



Perspectives
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**Head Start
rollback**
Georgia students
impacted
• **Page 8A**



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026



Photo Courtesy of Lee County Auto Service

Leesburg's 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor has accumulated 387,200 miles and remains in service as a backup patrol vehicle. City officials say years of preventive maintenance and careful stewardship helped extend the cruiser's service life.

In Leesburg, stewardship is the quiet engine of good government

By **Kathryn Crockett**
kathryn@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG — In an era when stories of government often center on budget shortfalls, cost overruns and questions of accountability, examples of stewardship rarely make headlines.

They don't come with ribbon-cuttings or ceremonial checks. More often, they are found in the quiet decisions made every day by people who view public resources as something entrusted to their care and not just something to spend or allocate.

Last week, that philosophy surfaced during an otherwise routine Leesburg City Council meeting

when Police Chief Christopher Prokesh and Mayor David Daughtry shared a brief exchange about a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor that had accumulated more than 364,000 miles before the council approved the purchase of its replacement. As of Friday morning, Daughtry said the odometer had climbed to 387,200 miles — and the cruiser remained in active service protecting the community.

The mileage drew a few smiles around the council table. But behind the number was a larger story about a culture of stewardship that extends beyond one vehicle or one elected official.

See **STEWARDSHIP**, 2A

Phoebe spotlights drug program in first-of-its-kind rural health report



Special Photo: Phoebe
NICU Nurse Lindsay Turton cares for an infant in the Phoebe Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

First in a series of articles that will examine healthcare issues unique to rural areas through a Phoebe lens.

ALBANY — Phoebe Putney Health System has announced the launch of the Rural Health Report, a new public information series spotlighting healthcare challenges and solutions in underserved rural areas like southwest Georgia. The first edition takes a look at Phoebe's 340B drug

program and the range of healthcare services it helps fund to assure vulnerable patients receive care.

The state of healthcare in rural areas of the U.S. has emerged as a major issue in recent years. More than 100 community hospitals have closed across the country over the past decade, while countless others have slashed inpatient units or other service lines amid financial challenges, leaving patients with dwindle

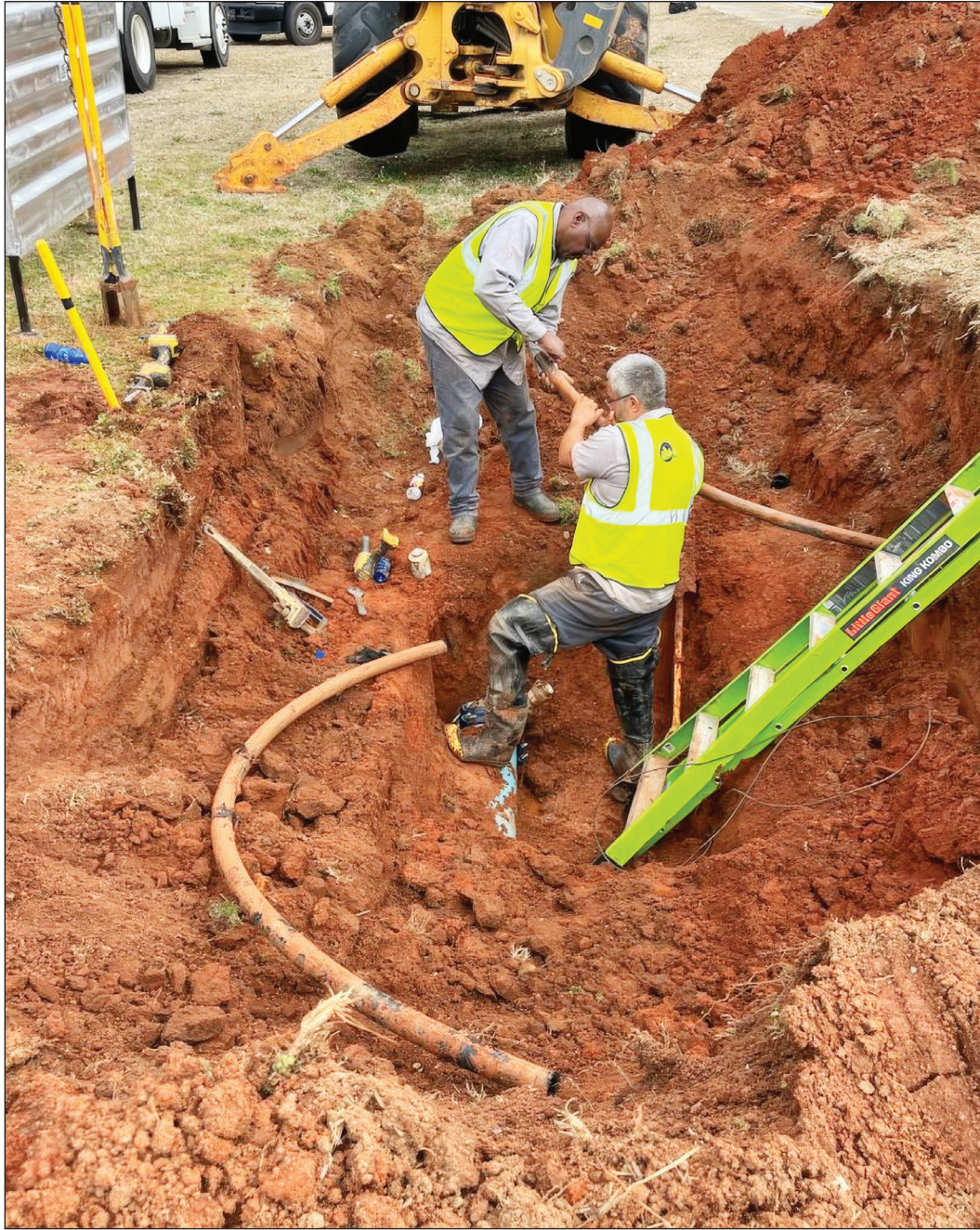
See **PHOEBE**, 2A



David Apperson



Kurt Anthony



Special Photo: City of Albany

Albany water system employees work on a leak in the city. The department repairs an average of five water leaks per day, and part of the reason for the frequent gushes is the aging water main system. The Albany City Commission earmarked \$800,000 for the 2026-2027 budget year to begin replacing aging water mains.

Albany embarks on water main replacement project to address aging system

Periodical — Mail Label

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By **Alan Mauldin**
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — After Hurricane Michael battered Albany on Oct. 10, 2018, and utilities were shut off, the question David Apperson heard most was: "When are you going to get the water

turned back on?"

The questions about the restoration of power would come later, but not until that fluid that is necessary for life was again flowing out of faucets, the city of Albany's interim water systems superintendent said.

Keeping the water moving

through the pipes is an essential service for many municipalities, and one that takes constant monitoring and repairing of the system. The city has a history of neglecting infrastructure — something that was made evident in recent years with the city's sewage system and the years-long

search to find a site for its transportation center.

People think of water as something that just flows when the handle is turned on the faucet, Apperson said, but keeping that flow moving takes a lot of moving parts, both in terms of facilities and equipment and the people

who repair and monitor the system.

"At some point you have to stop kicking the can down the road," he said. "We don't want the state to say, 'You have to do this.' You don't think about that stuff under-

See **WATER** 2A

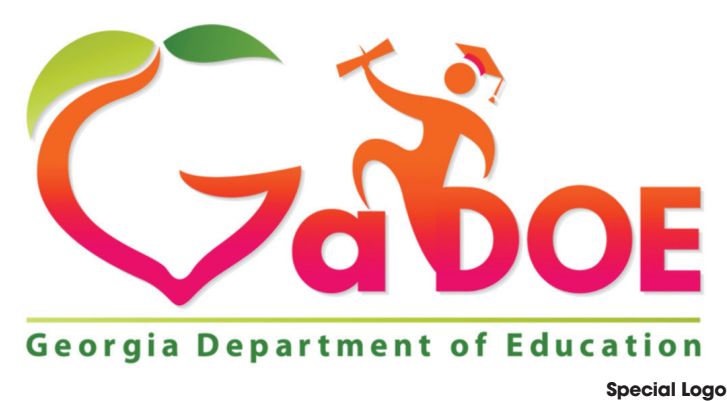


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Math scores continue to rise in Georgia, but many students left behind

By Ty Tagami
Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Statewide scores on the Georgia Milestones tests continued to rise in math as teachers adapted to standards that were updated several years ago.

The 2025-26 results for every subject but English were released Thursday.

The Georgia Department of Education said it needs until November to assess the English Language Arts scores before a public release because the teaching standards for that subject were recently updated, with students taking their first tests on them this past school year.

Georgia began rewriting its math standards in 2019, with the first testing after implementation coming during the 2023-24 school year.

Scores in that subject have been climbing ever since, reaching record highs in grades four through six and in high school Algebra.

State School Superintendent Richard Woods attributed the gains to hard work.

Experts pointed to other positive trends, such as the use of data from other types of testing throughout the school year to tailor instruction to each student's evolving needs.

“Since the pandemic, districts have been paying a lot more attention to individualized learning plans — how we use data throughout the year to assess where students are and how we can bring them forward,” Mary-Kate Starkel, chief of staff for redefinED Atlanta, an education advocacy group that promotes data analysis in

See **MATH** 11A

From 1A STEWARD-SHIP

In an interview with The Albany Herald, Daughtry acknowledged that his long-standing commitment to maintaining the city's fleet — particularly its Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors — has become something of a running joke.

“I've seen those things hold up in wrecks. I've seen them save officers' lives,” Daughtry said. “There's always been an ongoing joke about it because, don't get me wrong, it is the ugliest car we have in the city. But if I had to get in any of our cars, other than maybe our brand-new ones, and drive it to California, I would get in our old white Interceptor.”

But reaching nearly twice the lifespan of the average passenger vehicle, he said, requires more than a dependable mechanic.

“Our chief and our police officers are top notch, and they treat those vehicles as if they were the ones paying for them,” Daughtry said.

Since opening Lee County Auto Service in 2004, Daughtry has helped maintain the city's fleet, often viewing the work as another form of public service. When repairs are minor, he said there are times when he quietly absorbs the

cost himself rather than bill the city. He was initially reluctant to discuss the practice, saying he feels grateful that his business has been successful enough to do it.

“If a law enforcement car comes in and it's a hundred dollars to fix it, I just eat it,” the mayor said. “I'm paying for it, not the taxpayer.”

He is quick to point out that he is only one example of a broader culture that exists throughout Leesburg.

“I'm not the only one that does this,” Daughtry said. “The reason why we're able to keep vehicles up the way that we do is because we have business owners that go above and beyond, like myself, and give back to the community, and people have no idea.”

For Daughtry, stewardship predates public office. Long before becoming mayor, he approached every city vehicle as though his own family would be riding in it. Preventive maintenance, Daughtry said, can be one of the simplest forms of stewardship.

“You have to use good parts,” he said. “You have to have good drivers that don't just abuse the vehicles.”

“And the way that I treat them is as if I were going to be driving it.”

That philosophy, he said, is rooted in public safety just as much as fiscal responsibility.

“If somebody's breaking into your house, you want that police officer to get to you as fast as he possibly can,”

Daughtry said. “If he's in an unsafe vehicle, then he's putting his life more at risk to come and save yours.”

The city's ability to stretch the life of expensive equipment reflects the financial realities facing many small municipalities.

Leesburg has roughly 3,500 residents, but its daytime population swells dramatically as commuters, visitors and thousands of students arrive each weekday.

“Our population tonight at nine o'clock, when everybody goes to bed, will be 3,500,” Daughtry said. “At eight o'clock tomorrow morning, I'm going to have 15,000 in my city.”

“We have seven schools here.”

That growth creates demands well beyond what the city's tax base would suggest.

“We only get a budget of 3,500 persons' worth of T-SPLOST money,” he said. “I have to provide for up to 15,000 people on a 3,500-person budget.”

“I have to pay law enforcement. I have to pay for water. I have to pay for the sewer. I have to keep the roads up. We don't get any extra money for that. So that's why we are so frugal with our money.”

The 2008 Ford Crown Vic is proof of that philosophy. Daughtry still considers the Interceptor the benchmark for law enforcement vehicles.

“If I could find an entire fleet of old Ford Crown Vic Interceptors that had less than 100,000 miles on them, I would buy them and donate them to the city because they would outlast me,” he said.

“That was the absolute best vehicle ever built for law enforcement.”

Even with nearly 400,000 miles on the odometer, Daughtry said the Crown Victoria isn't being replaced because it can no longer do the job. Rather, modern policing increasingly demands vehicles capable of sustained higher-speed travel and quicker emergency response than an aging patrol car can reasonably provide.

“The reason many departments replace vehicles today isn't because they won't run anymore,” Daughtry said. “It's because of the higher-speed requirements and the demands placed on officers.”

Rather than retiring the Crown Victoria, he said the city plans to keep it in service as a backup patrol vehicle.

“As of this morning, that 2008 Crown Vic has 387,200 miles on it,” Daughtry said. “It's still going strong and protecting our citizens.”

Despite the attention the patrol car has received, Daughtry insists the story isn't really about one vehicle, or even one person.

Instead, he sees it as an example of what happens when public employees, elected officials, business owners and residents quietly take ownership of their community and stewardship is practiced by people who may never receive public recognition. Whether it's police officers treating equipment with care, city employees stretching limited resources, or local business owners donating time, labor and expertise, Daughtry said he believes those small acts accumulate into something much larger.

The conversation itself began as a routine purchasing decision. Prokesh asked council members to approve the purchase of the replacement Ford Police Interceptor Utility from Brannen Ford under the state contract for \$45,500, along with a \$15,700 factory-installed police equipment package that will allow the vehicle to be placed into service immediately rather than spending months traveling between vendors for installation of radios, prisoner partitions and other specialized equipment.

The council unanimously approved the \$61,200 purchase. But after the vote, Prokesh pointed toward Daughtry as discussion turned to the Interceptor the new vehicle will replace.

“David can be my witness to this because he's been doing the maintenance on it,” Prokesh said. “That police car has 364,000 miles. ... We've paid for that car about seven times, saving money by rebuilding engines and transmissions and everything else.”

In a time when public trust is often tested by stories of waste and mismanagement, the aging Interceptor's 387,200 miles offer a different measure of government, one that is inseparable from simple, everyday decisions that make limited resources, and old vehicles, go farther.

In communities where every dollar counts, it seems stewardship may be one of the most valuable public assets of all.

From 1A WATER

ground. That always seems to be forgotten.”

That was the case with the city's combined sewage and storm drainage system, with the city forced by a Georgia Environmental Protection Division mandate that cost more than \$100 million in order to achieve 85% separation of waste and stormwater.

Being that many of the city's water mains have been buried for more than 100 years, there are sure to be surprises when water system staff encounter them.

“There's some stuff down there that could have been replaced ... (Or) we don't know,” Apperson said. “We're trying to be proactive rather than reactive. In the long run, it costs less money.”

At the urging of Albany City Manager Terrell Davis, the Albany City Commission earmarked \$800,000 for the fiscal year budget to start tackling needed repairs. Estimates are that a 10-year renovation is needed, and monetary requests will likely be \$2 million for the remainder of that period.

The city has offset some of the work through grants and is looking to apply for additional state and federal money in order to reduce the costs to utility customers.

The city's water system was born in 1872 with the first water facility in the downtown area, Deputy of Utility Operations Kurt Anthony said. The system of water mains

stretches 700 miles beneath the city, and some parts of the system have not been replaced in decades.

There are 28 wells throughout the city that draw from the Claiborne, Clayton, Cretaceous, Floridan and Tallahatta aquifers, with 11 elevated tanks capable of storing up to a total of 8.75 million gallons. It also manages some of the water distribution in the Putney area and at Turner Job Corps.

The system is permitted to draw up to 36 million gallons a day as long as it does not exceed an average of 24 million gallons, and the latest report shows a withdrawal from aquifers of 13.5 million gallons per day. During the 1990s, the city pumped between 30 and 35 million gallons per day, but the reduction in population and losses of major industrial facilities like Cooper Tire, Merck Chemical and Bobs Candy, among others, has reduced that consumption.

The aging buried infrastructure has a tendency to spring leaks, with water system employees fixing several a week. Most of those leaks are not visible on the surface, with the water flowing downhill or even into storm drains, so finding those sources of water loss takes some detective work or luck.

Currently the city's qualified water loss auditor score with the EPD system is 5.9, placing it barely within a “fair” mark, with 6 or greater representing a system rated as poor for water loss.

That represents an estimated 25.75 million gallons

of water lost through leakage for 2025, Anthony said.

“That tells us significant leakage needs to be addressed,” he said. “We've been replacing a lot of the two-inch mains but have more to do because we have to work within the allocated budget.”

A contractor checks 120 miles of the total of 700 miles of underground water mains each year. The city also uses high-tech equipment, including thermal imaging and drones, to check for leaks.

The department actually started the job of replacing aging water mains last year, but that was ramped up for the 2026-2027 budget year and is expected to accelerate for the next 10 years or so.

“Over the next five years, we're projected to do 25 miles of water mains,” Anthony said.

The project also will include working in conjunction with other city projects, including a downtown streetscape project that will include replacing sidewalks, while wa-

ter mains are being replaced. The water work also will need to be timed in conjunction with repaving projects so that newly resurfaced roadway is not ripped up later to replace water pipes..

In addition to replacing water mains the water project will include replacing fire hydrant pipes and hydrants as well as other water-related infrastructure. The downtown work alone is expected to cost about \$5 million.

“The downtown area is a big one,” Apperson said.

While the water main replacement project will represent a big milestone, it does not mean the end of the road, Anthony said, as the work is a cycle. But maintaining the revamped system will require replacing older pipes over time, and that should come with less emergency repairs.

“Mr. (Terrell) Jacobs has tackled the hard stuff,” he said. “We knew it wasn't going to be popular, because it costs a lot of money.”



Special Photo: Phoebe

Pharmacist Ted Sukhdeo counsels a patient at the Phoebe Medication Management Clinic.

From 1A PHOEBE

dling options for receiving care. A new report from the Center for Healthcare Quality & Payment Reform estimates that more than 700 rural hospitals, or one in three across the country, are at risk of closing due to extreme financial pressures.

These financial challenges underline the importance of

the 340B program, a federal initiative that has come under scrutiny despite not relying on taxpayer funds. Phoebe's 340B program savings help fund several important programs that enable it to fulfill its nonprofit mission, help patients manage their chronic conditions, and prevent unnecessary and costly hospitalizations.

It also plays a key role in helping Phoebe provide free or discounted care — \$64.5 million in Fiscal Year 2025,

equal to 5.7% of its operating revenue — to those who are unable to pay.

The new Rural Health Report spotlights several key initiatives made possible by 340B:

Medication Management Clinic, opened in 2023;

Intensive Outpatient Care Program, opened in 2024 with the goal of preventing ER visits;

Expanded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit;

Expanded Behavioral Health

staffing and services.

“For Phoebe, 340B is much more than a drug purchasing program — it's a patient access program,” Vice President of Hospital Operations and System Pharmacy Services Darren Evans said. “The savings generated from 340B allow us to reinvest resources directly into targeted services that improve care for vulnerable patients who would otherwise fall through the cracks of a fragmented healthcare system.”



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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Self-expression could be a doubly-focused interest now — you might find yourself not only obsessed, but eager to explore newly-emerging possibilities. Give yourself over to what’s being born.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A plan or path could be taking shape in your home. There’s growth and protection, but also some intensity around the process. Observe how the energies begin to show themselves as they come into form.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ditch any negativity and believe that more gold is coming because it is — give the Universe time to put it all together. If you’ve got the clarity, deliver the message; if you’re feeling anxious, wait for more confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You’ll likely roll into more focus on money as the day progresses. It’s not a terrible day to make a purchase or financial move, but don’t do anything while you’re in the grip of emotion, wait for clarity of mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): All eyes could be on you. Some love the attention, validation is lots of fun. But visibility also has a darker side: Haters, trolls, and bullies also have eyeballs. Vision this: Shining for the aligned, cloaked for jokers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Every true baddie is built from the inside out. It’s not what you can wear or drive that gives inner confidence, it’s your mindset. Do the self-work, lots of ways to get started. Everything you learn inside shines on the outside.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Friendship and community matter. Even if you’re an introvert, good friends are good medicine. Someone may need help to regulate if they’re in an extreme place. A path toward a collab could arise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your work in the world could be at the forefront. Clarify next steps on the journey, prioritizing sustainable growth over an extreme approach — going viral in

reality or metaphorically may not bring any lasting benefit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There’s a lot of focus on how your interface with the world, both in person and online. Digital creatives could find their platforms get a boost, teachers and students could find each other and match.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Teaming up to make bigger things happen is a way to get things done, when resources are pooled much more can become accessible. Clear expectations and clear boundaries can help manage the human dimension.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A partner could go from cozy to exciting rapidly today, could be fun. There’s a general energy of growth and benevolence in your partnership sector now, a lot could get worked out in the next weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): New hacks could make a real difference to your daily rounds. Attitude matters too — an expectation that life should be all play makes required tasks weightier. Realistic expectations help to keep your mood upbeat.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The first part of 2026 may have been a roller coaster ride, some good, but plenty to challenge you, too. From this point, the bad and good should be reversed, with a lot more positives and fewer negatives. You may have recently gotten new insights on your path forward, don’t let anxiety crop up, either due to not knowing how to make things happen or not believing you deserve so much. The Universe supplies what’s needed for every dream, but on its own timeline, so you need to trust. A new source of cash could open up in September. Sidestep a temptation toward self-sabotage at month-end. October can bring top-tier cosmic guidance, don’t dismiss any messages or insights. Something that looks appealing in November might be more of a cult that it looks like from the outside. November is the month when dreams could come true.

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.

“ H U ’ C H R L F N U E W U U F S E J Y E B N Y E R
A Y Q E O C Y U S E U ’ C G S E U ’ C M F H W M U F
B N H J Y Z F O . . . U F M Y U F O U F T A Y B
Y J Y N Z C H W M I Y B E Z . ” — R H Q S E Y I
L S Y I L C

Previous Solution: “I’ve been lucky because I do writing and acting, and when there’s been no acting I’ve been able to make a living writing.” — Emma Thompson

TODAY’S CLUE: H sjēnbə N

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ P E X W J Y D ’ L X S W I W S W G S K I G X
L X M I G S Y W C E S T , S G E Y M O C D T I
K S L L Y L . . . G E I G P I C I W X W O M X C C
C Y D L B X Y A S W C T S L I G S Y W . ”
— Y M S U S I L Y O L S Z Y

Previous Solution: “It’s important to have a dream because that’s what’s going to drive you ... to get out of bed every single day.” — Michael Phelps

TODAY’S CLUE: H sjēnbə ʒ

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CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Annual Medical Checkup Day
 - Ingersoll Day
 - National Hip Hop Day
 - National Raspberry Bombe Day
- National Raspberry Tart Day
 - Play in the Sand Day
 - Presidential Joke Day
 - Son and Daughter Day

The Albany Herald (U.S.P.S. 012-320), 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, Ga 31701, published daily by GTLN, is the legal organ of Dougherty and Calhoun Counties. Periodicals class postage paid at Albany, Ga. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Albany Herald, 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, Ga 31701. Business Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact.”

Mark Twain, writer (1835-1910)

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.

Weather Forecast



Today
94°
75°



Wednesday
93°
75°



Thursday
93°
75°



Friday
92°
76°



Saturday
94°
74°



Sunday
94°
74°



Monday
94°
74°

Daily Bridge Club

Half-price offer

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

“Come over for supper?” Unlucky Louie asked me after a penny game.

“Is Esther cooking?” I asked

NORTH
♠ A Q J 5
♥ A 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 6 5 3

WEST
♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ Q 10 5
♦ A 9 4
♣ 10 8 7

EAST
♠ 10 4 3
♥ K 7
♦ Q J 10 7 3
♣ A 9 4

SOUTH
♣ K 7
♥ J 9 8 6 4 3
♦ K 6
♠ K J 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT(1)	Pass	4 ♥	All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 9

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edgily.

“We’re carrying out pizza,” Louie said. “I have a coupon: three sup-
premies for the price of two.”

In one penny-game deal, Louie had accepted a one-for-the-price-of-two offer. He was East, and South was Ed, my club’s expert, who drives the cards like a chariot racer. Ed overbid to four hearts; he would have been down two with a club lead, but West led a spade. Ed took three spades to pitch a diamond and led dummy’s fourth spade.

DIAMOND SHIFT

Louie ruffed with his king of trumps, and Ed got rid of his king of diamonds. Ed ruffed Louie’s diamond shift and led the jack of trumps: He lost only one trump and made the game.

When Louie ruffed with the king of trumps, he won one trick – a trick he was entitled to anyway – but gave Ed both a discard and a way to lose only one more trump trick. It’s not easy to see, but Louie beats four hearts if he ruffs with the seven.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A Q J 5 H A 2 D 8 5 2 C Q 6 5 3. Your partner opens one spade, and you bid 2NT as a conventional forcing raise. He bids three diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: After your 2NT, partner’s three diamonds shows a singleton diamond. The idea is to help you judge whether you have useful or “wasted” honors opposite his shortness. Your lack of diamond strength is a plus. Cue-bid three hearts. Partner may hold K10863,K983,3,AK4. North dealer N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Sister tries to sabotage new relationship with half-siblings

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My parents married as teens and had two children: me, and my younger sister, “Jodie.” They divorced when I was two and I never saw my father again. My mother and her second husband were abusive to us.

As an adult, I have maintained as calm a life as I can, and I have a husband of more than 40 years, two wonderful children, and a great career.

Jodie has had a string of bad relationships and is always estranged from one or more of her children due to her own abusive nature. However, because of our shared trauma, I have always tried to be there for her.

Now, a DNA test has revealed that we have half-siblings, whom we met last month. I liked them both. One was open about their past difficulty with drugs and alcohol but has worked very hard to change their life for the better.

Jodie is jealous of my friendship with these siblings and is trying to sabotage it by doing background checks on them to reveal any sordid thing that has happened to them or their kids. Personally, I think we all have things we wish we hadn’t done, and people deserve dignity and the right to turn their life around.

How do I proceed with this? Do I see them without Jodie and risk her finding out, or include her in our future get-togethers and hope she comes around? It’s still very early in these new relationships, and I just want to see if we have enough common ground to proceed.

— Oldest Sibling

Dear Sibling: Jodie has things she needs to process about these relationships and right now she may not be going about it in the healthiest way. It’s not your job to correct or to manage that, so the best path forward may be to work on your relationship with her and your relationships with your half-siblings separately.

Consider headlining this for Jodie by telling her you’re not as keen on the background checks but you’re not trying to turn it into a conflict. Tell her you’re taking a “live and let live” approach to the siblings and while she’s free to keep doing whatever checks she wants, you’re comfortable continuing to engage with them in person and building a relationship.

This way you don’t have to fear her finding out and you can try to mitigate some of the attempted sabotage. You don’t need to get her OK nor do you need to keep her abreast of future meetups.

You can be there for Jodie while still keeping a boundary that protects your other relationships.

Dear Eric: I read your column online on occasion and wanted to comment on the letter from “Phone Home” who is upset that her grown children do not call her weekly. Why is it the adult children’s responsibility to call weekly? If “Phone Home” wants to talk to them weekly, or even more often, why can she not call?

I come from a place where my mother is the same age as “Phone Home” and similarly believes our relationship is my job to keep up and all calls and visits should be at my effort/



Eric Thomas

expense. I’m 54 and despite having a family of my own, I have been the one responsible for keeping up my relationship with my parents since I left home at 18.

Meanwhile, my mother doesn’t answer when I call and calls back hours later, stating that she was “so busy” with her friends. When I’m with her, she keeps her phone in her hand at all times and answers if anyone calls, so I know she’s willing to talk to some people when they call.

Now that I have grown children, I want a weekly call with them, so I make sure to set up a weekly call. I found my email program has an option for video calls, so each weekend I contact them in a group chat and ask what day, and time is a good day for a family video call. While “Phone Home” may not know how or want a video call, why can she not ask “is this evening a good time for a call?” and call them.

After 30 years of being lectured and told I was a “terrible daughter” for not calling my mother “enough,” I’ve realized that the phone works both ways and let go of the guilt of not meeting her calling expectations.

— Phone Works Both Ways

Dear Phone: I’m sorry to read about the experience you had with your mother, but I appreciate you sharing how you’ve made it work for both of you. The phone does, indeed, work both ways. And, as a tool of communication, can help bridge the gap between what’s expected and what’s actually happening.

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 rerictthomas.com.

The Albany Herald

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SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

Ah, yes, Albany Area Primary Healthcare -- the people who recruited doctors with federal loan repayments and then sued them to force them to leave the area.

I don’t think I’ve ever mentioned my love of classic rock in a squawk. But the new album by the Rolling Stones is the best they’ve done in years. There’s a country-rock song, “What D’ya Think About That?,” about America in the age of Trump, in which Mick Jagger sings in the slurred voice of a man who’s obviously inebriated. The Stones have seldom been political, but at least the song contains their classic wit. That Man Without a Family

Americans have been told that Lincoln’s Civil War was all about “freeing the slaves.” New England wanted total economic control of America, raising the tariff tax on the South to 47-51% and caused Southern secession.

I picked up a guitar a few decades ago, inspired to learn to play. What inspired me? The classic riff that opens “Smoke on the Water.” You brought back a few memories with your column, Fletcher. And, yes, I did eventually learn to play and can still do a decent “Smoke” if I get the feeling. Thanks.

I don’t pay Lee County taxes, so the coach can recruit football players to our area to displace local players. Long-term Lee residents should come first

I loved the story of the gentleman who was one of the first blacks in the U.S. Marines. Like he said, once a man (or woman) becomes a Marine, he has a family for life. Semper Fi.

I could only laugh at the Georgia DNC event where they stated we need the adults back in charge. Nobody acts like spoiled children who cry when they don’t get their way like the Democrats do. They are right, though, we need adults in charge, not whining crybabies.

So what if we have to dig in our dwindling reserve funds for the half-million to build this ridiculous skate park. At least the dozen or so skaters who will use it -- and leave it trashed -- will get their way.

Boy, as long as it’s taking to “build,” that virtual civil rights tour is going to be a doozy. Hotel managers, get ready for the rush of visitors that will be coming along when this wonder is finished ... oh, any day ... week ... month ... year now.

A “clean” comedian coming to perform in Albany? Sorry, but this promoter obviously doesn’t know his audience. Good luck with that one.

Those who condemned Fauci for invoking the 5th Amendment know nothing about what’s going on. If Fauci happens to say anything that contradicts what he’s said in the past, he will be charged with contempt of Congress. They’re waiting to jump on him. While you’re getting over your outrage at the tactic, try to remember when our crooked president invoked the 5th a few hundred times in his various trials. I’m sure that was OK, though. Hypocrite much?

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:13

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Trump made Georgia ground zero of campaign to undermine elections

Donald Trump's Department of Justice has its sights fixed on Georgia, its election system and those who run it. Should our state and local election officials be nervous? No, because they've done nothing wrong.

But yes, because this isn't about right or wrong, it's about power.

Just this week, Trump officials sent letters to elections officials here in Georgia and other states, threatening them with criminal prosecution if they knowingly allow noncitizens to vote. The letters are pure bluster that shouldn't be taken seriously, mainly because safeguards against noncitizen voting are already so strict that it almost never happens.

Other actions are more serious.

Back in January, you may remember, FBI agents swooped in to seize hundreds of boxes of ballots cast in Fulton County during the 2020 elections. Presumably, they've spent the last six months sifting through those boxes in search of something, anything, and so far we have no indication that their search has been successful.

The Trump administration has also demanded names and contact information for thousands of Fulton County employees and volunteers who had worked on the 2020 election, without really explaining why they needed such data. Earlier this week, a federal judge quashed that request, calling it "staggering ... unreasonable." It "would not be a legitimate use of the grand jury and its subpoena power," he wrote, warning that it "threatens to chill participation in future elections."

The judge, William Ray, was appointed to the bench by Trump in 2017.

In addition, according to an internal FBI memo leaked last week, some 260 FBI analysts from all around the country have been yanked from their normal crime-fighting duties for additional intense scrutiny of Fulton County's 2020 election, with agents and analysts told to work overtime and on weekends to complete whatever task they've been given.

I make two predictions:

They'll find nothing.

They won't admit they found nothing.

Jay Bookman covered Georgia and national politics for nearly 30 years for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, earning numerous national, regional and state journalism awards. He is also the author of "Caught in the Current," published by St. Martin's Press.



BOOKMAN

They won't admit they found nothing because they can't admit they found nothing. That outcome is simply not acceptable to Trump. It is not acceptable to his ego, and it is not acceptable to his plans to disrupt the 2026 midterms. Admitting they found nothing after six years of whining from Trump would undermine the last remaining structural support from an administration that may already be teetering on collapse.

Most likely, I suspect they will claim to have found thousands of mail-in ballots in which signatures don't match, because you can always claim that signatures don't match. From day to day, my own signature doesn't match exactly, and the same is true of most people. For that and other reasons, claims of unmatched signatures won't hold up in a court of law, but to Trump that won't matter. He intends to make his claim in the court of public opinion, which operates under a different, far less rigorous, standard.

Since he can't produce proof of criminality and fraud, he wants to create the public illusion of it, particularly involving voting by mail. Armed with that illusion, he can create a whirlwind of controversy to try to justify seizing control of elections not just in Fulton County or Georgia but nationwide, allowing him to decide which votes to count and which to discard.

In ordinary times, that charge might sound hyperbolic, but it's hard to reach a different conclusion given the many unprecedented, previously unimagined ways in which Trump is seeking to undermine faith in fair elections and seize control. To cite yet another example, his administration is now withholding terrorism-prevention funds from states that refuse to give him control over their elections.

These are not separate actions. These are not just things that are happening. These are actions carried out with one particular goal in mind, which is to dictate who wins and loses this November and in Novembers yet to come.

And we in Georgia just happen to be at Ground Zero in that struggle.

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

How 'school choice' makes every school a government school

"Attorney General James Uthmeier is putting the Catholic Church on notice," the Orlando Sentinel reported. "[I]f church officials take taxpayer-funded vouchers for their schools, they should accept vaccine exemptions for students, too."



KNAPP

The "school choice" movement in the US supports tax-funded "vouchers," targeted tax credits, and "charter" schools, on the theory that giving parents more options on where, how and by whom their children are taught isn't just a good thing, but a thing that government ought to be, and can legitimately be, involved in.

Unfortunately, the real effect of that kind of "school choice" is to turn all the available options into carbon copies of the "public" school system it supposedly helps parents and students escape.

According to the Sentinel article, half a million Florida students use the state-issued, taxpayer-funded vouchers to exercise "school choice," including nearly 83,000 of Florida's 94,000 Catholic school attendees.

So far as I can tell, Uthmeier has never publicly declared a formal religious affiliation, although he cites generic "Christianity" as underpinning America's Constitution and system of government.

The country's founders disagreed, stating clearly in 1797's Treaty of Tripoli that "the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion."

Beyond his basic advocacy of Christianity, though, Uthmeier apparently considers his opinion on Catholic religious requirements more authoritative than the opinion of, um, the Catholic Church and the institutions it operates. Per the Sentinel piece, "Uthmeier, citing the Catholic Catechism, Pope Leo and scripture, argued Catholic doctrine

does not allow its schools to reject vaccine exemptions for religious reasons."

I'm neither a Catholic myself, nor well-educated in Catholic doctrine, and have no opinion on what that doctrine might imply about vaccination, but what we have here is not really a religious disagreement. It's just Uthmeier announcing that, since the government pays the piper (with its subjects' money), the government calls the tune.

Nor is the problem solely about religious schools. Any school that accepts taxpayer money finds strings attached to that money. We've already seen that happen with "private" college and university education.

When the GI Bill, Pell Grants, and government-guaranteed student loans started funding students at those "private" institutions, various government requirements on everything from accreditation to curriculum to race and sex discrimination came with those students and that money. The result: In terms of learning (as opposed to name, prestige, etc.), there's probably little difference between attending most "private" versus "public" colleges or universities.

As soon as any activity starts getting its funding through politics, its operations become subject to the same politics.

For decades, the closest you could get to avoiding that problem was to homeschool, and even then government often stuck its nose into your choices. Now several states have added homeschooling to their "school choice" funding options ... as long as the homeschoolers follow a government-approved schedule, use government-approved curricula, and administer government-approved tests.

While Uthmeier's vaccine diatribe inflames "separation of church and state" arguments, its only real solution is "separation of school and state."

Thomas L. Knapp is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north-central Florida.

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The fisherman, the fish, and the mystery of blessing

A fisherman rises before dawn. He checks the weather, loads his equipment, and rows his boat into the water. He studies the currents, chooses his bait carefully, and casts his line with patience and skill. Hour after hour he watches the water ahead, convinced that if success comes, it will arrive through the line he has cast.

Meanwhile, unnoticed behind him, a fish leaps from the water and lands directly in the bucket at the back of the boat. It is a humorous image. But it captures one of life's deepest mysteries.

We work hard to create a particular outcome. We focus on a specific plan, opportunity, relationship or strategy. Yet when we look back years later, we often discover that the blessings that shaped our lives arrived through doors we never expected.

The promotion came through a chance conversation. The friendship began through an accidental introduction. The opportunity emerged from a setback that initially felt like failure. The fish landed in the bucket — but not through the line we were watching.

After more than 20 years away from home, Jacob

learns that his brother Esau is approaching with 400 men. The danger is real. Decades earlier, Esau had sworn to kill him after losing the blessings of their father, Isaac. Now the brother he fled is advancing with what appears to be a small army. The Torah offers no reassurance that the threat has passed. From Jacob's perspective, the coming encounter may become a tragedy for himself, his family and everything he has built.

Jacob does not respond passively. He prepares. He prays. He sends gifts. He divides his camp. He develops contingency plans. The Midrash famously teaches that Jacob prepared in three ways simultaneously: through prayer, diplomacy, and defense. He does everything within his power to influence the outcome.

Yet the Torah never suggests that any one of these actions is what ultimately changes Esau's heart. When the brothers finally meet, Esau embraces him. The blessing arrives. But the Torah leaves us wondering exactly how.

This uncertainty points toward a profound insight found throughout Chassidic teaching. Human effort is necessary. But

effort itself is not the source of blessing.

The Hebrew term *hishtadlut* refers to the effort we invest in pursuing our goals. We are commanded to work, plan, prepare and act responsibly. Judaism has little patience for passivity disguised as faith.

At the same time, the Torah repeatedly reminds us that effort alone does not create outcomes. A farmer can plant, water and cultivate but cannot command the rain. A merchant can work diligently, yet cannot guarantee success. Parents can pour themselves into raising a child, but cannot dictate every choice that child will make.

We control effort. We do not control results. The Chassidic masters explain this through the concept of creating a vessel. Our effort creates the vessel. The blessing fills it. The vessel is necessary. But the vessel is not the source.

A person who refuses to make effort has created no place for blessing to settle. Yet a person who believes his effort alone produced the blessing mistakes the

vessel for its contents.

Jacob understood this balance. That is why his prayer before meeting Esau is so remarkable. Despite all he has accomplished, he says: "I am not worthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown me." (Genesis 32:10)

He does not claim entitlement. He does not assume that past blessings guarantee future ones. Instead, he combines vigorous effort with profound humility. He acts fully while recognizing that the outcome remains in larger hands than his own.

Perhaps that is the lesson Jacob offers every generation. Faith does not mean sitting on the shore waiting for fish to jump into the bucket. Nor does it mean believing that success depends entirely on our own strength and ingenuity.

Faith means rowing the boat, preparing the bait, casting the line, and doing our work with diligence and integrity, then remaining open to the possibility that the blessing may arrive through a channel we never expected. Because some-

times the fish comes through the line. And bucket behind our back.

Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi and teacher. He welcomes questions and comments at y@TasteofTorah.org. More of his work can be found at www.TasteofTorah.org.

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"THE BILL"

What to watch TUESDAY

August 11, 2026

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

WNBA Basketball: New York at Indiana

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

Breanna Stewart and the N.Y. Liberty are in Indianapolis to take on Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever tonight on ESPN.

Kitchen Nightmares

FOX, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “Renate’s German Restaurant,” 2\with few customers to fill the dining room and constant complaints about cold, unappetizing food, Gordon Ramsay must convince the proud owner of struggling Renate’s German Restaurant to abandon her intimidating leadership style before her business goes under.

Beat Shazam

FOX, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “Which Is Best, South, East or West?,” Los Angeles skateboarding buddies, New York besties and sisters from Georgia battle try to identify some of the biggest hit songs for the chance to win \$1 million. Jamie Foxx hosts with cohost and deejay Corinne Foxx.

The Proof Is Out There

History, 10:30 p.m.

Mermaid stalks boat? OK, that grabs your attention. Apparently, a relaxing trip on a river takes a strange turn, as tourists may believe they saw an actual mermaid. Veteran TV journalist Tony Harris explores this, as well as if a UFO shut down an airport in England and more.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



TOMMY GARCIA, FOX

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Barbara Stanwyck

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

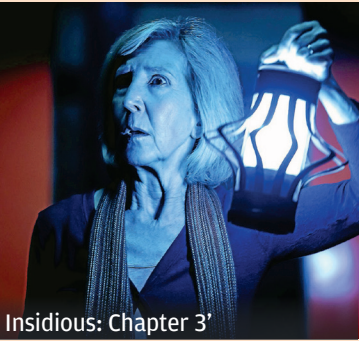
Ruby Catherine Stevens — better known as Barbara Stanwyck — was among the most versatile actresses during Hollywood’s golden age, seamlessly and convincingly moving between comedies, films noir, melodramas, Westerns and more. Today’s Summer Under the Stars spotlight on Stanwyck kicks off with **Ten Cents a Dance** (1931), a deep-cut romantic drama that was the last film directed by the legendary Lionel Barrymore. The 13-film lineup also includes the legendary screwball comedies **The Lady Eve** (1941), in which Stanwyck delivers a master class in comedic timing as a con artist who sets her sights on a naive brewery heir (Henry Fonda), and 1941’s **Ball of Fire** (pictured), with Stanwyck’s portrayal of nightclub singer Sugarpuess O’Shea opposite Gary Cooper earning the star an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Shifting



EVERETT COLLECTION

gears, Stanwyck delivers a dramatic tour de force in the psychological thriller **Sorry, Wrong Number** (1948), for which she earned her fourth and final Oscar nomination. Showing her range even further, **The Strange Love of Martha Ivers** (1946) is a film noir in which Stanwyck gives a powerful performance as a coldblooded woman haunted by a childhood crime and a toxic love triangle (with Kirk Douglas, in his first film role) that resurfaces when her long-lost childhood friend returns. Other dramatic performances in the lineup include **Ladies They Talk About** (1933), **East Side, West Side** (1949) and **The Two Mrs. Carrolls** (1947).

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



MATT KENNEDY

The Avengers (2012, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans **FX, 6 p.m.**

Risky Business (1983, Comedy) Tom Cruise, Rebecca De Mornay **SHO, 6:15 p.m.**

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Insidious: Chapter 3 (2015, Horror) Dermot Mulroney, Stefanie Scott **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

Bad Nanny (2022, Suspense) Chelsea Rose Cook, April Hale **LMN, 8 p.m.**

You’re Dating a Narcissist! (2025, Romance-comedy) Marisa Tomei, Sherry Cola **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Coco (2017, Family) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Freeform, 8:30 p.m.**

Geostorm (2017, Action) Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess **TNT, 9 p.m.**

Hancock (2008, Action) Will Smith, Charlize Theron **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Accepted (2006, Comedy) Justin Long, Jonah Hill **VH1, 10 p.m.**

A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson **Sundance, 11 p.m.**

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (2022, Action) Benedict Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen **FX, 11:30 p.m.**

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What to watch WEDNESDAY

August 12, 2026

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

X-Men ’97

Disney+ ■ Season Finale

This series from Marvel Animation wraps up its season with “Survival of the Fittest.” *X-Men ’97* revisits the iconic era of the 1990s as the X-Men, a band of mutants who use their uncanny gifts to protect a world that hates and fears them, are challenged like never before, forced to face a dangerous and unexpected new future. The series has been renewed for two additional seasons.

WNBA Basketball

CNBC & USA Network, beginning at 8 p.m. Live

A WNBA doubleheader opens with the Toronto Tempo at the Dallas Wings (USA Network) and wraps up with the Chicago Sky at the Golden State Valkyries (USA Network and CNBC).

MasterChef

FOX, 8 p.m.

The remaining home cooks compete in pairs as they race to re-create dishes inspired by the judges’ most cherished culinary memories in the new episode “Tag Team.”

Nation’s Dumbest

FOX, 9 p.m.

The dreaded midterm exams are the last chance for the celebrities to avoid being in the bottom half of the class, but a mystery guest could outshine them all in the new episode “The Midterms.” Jack Whitehall hosts.

Renovation Resort Showdown

HGTV, 9 p.m.

It’s a race to create the most guest-friendly living room and patio in the new episode “Living the Dream.” The teams pull off the impossible in just seven days, and the designs are stunning.



‘X-Men ’97’

MARVEL

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Groucho Marx

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Today’s Summer Under the Stars tribute to Groucho Marx celebrates one of classic Hollywood’s most distinctive comic voices, the wisecracking center of the Marx Brothers’ anarchic style in more than a dozen films together. Known for his rapid-fire wordplay, cigar, greasepaint mustache and unstoppable stream of insults, Groucho helped redefine screen comedy in the early sound era. Highlights of today’s TCM lineup include the brothers’ first feature film, **The Cocoanuts** (1929), with Groucho at his fast-talking, quick-witted best as an eccentric hotel manager trying to sell worthless real estate in the new era of talking pictures. Other Marx Brothers films featured include standout titles like **Duck Soup** (1933), ranked No. 5 on the American Film Institute’s list of the 100 Funniest



PARAMOUNT PUBLIX CORP.

American Movies of All Time; **A Night at the Opera** (1935), a huge commercial hit for MGM in the brothers’ first film for the studio; and **Animal Crackers** (1930). Some of Groucho’s solo films without his brothers will also air, including **Double Dynamite** (1951), a light musical comedy with Groucho in more of a supporting role as an eccentric waiter alongside Frank Sinatra and Jane Russell, and **A Girl in Every Port** (1952), featuring an even more toned-down, less cartoonish Groucho — sans the painted-on eyebrows and mustache. The programming block also includes classics like **A Day at the Races** (1937) and 1931’s **Monkey Business** (pictured).

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



DAVID LEE

Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Tom Holland, Zendaya **FX, 6 p.m.**

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen **TNT, 6 p.m.**

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

The Parent Trap (1998, Children) Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid **Freeform, 7 p.m.**

A Journal for Jordan (2021, Drama) Michael B. Jordan, Chanté Adams **FXM, 7:15 p.m.**

Absolutely Devoted to You (2026, Romance) Jesse Metcalfe, Kimberley Sustad **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Her Husband’s Double Life (2026, Suspense) Tanisha Thammavongsa, Justin Nurse **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Sandlot (1993, Children) Thomas Guiry, Mike Vitar **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Superbad (2007, Comedy) Jonah Hill, Michael Cera **BBC America, 8:30 p.m.**

John Wick: Chapter 2 (2017, Action) Keanu Reeves, Common **AMC, 9:15 p.m.**

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (2024, Action) Anya Taylor-Joy, Chris Hemsworth **TNT, 10 p.m.**

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009, Fantasy) Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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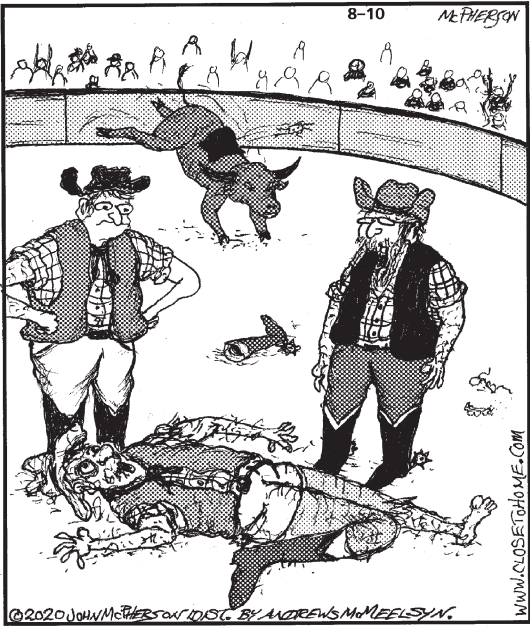
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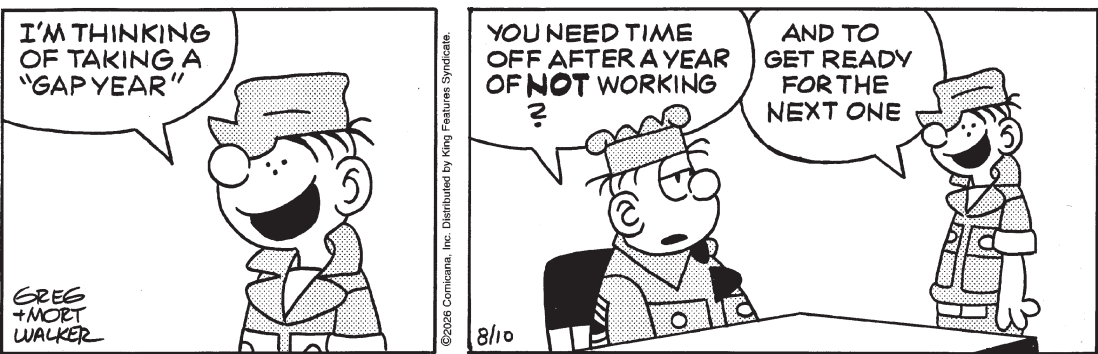
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TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



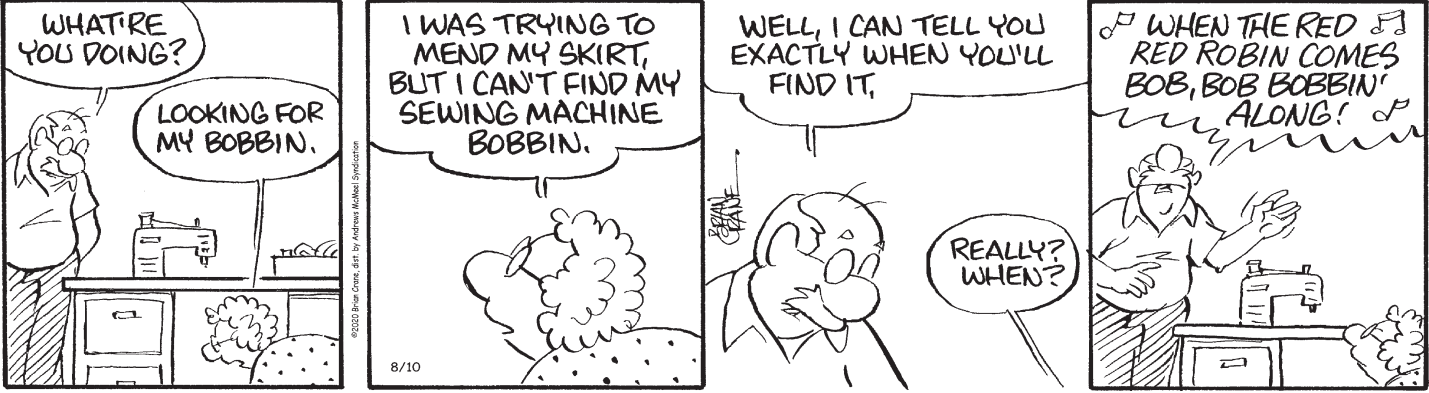
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

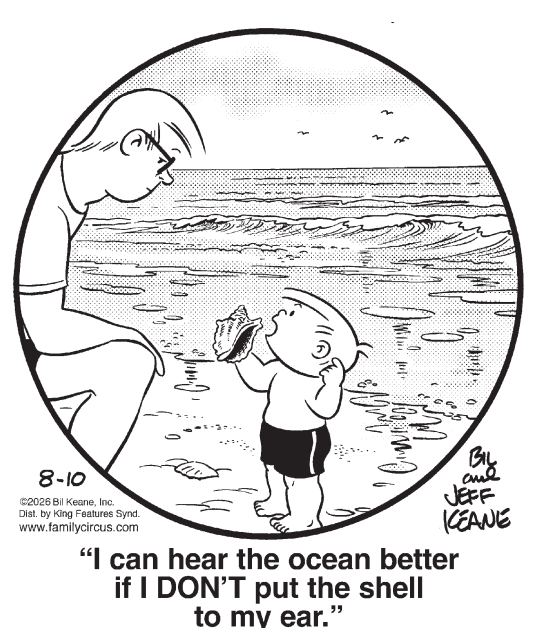
DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

1	5		3	7	8		
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		8		1	5		3
		9		8		2	5
5			1	2	9		3
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							2

8/10

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Train for a boxing match
5 Love deeply
10 Follow directions
14 "Beloved" novelist Morrison
15 Kitchen gadget for apples
16 Locale
17 Bygone GM division
18 "Understood"
19 Prize grabber in an arcade game
20 Formal event attended in costume
23 Like a parent at graduation
24 "Man of Steel" director Zack
25 Geological span
27 Scissors sound
30 Wimbledon org.
33 Last film starring Daniel Craig as James Bond
39 Cardamom-infused tea
41 Subscribe again
42 Turn down
43 Official record on a ship
46 Broke bread
47 Trace of smoke
48 Baby goat
50 Humiliated
55 Walkie-talkie, e.g.
59 Call for action, or what one might say before using the ends of 20-, 33-, and 43-Across
62 College admissions office offering
63 Garden pest
64 Hideout
65 Bilingual cartoon explorer
66 Kitchen gadget for flour
67 Poker buy-in
68 "Don't come any closer!"
69 Cuts (down)
70 Talk back to

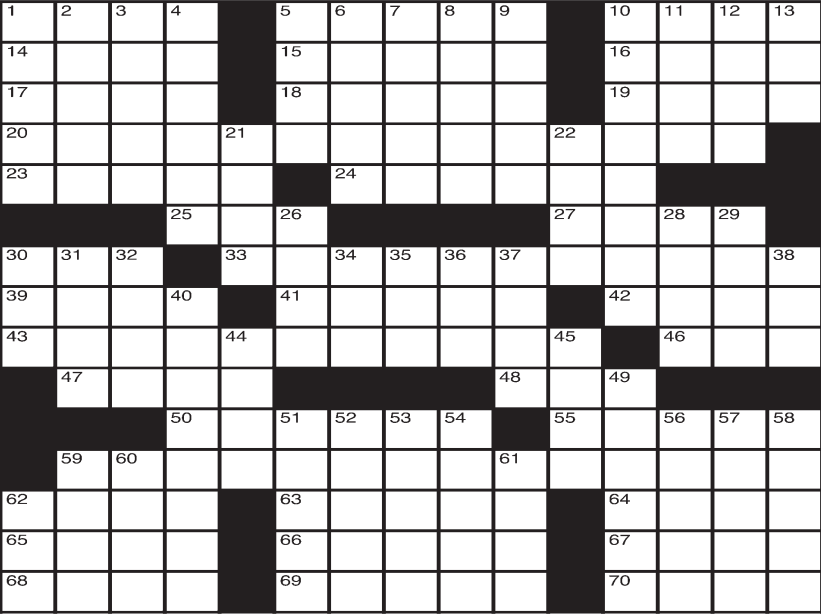
DOWN

1 Tread heavily
2 ___ opposites
3 "Consequently ... "
4 Racy
5 Zoning unit
6 Opportunities, metaphorically
7 Church instrument with pipes
8 Like the sound of an oboe
9 Made a blunder
10 Nomination from the Academy
11 Bar tab, e.g.
12 List-shortening abbr.
13 Source of some flexible wood
21 Thick Japanese noodle
22 Breezy email sign-off
26 Sushi wrapper
28 Brainchild
29 Ice cream purchase
30 UNC's athletic gp.
31 Defrost
32 Big ___: David Ortiz nickname
34 Perfect score in diving, or half a score
35 Connections
36 EGOT-winning Brooks
37 Furry "Star Wars" creature
38 Potato spot
40 "We've been duped!"
44 Emer. alerts
45 "You go, ___!"
49 Texas city known as "Big D"
51 Audibly shocked
52 Vintage photo tone
53 Early anesthetic
54 Motivation
56 Taurasi who holds the WNBA record for career points
57 Monogram pts.
58 Fairy tale baddies
59 Stolen goods
60 Capital of France?
61 Poems of tribute
62 QB stats

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

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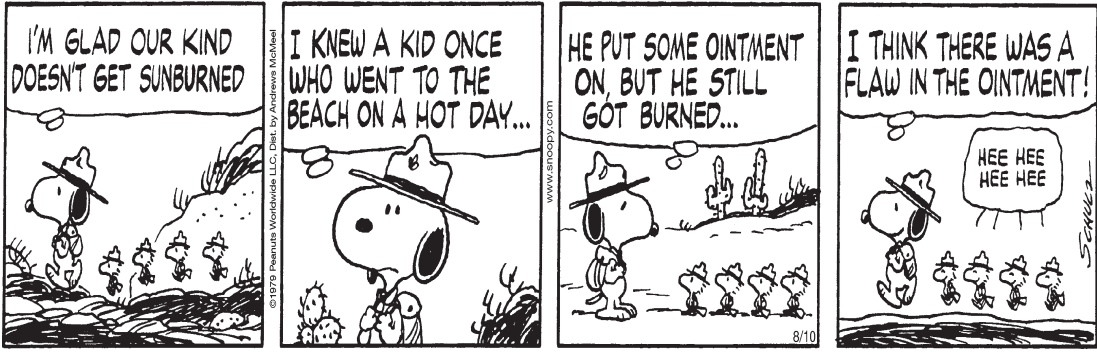
By David Ding
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08/10/26

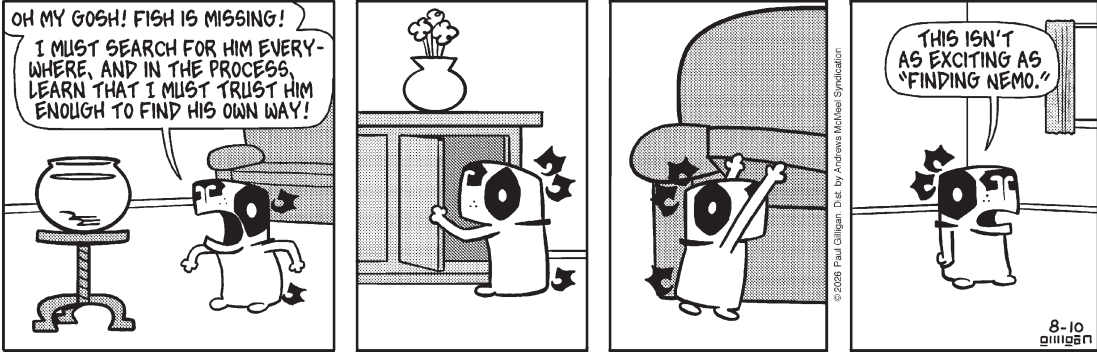
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

STRAINERS

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

Solution: 5 letters

Aluminum, Barrier, Basket, Beans, Cheesecloth, Chef, Chinois, Coarse, Colander, Cone, Cooking, Delicate, Durable, Filter, Fine, Flour, Funnel, Handle, Holes, Kitchen, Lettuce, Oils, Pans, Particles, Pasta, Pipe, Pour, Purée, Salad, Sauce, Seeds, Separate, Shake, Shape, Shower, Sieve, Skimmer, Solids, Soup, Spider, Stainless, Utensil, Vegetable, Vent

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TODAY'S ANSWER: Drain

WHATZIT?

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

WISH KING

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:

Wishful thinking

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

Z	9	6	L	L	S	P	E	8
S	L	L	E	P	8	9	6	Z
P	8	E	Z	6	9	L	S	Z
8	6	L	P	9	Z	L	9	E
E	P	9	6	Z	L	L	8	S
L	S	Z	9	8	E	6	L	P
6	E	P	S	L	Z	8	L	9
L	L	9	8	9	P	Z	E	6
9	Z	8	L	E	6	S	P	L

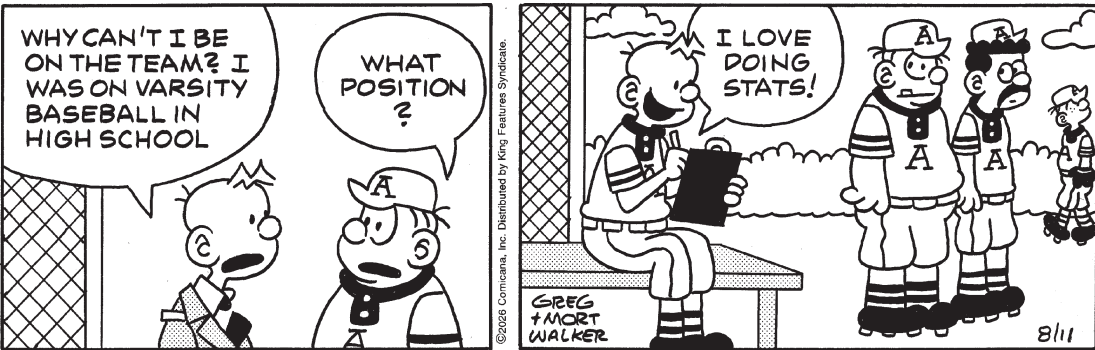
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



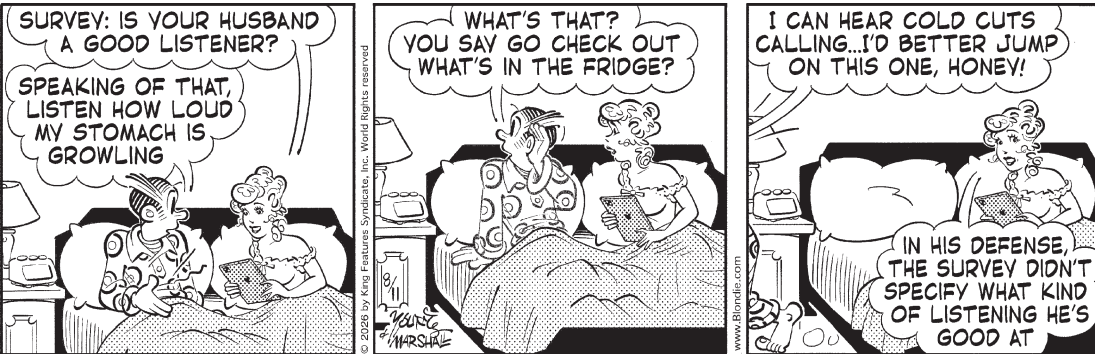
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



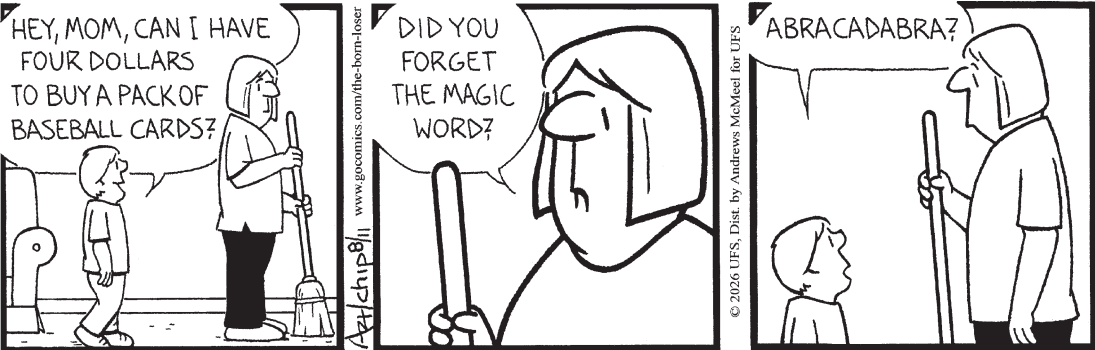
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



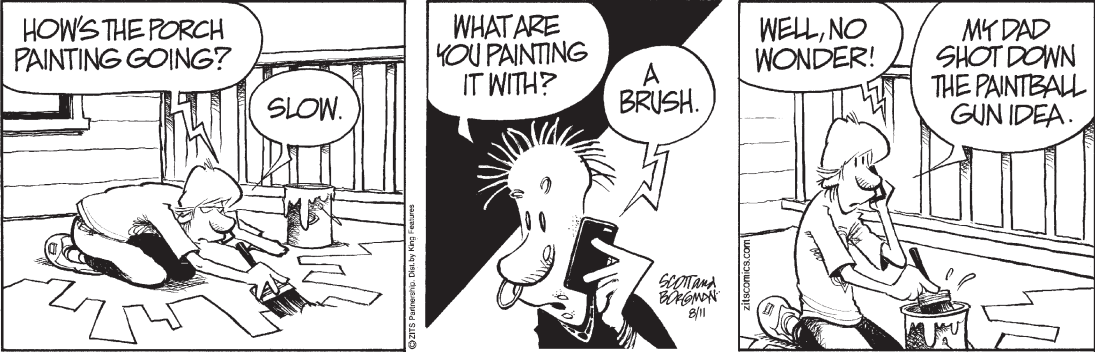
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



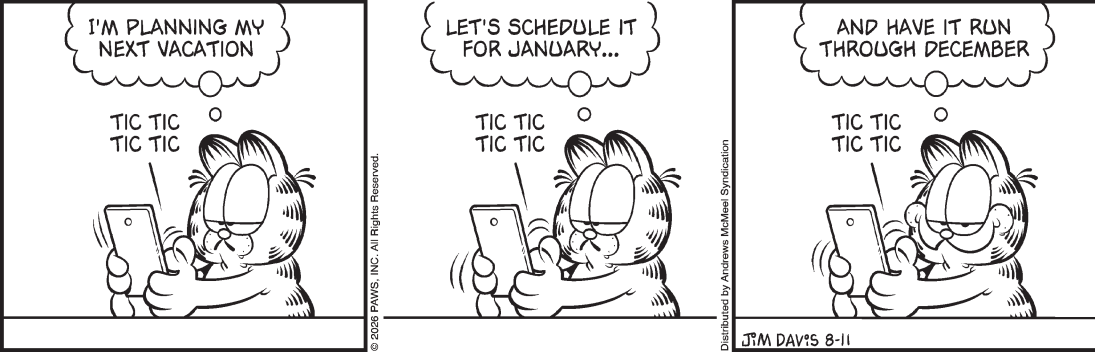
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

PUNCTUALLY

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:

☺ All in good time

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Talk a blue streak
4 Unhearing
8 Albacore
12 "To — is human ..."
13 Case for small items
14 Corpuscle
15 Dead heat
16 Body of fresh water
17 Scotch —
18 Toil away
20 Suds
22 Parts to assemble
23 Payable
24 Go before
28 Social group
32 Adore
33 Therefore
35 Youngster
36 Employ
37 Identical sibling

DOWN

1 Understands
2 Seed appendage

38 Fashion publication
39 Meaning
41 Drape
43 Soft food for babies
45 Fiery
46 Union job action
49 — — a customer
52 Animal dwelling
53 Numb
56 Physicians' org.
57 — mater
58 Prado museum contents
59 Calendar abbr.
60 Rind
61 Dregs
62 Naval rank (Abbr.)

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

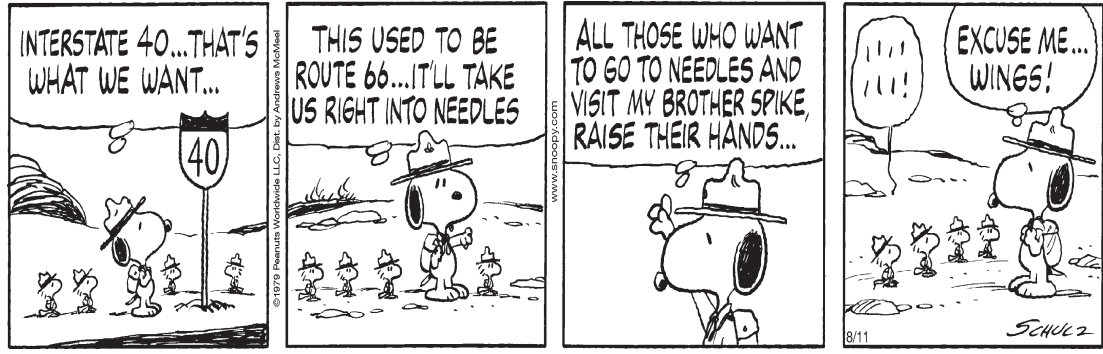
3 Neither gain nor lose (2 wds.)
4 Remove
5 Zeta follower
6 Arctic bird
7 Area
8 Torn cloth

9 Where Provo is
10 Slangy denial
11 The States (Abbr.)
19 "Miami —"
21 Roadster
24 Asset
25 Valentine flower
26 Drops on grass
27 Comedian — Idle
29 Uncomfortable (3 wds.)
30 Indonesian island
31 Paradise
34 Wildebeest
37 Tropical hardwood
38 School in England
40 Coil
42 Colossus of —
44 Piano part
46 Wallop
47 Narrative
48 Hoarfrost
50 Government agent (Hyph.)
51 Nosebag filler
54 Before
55 Supped

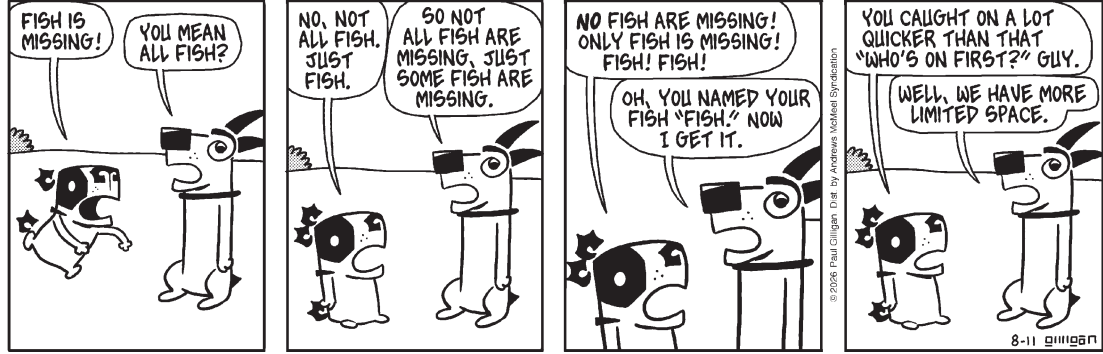
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

CLIENT SERVICE INTERPRETERS

Solution: 8 letters

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

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Accent, Accurate, Assist, Code, Communication, Comprehend, Conference, Consultation, Conversation, Convert, Court, Forms, Grammar, Headset, Interview, Medical, Meeting, Message, Pause, Phrase, Sign, Solves, Speak, Speech, Talk, Target, Team, Telephone, Text, Time, Tone, Translate, Travel, Trust, Verbal, Volume, Words, Workplace, Write

TODAY'S ANSWER: Language

Georgia gubernatorial candidates pitch competing plans at business forum

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATHENS — Georgia’s two candidates for governor showcased their competing plans for healthcare, jobs and other top issues at a business-focused gathering this week.

The Democrat in the race, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, spoke of government solutions for problems such as the shortage of affordable housing and healthcare. The Republican, businessman Rick Jackson, drew the support of sitting Gov. Brian Kemp.

The two candidates did not confront each other directly, outlining their platforms instead from a ballroom stage and in a hallway with reporters.

But the event, hosted by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce at The Classic Center in Athens, offered a rare opportunity to see them at the same venue, talking about many of the same issues.

Bottoms touted developer



Special Photo: Ty Tagami/Capitol Beat
Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, the Democratic candidate for Georgia governor, talks to reporters at The Classic Center in Athens.

agreements for affordable housing reached during her tenure as mayor. And she said she would push for Medicaid expansion to confront rural hospital closures and the growing number of Georgians without health insurance.

Kemp, meeting with reporters with Jackson by his side, said he had decided to back

the wealthy healthcare staffing entrepreneur because Jackson had succeeded despite a tough childhood in foster homes, a story that Jackson has repeatedly shared while campaigning.

Jackson said he would seek to cut taxes while continuing to recruit companies to locate in the state, adding that



Special Photo: Ty Tagami/Capitol Beat
Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp tells reporters he is backing Rick Jackson, the Republican candidate for governor at The Classic Center in Athens.

he would steer economic development and jobs to rural Georgia as Kemp has done.

From the stage, before an audience of hundreds in suits, Jackson said he planned on “increasing a huge amount of investment dollars for venture capital, early-stage development and PE just for Georgia companies. Atlanta is too big

not to have more capital.”

Bottoms also said she would cater to small businesses, but her approach included government money. She said she would establish a state agency for small business and change contracts for services.

“I’d like to break up some of these mega-contracts in our state ... to give small business-

es an opportunity to compete for those contracts,” she said.

Bottoms also said she wanted to end Georgia’s Pathways to Coverage program, Kemp’s approach to Medicaid, which she called wasteful.

A federal review last year found that most of the money went to administrative overhead rather than to medical assistance.

Jackson told reporters that he believed in “intelligent” Medicaid expansion. By that, he meant a federal block grant with few strings attached, for a program designed to transition recipients into jobs and onto private insurance.

Bottoms and Jackson also had divergent views on data centers.

Bottoms reiterated an earlier call to “pause” data center approvals, while Jackson said he would leave it up to communities whether to allow them to build, noting the potential local tax benefits.

UGA Grand Farm Field Day to showcase research, technology

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

PERRY — The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Grand Farm are set to host the UGA Grand Farm Field Day, an event designed for attendees to experience the research, partnerships and technologies shaping the future of Georgia agriculture.

UGA Grand Farm is a collaborative agricultural technology innovation hub led by UGA CAES and Grand Farm. Located in Perry, the 250-acre farm brings together growers, researchers, startups, industry leaders and students to test emerging technologies, host hands-on events and acceler-

ate practical solutions through applied research.

Through presentations and guided field tours, attendees will explore active trials, meet researchers and industry partners, and get an inside look at the USDA National Proving Grounds Network for Ag-Tech initiative and other innovations taking place at UGA Grand Farm.

The UGA Grand Farm Field Day will be held at 1101 Limerock Parkway in Perry from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Featured speakers and industry leaders include Steven Mirsky, director of digital agriculture, USDA Agricultural Research Service; Lenin Rodriguez, director of UGA Grand Farm, and



File Photo
The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Grand Farm are set to host the UGA Grand Farm Field Day Thursday in Perry.

Travis Frey, chief technology officer for Pivot Bio.



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans to roll back regulations on a key early education program for low-income families.

Proposed Head Start rollback could impact up to 350 Georgia centers

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans to roll back regulations on a key early education program for low-income families, the agency announced.

The program, known as Head Start, provides early childhood education, nutritious meals, health screenings and other services to more than 23,000 children and their families across Georgia, according to the Georgia Head Start Association.

More than 1,400 rules could be rescinded under the new proposal, ending some of the policies that have made the program unique. The impact could be felt across Georgia’s 350 Head Start centers.

the next generation.”

Among the potential changes are a proposal to relax student-to-teacher ratio requirements, allow programs to suspend or expel students due to behavioral issues and impose a requirement that nearly all programming be conducted in English.

Education advocates like Kristin Bernhard, the CEO of the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, said they are still combing through the 200 pages of rule changes outlined in the proposal to get a sense of how the changes could impact participating children and their families.

Part of the reason the program is so effective, she said, is that Head Start centers are required to maintain low teacher-to-student ratios, provide evidence-based curriculum and extend support services to parents as well as children. According to Bernhard, the program also plays an outsized role in rural parts of the state, where over a quarter of child care slots are provided through the Head Start program.

Though Bernhard said she supported the goal of getting more children enrolled in Head Start, she cautioned against altering the program’s regulations in a way that could erode its status as the “gold standard” for early childhood education.

“Reducing paperwork can be a great thing, but we don’t want to reduce actual accountability toward achieving high quality services for this population of children,” Bernhard said.

The proposed rules are now open for a mandatory 60-day public comment period.

Southern Regional Tech, Thomas University sign articulation agreements

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

THOMASVILLE -- Officials with Southern Regional Technical College and Thomas University recently signed a series of articulation agreements that create clear academic pathways for SRTC students to continue their education and earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Thomas University.

The agreements span criminal justice, education, business, nursing and social work, giving students across multiple career fields an affordable, close-to-home route to a four-year degree and beyond.

The agreements allow students who complete select Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees at SRTC to transfer directly into corresponding bachelor’s and master’s programs at Thomas University, with credits recognized toward their next degree.

Pathways include:

- Criminal Justice
- Associate of Science in Criminal Justice to Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice;
- Associate of Science in Criminal Justice to Bachelor of Science in Justice Administration;
- Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice to Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice;
- Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology to Bachelor of Science in Justice Administration;

- Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Technology to Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.
- Nursing
- Associate of Science in Nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN);
- Associate of Science in Nursing (LPN to RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN);
- Associate of Science in Nursing to Master of Science in Nursing (RN-MSN);
- Associate of Science in Nursing (LPN to RN) to Master of Science in Nursing (RN-MSN).
- Education
- Associate of Science in Education to Bachelor of Science in Special Education, Elementary Education;
- Associate of Science in Education to Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education;
- Associate of Applied Science in Education to Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.
- Business
- Associate of Science in General Business to Bachelor of Science in Business Administration;
- Associate of Science in General Business to Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management;
- Associate of Science in General Business to Bachelor of Science in Management;
- Associate of Science in General Business to Bachelor of Science in Marketing;
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration to Bachelor of Science in Business Administration;
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration to Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management;
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration to Bachelor of Science in Management;
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration to Bachelor of Science in Marketing;
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration to Bachelor of Science in Accounting.
- Social Work
- Associate of Science in Social Work to Bachelor of Social Work.



Special Photo: SRTC
From left, John Meis, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas University; Kurt Stringfellow, president of Thomas University; Jim Glass, president of Southern Regional Technical College; and Mason Miller, vice president of Academic Affairs at Southern Regional Technical College take part in the signing of a series of articulation agreements.

ence in Business Management to Bachelor of Science in Business Administration;

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management to Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management;

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management to Bachelor of Science in Management;

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management to Bachelor of Science in Marketing;

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management to Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

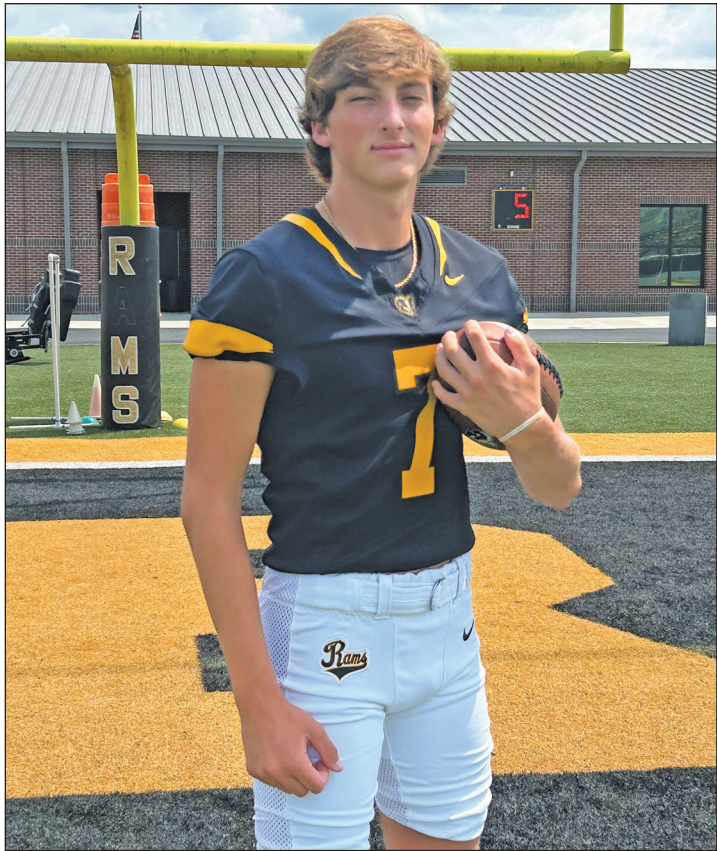
Social Work

Associate of Science in Social Work to Bachelor of Social Work.

This partnership significantly expands educational opportunities for students across southwest Georgia, making it more affordable and accessible to begin a college career at SRTC and continue on to a four-year, and in nursing’s case, a graduate-level, degree at Thomas University.

“These articulation agreements open the door for our students in a real and lasting way,” SRTC President Jim Glass said. “A student can start here at SRTC, stay close to home, and know from Day 1 exactly how their credits will carry forward to Thomas University.”

“At Thomas University, we believe that higher education transforms lives,” Kurt Stringfellow, president of Thomas University, said. “We are proud to partner with SRTC in providing students a seamless transition into their next level of study.”



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Worth County quarterback Lyndon Worthy is one of three players for the Rams who earned preseason All-State honors by the Georgia High School Football Daily on Friday. Worthy, Malik Muhammad and Brodey Hancock were named to the list in Class 3A.

Three Rams named preseason All-State

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — Worth County’s championship season may be in the rearview mirror, but the Rams aren’t starting over.

They’re starting with three of the state’s best.

Quarterback Lyndon Worthy, edge rusher Malik Muhammad and place-kicker Brodey Hancock were named Friday to the Georgia High School Football Daily Class 3A Preseason All-State Team, giving the defending state champions three more reasons to believe another championship run is possible despite moving up in classification.

Each player represents a different strength of a Worth County team that enters the season with lofty expectations after last year’s perfect 15-0 record and the school’s first state championship since 1987.

It starts with Worthy.

The 6-foot-3 senior has been under center since his freshman season, quietly putting together one of the most productive careers in Georgia high

school football.

He enters his final season with more than 9,100 career passing yards and 92 touchdown passes, numbers that have made him one of the state’s most accomplished quarterbacks, even if recruiting attention hasn’t always matched his production.

Worth County coach Jeff Hammond believes Worthy’s best football may still be ahead.

“Lyndon has progressed quite nicely throughout his career,” Hammond said. “He’s a dedicated worker and has been very successful throughout his career. We may need to lean on him more at times this upcoming year. It will be fun watching him finish his career for sure.”

While Worthy directs the offense, Muhammad has become the face of the Rams’ defense.

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound junior already owns 20 Division I scholarship offers, including Georgia, Alabama, Ohio State, Oregon and Texas — an impressive list for a player who has yet to begin his junior season.

Muhammad announced himself as one of Georgia’s rising defensive stars

last fall, recording 71 tackles, including 10 in the Class A state championship game against Toombs County.

Hammond expects an even bigger season this fall.

“Malik has had a great summer,” Hammond said. “He is going to be an important part of our defense.”

The third member of Worth County’s All-State trio often influences games in ways that don’t always grab headlines.

Hancock turned special teams into a weapon during the Rams’ championship run.

The junior converted 11 of 14 field-goal attempts, was perfect on 100 extra points, and totaled 4,803 kickoff yards, routinely forcing opponents to begin drives deep in their own territory.

Having a dependable kicker can be the difference between winning and losing close games, and Hancock proved that throughout Worth County’s undefeated season.

Now the challenge becomes even greater.

The Rams move into Class 3A this

See **ALL-STATE**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany State players go through running back drills during the Golden Rams’ first practice of preseason camp Wednesday at the Albany State Coliseum. A total of 134 players took part in the opening workout as first-year head coach David Bowser began installing his program, one built around developing local talent and elevating Albany State’s national profile.

Bowser’s vision reaches beyond the football field

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The whistles sounded. Helmets cracked. The first day of preseason practice looked much like every other opening day in Albany State football history.

The vision, however, is entirely different.

As the Golden Rams took the practice field this week to begin preparations for the 2026 season, first-year head coach David Bowser wasn’t talking simply about winning another SIAC championship or returning to the NCAA Division II playoffs.

He’s thinking much bigger.

Bowser wants Albany State football to become a nationally recognized brand.

“My style coming in is more of a CEO type,” Bowser said during a recent appearance on the SIAC Sitdown podcast. “I’ve hired an offensive coordinator. I’ve hired a defensive coordinator. ... I’m trying to help think of creative ways to grow the brand.”

That philosophy explains nearly every move Bowser has made since arriving in Albany.

The practices.
The recruiting.
The coaching staff.

Even the way he talks about the future. While many first-year coaches spend August trying to survive their first camp, Bowser is already thinking about what Albany State football can become five years from now.

“We’re getting ready for 2026,” Bowser said. “But understand a lot of our moves

are going to benefit us even in 2030.”

Those comments aren’t empty slogans. Bowser inherited one of Division II’s premier football programs after replacing Quinn Gray, who guided the Golden Rams to a top-10 national ranking and three NCAA Division II playoff home games last season.

Rather than reinvent a winner, Bowser wants to amplify it.

“Tuskegee, Florida A&M and Grambling tend to have a national brand,” Bowser said. “But if you look at the last 15 or 20 years of college football in this area, Albany State has been the most consistent and probably the most successful. We want to push that out there so people know it throughout the country.”

See **VISION**, 10A

Culture change has Baconton Charter believing again

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

BACONTON — The conversations sound different at Baconton Charter these days.

Players remind one another to hustle between drills. Teammates expect everyone to be in the weight room. Veterans make sure younger players know where they’re supposed to be before coaches have to say a word.

After four seasons, Jermaine King is finally seeing the culture he envisioned begin to take hold.

“We’ve seen a big change,” King said. “We’ve had 42 kids out here working during the summer. And the kids are holding each other accountable to be at practice and to be focused on what we are doing — not just be here, but be here.”

Those four words have become something of a motto for the Blazers.

King said showing up is no longer enough.

Players are expected to be mentally engaged every day, and he believes that attitude is the biggest reason optimism is running high entering the 2026 season.

For the first time in several years, Baconton Charter also enters a season with stability.

King returns for his fourth year as head coach, giving the Blazers continuity that has been difficult to find in the past. That stability, coupled with last season’s four-game winning streak to close the year, has changed expectations inside the program.

“Enthusiasm is high after winning four games at the end of the season,” King said. “I think the guys like that feeling, so they’re raring to go.”

The progress hasn’t happened by accident.

King points first to the weight room.

“Our improvement in the weight room has been very significant,” he said. “The kids have been working hard.”

Just as important, they’ve been working together.

Summer workouts have become an opportunity to build chemistry as much as strength, and King believes that bond will show up on Friday nights.

The Blazers graduated seven seniors but welcome eight freshmen who already understand what’s expected because they came through Baconton’s middle school

program under coach Zack Dallas.

“They know the schemes and the expectations,” King said. “They’re familiar with the verbiage and the terminology.”

King also strengthened his coaching staff by adding Ryan Manard to coach the offensive line, Jay Tully to lead the receivers and Marcus Singletary to coach the running backs.

On the field, the biggest position battle remains at quarterback.

If the season opened today, Kayden Logue would get the nod, but Preston Hurst continues to push him every practice.

“Both of them are working hard and doing a good job,” King said. “Kayden is just a step ahead at the moment.”

Logue also is expected to handle the kicking and punting duties.

Running back Braylen Hundley may be the player King is most excited to watch.

“Braylen has had the best offseason and made huge gains,” King said. “I’m looking forward to a big season from him.”

The Blazers intentionally built a challenging independent schedule.

Rather than easing into the season, they’ll open Aug. 21 against Southland before traveling to neighboring Pelham a week later. They’ll also face perennial GIAA power Southwest Georgia Academy.

“We put some teams on our schedule that will push us,” King said. “We’re working toward being able to compete in the region.”

King knows success won’t come simply because confidence is growing.

His players hear the same message every day.

“Comfort and success don’t go together,” he said. “You don’t just have to show up to practice. You’ve got to be here mentally. Be in the moment. Enjoy this time on the field with your teammates.”

Four years ago, Baconton Charter was trying to find its footing.

Now, the Blazers believe they’re finally building something that can last.

“I’m looking forward to our best year yet,” King said. “The kids are really buying into what we’re teaching, and good things are coming.”

Parsons, Butler lead Lady Trojans past Columbus

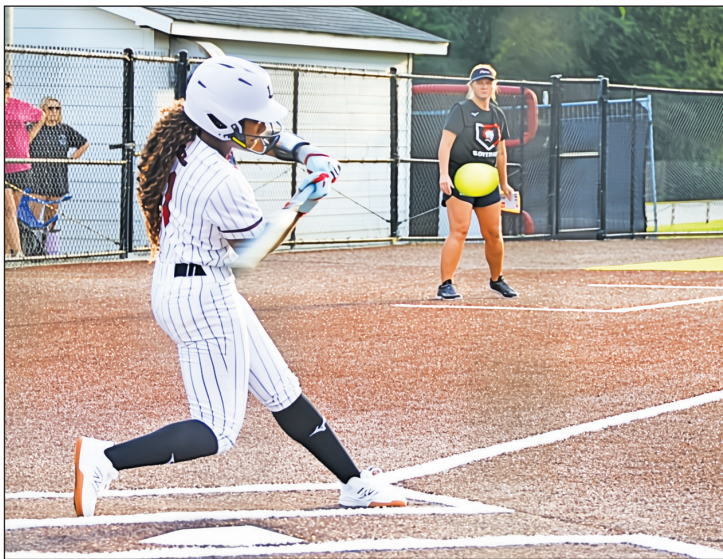
By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — New Lee County softball coach Hannah Spencer picked up her first victory Thursday night, but she believes the Lady Trojans are only beginning to show what they can become.

Brylyn Parsons came within one hit of making the evening even more memorable, finishing a double shy of the cycle while powering Lee County to a 9-6 victory over Columbus at Lee County High School.

The win evened the Lady Trojans’ record at 1-1 after a heartbreaking 8-7 season-opening loss at Perry on Wednesday and gave Spencer her first victory since taking over the program.

“I was really proud of the way our girls competed in



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County senior Tina Benton swings during Thursday’s game against the Columbus Blue Devils. The Lady Trojans took the win 9-6, the first win for new Lee County head coach Hannah Spencer.

our first games,” Spencer said. “Offensively, I think we showed what we’re ca-

pable of. We put the ball in play, hit for average, created extra-base hits and applied

pressure on the bases. We have the potential to be a very good offensive team from the top to bottom of our lineup.”

The Lady Trojans backed up their coach’s assessment by pounding out 10 hits against Columbus.

After the visitors grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, Lee County answered with three runs in the bottom of the third to seize control.

Porter Butler ignited the rally with an RBI double to left field that scored the tying run. Tina Benton followed with a single before Makinley Duke lifted a sacrifice fly to left to plate Butler. Benton later scored on a Columbus error off the bat of Mac Davis, giving Lee County a 3-1 advantage.

See **TROJANS**, 10A

Olson passes Stan Musial in iron-man streak

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA -- Matt Olson has played more consecutive games than all but seven players in Major League history. Olson passed Hall of Famer Stan Musial and gained sole possession of eighth place on the all-time list when he played in his 896th consecutive game in the Braves' 4-1 win over the Marlins on Wednesday night at Truist Park. Atlanta's first baseman began his streak while playing for the A's on May 2, 2021. Olson owns Major League Baseball's longest current streak. The Orioles' Pete Alonso ranks second with 523 games. It's worth noting that Olson has been in the starting lineup for all but one game during this streak. A late-season slump led former Atlanta

manager Brian Snitker to sit the slugger against the Phillies on Sept. 24, 2022. But the streak exists because Olson ended up playing first base during the final two innings of a 6-3 Braves win. If Olson plays every game for the Braves for the fifth straight year, he'll finish this season having played in 944 consecutive games. By the end of the 2027 season, he could own the game's seventh-longest streak, and a couple months into the 2028 season, he could pass Miguel Tejada (1,152 games) and own the fifth-longest streak. Olson and Tejada are the only players to construct one of the 10 longest streaks this century. Cal Ripken Jr.'s unbreakable record of 2,632 consecutive games ended in 1999. That stood as the lon-



Atlanta Braves first baseman Matt Olson passed Hall of Famer Stan Musial for sole possession of eighth place on baseball's all-time consecutive games list with his 896th straight game on Wednesday.

gest streak since Steve Garvey ended his 1,207 consecutive games streak in 1983. Garvey's stretch was the longest since Billy Williams ended his 1,117-game streak in 1970.



LeBron James displays his Olympic gold medal after helping the United States capture the men's basketball title at the 2024 Paris Olympics. USA Basketball reportedly plans to reserve a roster spot for James if he chooses to play in the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Team USA saves spot for LeBron James

Field Level Media

A spot on the U.S. men's basketball team at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics is reserved for LeBron James if he wants it. ESPN's Brian Windhorst reported USA Basketball's intention on the most recent edition of his podcast, "The Hoop Collective." "If LeBron wants to play, he'll get a roster spot," said Windhorst, who has covered James since the star's high school days in Akron, Ohio. James will be 43 in the summer of 2028, and he previously has said he would not play in

a fifth Olympics. "You already know my answer," James said on a podcast last November. "I will be watching it." However, should he play both seasons of the two-year contract recently signed with the Philadelphia 76ers, he will be in game shape come July 2028. He could choose the Olympics, played near his residence in his adopted home city of Los Angeles, as the finale to his grand career. James won a bronze medal in Athens in 2004, followed by gold medals in the 2008, 2012 and 2024 Games. Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony

also have played in four Summer Olympics. Among American women, Diana Taurasi won gold medals in six consecutive Olympics beginning in 2004. Sue Bird and Teresa Edwards each have five gold medals.

From 9A

TROJANS

The Lady Trojans never trailed again. Parsons supplied the biggest blow in the fifth inning. After tripling in the second and singling in the fourth, the Lee County shortstop crushed a three-run home run to left field to stretch the lead. She finished 3-for-3, falling only a double shy of the cycle. Butler matched Parsons with a 3-for-3 performance, driving in a game-high four runs while stealing two bases. Duke earned the victory in the circle, allowing four runs on six hits over five innings while striking out three. Benton worked in relief to help secure the win. While pleased with the offensive production, Spencer said the Lady Trojans know where they must improve as the season progresses. "Our biggest focus moving

From 9A

ALL-STATE

fall, where the road to another championship figures to be more difficult. But returning an experienced quarterback, one of the state's premier pass rushers and one of Georgia's most reliable kickers gives Worth County a foundation few teams can match. The preseason honors don't guarantee another championship. They do, however, reinforce what opponents across Class 3A already know. If Worth County is going to be knocked off its throne this season, someone will have to find a way to slow Worthy, keep Muhammad out of the backfield and avoid allowing Hancock to make the difference. That won't be easy. Preseason Class 3A All-State Offense QB - Tucker Parson, Hart County QB - Lyndon Worthy, Worth County RB - Jaiden Knight, Appling County RB - Jae'Veon Williams, Pierce County WR - Nick Carroll, Toombs County WR - Gavin Green, Rockmart TE - Cameron Lear, Hape-

From 9A

VISION

His blueprint begins close to home. Soon after arriving in Albany, Bowser toured Southwest Georgia with longtime assistant Anthony Kelly, visiting high schools throughout the region. Before long, he had settled on what he believes should be the foundation of the program. "If we're going to recruit, we need to draw a circle 90 miles around right here in South Georgia," Bowser said. The results came quickly. Albany State signed 28 players from South Georgia in Bowser's first recruiting class, reinforcing his belief that the area's high school talent



Special Photo: Tony Walsh, UGA
The Georgia basketball team announced its non-conference schedule this week, which showed the Bulldogs will face both Duke and North Carolina this season.

Georgia basketball announces non-conference schedule

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS, Ga. — The Georgia Bulldogs released their non-conference schedule for the upcoming 2026-27 men's basketball season on Thursday. Georgia will participate in ESPN events in New York and Orlando, will host nine home games at Stegeman Coliseum and will travel for road dates at North Carolina and Georgia Tech this November and December.

The ESPN-managed matchups are the ESPN Events Challenge on Nov. 26-27 in Orlando and the Jimmy V Classic on Dec. 8 at Madison Square Garden.

The Challenge is a 10-team event with two fields at Walt Disney World Resort during Thanksgiving week at State Farm Field House at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Kissimmee, Fla. Georgia is in the non-bracketed "Magic Group" along with Boston College, Cincinnati and UCF. The Bulldogs will face the Bearcats and Knights on either Thursday, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving Day) or Friday, Nov. 27. Matchups, game times and television designations for those contests will be announced at a later date. Georgia is already slated to host Boston College in the SEC/ACC Challenge the following week on Dec. 1.

The Bulldogs are 2-2 in previous meetings with Cincinnati, including an 84-65 victory in a Holiday Hoops-giving date in Atlanta last season. Georgia is 4-0 versus UCF, most recently defeating the Knights 103-54 during their 1996 Sweet 16 campaign.

The Jimmy V Classic is a doubleheader featuring Georgia versus Duke and Alabama against Houston. The Bulldogs are 3-2 all-time against the Blue Devils; however, the schools have not met in nearly a century. Georgia topped Duke, 43-32, in the semifinals of the 1932 Southern Conference Tournament in Atlanta when the Bulldogs defeated Mississippi State, Virginia, Duke and North Carolina on successive days to cap-

ture their first conference title ever.

Georgia opens regular-season play on Monday, Nov. 2 by hosting N.C. Central, with additional home outings against Presbyterian on Friday, Nov. 6; Florida Gulf Coast on Monday, Nov. 9; Jacksonville on Monday, Nov. 16; Boston College on Tuesday, Dec. 1; Alabama A&M on Sunday, Dec. 13; West Georgia on Wednesday, Dec. 16; Gardner Webb on Sunday, Dec. 20; and North Florida on Tuesday, Dec. 29.

The Bulldogs will trek to Chapel Hill to face North Carolina on Friday, Nov. 13, their first trip to the Dean Smith Center since 1998. Georgia's annual date with archrival Georgia Tech is set for Friday, Nov. 20 in Atlanta.

Last week, the SEC announced its men's basketball schedule for the upcoming campaign. Georgia's 18-game league slate features five home dates against 2026 NCAA Tournament teams and five Saturday home outings.

In addition to the regular season, the Bulldogs are expected to take advantage of new NCAA regulations allowing up to three preseasons contests. Information on those games will announced in the future.

Georgia is looking to continue its consistent and impressive growth under fifth-year head coach Mike White. The Bulldogs have reached the 20-win mark in each of the past three seasons and earned bids to the 2025 and 2026 NCAA Tournaments.

Georgia's 2026-27 roster features a mix of six returnees, headlined by starters Blue Cain, Marcus "Smurf" Millender, Kanon Catchings and Kareem Stagg. White also has welcomed nine newcomers to Athens — five transfers and four freshmen.

The Bulldogs' schedule for the upcoming season will include 18 regular-season home games — nine non-conference matchups and nine SEC games.

ball in Albany arrived before he had coached a single practice. A woman recognized him inside a grocery store just days after he accepted the job. Her message was brief. Coach Quinn Gray had taken Albany State to the third round of the NCAA playoffs. "We don't expect no drop off." Bowser laughed as he recalled the conversation, but he understood exactly what she meant. "I knew then this thing was real," he said. Now the work begins. Albany State officially opened preseason camp this week with practices leading toward its Aug. 29 season opener at Florida A&M before returning home Sept. 6 to face Johnson C. Smith in

the Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic. There will be plenty to evaluate over the next few weeks — quarterbacks, offensive line combinations, defensive depth and special teams. Bowser, though, believes those questions will eventually answer themselves. Football, he says, has a way of doing that. His job is making sure Albany State becomes known for much more than what happens on Saturdays. The Golden Rams already have one of Division II's richest traditions. Bowser's mission is to make sure the rest of the country knows it.



Special Photo

From 2A MATH

education, said.

Matt Smith, policy and research director for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, pointed to Georgia’s ongoing success at reducing chronic absenteeism.

The chronic rate, defined as missing at least 10% of the school year, fell in Georgia to 17.7% in 2025-26, down from a peak of 23.9% in 2021-22.

Unlike many other states, Georgia’s chronic absenteeism rate has continuously declined since then, but it remains above the pre-pandemic rate of 12%.

Despite the record gains in math, about half of Georgia students were performing at levels that are considered not proficient.

The state divides students into four categories based on their scores. From highest to lowest score, the categories are distinguished, proficient, developing and beginning.

The highest rate of students who scored proficient or distinguished was in fourth grade, at 50%. Third and sixth grades had the largest increases, with the rate of students scoring proficient or better rising 4 percentage points in each from 2024-25 — to 48% and 41%, respectively.

In high school Algebra, the increase was 3 points, to 48%.

Gains in other subjects also were accompanied by large groups of underperforming students.

For instance, the proportion of students scoring proficient or better in high school physical science rose 4 points to

61%, meaning 39% were not proficient. High school biology rose 3 points to 47%, and U.S. history was flat, at 39% proficient or better.

Many students may be scoring above pre-pandemic levels, but that is not a high bar, Starkel said.

“We still have a long way to go for many kids in the metro area and the state,” she noted.

Smith warned that the reporting of average statewide scores can mask poor performances in some school districts.

Like they did with the math scores during the 2023-24 school year, state education officials will assess the recent results in English Language Arts to determine where to set the scoring thresholds for placing students in one of those four performance categories.

English has not been a highlight for Georgia, with scores falling in all but two of the seven grade levels that were given a Milestones exam on the subject under the old standards in 2024-25.

Smith attributed that at least in part to the “swirl” of rapid changes, after the Georgia General Assembly began mandating new teaching methods for English. After many years of unsatisfactory literacy scores, lawmakers decided it was time to shift to more phonics-based instruction, especially in the lower grades.

Teachers in kindergarten through third grade were trained in the new methods. The release of the exam results in November will be the first to put that training to the test.



William “Bill” Ernest Nordstrom

William “Bill” Ernest Nordstrom, 78., of Albany, GA, formally of Los Angeles, CA., died Sunday, June 28, 2026 at Wynfield Park Health and Rehabilitation. A memorial service will be held at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Friday August 14, at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service and have a reception immediately following the service. His cremains will be interred in the church prayer garden columbarium.

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

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

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

He is preceded in death by his wife Patricia Foley Nordstrom, His father Dr. Harry Charles Nordstrom and his wife Dr. Bernice Walters Nordstrom, his mother Dorothy Jones Zoellner and her husband Wotan Zoellner.

Survivors include his sister Karen Sinderson and her husband Dr. Thomas Sinderson of Rockville, MD., his twin sister Mary Shapard and her husband Tom, his nieces and nephews, Nancy Rojas, Edward Sinderson, Ross Nix, Ryan Nix, Patricia Ann Foley and Robert Foley, Jr., and grand nieces and nephews who lovingly called him “Uncle Bill”.

The family would like to thank the caregivers of Wynfield Park Health and Rehabilitation and Affinis Hospice for the kind and loving care they provided for our brother.

In lieu of flowers those desiring may make donation in memory of Bill to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN., 38105 or St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 4800 Old Dawson Road, Albany, GA., 31721.

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:11

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

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Miscellaneous

A-787

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Date of Publication: August 11, 2026
Georgia Housing and Finance Authority
60 Executive Park South, NE Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 (404) 679-4840
On or after August 26, 2026, will

Miscellaneous

submit a request to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the release of HOME Investment Program funds under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Title II of Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: City of Arlington, CHIP 2026-101

Purpose: To provide single family, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation.

Location: Scattered sites in city limits of Arlington, Georgia

Project/Program Description: The City of Arlington Georgia will rehabilitate up to seven (7) single-family, owner-occupied homes in Arlington, Georgia. Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation: Rehabilitations of buildings and improvements are Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i) when the following conditions are met: In the case of a building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, and the land use is not changed.

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C (Explosive and Flammable Hazards) and Subpart D (Airport Hazards); Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]; Clean Air Act, as amended, and 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93; 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2) (Contamination and Toxic Substances); Endangered Species Act of 1973 and 50 CFR Part 402; Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981and 7 CFR Part 658; Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR Part 55; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 800; Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 and 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B; Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968; and Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Compliance with various laws, authorities, and written strategies will be documented and listed in the Tier 2 Site Specific Review project file. If required, mitigation measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts and/or permits, and development agreements and other relevant documents will be obtained from the issuing governmental agency. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Estimated Project Cost: Total HUD funding: \$500,000. Total anticipated project cost: \$575,850.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at DCA located at 60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 and is available for public review and maybe examined and or copied by appointment only on weekdays from 8:30 A.M to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to DaTonya Lewis. All comments

Miscellaneous

received by September 1, 2026, will be considered by DCA prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DCA certifies to HUD that DaTonya Lewis, in her capacity as Director of the Office of Community Housing Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The approval of HUD certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objections to its release of fund and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs’ (DCA) certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of DCA; (b) DCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Atlanta CPD Field Office at CPD_COVID-19OEE-ATL@HUD.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Atlanta CPD Field Office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period. DaTonya Lewis, Director, Office of Community Housing Development, Certifying Officer.



August 11, 2026



Release Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

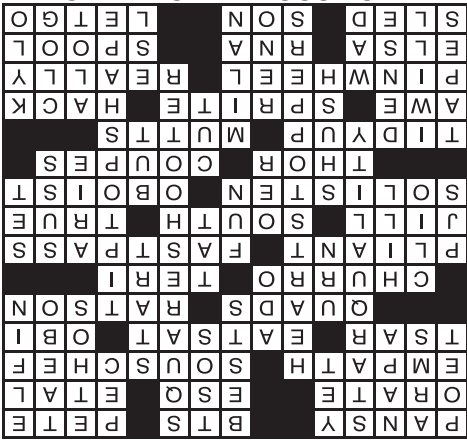
- 1 Colorful violet kin
- 6 Suga and Jung Kook’s band
- 9 “___ the Cat”: children’s book series
- 13 Give a speech
- 14 Atty.’s title
- 15 And others, in a bibliography
- 16 Highly sensitive person
- 18 Kitchen deputy
- 20 Old Russian ruler
- 21 Bothers greatly
- 23 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 24 Thigh muscles, familiarly
- 26 Exposés, in a way
- 28 Treat that may be dipped in dulce de leche
- 30 Indiana University basketball coach
- 31 Flexible
- 32 Amusement park time-saver
- 36 Former first lady
- 37 Winter migration direction
- 39 Tried’s partner
- 40 “Hear me out ...”
- 42 Woodwind section player
- 44 Norse god of thunder
- 45 Two-door cars
- 46 Neaten
- 49 Many shelter dogs
- 50 Astonishment
- 51 Soft drink brand with a “lymon” logo
- 53 Creative solution
- 57 Spinning toy
- 59 “Are you serious?”
- 61 “Let It Go” singer
- 62 Genetic transcription molecule
- 63 Thread holder
- 64 Snow day’s
- 65 Daughter’s brother
- 66 Canine command akin to “drop it”

- 3 Auto parts giant that shares a name with a California wine valley
- 4 Aspiring actor’s asset
- 5 So far
- 6 One-ups
- 7 General ___ chicken
- 8 Trustworthy sort
- 9 Delt neighbor
- 10 Shared ideology
- 11 Martial arts-based fitness regimen
- 12 Like Santa’s helpers
- 17 Intensely shocking events
- 19 One end of a maze
- 22 Ruckus
- 25 Spot where there’s no trouble brewing?
- 27 Peak physical condition, or a feature of 4-, 8-, and 17-Down
- 28 Advertising award
- 29 Biker’s challenge
- 30 Skin art, for short
- 31 Sleepover attire, familiarly

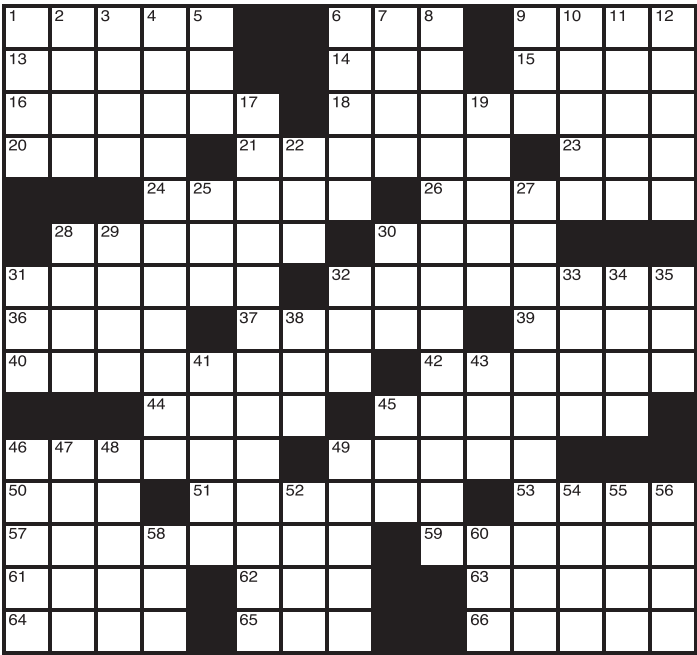
- 32 Enjoyable
- 33 Grammy winner
- 34 Puzzle (out)
- 35 Group of reps at the gym
- 38 Above, in classic odes
- 41 “Be quiet!”
- 43 “Having said that ...
- 45 Minor injury
- 46 Cassettes
- 47 “Count on me”

- 48 Quite thick
- 49 2026 Winter Olympics host city
- 52 “The Biggest Little City in the World”
- 54 Tons
- 55 Drain blockage
- 56 Offspring of Leia and Han
- 58 Crumple (up)
- 60 Course for some intl. students

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



08/11/26



By Rena Cohen
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08/11/26

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 book club member (6)
- 2 one taking over (11)
- 3 calm and kind quality (10)
- 4 gave ear (8)
- 5 receive genetically (7)
- 6 Alaskan archipelago (9)
- 7 “digital” tools (11)

DER REA ACEM LENE GE
ENT SS ALE IANS NED
ULA CALC REPL LI INHE
TORS RIT UT STE NT

Saturday’s Answers: 1. MOANED 2. HANNIBAL 3. MOTE 4. SEBACEOUS 5. MANNERISM 6. POLGAR 7. REWILD 8/10

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 earning points (7)
- 2 just blah (5)
- 3 thrive (8)
- 4 treat the pool (10)
- 5 waving about (11)
- 6 gives the boot (5)
- 7 the “talk” of Rio (10)

OUS FL SCO CH BA
SIC ISH OUR IN AND
ISH TS ATE RING TUGU
POR ESE ING BR LOR

Monday’s Answers: 1. READER 2. REPLACEMENT 3. GENTLENESS 4. LISTENED 5. INHERIT 6. ALEUTIANS 7. CALCULATORS 8/11

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© 2026 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

National retailer HomeGoods to open store in Albany

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. — HomeGoods, the leading off-price home décor store in the U.S and worldwide, will open a new store in Albany on Thursday. The new store is located in Cross Station Shopping Center at 2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 4D. HomeGoods provides an ever-changing selection of high-quality merchandise at excellent values. With prices generally 20%-60% below full-price retailers' (including de-

partment, specialty, and major online retailers) regular prices on comparable merchandise, the HomeGoods shopping experience is fun and inviting. From top brands and designers to exciting finds from all over the world, HomeGoods offers an inspiring selection in countless styles for every room of the house. "Our amazing values, brand names, and vast assortment make HomeGoods an exciting destination for shoppers," HomeGoods President John Ricciuti said. "With a large variety of merchandise from



around the world, customers will always find thrilling values in our treasure hunt shopping experience. We are happy to provide Albany with a new HomeGoods." HomeGoods merchandise departments include furniture, rugs, lighting, decorative accessories, kitchen and dining, bedding, bath, pet accessories, storage, workspace, outdoor, gourmet, wellness and more. Local shoppers can enjoy the newest HomeGoods store opening from 8 a.m-10 p.m. **STORE FACTS & FEATURES**

Location: Cross Station Shopping Center at 2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 4D, Albany
Size: Approximately 30,000 square feet
Regular hours: Monday-Sunday 9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Store hours may shift. For more up to date hours and additional HomeGoods locations, visit HomeGoods.com/locator.
HomeGoods expects to fill approximately 65 full- and part-time positions.
HomeGoods operates more than 960 stores across the country and is a division of

The TJX Companies Inc., the leading off-price retailer of apparel and home fashions in the U.S. and worldwide. As of May 20, TJX operated a total of more than 5,200 stores across 10 countries, including TJ Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods, Homesense and Sierra, in the U.S.; Winners, Homesense, and Marshalls in Canada; TK Maxx and Homesense in Europe, and TK Maxx in Australia, and six e-commerce sites. TJX's press releases and financial information are available at TJX.com.

Colquitt County resource center The HUB plans grand opening

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE -- The HUB, a 501(c)(3) entity that will serve as a community-based support center providing a variety of services to individuals in need, will hold its official grand opening Aug. 28 from 4-7 p.m. at 1033 First Street S.E. in Moultrie. Officials say the HUB will be a safe place to connect, address needs, and promote hope. In its dedicated space, all nonprofits will be welcome to meet, hold classes and conduct training, as well as provide face-to-face interactions. It will be a central location to promote restoration and transformation through advocacy, support, education, and positive encounters. The HUB's focus is long-term non-clinical recovery through coaching, advocacy, education, spiritual restoration, and transitional support. The following agencies are already involved: Olive Branch Ministries; Colquitt County Accountability Court; The Yellow Elephant; A2A (recovery coaching service); Family Connection; Willie J.

Williams Middle School Gentlemen's Club, and Colquitt County Peer Support Wellness and Respite Center. More nonprofits will be involved in the near future. Services offered at the HUB will include: -- Consolidate information about Colquitt County's rich support resources in a central location; -- Collaborate with nonprofits to facilitate coordination of various nonprofit services to increase efficiency and effectiveness; -- Link individuals to resources and services to assist their return to a healthy and productive life; -- Individualize assistance according to the needs of the individual, which can include immediate support, transitional support, advocacy, and education; -- Holistic support for struggling individuals with the end goal of personal accountability leading to self-sufficiency; -- Peer check-ins; committed Hub volunteers offering peer guidance; -- Life skills training- such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and grocery shopping;



-- Employment skills training: resume writing, interviewing skills, and dressing for success; -- Social atmosphere: Safe open chat space where friends visit, learn to communicate, and build new relationships or rebuild existing relationships; -- Artistic recovery: such as yoga, art, cooking, baking, writing, music; -- Health and wellness: in-house health clinic or mobile clinic to provide necessary medical services. -- Nooks: for quiet time, such as Book Nook, Board Game Nook, etc.; -- Resource Wall: comprehensive on-site resource with brochures from all nonprofit agencies in the county; -- Designated rooms: nooks, spaces for leadership meetings, recovery meetings, business meetings, classes, trainings, resource fairs, specialty events, and other uses that arise; -- Wellness Café: sweets shop, coffee station, lemonade station, and more.



Special Photo: PCOM South Georgia
Kanisha Hobgood, a south Georgia mom and former registered nurse at Crisp Regional Hospital in Cordele, is pursuing a medical degree at PCOM South Georgia.

Future physicians receive white coats at PCOM South Georgia ceremony

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON - Among the nearly 100 future physicians who took the first ceremonial step toward becoming doctors during PCOM South Georgia's White Coat Ceremony Friday was a south Georgia mom and former Registered Nurse. Kanisha Hobgood, a south Georgia native and former registered nurse at Crisp Regional Hospital in Cordele, is pursuing a medical degree to continue serving the region she calls home.

The incoming class of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine students includes first-generation college students, parents, military veterans and healthcare professionals, many of whom are committed to addressing physician shortages in rural and underserved communities. Dr. Kristin Yates of Southwell Physicians for Women in Tifton delivered the ceremony's keynote address. The ceremony was held at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center

New Dairy Queen restaurant set to open in Leesburg

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG -- This growing southwest Georgia community's retail sector will experience a new resident soon, as

a Dairy Queen is set to open here Aug. 24. The restaurant will be located at 1425 U.S. Highway 19 South. The location is owned and operated by Dhruv, Daksh and Anant Patel.



Senior associate dean brings nearly two decades of UGA experience to new post

By UGA Today
The University of Georgia

ATHENS -- Anne Shaffer, senior associate dean of the University of Georgia Graduate School and professor of psychology, has been appointed interim dean of the Graduate School. Shaffer succeeds Ron Walcott, who was recently named UGA's interim senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. Shaffer has served in the Graduate School since 2021, first as associate dean and as senior associate dean since 2026. In those roles, she has helped lead initiatives supporting more than 9,000 graduate students and more than 200 graduate programs across the university. "Dr. Shaffer has been an invaluable partner in the Graduate School, and I've seen firsthand her commitment to our graduate students and faculty," Walcott said. "Her dedication to graduate education is evident in everything she does, and I'm confident the Graduate School will continue to thrive under her leadership." As senior associate dean, Shaffer has played a key role

in advancing graduate student success, professional development and institutional effectiveness. She led the creation of GradFIRST, a required onboarding seminar for incoming graduate students; developed the UGA Graduate Mentoring Certificate program for faculty mentors; established the GradUP graduate competency model; and helped strengthen Graduate School policies, communications and student support services. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this interim role, and I look forward to continuing the work of the Graduate School to serve our graduate students, as well as the faculty and staff who support them," Shaffer said. A member of the UGA faculty since 2008, Shaffer is a licensed clinical psychologist. Before joining the Graduate School's leadership team, she served as graduate coordinator in the department of psychology and held several other academic leadership roles, including administrative fellow in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences dean's office. Shaffer's research focuses



Anne Shaffer

on developmental psychopathology, parenting and family relationships. She has secured external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other organizations, published extensively in leading scholarly journals and received numerous honors recognizing her excellence in teaching, mentoring and leadership. She has participated in several leadership development programs, including the Uni-

versity System of Georgia Executive Leadership Institute, the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program and the UGA Women's Leadership Fellowship. The Graduate School serves as the central administrative and academic unit for graduate education at the University of Georgia and supports master's, doctoral and specialist degree programs across the institution.

Obituary

announcements

Remembering loved ones and honoring their memories

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