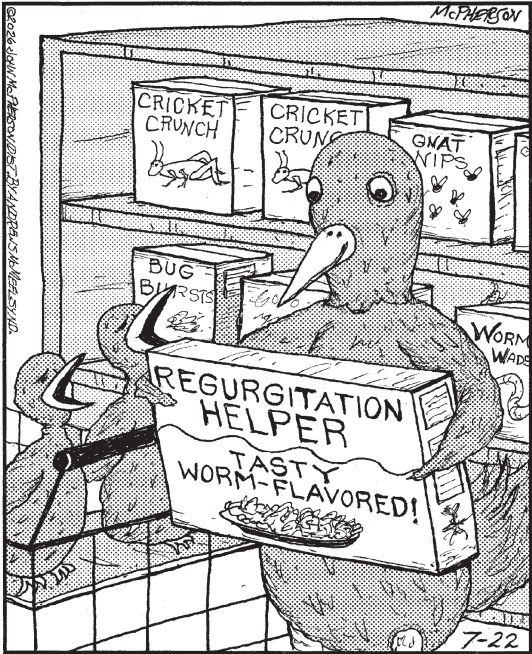
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BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

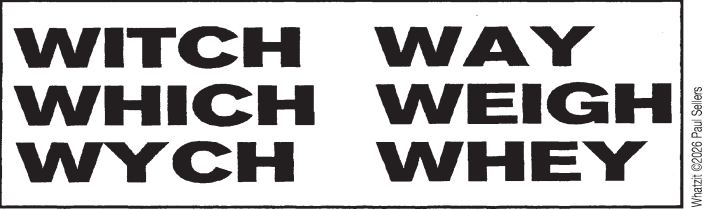


SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆								
3				7	6			
7	5			9				
6	4		2	5				
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WHATZIT?

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



SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Every which way

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mission by the San Antonio River Walk
 - 6 Irks
 - 11 IT dept. array
 - 14 Steel rod
 - 15 Target Center, e.g.
 - 16 "I found it!"
 - 17 Singer known as the "Queen of Christmas"
 - 19 Like rubies and garnets
 - 20 "Anne of Green Gables" setting
 - 21 Proactive Health pet food brand
 - 23 Agcy. concerned with scheduling?
 - 24 Oscar won by Jessie Buckley for "Hamnet"
 - 29 "No ifs, __, or buts"
 - 31 "Ambiguous Desire" singer Parks
 - 32 Mina Kimes's channel
 - 33 Doofus
 - 36 Sit next to
 - 38 Feel bad
 - 39 Device that gets the party poppin'?
 - 43 Enthusiast
 - 44 "Beyond the Gates," for one
 - 45 Protective layer?
 - 46 With skill
 - 48 Knee parts, for short
 - 50 Hertz rentals
 - 54 Academic field for Judith Butler
 - 58 Change shades
 - 59 Pageant wear
 - 60 Gives a lecture
 - 62 Prof's deg., often
 - 63 Vacation for posers?, or what can be found in each set of circled letters
 - 67 Luau strings, briefly
 - 68 Korean dumplings
 - 69 Guitarist Steve
 - 70 Billie Eilish's "___ Guy"
 - 71 Piano exercise
 - 72 Like baklava
- DOWN**
- 1 Fleet
 - 2 Get a rise out of?
 - 3 Out of the country
 - 4 Primary
 - 5 Dental care brand
 - 6 Airbnb competitor
 - 7 Notable time
 - 8 '70s baby, e.g.
 - 9 Opposite of WSW
 - 10 "Just tell us!"
 - 11 Off-shaved cheese
 - 12 Simple Southern dessert
 - 13 Feeling low
 - 18 Chuckle noise
 - 22 "Where the Wild Things "
 - 25 Run roughshod over
 - 26 "Jane the Virgin" grandmother
 - 27 Spot to veg
 - 28 Longtime NBC sketch show, casually
 - 30 Weep loudly
 - 34 Crunch muscles
 - 35 Ice cream treat
 - 37 Word that's trademarked in Ohio State University's official name
 - 39 Headscarf
 - 40 Gas station choice
 - 41 A pop
 - 42 Magazine with an annual "Female Founders" list
 - 43 Web page that has all the answers
 - 47 "Absolutely!"
 - 49 "You said it!"
 - 51 Stick
 - 52 Hearty amber beer
 - 53 Six-line poem
 - 55 Sound alike
 - 56 Food writer
 - 57 "Revolutionary Road" novelist
 - 61 Stick in one's
 - 62 Spot for a pint
 - 64 Vegan-friendly latte option
 - 65 Serengeti antelope
 - 66 Do the math

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

L	E	E	M	S		E	O	N	L	E		O	V	B
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07/22/26

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43						44						45		
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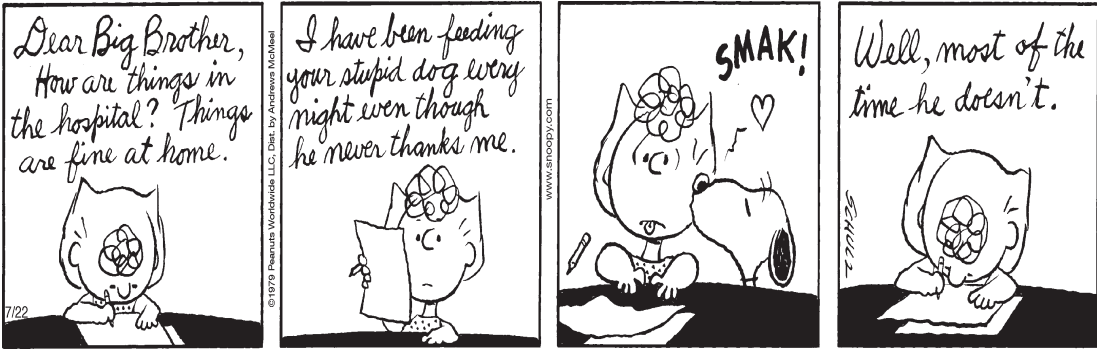
By Shannon Rapp & Will Eisenberg
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07/22/26

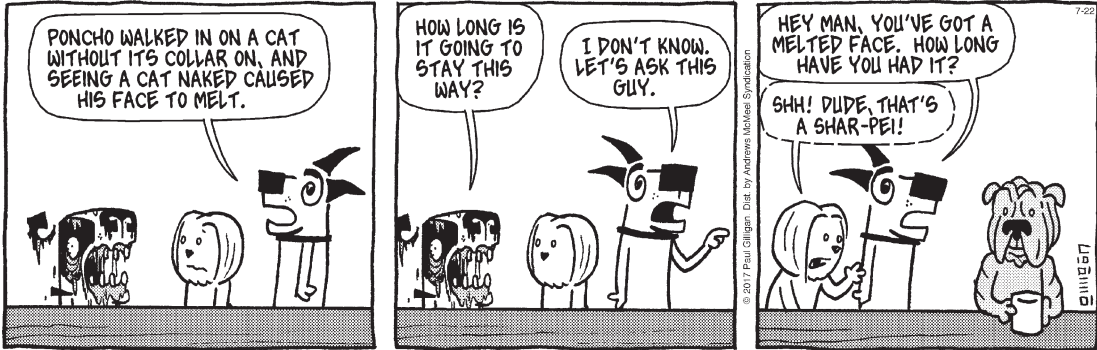
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE GREEN BERETS

Solution: 8 letters

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

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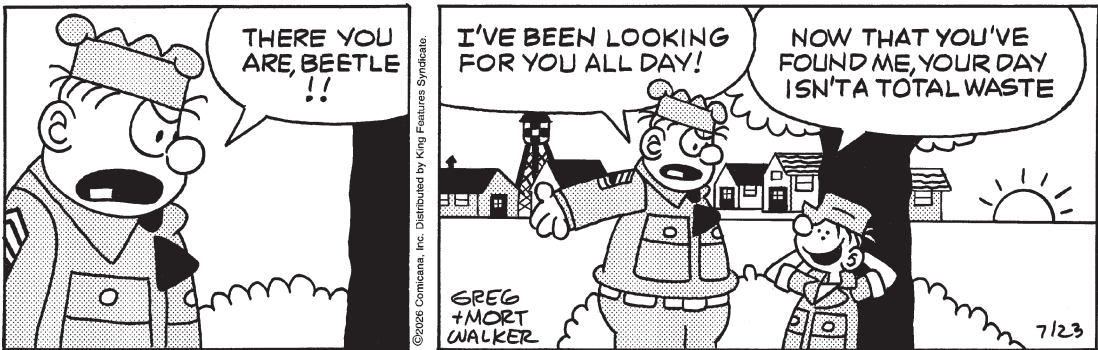
Agency, Army, Badge, Base, Battle, Boot Camp, Brave, Camouflage, Colonel, Command, Defense, Delta, Dive, Duty, Elite, Film, Fitness, Forces, Fort, Green, Guard, Hide, Honor, Invasion, Jungle, Leader, Military, Navy, Patrol, Peace, Rangers, Rifle, Save, Scouts, Search, Sergeant, Skill, Soldier, Special, Team, Training, Troops, Uniform, Unit, Veteran, Warfare

TODAY'S ANSWER: Missions

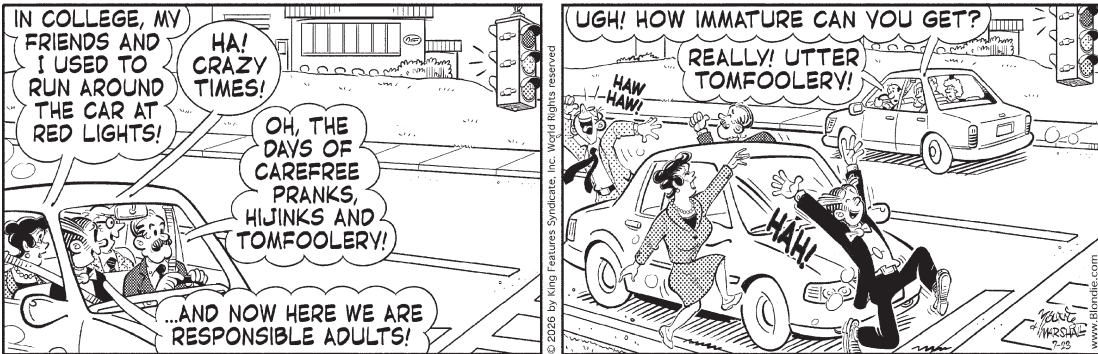
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



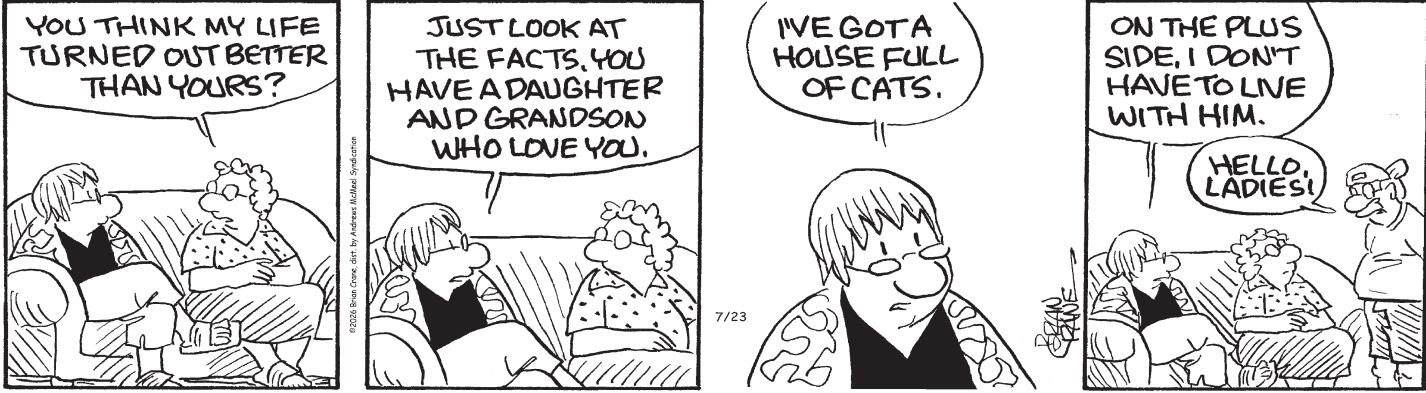
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Walk on the wild side

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Cleopatra's undoing
- Iota
- Trail
- Damage
- Car with a meter
- Chills and fever
- ideal
- Under covers
- Hawaii's state bird
- Kind of orange
- Impartial
- Writing fluid
- CIA
- forerunner
- Likelihood
- “— Maria”
- Put on
- Toward the sheltered side
- Cravat
- Notorious emperor

DOWN

- “You said it!”
- Story
- Peel
- “To — is human ...”
- Pinnacle
- Kiddie
- Cook a certain way
- For men only
- Knight's title
- Jalopy
- Hold back
- Place of sacrifice
- Chair
- Wall Street animal
- Today
- Son of Jacob
- Heavy metal
- Shred
- Perfect place
- Psychic's gift
- Newt

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

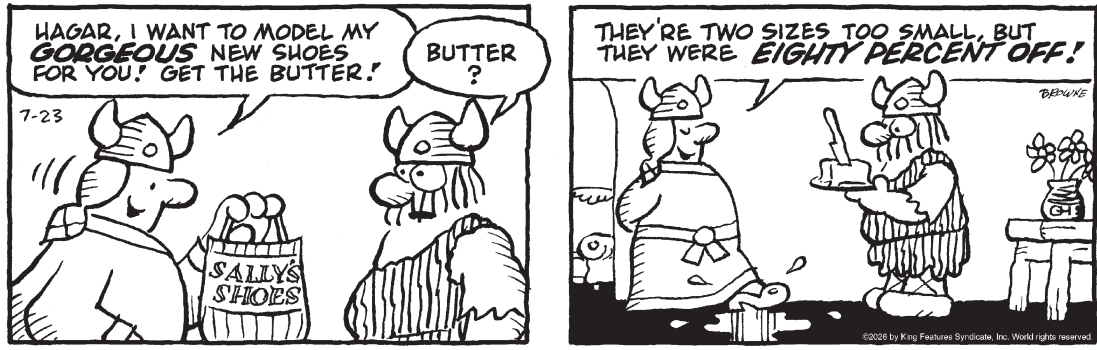
- Forward-thinking, in a way
- Poke
- Yoked animals
- Help along (2 wds.)
- Trousers

- Golden- —
- Albacore
- Bread loaf end
- Conversations
- Concluded
- Employ
- Hodgepodge
- Insubstantial
- Arrival's opposite
- Western state (Abbr.)
- Night, to Nero
- Skill
- Awful
- Of one's birth
- White lie
- Burn with steam
- Peaceful protest (Hyph.)
- Ait
- Require
- Own
- Calendar abbr.
- “— — I care!”
- Engrossed
- Once around a track

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11				12				13			
14				15				16			
17			18			19		20			
		21				22					
	23					24			25	26	27
28					29			30			
31					32			33			
34				35				36			
			37					38			
39	40	41			42		43			44	45
46					47		48		49		
50					51				52		
53					54				55		

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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.

PLAYING FIVE STONES

Solution: 8 letters

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

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7/23

Air, Challenge, Childhood, Clutch, Dexterity, Easy, Family, Focus, Friends, Fun, Indoor, Lawn, Level, Manipulate, Moves, Order, Outdoor, Parties, Pickup, Picnics, Players, Playground, Porch, Practice, Recreation, Rough, Rule, Score, Sequence, Simultaneous, Single-handed, Smooth, Speed, Steps, Targets, Throw, Timing, Toss, Tradition, Under

TODAY'S ANSWER: Patterns

Georgia Hospital Association appoints new board of trustees

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- Coffee Regional Medical Center President and CEO Vicki Lewis was installed as the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Hospital Association at the association's recent annual Meeting of the Assembly. Lewis was elected to the role of chair-elect in 2025 and assumes the role of chair following her service over the past year.

Lewis, who has served on the GHA Board since 2019, will lead the board in developing strategies to support GHA hospital members, advocating for the highest-quality patient care, and ensuring GHA remains the leading advocate and supporter for hospitals across the state.

"Vicki Lewis is a highly skilled and deeply respected leader who has devoted her career to improving healthcare access and outcomes for the patients and communities she

serves," GHA President and CEO Caylee Noggle said. "She is a trusted voice among her peers, a passionate advocate for access to high-quality, affordable care and a collaborative leader."

"As chair of the Georgia Hospital Association Board of Trustees, Vicki's experience, wisdom, and collaborative approach will serve our membership exceptionally well. I am excited to partner with her as we continue advancing policies and initiatives that strengthen Georgia's healthcare system and improve the health of all Georgians."

Lewis succeeds Scott Steiner, the president and CEO of Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, who will serve as immediate past chair and AHA Region 4 policy board delegate.

Atrium Health Georgia Market President Delvecchio Finley was elected by GHA's members to serve as chair-elect.



Scott Steiner

GHA 2026-2027 Board of Trustees:
Executive Committee
Chair: Vicki Lewis, president and CEO, Coffee Regional Medical Center
Chair-elect: Delvecchio Finley, president, Georgia Market, Atrium Health
Immediate Past Chair & AHA Region 4 Policy Board Delegate: Scott Steiner, president and CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System
AHA Region 4 Policy Board Delegate: Kevin Bierschenk,

CEO, Union General Health System
Governing Board Representative: Lee Lewis, trustee, Appling Healthcare
GHA President and CEO: Caylee Noggle
At-Large Trustees
Heather Dexter, president, Emory Healthcare Regional Hospital Division
Billy Hayes, CEO, Northside Hospital Cherokee
Bill Lee, CEO, Evans Memorial Hospital

Stonish Pierce, president and CEO, Trinity Health Georgia
Anthony Saul, president and COO, Grady Health System
Damien Scott, CEO, Emanuel Medical Center
Isaac Sendros, president and CEO, AdventHealth Georgia and AdventHealth Redmond
Bradley Talbert, CEO, Memorial Health
Dr. Francine Witt, president and CEO, Effingham Health System
Ex Officio Council Chair Trustees
GHA Post-Acute Care Council: Eric Crossan, Market CEO, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital of Augusta and Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital of Athens
GHA Behavioral Health Council: Sally Perry, divisional vice president, Universal Health Services Inc.
GHA Rural Health Council: Angela Stiggins, administrator, CommonSpirit Memorial Hospital North Georgia
Governing Board Representative

Gretchen Corbin, Trustee, Wellstar Health System
Steve Rowe, Trustee, Union General Health System
GHA Board members serve in a governance role but also advocate on behalf of and support the entire hospital field as they work to fulfill their missions and the mission of GHA to create a healthier Georgia.
"The GHA Board of Trustees plays a vital role in shaping the future of healthcare across Georgia, providing leadership, insight, and guidance that strengthens our ability to serve hospitals, health systems, and the patients who rely on them," Noggle said. "We are honored to have these accomplished healthcare leaders serving on the board and look forward to the expertise, perspectives, and commitment they bring as we continue advancing the health and well-being of communities throughout our state."



Special Photo: UGA

The University of Georgia has been named one of the nation's best colleges by Money magazine in its annual Best Colleges in America ratings.

Money names UGA one of America's best colleges

University of Georgia
UGA Today

ATHENS – The University of Georgia has been named one of the nation's best colleges by Money in its annual Best Colleges in America ratings.

UGA earned 4.5 out of 5 stars, with Money highlighting the university's affordability, academic quality and strong student outcomes. Editors also praised UGA's small class sizes, access to financial aid and academic rigor.

Money evaluated more than 700 four-year colleges using 25 separate measures focused broadly on educational quality, affordability and student outcomes.

Among UGA's measures

cited are:

An 87% six-year graduation rate for both transfer students and first-time students.

Median student debt of \$18,500.

Median earnings of \$48,074 for recent graduates.

Grant aid for 89% of UGA undergraduates.

\$8,085 average cost for low-income students after financial aid.

Several key indicators have improved since UGA first received a 4.5-star rating in 2023. The average price for low-income students has fallen from \$9,800 to \$8,085, while the share of graduates earning more than the typical high school graduate has increased from 77% to 82%.

MARTA reports 4.7 million riders during World Cup, without major crimes

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Spain won the World Cup Sunday, but MARTA is already celebrating a win, announcing Friday that it moved 4.7 million riders during the 35 days of events in metro Atlanta, with no major crimes reported.

The transit agency came into the FIFA World Cup amid a federal investigation, after a woman was stabbed to death on a train and another was stabbed in a separate incident.

The violence prompted U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy to order an investigation by the Federal Transit Administration in early June.

MARTA Interim General Manager and CEO Jonathan J. Hunt responded to the federal inquiry by describing a host of improvements since he took over last August.

In a June 17 letter to the federal agen-

cy, Hunt wrote that the MARTA crime rate fell 25% from 2024 to 2025, with aggravated assaults down 27% and robberies down 35%.

MARTA had 230 police officers when he took over, and it had 268 by the time he sent the letter.

And the Fiscal Year 2026 forecast for police expenditures at the agency were nearly \$58.7 million, up 22% from the prior fiscal year.

"Our increased law enforcement actions are having a positive impact," Hunt wrote.

But he also acknowledged a core challenge.

"While MARTA has positive and improving crime statistics, we realize that if our customers don't perceive the system to be safe they will not ride," Hunt said.

Most of the money comes from local sales taxes, though the federal government gave MARTA nearly \$11 million in grants for safety and operations prep-

aration ahead of the World Cup, Hunt said in a letter to Georgia lawmakers last month.

The agency seized on the increased ridership during the World Cup as a promising sign.

The busiest day was the match between Morocco and Haiti on June 24, with 240,000 daily riders, which was 2.6 times the normal count. The next busiest day was when England played the Democratic Republic of Congo, with 230,000 riders, 2.5 times normal.

Though no major crimes were reported, three suspects in prior violent incidents were apprehended, the agency said, as hundreds of MARTA officers worked nearly around the clock, with help from transit police from Denver and other jurisdictions.

Six hundred MARTA ambassadors and 100 multilingual FIFA volunteers also pitched in, as the agency gave directions, water, sunscreen and first aid to fans.

State officials launch Georgia's first Superfund research center

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist

BRUNSWICK -- Just across the road from the waterfront in Brunswick, Semona Holmes lives in a house surrounded by fruit trees, potted flowers, a fish pond — and often, when it rains or the tide is extra high, floodwater.

"If you can imagine this entire area here completely flooded," she explained on her front porch on a recent afternoon. "The flooding

would be ... we would have like a river on our street."

The floodwater has reached to her knees at times. Once, after a hurricane, her neighbor canoed down the block.

Improvements to the stormwater system have helped a bit in recent years. But Holmes's concerns go beyond the inconvenience of an occasionally flooded street. She lives about half a mile from a former pesticide plant, which is now a toxic Superfund site, contaminated former industrial sites according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Holmes is worried about what exactly the floodwater might contain.

"Everything from that chemical plant has flowed into our community," she said.

Scientists want to get a better handle on what, exactly, has flowed into this community's air, soil, water and people. Researchers from six universities are launching Georgia's first Superfund research center, with \$15 million in funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences over five years. The team made up of scientists from Emory University, the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman College, and Texas Tech University, will look at Glynn County's four toxic Superfund sites, including the one near Holmes.

The work has two main goals, according to Emory public health professor Noah Scovronick.

"One is to understand the health effects of past chemical exposures, and the other is to try and reduce people's future exposures," he said.

To do that, the researchers



Photo courtesy of Semona Holmes

Deep flood water builds up outside Semona Holmes's house in Brunswick, a common occurrence during heavy rains.

will study links between the toxic substances at the former industrial sites and possible health effects, and conduct environmental sampling to figure out how and where people may have been exposed. They'll also need to model impacts of climate change, like rising seas and stronger storms.

"More exposure to extreme weather could actually release more of the contaminants into the environment," Scovronick said.

That could happen in several ways. Rising sea levels and groundwater levels and stronger storms could flood the sites, spreading the chemicals into the surrounding environment. On sites that have toxic materials stored in structures or under caps, flooding could breach those containment measures that are supposed to keep people safe from exposure.

"We want to be sure that the remediation that is ongoing at those sites is resilient to extreme weather moving forward," Scovronick said.

The researchers met with community members like Holmes to plan their work, so that the studies can answer the lingering questions Glynn County

residents have about the industrial pollution in their environment.

For her part, Holmes and her family already don't drink their tap water or eat fish and crab from Glynn County waterways. But she said they need more information about what chemicals they've been exposed to, and the possible consequences. She has six grandchildren, several of whom attend an elementary school just blocks from the toxic site near her house.

"We want them to be healthy," she said. "And you don't want to worry about they're playing on a playground that has contaminated soil."

Even if the new research uncovers damage that can't be undone or exposure to health risks that can't be reversed, Holmes said, it's important to have all of that documented — and acknowledged by the companies that operated the industrial sites in Glynn County.

"It shows that you care about humanity," she said. "And that you are able to acknowledge that, 'Yeah, by our actions, we have possibly contaminated an entire county.'"

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Bryan Chamberlain (26-046) has submitted an application to the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission requesting Special Approval to operate a Community Residence to serve six clients on a .25-acre parcel zoned R-2 (Single-Family Residential District). The property is at 2005 Waddell Avenue. (00230/00013/014). The property owner and applicant is Bryan Chamberlain. **Ward 4**

The Albany Dougherty Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on this request on **Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA. Based on the information presented at the public meeting, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation and forward it to the Board of City Commissioners.

The City of Albany Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** in the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA 31701.

Meetings of the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission and the City of Albany Board of Commissioners are open to the public. Those wishing to speak or provide comments should contact the Planning & Development Services Department before the meeting at (229) 438-3901, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Albany does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The Human Resources Department has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights provided there is available at the Office of Human Resources. The City of Albany will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (7 working days). Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in an open meeting, program, or activity of the City of Albany, Georgia, should be directed to Paul Forgey, AICP, 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, Georgia, 31701, (229) 438-3901.

Lyndon Worthy among Georgia’s Power 100

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — Worth County quarterback Lyndon Worthy is no longer just one of the top players in Class A Division I.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, he is one of the top 100 high school football players in the entire state.

Worthy was named to the AJC’s prestigious Georgia Power 100, an annual preseason list recognizing the state’s top football talent regardless of classification. He was one of only 10 quarterbacks selected in the publication’s first posi-

tional release this week.

The honor comes after Worthy directed the Rams to the GHSA Class A Division I state championship last season while establishing himself as one of Georgia’s most accomplished returning signal-callers.

The four-year starter has thrown for more than 9,000 career yards and 90-plus touchdowns during his high school career. Last season alone, he passed for more than 3,000 yards and 28 touchdowns while leading Worth County to its first state football championship since 1987.

Worthy is expected to once again lead a Worth County team that enters the 2026



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Worth County quarterback Lyndon Worthy was named among Georgia’s top 100 football players this week. Worthy has been a three-year starter for the Rams and has passed for more than 9,000 yards and 92 touchdowns so far.

season among the favorites to defend its state title.

The Georgia Power 100 is one of the state’s most respected preseason honors because it recognizes players from every GHSA classification as well as private schools. The list is released by position over several days before the complete Top 100 is unveiled.

Only one other player from South Georgia has been announced through the first two position groups.

Cairo running back Bryan Duncan, a West Virginia commitment, was named to the Georgia Power 100 running back list after rushing for nearly 1,800 yards and 20

touchdowns last season. Although the Syrupmakers are outside the Albany Herald’s regular coverage area, Duncan is expected to make multiple appearances in Albany this fall as Cairo is scheduled to face Westover, Monroe and Dougherty.

Several additional Albany Herald coverage-area players could still be announced when the AJC releases the remaining position groups over the next several days, including Lee County standouts Gregory Batson, Jaden Upshaw, Carter Blackwell and Shavezz Dixon, as well as Westover offensive lineman Kyson Mallard.



File Photo

Georgia head coach Kirby Smart addresses reporters Tuesday during SEC Media Days in Tampa, Fla. He emphasized that despite the rapidly changing landscape of college football, the Bulldogs remain focused on the fundamentals of winning through toughness, leadership and consistency.

Kirby Smart: Bulldogs still built to win

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla. — Kirby Smart isn’t interested in debating the ever-changing landscape of college football.

While NIL, the transfer portal, revenue sharing and conference expansion continue to dominate headlines, Georgia’s head coach delivered a simple message Tuesday during SEC Media Days: the Bulldogs’ formula for winning hasn’t changed.

“What wins football games has not changed,” Smart said. “If you get really lost and caught up in the landscape and you’re constantly arguing and fussing and complaining ... you’re not worried about what matters. And we’re going to worry about what matters first at our place.”

Rather than dwelling on off-the-field issues, Smart repeatedly returned to the values he believes have made Georgia one of college football’s premier programs over the past decade — physicality, consistency, leadership and player development.

“The consistency and performance is probably what I’m most proud of over the last 10 to 11 years,” Smart said. “Can we repeatedly be successful regardless of who comes in and out of your program?”

That philosophy extends well beyond Georgia’s roster.

Smart credited much of the Bulldogs’ sustained success to remarkable continuity among his coaching staff, noting several assistants have remained in Athens for nearly a decade despite opportunities elsewhere.

“When people talk about roster retention, I like to talk about staff retention,” Smart said. “We’ve been blessed to retain our staff and stay intact almost completely for three to four years now. I think that matters.”

Smart also highlighted quarterback Gunner Stockton as an example of the leadership Georgia expects from its players.

Rather than praising Stockton’s arm or athletic ability, Smart shared a story from an offseason leadership retreat. During a whitewater rafting trip, guides asked who wanted to sit in the most dangerous seat at the front of the raft. Stockton volunteered without hesitation.

“He leads from the front,” Smart said. “He takes hits. He embodies everything our program’s about in toughness and culture.”

Georgia’s culture has also been

shaped this offseason by an unlikely source.

Smart said the Bulldogs studied NBA champion Oklahoma City Thunder and embraced the team’s message about being “uncommon” by celebrating teammates’ success ahead of individual accomplishments.

“Our team and program is built on believing in the success of others more than the success of ourselves,” Smart said.

Despite Georgia’s reputation as a defense-first program, Smart pushed back against the notion that the Bulldogs rely solely on defense and the running game.

He noted Georgia has ranked among the nation’s leaders in explosive offensive plays over the past five seasons while emphasizing that every championship contender eventually has to run the football in critical situations.

“Our identity is going to be physical,” Smart said. “When you have to run the ball, you have to be able to run the ball.”

Smart also defended offensive coordinator Mike Bobo, whose play-calling has drawn criticism from some fans despite Georgia’s success.

“I know we’ve got the right offensive coordinator,” Smart said. “He worries about winning football games.”

Although Georgia has won the last two SEC championships, some observers have questioned whether the Bulldogs remain the sport’s dominant program after consecutive seasons without a national title.

Smart dismissed that narrative, pointing out Georgia’s most recent playoff loss came against another SEC opponent and stressing that he evaluates seasons by improvement rather than perception.

“I don’t get hung up a lot on just the finish,” Smart said. “I like to look back and say, ‘What did we do well? What did we do poorly? How do we improve?’”

Georgia enters the 2026 season replacing several key contributors while again carrying championship expectations. But if Tuesday’s message revealed anything, it’s that Smart believes the Bulldogs’ blueprint remains unchanged.

In an era defined by constant change across college athletics, Georgia’s coach insists the focus in Athens will remain where it has always been.

“What wins football games has not changed,” Smart said.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Westover graduate T.K. Johnson, second from left, and his father, Tykessie Johnson, left, are joined by Kiva Brady, Keyvon Brady and Haven Brady Sr. after Johnson and Brady signed Monday to continue their basketball and academic careers together at Edward Waters University in Jacksonville, Fla. The former Patriots will compete in the SIAC against Albany State during their college careers.

Westover duo signs with Edward Waters

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — T.K. Johnson and Keyvon Brady have spent years building chemistry on the basketball court.

Neither was ready to walk away from it.

Instead of taking separate paths after helping Westover High School to a 24-3 season, the longtime teammates will continue their basketball journey side by side after signing Monday with Edward Waters University.

It was fitting that the ceremony took place inside Westover’s storied “Boston Palace,” a gymnasium that has been home to generations of Patriots. With Westover expected to move into its new gymnasium this fall, Monday’s signing may have marked one of the final celebrations inside the building that helped shape both players.

For Johnson and Brady, it also marked the beginning of a new chapter.

The pair will head to Jackson-

ville, Fla., to play for the NCAA Division II Tigers, members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The move means the former Patriots will return to Albany as opponents, with Edward Waters competing annually against Albany State.

Johnson developed into one of Westover’s most dangerous offensive players during the Patriots’ 24-3 campaign, averaging nearly 11 points and five rebounds per game. But head coach Dallis Smith said his greatest improvement couldn’t be measured by statistics.

“When T.K. came in, he was a tall, skinny kid, kind of clumsy, but he worked hard,” Smith said. “Every time he got better and better. He caught on quick, and his fast footwork and his unbelievable shooting made him great. His growth was amazing, and I’m definitely going to miss him.”

Brady rarely demanded attention, but he earned the trust of everyone around him.

When an injury sidelined start-

ing point guard Jacob Ross, Brady stepped into the role without hesitation, helping keep the Patriots on track during another successful season.

Smith said Brady exemplified everything a coach hopes to find in a player.

“Brady is one of those guys that leaves everything on the floor,” Smith said. “Every coach wishes they had guys like Brady. He never complained, always ‘yes sir, no sir,’ and did whatever he was asked to do. I’m going to miss you, too.”

Johnson signed alongside his father, Tykessie Johnson, while Brady was joined by his parents, Kiva and Haven Brady Sr. Brady is also the younger brother of undefeated Albany professional boxer Haven Brady Jr.

While both players earned the chance to continue their careers in the SIAC, their destination may surprise some local basketball fans. Neither received an offer from Albany State before committing to Edward Waters, one of the Golden Rams’ conference rivals.

Waldrep’s arm issue deepens Braves’ rotation woes

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves’ already thin starting rotation took another hit Sunday when right-hander Hurston Waldrep left his start for Triple-A Gwinnett because of right arm discomfort.

Braves manager Walt Weiss said before Monday night’s game against the San Diego Padres that Waldrep will undergo further evaluation this week. The latest setback comes just months after the 24-year-

old underwent arthroscopic surgery in February to remove loose bodies from his right elbow.

“Any time a pitcher has to remove himself from a game, you



File photo

Atlanta Braves right-hander Hurston Waldrep exited his latest Triple-A Gwinnett start with right arm discomfort, adding to Atlanta’s growing rotation concerns as the Aug. 3 trade deadline approaches.

never think good things,” Weiss said. “But we’ll see.”

Waldrep returned to action in June but has thrown just 29 combined innings between the major and minor leagues before expe-

riencing the latest issue.

The injury further underscores Atlanta’s growing need to acquire at least one starting pitcher before the Aug. 3 MLB trade deadline.

The Braves had hoped Waldrep could shake off the rust and regain the form he displayed last season, when he posted a 2.88 ERA in 10 appearances, including nine starts, for Atlanta.

Instead, his latest injury leaves the organization with even fewer internal options

Commish: SEC conversations ‘real’ about split from NCAA

Field Level Media

SEC commissioner Greg Sankey kicked off conference media days in Tampa on Monday by clarifying that there is no doubt about the seriousness of internal conversations about splitting from the NCAA.

“So they’re real. People have talked about that,” Sankey said. “They’ve opined about the frustrations that bring them to the point of saying we should look at something significantly different. I do not believe that is a leverage point. I think that’s just honest communication.”

“I would prefer that stay in a meeting room or on a video-conference, not be part of the D1.ticker the next morning, but I don’t control all of that. What I think is important is those comments represent a high level of frustration with the circumstance in which we find ourselves. We have regulated ourselves more progressively than other colleagues by choice, across our league. We’ve had different academic eligibility restrictions in the past. So we have different transfer restrictions in the past. Some of what you hear comes out of a culture that we can regulate ourselves.”

Sankey said the NCAA must function “in a healthy manner”

or risk simmering frustrations becoming more significant.

As the top official in one of the most consistently successful sports conferences, Sankey openly shared the SEC is at odds with portions of the NCAA membership on several matters. Those include possibly discontinuing conference championship games — Sankey wants the SEC to keep the league title game — the size of the College Football Playoff and how other leagues handle scheduling.

“We had what I’ll call an unsatisfactory conversation with members of the College Football Playoff staff and some of their advisers in Destin,” Sankey said of the challenging nine-game SEC schedule compared to less-challenging paths to the playoff for some peers. “That’s rehashing from a couple months ago; that’s not a secret. That’s a reminder of that process needing to improve continually.”

“My confidence is that people will act with integrity. I do think we have questions about the understanding of the strength and rigor associated with competing in the South-eastern Conference.”

Legislative discussions are part of Sankey’s new reality,

Georgia introduces ‘Dawgs to Docs’ pathway

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS, Ga. — The University of Georgia Athletic Association, The Georgia Way, and the University of Georgia School of Medicine have partnered to form a one-year pathway program for Bulldog student-athletes who are pursuing careers in medicine.

“Dawgs to Docs creates another exceptional opportunity that highlights the university’s commitment to our student-athletes and their professional development,” J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Josh Brooks said. “We are thrilled about this partnership with the University of Georgia School of Medicine and continue to be proud of our student-athletes as they pursue excellence in competition and beyond.”

Following sophomore year, student-athletes can enroll in the new program, which will provide a guided pre-med pathway and the opportunity to be a competitive applicant for admission to the University of Georgia School of Medicine upon successful completion of program requirements.

The program offers structured mentorship, clinical exposure and academic support tailored to athletic schedules as well as professional development.

“With Dawgs to Docs, we are creating opportunities for these student-athletes to explore careers in medicine, receive meaningful mentorship, and ultimately serve patients and communities across Georgia,” said Dr. Shelley Nuss, dean of the School of Medicine. “We are proud to help transform the leadership skills they have demonstrated in their sport into a lifelong commitment to improving the health of others.”

In addition to a minimum sophomore standing, student-athletes must complete one

full academic year of college-level biology and chemistry, have a college GPA of 3.5 or higher, a premedical GPA of 3.3 or higher at the time of application, an ACT/SAT composite score of 24 or higher or a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher, a demonstrated intention to practice medicine in Georgia, and demonstrated evidence of UGA School of Medicine values.

The program recognizes that student-athletes bring distinctive strengths, discipline, resilience, leadership and teamwork that translates into success in medical school and clinical practice.

The university announced in February 2024 that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized the establishment of a School of Medicine at UGA. Since that announcement, teams across the university worked tirelessly to prepare the new school to serve the state’s healthcare needs.

Just two years later, in February 2026, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education granted preliminary accreditation, allowing the university to recruit and admit its inaugural class. By April, the School of Medicine had extended admission offers to prospective students amid incredible demand. More than 2,000 applications were submitted during a condensed two-week admissions cycle, and school officials interviewed 235 prospective students.

The UGA School of Medicine is now the second public medical school in the state. The 93,000-square-foot medical education and research building is scheduled to be completed this December, due in large part to the continued strong support of the Governor and the General Assembly.



Special Photo: Nathan Ray Seebeck-Imagn Images

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey addresses reporters during SEC Media Days in Tampa, Fla., on Monday. Sankey said discussions about the possibility of the SEC separating from the NCAA are legitimate but stem from growing frustration over governance, College Football Playoff issues and the need for national standards in college athletics.

Thunder deal Luguentz Dort to Hawks

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Hawks acquired 2025 All-Defensive wing Luguentz Dort from the Oklahoma City Thunder and Ryan Nembhard from the Dallas Mavericks in a three-team deal on Sunday.

The Hawks sent former No. 1 overall pick Zaccharie Risacher and a protected future second-round draft pick to the Mavericks, with two more future second-rounders going to the Thunder. Dallas is shipping one second-rounder to Oklahoma City.

While Dort has been a mainstay in Oklahoma City’s starting lineup for years, the move completed a necessary stretch of offseason deals for the Thunder. They acquired seven second-round picks while going under the second apron with their trades of Dort, Isaiah Joe and Aaron Wiggins.

Oklahoma City picked up Dort’s \$17.7 million team option, acquired three future assets and created a \$17 million trade exception. Dort is now in a position to sign a long-term contract in Atlanta that was infeasible with the Thunder.

Dort, 27, joins a young Hawks team led by Jalen Johnson and Nickeil Alexander-Walker that won more playoff games against the NBA champion New York Knicks than any other opponent. Atlanta also freed up \$40-plus million in



Special Photo: Alonzo Adams-Imagn Images

The Atlanta Hawks acquired the 2025 All-Defensive standout from the Thunder on Sunday as part of a three-team trade that sent former No. 1 overall pick Zaccharie Risacher to the Dallas Mavericks.

cap space next summer.

Dort, who finished fourth in Defensive Player of the Year voting in 2024-25, averaged 8.3 points and 3.6 rebounds in 69 games last season. He averaged 11.6 points and 3.8 rebounds in seven seasons with the Thunder.

In his second NBA season, the 21-year-old Risacher averaged 9.6 points and 3.8 rebounds in 67 games. However, he received just 23 minutes during the playoffs. The forward finished second to the Spurs’ Stephon Castle in the NBA’s 2025 Rookie of the

Year voting.

Nembhard, 23, played in 60 games for the Mavericks as a rookie guard last season. The undrafted free agent made 27 starts and averaged 6.6 points, 5.3 assists and 2.2 rebounds.

‘Dog mentality:’ Braves’ Mederos secures first save

By Mark Bowman

Braves.com

ATLANTA — Victor Mederos’ memorable weekend took another dramatic turn Monday night.

Three days after collecting his first major league hit as a mop-up reliever during a lopsided victory over the Texas Rangers, Mederos found himself protecting a one-run lead against the San Diego Padres. He responded by retiring seven of the nine batters he faced over the final 2 1/3 innings to earn his first career save in the Atlanta Braves’ 3-2 victory at Truist Park.

“It’s high energy every day, and he’s not scared,” Braves manager Walt Weiss said. “It’s his first Major League save. The way he handled it, you would have thought he’d have done it a bunch of times.”

With Atlanta’s bullpen stretched thin, Mederos

was called upon after starter Bryce Elder turned in six strong innings. Danny Young recorded two outs in the seventh before Mederos took over with the Braves clinging to a one-run lead.

The 24-year-old right-hander escaped the seventh inning unscathed before needing just five pitches to retire Fernando Tatis Jr., Jackson Merrill and Manny Machado in order during the eighth. Weiss had seen enough to send Mederos back out for the ninth, where he closed out the victory.

After recording the final out, Mederos looked toward the sky, let out a roar and pounded his chest in celebration.

“It’s the dog mentality,” Mederos said. “I start falling into trouble when I don’t have that aggression.”

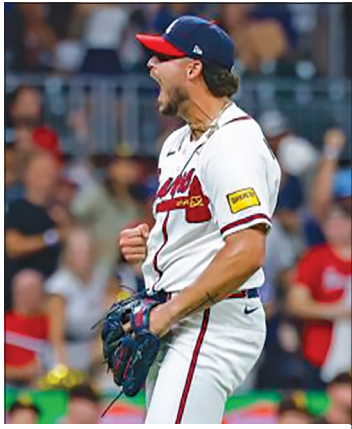
Atlanta acquired Mederos from the Los Angeles Angels on April 3 in exchange for

international bonus pool money. Although he spent most of the past three seasons in the minor leagues, he has quickly earned the trust of the Braves’ coaching staff.

Monday’s outing matched his career high with five major league appearances and may have secured a more prominent role in Atlanta’s bullpen.

“I was talking to (bullpen coach) JP Martinez today, and he was just like, ‘How many you got?’” Mederos said. “I was like, ‘I’ve got everything you want me to get.’ So I just went out there and took it one batter at a time. I didn’t know what was going to happen. I just trusted in God and trusted in what the catcher was putting down.”

The performance capped an eventful four-day stretch for Mederos. During Friday’s blowout win over Texas, he delivered his first



Special Photo: Braves.com

Atlanta reliever Victor Mederos reacts after securing his first save for the team. Mederos pitched the final 2 1/3 innings Monday night and the Braves beat the Padres, 3-2.

major league hit, a two-run single off Rangers catcher Kyle Higashioka, who was pitching in relief.

Now he also owns his first major league save.

“It’s been really cool,” Mederos said. “It’s been a lot of fun. I’m very blessed.”

From 9A BRAVES

to stabilize a rotation that has been plagued by inconsistency and injuries.

Chris Sale has anchored the staff with another Cy Young Award-caliber campaign, but the rest of the rotation remains filled with question marks.

Reynaldo López has yet to pitch beyond five innings in

any of his four starts since returning to the rotation. Grant Holmes has shown improvement in July but also has not worked past the fifth inning in any of his three starts this month.

Bryce Elder entered Monday’s game carrying an 8.47 ERA over his previous seven starts before delivering one of his strongest outings of the season against the Padres. Veteran left-hander Martín

Pérez is expected to return from the injured list Wednesday after posting a 4.85 ERA across his last six starts before being sidelined.

For now, Atlanta appears committed to relying on Sale, López, Holmes, Elder and Pérez while the front office searches for help before the trade deadline.

The Braves have already exhausted most of their in-house alternatives.

JR Ritchie received multiple opportunities to claim a rotation spot but owns a 5.55 ERA with a 14.4 percent walk rate in seven starts. Meanwhile, the club’s No. 5 prospect, Owen Murphy, struggled in his major league debut Saturday, lasting just 2 2/3 innings.

There remains hope that AJ Smith-Shawver can contribute after returning from the injured list, though pitchers often need time to regain their

form following ulnar collateral ligament surgery. Waldrep had also been viewed as a potential midseason boost despite struggling with his command during his brief stint with Atlanta this season, issuing 10 walks and hitting two batters over 10 2/3 innings before being optioned to Gwinnett.

His latest setback places him alongside fellow injured starters Spencer Schwellenbach and Spencer Strider.

There is little optimism that Strider, sidelined since June 12 with right elbow inflammation, will pitch again this season.

Schwellenbach has progressed to throwing bullpen sessions at the Braves’ spring training complex in Florida but is still expected to need at least another month of buildup after he is cleared to face live hitters later this month before he could return to Atlanta’s rotation.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Why is being married to **Tom Cruise** such a challenge? His first wife, actress **Mimi Rogers**, 70, made three films prior to marrying him. They were wed from 1987-1990 but had no children. After their divorce, she made 23 forgettable films. She recently starred in the erotic thriller “Night Nurse,” which released in theaters on July 10.

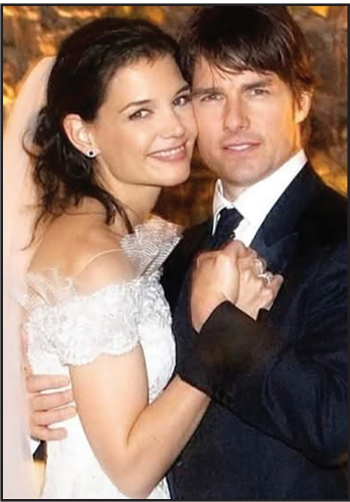
Nicole Kidman, 59, was wed to Cruise from 1990-2001. Their two adopted children shunned Kidman, choosing to live with Cruise. Meanwhile, Kidman won an Oscar for “The Hours” and has made 58 films since since their divorce, including “Practical Magic 2” (out in September) and “The Young People.”

Cruise’s third wife, **Katie Holmes**, 47, made 16 films since their divorce and is currently reteaming with her “Dawson’s Creek” co-star **Joshua Jackson** in the romantic dramedy “Happy Hours.” It was written and directed by Holmes, who also stars in the film. She received no spousal support or alimony from Cruise but received child support (on the order of \$400,000 a year) for their daughter, Suri, until she turned 18. (Suri’s now 20.) Allegedly, Holmes and Kidman divorced Cruise because of his religious constraints.

Was D.C. Studios premature in releasing “Supergirl”? They hoped that it could capitalize on “Superman’s” fame, but they were wrong! It disappointingly recouped only \$62.6 million of its \$190 million on its opening weekend worldwide. “Supergirl” **Milly Alcock’s** previous film credit was the Australian horror film “The School” (2018), which cost \$1.8 million but only grossed \$64,760.

Hopefully, the black comedy “Thumb,” with Awkwafina, **Kate McKinnon** and **Sofia Vergara**, as well as an untitled **Takashi Miike** slasher film will build Alcock’s following by the time “Man of Tomorrow” (the next “Superman” film) opens in 2027.

It appears that “America’s Got Talent’s” **Simon Cowell** is taking advantage of his show’s contestants. In 20 years, only a handful of winners have succeeded! **Terry Fator** (season two’s winner) received a \$1 million five-year residency at the Mirage. **Michael Grimm** (season five’s winner) reached No. 13 on the United States Billboard Top 200 and tours often. **Grace VanderWaal** (season 11’s winner at just 12 years old) has released hit albums and concert tours, and she was also in



Courtesy of Tony Rizzo

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise

Disney’s “Stargirl.” Twenty-one-year-old **Darci Lynne** (season 12’s winner who also won at 12 years old) played at the Grand Ole Opry and tours often as well. **Kodi Lee** (season 14’s winner), an autistic savant with optic nerve hypoplasia, basically only performs on “AGT” due to his autism. All of them won the \$1 million prize, which is cleverly paid over 40 years (\$25,000 a year or \$471.63 a week).

Oh, yes, and they also win a headlining spot on the Las Vegas strip that affords them no pay, since it’s part of the \$1 million payout. Imagine headlining the Vegas strip, seeing your name top-billed on a giant marquee, and only receiving \$471.63 a week. Here’s an idea for a spin-off ... “Living in Las Vegas on \$500 a Week!”

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Obituary announcement

Mary Alice McNeill
Mary Alice McNeill, age 69, died July 18, 2026 just one day before her 70th birthday after a sudden illness.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 23 at Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home with interment in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mary was born in Camilla, Ga. and was the fifth of eight children of Dr. and Mrs. A.A. McNeill, Jr. Mary graduated from Deerfield High School where she sang in school competitions in a trio. She went on to graduate from the Medical College of Georgia Nursing school with a BS in nursing. After nursing school, she moved to Albany, Ga. and worked in hospitals there and also in Archbold Hospital in Thomasville. She was known by her patients as a kind and attentive nurse.

Mary enjoyed running and playing tennis prior to the advancement of her progressive neurological disease.

Mary will be remembered by her family and friends as a most generous and giving person. She loved all the holidays and loved to decorate for them especially Christmas and St. Patrick’s Day. She loved baking and kept most of the family in cookies and cakes on a regular basis. Her great nieces and nephews were a source of tremendous joy to her.

Mary was a faithful member of St. John Vianney Catholic in Camilla. She for many years played guitar and sang during masses.

Mary is survived by her siblings Arch McNeill (Mary Jane), James McNeill, Nora McNeill (Mallary Perry), John McNeill, Pat McNeill (Jan), Kathleen McNeill, 9 nieces and nephews and 11 great nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her sister Peggy and her parents.

Visitation will be from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Thursday, before service, at Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home in Camilla.

Memorials may be made to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, 7053 GA Hwy 112, Camilla, GA 31730.

Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

To sign the online guest registry, visit our website at www.parkerbramlett.com.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 told a whopper (4)	_____
2 places for art and artifacts (7)	_____
3 experienced pros (7)	_____
4 it bisects a sphere (8)	_____
5 “L.A. Law” actor Blair (9)	_____
6 short-lived (9)	_____
7 “set of tracks” (5)	_____

UND	PER	MUS	LI	MS
ED	MET	RAL	TS	ER
EX	WO	ER	EU	EPH
OD	BUM	EME	AL	DIA

Tuesday’s Answers: 1. ELECTED 2. HAPPIEST 3. ALLOWANCE 4. MAGAZINES 5. PLACEMENT 6. AIREDALE 7. ALYSA 7/22

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 one catching Zs (7)	_____
2 loud noises (5)	_____
3 having a raspy voice (6)	_____
4 stunning (8)	_____
5 citrusy quality (9)	_____
6 western yellow pine’s alias (9)	_____
7 “Gettysburg Address,” say (7)	_____

ATI	SL	PER	ESS	GOR
OUS	DE	RSE	OR	BA
SA	NGS	PON	EE	GIN
HOA	ON	TAN	GE	RO

Wednesday’s Answers: 1. LIED 2. MUSEUMS 3. EXPERTS 4. DIAMETER 5. UNDERWOOD 6. EPHEMERAL 7. ALBUM 7/23

Release Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Like a specialized committee

6 Qualified

10 Sheer delight

14 Ready to drop

15 Squander

16 Wet and squirmy

17 Springsteen

18 White

19 Athletic brand

20 Cinematographer’s assignment?

23 Short greetings

24 Straight, for short

25 Make an alliance

28 Novel that inspired “There Will Be Blood”

29 Opposite of sans

31 Many a Chiwere language student

32 Screenwriter’s assignment?

36 Toys with tails

38 Nutrient in spinach

39 “Srsly!?”

41 iPhone helper

42 “Ghostbusters” actor Harold

44 Costume designer’s assignment?

46 Question in reply to “omw,” maybe

47 “Anyone_?”

49 Detroit labor org.

50 Town in Ontario County, New York

52 The works

53 Aves. and blvds.

56 Director’s assignment?

60 Low on dough

62 Zither kin

63 Sound that comes from on high

64 Volkswagen Group subsidiary

65 Like supervillains

66 Hall of Famer Shaquille

67 Get out of bed

68 French jeweler and glassmaker Lalique

69 Bookish sorts

DOWN

1 Teeming (with)

2 Metropolis in north-central India

3 The MLB’s Angels, to fans

4 Cookie with a limited-edition BTS collaboration

5 “Harriet” and “Wicked” Oscar nominee Erivo

6 Monastery leader

7 Veal cordon

8 Tolkien saga, briefly

9 Old mice and such

10 Italian salami city

11 Recurring melodic phrase

12 Big grazer

13 Cornea locale

21 Mello soda

22 “Dang!”

26 Gestation sites

27 Put forth

28 High-end hotel chain

29 “Concrete Rose” novelist Thomas

30 Dryer outlet

32 S’mores cookers

33 Speak from a rostrum

34 Namesakes of most planets

35 Little devils

37 “That didn’t escape my notice”

40 Windows shaped like 13-Downs

43 Product of a schism

45 Golden, as bygone days

48 Foam

51 Otherworldly

52 Waldorf salad fruit

53 Less polite

54 Trepidation

55 Exchanges for money

57 Order at a restaurant

58 CNN anchor Burnett

59 poem: free-form orchestral work

60 Target score in disc golf

61 “Bien sûr”

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	O	B	E	N	E	N	E	H	E	S	I	V
T	V	E	N	O	T	I	A	E	I	D	N	V
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			E	T	G		E	T	B	V		C

07/23/26

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64					65				66			
67					68				69			

By Ryan Patrick Smith
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07/23/26

celebrity extra

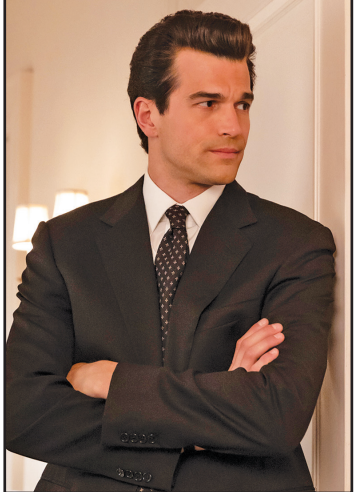
by Dana Jackson

Q: What’s next for Paul Anthony Kelly after his practically overnight success from playing John F. Kennedy Jr.? -- G.C.

A: The careers of both leads of the miniseries “Love Story” have taken off since it became a huge hit on Hulu. While Paul Anthony Kelly didn’t receive an Emmy nomination, his co-star, Sarah Pidgeon, was recognized in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series category. Kelly, however, is striking while the iron’s hot! He’ll appear in the upcoming 13th season of “American Horror Story,” the news of which was revealed at the Disney Upfront presentation in May. Kelly emerged on stage saying, “I guess every nightmare needs fresh blood ... and 13’s my lucky number.”

Kelly will also co-star with Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried in “The Housemaid’s Secret,” which is set for release in December 2027.

Q: Is it true they’re making a sequel to the “Practical Magic” movie? Are Nicole Kid-



Courtesy of FX

Paul Anthony Kelly as JFK Jr. in “Love Story”

man and Sandra Bullock both in it, or will it be with new stars? -- K.E.

A: The answer is “yes” and “yes!” “Practical Magic 2,” starring Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock, will premiere in theaters this Sept. 11. Dianne Wiest (“Only Murders in the Building”) and Stockard Channing (“The Good Wife”) will also be returning as the aunts, along with new young witches played by Joey King (“We Were the Lucky Ones”) and Maisie Williams (“Game of Thrones”).

The film is said to be based on “The Book of Magic,” a sequel novel to “Practical Magic,” which was released in 2021 by author Alice Hoffman.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ Y P G W D J R C D U K D Z T Z R C K I U Y C
D L U S Z Z N R T R Y C J Y D L B U Z B E U J L Z
R I W Z E G D U E X R S U H Z N B E U D U E X ,
N R K E X Z I W U W W U K J Y D L M Y E N . ”
— U N N R J R D W Z C

Previous Solution: “You don’t have to worry about acting being in love. You can just love and respect and admire the person.” — Paul Mescal

TODAY’S CLUE: S sjenbe M

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ Z O A W ’ M S Z U T Y W Y W C B L S Z G T
... D V M Z G T T S Y U T B L H M B A W C
Y S Z T W Y M Z A W Y W O O Z H H Y M Z H G Y E M Z A W
G B A X X L C B A V R H . ” — C T A B C T E Y B S Z W

Previous Solution: “I just wanted to go and be in the room again with people who absolutely are completely, madly obsessed with film.” — Emma Watson

TODAY’S CLUE: H sjenbe G

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ASU Foundation receives \$62,000 gift to support priority needs

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Albany State University Foundation has received a gift of \$62,549 from the U.S. Charitable Gift Trust to support the university’s highest priority needs, reinforcing a shared commitment to student success and institutional excellence.

As a donor-advised fund, U.S. Charitable Gift Trust maintains the privacy of its contributors. While the individuals behind this contribution remain anonymous, the gift reflects the collective generosity of supporters who believe in Albany State University’s mission. Members of the ASU community — alumni, friends, and advocates — can see themselves in this investment, as it represents a shared dedication to ensuring students have the resources they need to succeed.

The unrestricted nature of the gift provides the university with the flexibility to ad-

dress immediate and emerging needs. Funds may be used to support scholarships, academic programs and emergency assistance, all of which play a critical role in student retention and completion.

“Unrestricted gifts provide Albany State University with the flexibility to meet students where they are and address their most immediate needs,” ASU President Robert Scott said. “This type of support is critical to advancing our mission of fostering student success, removing barriers to completion, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically and personally.”

“I would like to personally thank the anonymous donor for this amazing gift. It will certainly make a difference in the lives of our students.”

A key initiative supported by this funding is the ASU GAP Scholarship, which is awarded each semester based on demonstrated student need and available funding.

Designed to “fill the gap,” the scholarship provides timely financial assistance to students who need additional support to remain enrolled, helping prevent interruptions in their academic journey.

This type of flexible funding is especially impactful because it allows the university to respond quickly to student and institutional needs. Unlike restricted gifts, which are designated for specific purposes, unrestricted funds can be deployed immediately. This ensures that students facing unexpected financial challenges receive assistance when it matters most.

“Gifts like this are especially impactful for HBCUs because they allow us to directly address the evolving needs of our students,” Anthony Neal, director of the ASU Foundation, said. “Unrestricted funding empowers us to provide timely support, strengthen key programs, and ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of student

success. We are deeply grateful for this investment in our students and our mission.”

“Receiving scholarships from the ASU Foundation has greatly eased the financial burden of pursuing higher education, allowing me to focus more on my academic and personal growth, ASU junior music major Christopher Pennyman said. “Donor support is essential for students in a time of rising education costs, giving us the opportunity to pursue our goals and achieve our dreams. I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of these donors, whose support makes these opportunities possible.”

Those who are interested in supporting student success at Albany State University may visit www.asurams.edu/give to contribute to the ASU Foundation.

Albany State University Foundation

Receives \$60K+ Gift to Support Student Success

“Receiving scholarships from the ASU Foundation has greatly eased the financial burden of pursuing higher education, allowing me to focus more on my academic and personal growth.”

Christopher Pennyman
Junior Music Education Major





Special Illustration: ASU

Oglethorpe Boulevard bridge projected to open this fall

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The new U.S. 82 BU/State Route 520 BU/Oglethorpe Boulevard bridge in downtown Albany is about 68% complete and projected to open this fall.

The old bridge closed July 22, 2025, and the new structure was originally anticipated to open in a year. Although rainy weather hampered construction, the biggest obstacle to hitting that timeframe turned out to be a small mollusk.

The contractor could not perform any work in the Flint River until several sweeps were done to identify and relocate environmentally protected mussels. The sweeps were delayed because the river was too swift or the water level too high to safely put people in the water to collect mussels by hand. As a result, the contractor could not build the work bridge needed to begin removing the old bridge. In addition, the contractor can’t perform any work in the water during mussel spawning season. That will include removing the work bridge after the new bridge opens.

The contractor began working six days a week after Memorial Day. Installation of bridge beams is complete and



The new U.S. 82/State Route 520/Oglethorpe Boulevard bridge in downtown Albany is about 68% complete and projected to open this fall.

deck pours are underway. Concrete can’t exceed 95 degrees so deck pours are being done at night due to the hot temperatures that south Georgia has been experiencing.

The bridge will not open until all construction is complete and all safety features are in-

stalled. The new bridge will have four lanes, a sidewalk on the north side and a 12-foot shared use path on the south side.

It replaces a bridge that was built in 1953 and did not meet current design standards because it was designed based

on vehicles that are not as heavy as those driven today. The old bridge also had an unknown foundation that could have been at risk for scour, which is erosion of soil and sediment caused by the flow of water that can undermine the bridge support.



Special Logo: Chehaw Park & Zoo

Chehaw looks to reconnect with Chehaw Park Authority members, Friends of Chehaw

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – As Chehaw Park & Zoo approaches both Golden and Centennial anniversaries, officials at the attraction are calling all past members of the Chehaw Park Authority, Friends of Chehaw, and Jr. Zookeepers to come forward and reconnect.

Chehaw will host a reunion reception Sept. 17 from 5:30-7:30p.m. on the Zoo Plaza, and park officials say they hope to see all supporters, past and present, there.

Anyone who previously served or participated in these organizations, is asked to take a minute to share their updated contact information. All supporters can visit Chehaw’s website, www.chehaw.org, to complete a quick survey updating contact information, or email Tom Seegmueller at tseegmueller@chehaw.org. Chehaw officials are reach-

ing out to bring the park’s “family” back together. For generations, Chehaw’s members, supporters and participants have been at the heart of the park’s story. Through dedication, service, enthusiasm and commitment to wildlife and conservation, these supporters helped create and sustain Albany’s most popular venue.

By sharing updated contact information, participants will be among the first to hear about upcoming events and special opportunities.

Chehaw Park & Zoo is dedicated to connecting people with animals and nature through conservation, education, recreation, through unforgettable experiences. Located in Albany, Chehaw offers guests the opportunity to explore wildlife, enjoy the outdoors, and discover the importance of protecting the natural world.

Georgia Chamber launches Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has announced the launch of the Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance, a new initiative designed to bring together business leaders, infrastructure providers, utilities, commu-

nity stakeholders, and key industries to support Georgia’s continued leadership in the rapidly growing digital economy.

As demand for data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and connectivity continues to accelerate, digital infrastructure is be-

coming increasingly important to nearly every sector of Georgia’s economy — from healthcare and agribusiness to manufacturing, logistics, education, construction, and financial services.

The Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance will serve as a collaborative platform fo-

cused on responsible growth, infrastructure readiness, workforce development, community engagement, and long-term economic competitiveness. The initiative is intended to complement and work alongside existing industry organizations and local stakeholders already contributing to Georgia’s digital infrastructure ecosystem.

In conjunction with the Alliance launch, the Georgia Chamber also announced the creation of the Data Center Ready Community Designation, a new initiative aimed at helping Georgia communities proactively prepare for responsible digital infrastructure investment through planning, infrastructure coordination, and community readiness efforts.

“Virtually every sector of Georgia’s economy now depends on reliable digital in-

frastructure — from hospitals and family farms to manufacturers, small businesses, and emerging technology companies,” Georgia Chamber President and CEO Chris Clark said. “As Georgia continues to grow, it is critical that we bring together the full ecosystem of stakeholders to ensure our state remains competitive, prepared, and positioned for long-term success. These initiatives are about thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and helping Georgia communities fully participate in the opportunities created by the modern digital economy.”

The alliance will focus on key issues including infrastructure planning, energy coordination, workforce and talent development, community engagement, sustainability best practices, and public education surrounding the



Chris Clark

role digital infrastructure plays in Georgia’s economy and daily life.

Organizations interested in learning more about the Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance, the Data Center Ready Community designation, or opportunities to participate are encouraged to visit gadigitalinfrastructure.org for additional information.

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* Offer ends July 31, 2026. Some exclusions may apply. Contact Flint for details.



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