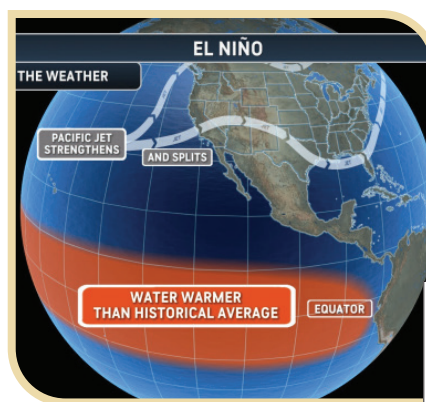




Perspectives
Marc Hyden
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Severe Weather
El Nino to bring floods, drought
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ALBANYHERALD.COM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

Herald high school Football Preview edition arrives Saturday

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY -- High school football is back, and the Albany Herald's High School

Football Preview Edition will hit newsstands on Saturday. The special edition features season previews for Dougherty, Westover, Monroe, Deerfield-Windsor, Sherwood Chris-

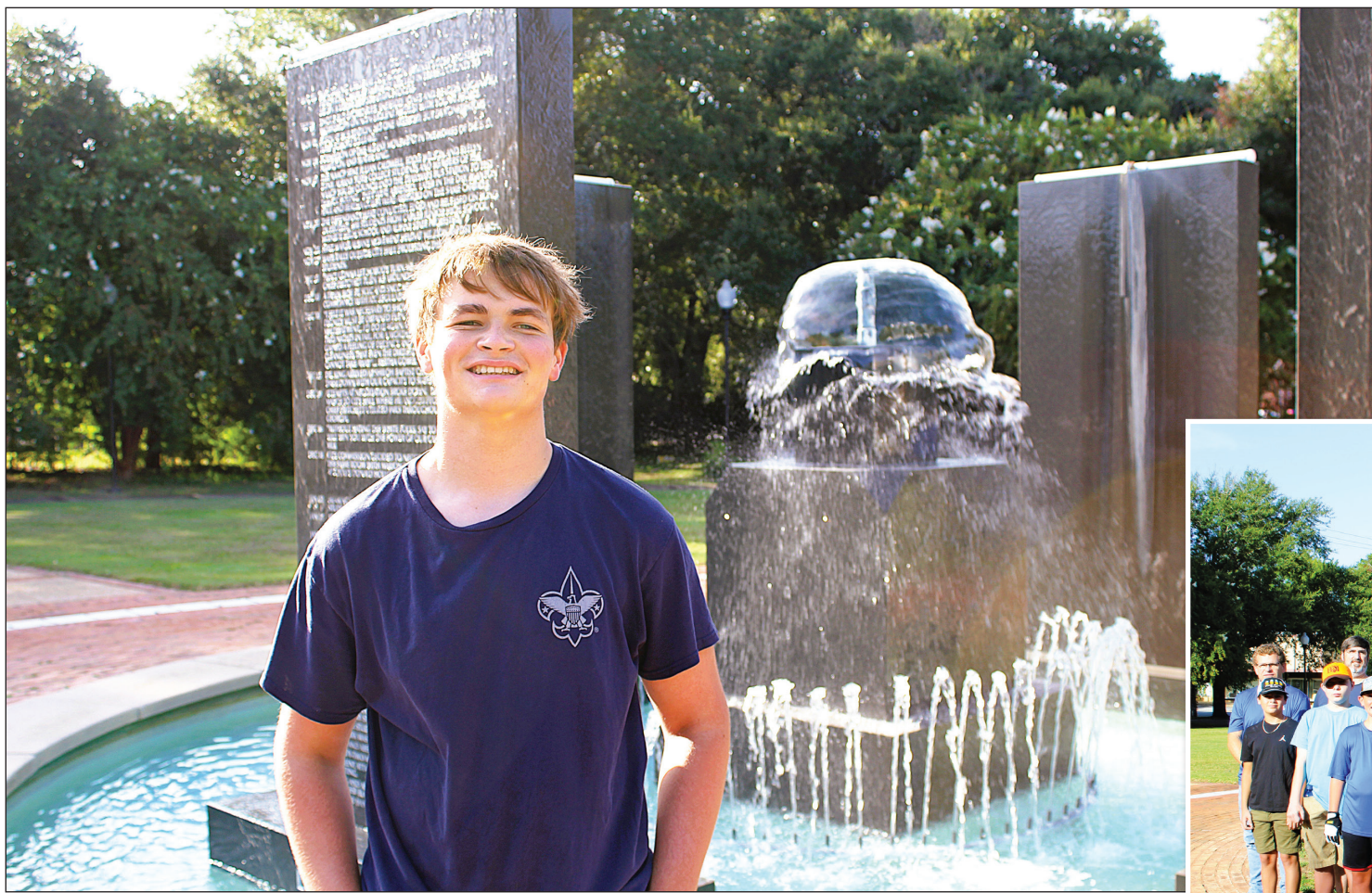
tian, Terrell County, Terrell Academy, Worth County, Baconton Charter and Colquitt County. It also includes the Fantastic Fifteen feature, highlighting

15 of southwest Georgia's top players, along with schedules for area teams. So southwest Georgia, get ready for Friday nights — football is back.



Special Illustration: Angela Miller
High school football fans in southwest Georgia can get a preview of their teams in the Herald's football preview Saturday.

Scouts clean Sherrod Park as part of Eagle project



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

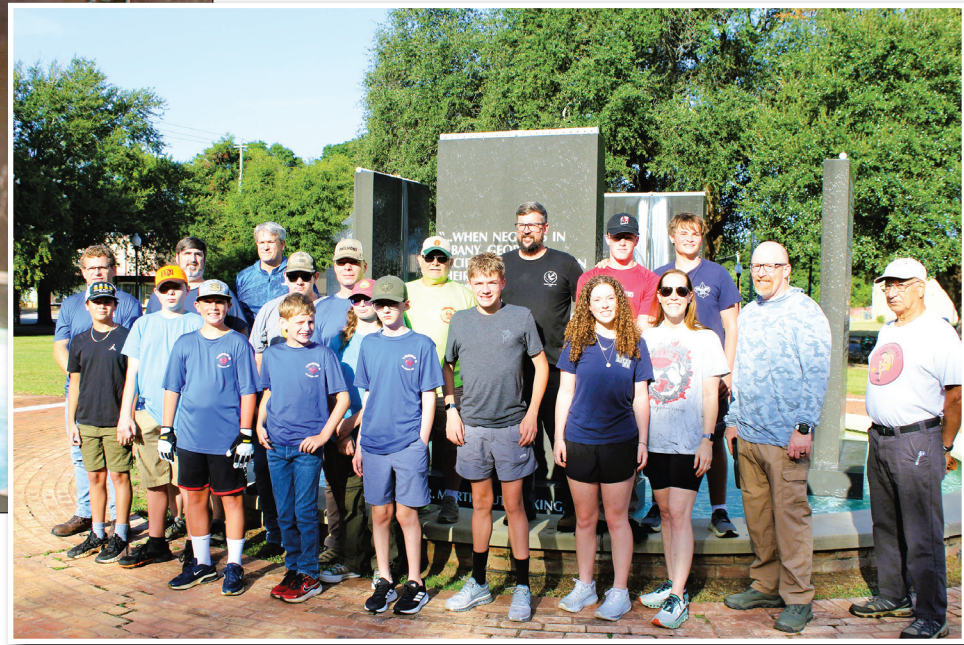
Jack Hodges had taken the opportunity to clean up trash in the Charles Sherrod Civil Rights Park a few years ago, and when it came time for him to choose an Eagle Scout project, he came back to the park — with a large group of fellow Scouts and volunteers — to once again give the park a facelift.

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — For the pessimists among us who, following the lead of generations before them, write off “this younger generation” as weak and out of touch, let me introduce you to Jack Hodges and a bunch of his pals in Troop 3 and other Boy Scout troops in the area.

It was the 15-year-old Hodges who sent out a call — and got excellent response — from his fellow Scouts Saturday as he worked on his Eagle Scout project at the Charles Sherrod Civil Rights Park in downtown Albany. Even at 8:30 a.m., as the Scouts and their parents — as well as some curious onlookers

See **SCOUTS**, 2A



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher

Many of the Scouts and volunteers who helped Jack Hodges clean up Sherrod Park Saturday gather around the park's centerpiece fountain before going to work Saturday.



Special Photo: George Lansing Taylor Jr./National Register of Historic Places
The Samuel Farkas House at 328 W. Broad Ave. is one of downtown Albany's finest examples of Second Empire architecture and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977.

Historic Farkas House restoration moves forward

Preservation Commission approves event venue improvements

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — One of downtown Albany's most distinctive historic homes is one step closer to a new life. The Albany-Dougherty Historic

Preservation Commission unanimously approved a Certificate of Appropriateness last week for exterior improvements to the Farkas House, clearing the way for accessibility

See **FARKAS**, 2A

Albany Summer youth program reports more than 2,000 participants

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — More than 2,100 youngsters participating, 55,405 meals and snacks served, 878 hours of academics,

nearly 20,000 minutes of activities. Those were among the statistics presented to city and county officials detailing the impact of the first Albany Summer Collaborative. Officials with the United Way of Southwest Georgia, which initiated the program after word of Albany State University's cancellation of the summer National Youth Sports Program, provided statistics on the first seven weeks of the 10-week program during meetings last week of the Albany City Commission and the Dougherty County Commission. “Our goal was to bring a pool of people to increase the impact you've been having all these years (for a) collective



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
United Way of Southwest Georgia President and CEO Orson Burton Jr.

See **YOUTH**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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Now Accepting New Patients
Dr. Patricia Patterson

South Albany Medical Center
1300 Newton Road
229-431-3120



Crowder set for return trip to southwest Georgia



David Crowder and his band return to southwest Georgia for a show in Tifton Aug. 23.

From 1A FARKAS

upgrades, stair replacements and other restoration work as the 137-year-old landmark is transformed into a special events venue.

Located at 328 W. Broad Ave., the Farkas House was built in 1889 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Planning staff described the home as one of Albany's finest examples of Second Empire architecture, a style popular during the late 19th century that is recognized by its mansard roof, decorative dormers and symmetrical design.

The home's history is closely tied to one of Albany's earliest success stories.

Samuel Farkas immigrated from Hungary at age 18, arriving in Albany with just 50 cents in his pocket and unable to speak English. He came to work for his uncle, who had established a successful mercantile business following the Civil War. In 1872, Farkas opened a mule stable, building a business that eventually made him one of the city's wealthiest businessmen. Within two decades, he had amassed a fortune and built the stately residence that still bears his name.

Planning staff recommended approval of the current restoration project, which includes construction of a rear Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access ramp, replacement of deteriorated rear stairs and expansion of an outdoor patio. Staff said the applicant intends to repair rather than replace most historic architectural features, with the commission's review focusing primarily on exterior changes visible from the public right-of-way.

Brandy Morrison, the proj-

ect's architect, told commissioners the owner's goal is to preserve the home's historic character while making it safe and accessible for public use.

"I will say that the owner has a deep appreciation for this building, and his goal is to keep it as original as possible," Morrison said. "Even the things that we're having to do to restore it or make it code-compliant, like the ADA ramp, he would prefer to leave it as is. But he understands the need for accessibility compliance."

To minimize its visual impact, Morrison said the wheelchair ramp will be constructed behind the building.

"The ramp is going to be tucked behind that addition, so it should not be visible from the street," she said.

Commissioners also asked about the home's interior, and Morrison said many original features remain remarkably intact despite the building's age.

"It's pretty good, actually," she said. "The floors are covered in carpet, but the owner has peeled up the edges and reports that the floor inside is in good shape."

She said much of the interior appears to have last been updated during the 1970s, but many original architectural elements remain.

"There are a lot of original light fixtures, or at least very old light fixtures, and we're going to be keeping all of those," Morrison said. "Most of the fireplaces and mantels and tile are all still there. There's the original staircase."

Although the Historic Preservation Commission does not regulate interior renovations, Morrison said the owner intends to preserve as much of the home's original craftsmanship as possible.

"We're still planning on keeping it as intact as possible," she said.

Morrison, an Atlanta-based

architect specializing in historic preservation, described the Farkas House as one of the finest restoration projects of her career.

"I specialize in historic preservation, and this is one of the finest houses that I've worked on," she said. "I'm very happy to have this opportunity."

The restoration is expected to require a substantial financial investment.

Morrison said repairing the home's historic roof alone is expected to cost more than \$100,000.

"I think his quote for repairing the roof was over \$100,000, which of course gave him some sticker shock," the architect said. "But he hasn't balked at that. He just kind of gulped and kept moving forward, which I think shows a lot about what his intentions are."

She said the owner plans to utilize historic preservation tax credits to help offset restoration costs.

Planning Director Paul Forgey said staff has worked closely with the owner throughout the planning process and praised the effort to restore one of Albany's architectural landmarks while following the city's preservation requirements.

"From a staff perspective, we've had good dealings with them," Forgey said. "They came to us initially to ask what they needed to do, so they are interested in doing it the right way."

"It's a great house, as we all know, and they really want to do the right thing."

Following discussion, commissioners unanimously approved the project, clearing the way for restoration work that supporters hope will preserve one of downtown Albany's most historically significant homes while giving it a new purpose as a venue for community gatherings and special events.

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Most of David Crowder's fans, those who clamor to see him perform anytime he's within reasonable driving distance, will tell you he's a contemporary Christian artist. And there are others who throw around the word "eclectic" when they talk about his fusion of just about any genre of music that piques his interest.

But Crowder, who will perform at the John Hunt Auditorium on the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center Aug. 23, says his hodgepodge of musical styles comes from his willingness

From 1A YOUTH

impact." United Way President and CEO Orson Burton Jr. told Dougherty commissioners. "What it means for us is not to work in silos and make sure we are creating measurable results."

Of the 2,140 youngsters served, 73% had never participated in a summer program before, Burton said. The initial proposal was to bring in about 1,000 participants, but the numbers realized were more than double that number.

Of those, 280 were homeless children, Burton said.

The Albany City Commission approved a \$350,000 expenditure to help fund the collective, which helped fund 18 organizations and their summer programs.

"The Albany Summer Collaborative is by far one of the best summer programs I've witnessed," County Commissioner Anthony Jones said after hearing Burton's presentation. "In three months, you reached 2,000 students. That's incredible."

"I was on the fence on how you were going to pull it off. You exceeded expectations. I tip my hat to you twice."

Albany City Commissioner

to listen to all types of music.

"I try to glean any inspiration I can from stuff I haven't heard before," Crowder said during an interview with The Albany Herald. "It's kind of like I carry around a little bucket that I put little pieces of music in. Then, when I'm writing, I draw from all of those pieces."

"I can tell you, my Spotify playlist is all over the place."

As his legion of fans will attest, whatever the artist is doing, it's working. Crowder has recorded five No. 1 singles, has won five of the 20 Dove nominations he's received, has five Grammy nominations and has more than 2.1 billion global

streams.

Crowder last played in the area in June of 2022, wowing a crowd at the Albany Civic Center. He said he's amped up to bring his tour back to southwest Georgia.

"I've got some new stuff I can't wait to play for the people in my home state," he said. "I can't wait to see everyone in Tifton and southwest Georgia."

Crowder managed to slip a few minutes into his busy schedule to talk with The Herald about his current tour.

ALBANY HERALD: You and I talked before your show in Albany back in 2022. I know you've put out an album since then ... what else is going on with you?

DAVID CROWDER: We're actually about to crank out a new album; we're going to roll it out before the end of the year. I love performing during the summer season, so I'm looking for a fun time down there.

AH: You chose this career: Does it ever get old or does the passion wane?

DC: Oh, no, it does not. I have to pinch myself sometimes because I get to do this for a living. I'm always working on new stuff, and I can't wait to get out and play for the crowds. It keeps it exciting.

AH: If you ever do feel the need to get away for a bit, what do you like to do?

DC: Summertime is my favorite time, and when I'm not playing I like to take my boat out on Lake Lanier. Last summer I broke my leg, so I missed out on a lot. I'm going to try and stay upright this summer, not fall over and enjoy the water.

AH: I'd never heard you play before the Albany show, and I have to admit I was completely blown away. I wrote then that your performance was one of my favorites for the year. Being a "Christian artist," you kind of have a built-in audience. Do you play to that group or to people like me who maybe haven't seen you before but who just love music?

DC: It's really a little of both.

See **CROWDER**, 11A



Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher
Jack Hodges, 15, and a number of his friends in Scouting spent Saturday morning cleaning up the Charles M. Sherrod Civil Rights Park in Albany as part of Hodges' Eagle Scout project.

From 1A SCOUTS

who lived nearby and pitched in with the work after enjoying coffee and doughnuts — gathered at the park, located at the corner of Jackson Street and Whitney Avenue, the heat and humidity had teamed to turn the morning into a veritable steam bath.

But that didn't stop the 30 or so who gave the park a thorough cleaning.

"About three years ago, I came with my mom (Melissa Hodges) to a Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful recycling event, and we saw a bunch of trash in the park," Jack Hodges, a student at McCallie Boarding School in Tennessee, whose family lives part-time in Albany and Atlanta, said. "So we decided to clean it up."

"When it came time to choose my Eagle Scout project, I decided to come back to the park. I reached out to KADB and the city and got approval to move forward. Then I got the word out to local Scout troops, and a lot of them said they'd be

here. And they showed up."

Hodges, whose father, Ken, is a judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals, is part of Troop 3, sponsored by St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Albany. The younger Hodges said that the idea behind the park cleanup was not initially about his quest to become an Eagle Scout.

"The goal initially was not to do this as part of Eagle Scout requirements, it was to do something to help the community," he said. "All of us out here this morning, we wanted to make a difference in our community."

Troop 3 Scout Master Houston Daniel said drawing attention to Hodges' project serves a dual purpose: To make a difference in the community and to spread the work about Scouting, which has seen numbers dwindle in recent years.

"This project will help rejuvenate part of our city, and it will get the word out about what we're doing in Scouting," Daniel said. "We've already had three members of our troop earn Eagle Scout rank this year, so it's not really rare to have another Scout work-

ing toward the designation.

"But the numbers in Scouting in general are dropping, so it's good to talk about the things we're doing so the public sees that we're still making a difference. A lot of people don't realize that."

As Jack Hodges, his fellow Scouts, parents and other supporters cleaned up trash, power-washed the monument that is the centerpiece of the park, and removed low-hanging limbs and vines, the overpowering humidity did nothing to stamp out their enthusiasm. And it drew a spark to the eyes of one proud parent.

"I'm very proud of Jack; this was all his idea," Ken Hodges said. "He needed to do his big Eagle Scout project, and he decided to come back to the park. I'm proud to see the young man he is becoming."

And is the younger Hodges following in his father's footsteps?

"Oh, no, I was a Scout, but I was nowhere close to being an Eagle Scout," Ken Hodges said. "Jack has surpassed me by a long shot."

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

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GEA Industrial

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

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The Star Business of the Week is presented by WALB News 10 and Fleming & Riles Insurance.

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Trying to force fun or creativity seldom brings the genuine article, don't get so hung up on optimization that you aren't even present for what happens organically. Put your heart into something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): While you may have clarity on next steps, don't force them to conform to your inner vision. Some things happen best when there's a little leeway for the Universe to play with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Control arises from anxiety — if you're not worried, you don't need to try to control outcomes. Remain centered in your own, lived truth and release trying to micromanage other people's opinions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't decide based on fear, wait until you feel clearer and more in command of the facts and numbers — these are what to base your next moves on. Finances and business could be set to grow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Base your sense of self on who you are and what you've built. If you're not fronting something else, then there's no imposter syndrome. If you want to be prouder of yourself, work on self-mastery and keep building.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your heart could be on your sleeve today, bring your genuine and sincere self to the table. An anxiety running in the background could be just visible enough to know it's there — healing old baggage frees you for a happier life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A friend could be white-knuckling their way through something, or you could be the friend in need. Offer support or ask for help if you need it. More happiness comes from more self-understanding and release.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concerns in the workplace could persist for several more days, but the fears could be outsized compared to the actual problems — try to keep your responses mea-

sured. Spend some free time with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Try not to suck up worries from the internet, many sites deliberately manipulate you through amplifying fears. You are what you consume, be intentional. Pour your heart into your work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial concerns could outweigh actual problems, there's a 'fear virus' in the stars for a few days. Try to assess based on what you know, not on what you assume or what you could be dreading.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you or someone close has rejection sensitivity, that could come up strongly for a few days. Try to give and/or get reassurances that all is well. Don't let emotions cloud financial judgments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Allow extra time if possible to minimize any deadline-driven anxiety — do your best and keep breathing. A partner, housemate, or pet could need some extra comfort and nurture now.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The remainder of 2026 appears more helpful and less challenging than the earlier part of the year. For your birthday month, it's true that the worst thing to fear is fear itself. When you can free yourself of fear, so much in life works differently, you can be open and genuinely curious instead of needing to control. September or early October could bring gifts, yet there's something forced also. Try to just relax and receive--more cash plus other benefits should be incoming. Later in October, your guardian angel could be dropping lots of insights for you, pay close attention. November should be taken on with some side eye, not everything that looks wholesome actually is. Use discernment. November should bring a parade of improvements: Helpful people, money, other resources. Enjoy!



1792 - King Louis XVI of France is arrested by the National Tribunal and declared an enemy of the people

1868 - An 8.5 - 9.0 Mw earthquake hits southern Peru causes 25,000 deaths and a tsunami that affected Hawaii and New Zealand

1889 - US Patent Number 408,709 is granted to William Gray of Hartford, Connecticut for coin-controlled apparatus for telephones

1905 - Norwegians vote to end the union with Sweden

1918 - Women are able to enlist in the United States Marine Corps for the first time

1918 - Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) is established as a public company in Germany

1960 - The Central African Republic declares their independence from France

1961 - Construction of the Berlin Wall is started as East Germany closes the border between the east and west sections of Berlin to stop attempts to escape to the West

1967 - The first fatal victims of grizzly bear attacks in the 57 year history of Montana's Glacier National Park as two women are attacked

1969 - The Apollo 11 astronauts are awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by U.S. President Richard Nixon

2015 - A truck bombing in Baghdad, Iraq kills 76 and injures 212 others

2020 - Israel and United Arab Emirates relations are formally established

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues."

Duke Ellington,
musician (1899-1974)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

The city and county commissions, as well as our mayor and the pastor/deacon/minister/apostle chairman, need to quickly understand something. If you all keep wasting our money on skate parks, virtual tours, housing scams, fancy trucks for city employees, hiring your friends, and buying more surplus property, then taxpayers are going to grow even more upset than they are now. You are not better than us. You were elected by us, temporarily.

I get it that the city is finally getting around to fixing hundred-year-old water lines, but what about the increasing number of cyber attacks on water systems in several states? I think that's a problem that needs to be addressed right away.

I always appreciate it when people like Malphrus get actively involved in local issues, but I'm a little wary of such groups. Some commissioners make decisions simply by seeing which way the wind is blowing. So when a handful of loud people show up at city or county meetings, we get things like a half-million-dollar skate park and a \$200,000 virtual civil rights tour.

If Democrats win the mid-term elections, America loses.

Watching all the stuff -- good and bad -- from all the sci-fi movies and books come true is really quite frightening. We already have AI-developed viruses being created and spy tools that look into all aspects of our private lives. Albany police officers were fired for spying on citizens using the infamous Flock Cameras. What's next ... invasion into the places we live? Big Brother is here.

Fletcher, "Smoke on the Water" and "Machine Head" are more than 50 years old. You heard anything from this century?

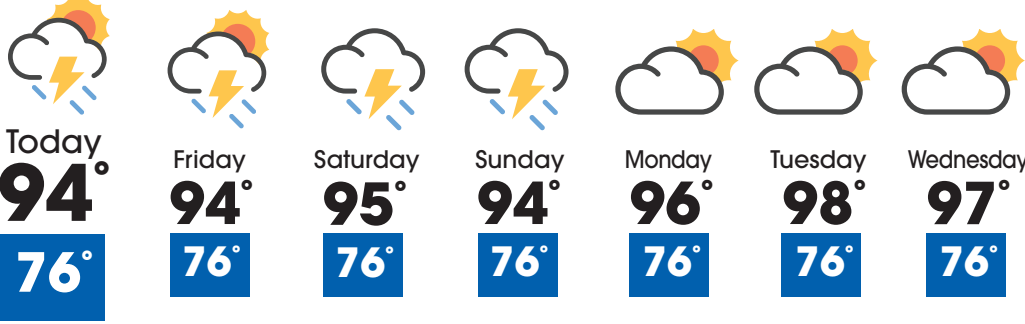
For years, I called myself a Christian. I liked the teachings of Jesus, although I didn't always live by them. I renounced my Christianity when it became apparent that so many people I knew who called themselves Christians supported a man who is the furthest thing from a Christian to occupy the White House. That Man Without a Family

So Dougherty County is recognized for their excellent procurement by some group called the National Procurement Institute. But that article states that Dougherty has 12,000 students and 2,500 employees. That is one employee per every 5 students. How is it that Dougherty schools continue to be in the bottom 5% in Georgia ranking?

Front-runner Braves fan(s): You don't seem to be complaining as much lately. You're only happy when the team is struggling so that you have something to bit--about.

You people who call yourselves "patriots" and then condemn anyone who thinks differently than you as "traitors" are the real problem with America. We were granted freedoms by the Founding Fathers to speak openly and give opposing opinions. But people like you have allowed an evil monster like Trump to gain power, and our country is lesser for it.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Harlow the Halo

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

"He not only wins every finesse," Unlucky Louie sighed, "he somehow knows not to try ones that will lose."

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

Louie meant the player we call Harlow the Halo. While Louie labors under a cloud of adversity, good luck shines in Harlow's face like good health.

In a team match, Louie and Harlow played at four hearts. They both won the second diamond and cashed the A-K of trumps, declining a finesse. Harlow next took three spades to pitch dummy's last diamond, ruffed a diamond and led a club to ... his queen. He ruffed his last spade in dummy and made an overtrick.

LAST SPADE

"I began the same way," Louie said, "but after I ruffed a diamond in dummy, I led a club to my ace and ruffed my last spade. I made four -- and lost an IMP."

Advice Columnist

Friend of a friend is an enemy

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: Do I have to be friends with my friend's other friends?

I have a good friend, D. Our sons are good friends, too, so we see each other often. D and her three friends have known each other for a really long time.

I didn't really get close to them -- I am fairly introverted. I never really liked one of D's friends, E. She is a drama queen, and her values don't align with mine. Additionally, I never really felt comfortable around her. Also, I feel like she evades paying restaurant bills and a couple of times I paid hefty bills and E never reciprocated, while others reimbursed their share or reciprocated other times.

I am not financially secure to continue going out as much.

Recently, I moved to a different apartment that is closer to D's house. D and I got together a couple of times for coffee at my place and E called and requested that I invite her, too.

I don't like her. When I was in a difficult situation and asked E if I could pay her adult son to help me out with moving stuff, E brushed me off and never offered me any help overall while other friends did. She never reaches out unless social gatherings are planned.

Recently D told me that E has health issues and E's husband is financially abusing her. I am sympathetic to E's struggles, but I still don't enjoy her company and I still don't want to invite her. Am I a bad person? How do I explain to D that I want to hang out with D but not with E.

- Friend of a Friend

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



Eric Thomas

Dear Friend: Friendship doesn't always translate so there's nothing wrong with acknowledging that you don't really get along with someone, even if people you do get along with like them. I don't know that you really need to make a big declaration to D.

It may be as simple as keeping whatever boundary between yourself and E that you want and being cordial if you ever find yourself in a group situation. Indeed, bringing D into this may create more issues and unnecessarily make her think she has to solve the fracture.

From your letter, it seems that you and E have expectations that aren't matching up. If you were going to be in close proximity more often or if you wanted to work it out, I'd suggest having a conversation to hash it out calmly, with an eye on communicating better in the future. But as it stands, it's fine to let E remain a friend of a friend.

Dear Eric: I just read the letter and your response about how best to divide up the possessions of a mom over 90 among a large group of descendants ("Concerned Daughter"). Your response was fine, but perhaps there's another way rather than putting stickers on items to claim things while mom is still alive, which we find to be a bit ghoulish.

Both my wife and I have been through the loss of our parents and found the following method has worked very well for dividing up sentimental possessions among the many brothers and sisters on both sides of the family.

We simply gave the children of the deceased alternating

choices of the items up for grabs, one item at a time. You can draw numbers out of a hat if necessary to see who gets first dibs or even let the child who put in the most time caring for mom or dad have first pick. In our case, we simply let the oldest child choose the first item, followed by the next oldest, etc. Each person can choose only one item when it's their turn.

By doing it this way, the kids had to put some thought into which items meant the most to them, and there were no complaints afterward.

I hope you and your readers find this helpful.

- All Getting Along

Dear Getting Along:

Thank you for this suggestion. If the letter writer, or anyone else facing a similar situation, wishes to wait until after a relative has passed before having conversations about where the relative's possessions will go, this might be a good option.

Many other readers shared their experiences, as well.

Some have found success having good-natured "family auctions" with Monopoly money, letting family members sign up for items that they want to take home, or having an event during which family members share about what certain items mean to them or make them remember about the deceased. All good options, depending on the make-up of the family or wishes of the deceased.

The key to success is communicating about intentions, before death if possible, and also after a loved one passes.

The Albany Herald

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY’S BIBLE VERSE

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

New technologies a soft target for government exploitation

There has been a longstanding tension between government and private enterprise for about as long as governments have existed. States want to wield regulatory and tax powers over private markets, while businesses prefer to be free of such meddling. When government secures private companies’ services, it can transform into an exceedingly difficult client.

As uncomfortable as this relationship is, it is inescapable. Federal, state and local governments rely on companies to conduct much of their business – meaning some level of symbiosis is necessary. If these partnerships are not managed properly, the natural tension can extend far beyond tax and regulatory policies and actually harm Americans.

Two recent examples – one national and one unfolding Georgia scandal – illustrates that mixing government power with the cutting-edge innovation of private enterprise is a recipe that too often results in moral hazards. And policymakers need to institute additional safeguards to restrain this kind of government misconduct.

The dispute between artificial intelligence leader Anthropic, which created the AI Chatbot Claude, and the federal government is at the center of this discussion.

“Anthropic was the first AI frontier lab permitted to be used by the U.S. officials on classified networks,” NPR reported.

The working relationship between the two quickly broke down. According to numerous sources, the Department of Defense wanted unrestricted access to Anthropic’s technologies “for all lawful purposes.” Anthropic feared that the government wished to use its AI models in ways that violated company policies and possibly also the U.S. Constitution.

Anthropic pushed back against government requests, and shortly afterward, the Department of Defense designated the company a supply chain risk, which is generally reserved for foreign adversaries. This spat has spawned a very public and bitter legal showdown.

“Allowing Claude to be used to enable the Department to surveil U.S. persons at scale and to field weapons systems that may kill without human oversight would therefore be inconsistent with Anthropic’s founding purpose and public commitments,” a recent court filing says.

Good on them for not wanting to create machines that kill on their own accord or an illegal surveillance state, but without the company’s stand, it is unclear what could have resulted. When officials enjoy vast powers and operate in relative secrecy, it is hard to keep them accountable.



HYDEN

The nexus of technology and government misbehavior isn’t limited to the federal government. Georgians have been watching a local controversy come to light. Law enforcement agencies across the state have partnered with Flock Safety. Among its different products, the company operates a network of cameras, a corresponding database and AI for the purposes of public safety.

Unfortunately, several police officers have been arrested for allegedly misusing the company’s license plate tracking database. To date, at least 18 – including

some from Albany and Greene and Cherokee counties – have been accused of such misbehavior. If proven, this is not just a violation of public trust but presumably a gross violation of people’s constitutional rights.

“Any misuse of the Flock system is unacceptable, period,” a Flock Safety spokesman said. “Public safety and trust are intertwined. There is no public safety without trust in law enforcement and the tools law enforcement uses.”

To the company’s credit, its employees built a tool to help identify possible abuse of their database – leading to several arrests.

None of this will ease distrust in artificial intelligence or Flock Safety. AI has been one of the hottest topics as of late, and increasing numbers are skeptical of the technology, despite the great promise it holds. Likewise, Flock Safety has come under increased scrutiny.

“Automatic license plate reader companies like Flock Safety are quietly trying to build a nationwide mass surveillance system,” the ACLU of Georgia warned. “If there are Flock cameras in your city, they are tracking, logging and sharing your movements without a warrant.”

The aforementioned problems – or potential problems – associated with Anthropic and Flock Safety were either caused or led by powerful government actors, not by the emerging technologies themselves. And it was the companies that at least in part exposed government officials’ questionable behavior.

This brings me back to my original point: It can get messy when government gets involved with private enterprise, especially when powerful new technologies are part of the equation. It is a marriage that is necessary but awkward at times. The Anthropic and Flock Safety examples show that lawmakers need to institute further guardrails to ensure that the government doesn’t exploit new, private technologies and trample on Americans’ rights in the process.

FINE PRINT

STACEY ABRAMS

COLUMNIST ■ STACEY ABRAMS

Flock Safety and Surveillance in Georgia

I love science fiction – novels, television, movies – you name it. The capacity of technology to shape and improve our lives fascinates me, as does the counter-narrative. For example, imagine that every trip you take in your car – to church, a political meeting, a protest or a doctor’s appointment – leaves behind a record in a searchable database. Electronic eyes following you in secret, tracking your behavior, feeding a profile of you to unseen, unnamed observers. These watchers did not ask for your consent to being tracked. Worse, this record of your daily activities can last indefinitely - without you knowing how long the information will be stored, who can search it or how far it can travel.

Yet what I described here is not from Star Trek or an Ursula K. Le Guin novel. It is the reality created by the rapid expansion of automatic license plate readers, including technology developed by Flock Safety, a company founded here in Georgia. And it’s coming to a telephone pole near you.

Flock uses automatic license plate readers to collect data including license plate numbers, the make and model of a car, the location of scratches on a car, and even the bumper stickers a car may have. The ACLU estimates that the organization has installed upwards of 120,000 cameras all across the country, with around 8,000 ALPRs being located in Georgia alone according to DeFlock The USA’s camera map. As of 2025, Flock claims to produce more than 20 billion license plate scans each month.

As a state legislator, I supported traffic cameras to regulate speeding and to track reckless drivers in school zones. I firmly believe surveillance technology can serve a legitimate public purpose. Law enforcement agencies have used license plate readers to locate stolen vehicles, identify dangerous suspects and solve serious crimes. In one Georgia case, camera imagery helped authorities track a pickup truck and arrest four people accused of killing an 18-year-old in Hiram.

ALPR technology’s power and utility are not the issue. But useful technology does not absolve government of its obligation to establish clear rules. Indeed, the more powerful the tool, the greater our responsibility to regulate its use. License plate readers already exist, but their growth has outpaced the safeguards necessary to protect the public. We cannot become subservient to our leaders by ignoring how they deploy technology. Loss of civic power happens gradually, one freedom conceded, one invasion of privacy accepted.

We live in the South, so we drive. It’s a fact of life. Most drivers do what’s right (except for slow drivers in the left lane), so by and large, the vehicles captured by these systems are not connected to criminal activity. What that means is much of the Big Brother tracking focuses on ordinary people going about their daily lives. Yet their movements can still become part of a database accessible to law enforcement agencies. Potentially to data brokers who want to track your habits. Or sales people who want to flood your inbox or track your kids. Again, far-fetched, but who would have imagined stories of AI hacking other companies even five years ago? Or your IG or Facebook being an electronic mall on your phone?

Flock and ALPRs are the tip of a very deep iceberg where disaster lurks. Georgia law permits license plate data to be retained for as long as 2 1/2 years. The

state places few meaningful restrictions on how that information may be used, including whether it can support civil immigration enforcement or be transmitted for other purposes. Local governments are often left to negotiate privacy protections on their own, despite confronting companies and systems that operate across the country. These decisions come with lobbyists on one side and your neighbors on the other.

Flock assures its customers that they are the only group that has access to their data and control over where it is shared, suggesting that federal agencies and Flock do not have access to the information. Regardless of their promises, the number of investigations into abuse of the company’s tracking technology is on the rise, astoundingly so. In Georgia, just over the past few months, an alarming number of police officers have been arrested in Cherokee and Greene counties, in addition to Albany and Fayetteville, for unauthorized use of license plate data. These incidents do not mean that every officer or agency will abuse the system. They do mean that promises and internal policies are not enough. It’s why we have a legislature and why we make laws.

We need enforceable standards, independent oversight and transparent records that allow the public to know whether those standards are being followed.

The same principle must apply to data sharing. Flock has said that its customers control their own information and determine where it is shared. But the public deserves more than vague, unenforceable assurances. Residents should be able to understand which agencies have access, what searches are being conducted, how long records are retained and whether the system is being used for purposes beyond solving serious crimes. Remember when signing up for a grocery store program simply meant a coupon at the checkout, not that they’d sold your buying history to a company that now invades your social media and seems to read your mind?

I use the example of your Piggly Wiggly card in jest, but the threat is real. Surveillance technology may be used to investigate immigration status, reproductive health care or constitutionally protected protest activity. It can be used to tell your boss about your habits after work, or to alert others who disagree with your choices. The ability to reconstruct a person’s movements can reveal intimate details about their beliefs, relationships and medical decisions. Those consequences are too significant to be governed by a patchwork of contracts and voluntary policies.

Georgia lawmakers need to act. First and foremost, the state should sharply limit how long license plate information can be retained unless it is connected to an active criminal investigation. Georgians’ movements should not remain searchable for years without cause. This should appeal to Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and Independents alike, because eroding our freedom is a nonpartisan issue. And giving the party in power too much of it helps no one.

More broadly, we need a statewide, public conversation about how technology is changing our daily lives – and we need clear rules to ensure that promises of safety don’t mean sacrificing our rights, liberties and privacy. I’m all for science fiction, but we have a present that we need to protect and preserve.

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Random thoughts, random subjects

Here’s an update on my latest thinking on whether or not to offer myself as a write-in candidate for governor of Georgia this November and as a viable alternative to a multi-billionaire Republican who always looks like he just swallowed a lemon and a Democrat who bailed on the city of Atlanta as mayor when things started getting tough. The good news is that since I first brought up the idea a couple of months ago, the number of people pledging to vote for me has quadrupled. The bad news is the number has gone from 3 to 12. But it’s a start. I would just need Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find me another 2,110,316 votes.

--The World Cup has come and gone and from all reports, things went exceedingly well. Visitors from around the world found us to be pretty nice folks, despite what they may have heard or read about us in the past. A good example: The city of Lawrence, Kan., played host to the team from Algeria. Hundreds of locals showed up to greet the Algerians when they arrived, thousands attended practices and the University of Kansas band serenaded them with the Algerian national anthem before their training sessions. It reminded me of the athletes at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games who mixed and mingled with no bias or animosity regarding where they were from. Maybe there should be an event requiring every president, prime minister and dictator in the world to have to spend a month together with no lackies around. Hopefully, they would find common ground and quit the wars and the killings. Just a thought. A naïve one, but a worthy one.

-- Before I leave the World Cup, I swelled with pride over the Scotland contingent. The beloved woman who shared my name was Scottish, a member of the Cameron clan. Her mother was born in



YARBROUGH

Edinburgh, and some of her ancestors are buried at Scone Palace. The Scots are special people and they showed it when they descended on Boston in their kilts and managed to consume all the beer in town. Drank the place dry. I love Scotland. Their motto? Nemo me impune lacessit. Look it up.

-- If the sky-is-falling alarmists in Charlton, Clinch and Ware counties are still worried that now that the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the U.N. is going to come in and insert microchips in everyone’s bellybuttons and take your land and your first-born, I will be happy to contact the Chambers of Commerce in the towns adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon and the Everglades – all World Heritage Sites for close to 50 years – and have them share their experiences with you. No need to thank me.

-- My recent theological musings over whether God is a one-planet God or reigns over the trillions and trillions of planets we know to be in the universe with more yet to be discovered got a lot of response. Many of you were interested to know about a small study group we have put together at our church to discuss the subject. We are still clearing calendars and have yet to meet. In the meantime, I suggest you consider doing the same at your own House of Worship.

--It is less than a month to college football kickoff, and a lot has changed. Players are now earning enormous amounts of money for their name, image and likeness and can change schools on a whim. It is a new day. However, one thing hasn’t changed: If my alma mater’s Rhodes Scholar candidates don’t beat You-Know-Where Institute of Technology’s computer programmers, life has no meaning.

What to watch THURSDAY

August 13, 2026

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

Camp Rock 3

Disney Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film
Campers, it's time to head back to Camp Rock! Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas return to their iconic roles and serve as executive producers alongside Demi Lovato. Expect fresh music, more friendly rivalry and a host of new campers.

2026 Patriot Games

ABC, 9 p.m.
The 2026 Patriot Games bring together outstanding high school athletes from across America for a showcase of determination, teamwork, resilience and hometown pride. The event features a series of athletic challenges designed to test strength, endurance, agility and perseverance, while highlighting the values that have helped shape generations of Americans.

Secrets Declassified With David Duchovny

History, 9 p.m.
Some targets are taken by force, and others require a game of "Cat & Mouse," which is tonight's episode that shares stories that play out across continents and years of relentless chase. Host David Duchovny pulls back the curtain questioning why, when the DEA fails to corner an international arms dealer, they turn not to a spy, but to a retired bush pilot to lure him out.

Engineering From Above

History, 10 p.m. ■ New Series
This fast-paced series dives into the astonishing stories hidden inside, beneath and around some of the world's most jaw-dropping feats of engineering, unlocking secrets with cutting-edge aerial imagery and sharp investigative storytelling. Tonight's episode, "Fortresses," explores an ancient defensive wall surrounding a historic Colombian city, eerie metal towers looming over the seas of the English Channel and more.



DISNEY CHANNEL

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Susan Hayward

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.
Today's TCM Summer Under the Stars tribute salutes Susan Hayward, the fiery actress whose best roles often found her playing women facing scandal, heart-break, addiction and impossible odds. The lineup includes **Smash-Up: The Story of a Woman** (1947), which helped establish Hayward as a major dramatic star, and 1955's **I'll Cry Tomorrow (pictured)**, with Hayward as singer and actress Lillian Roth in one of her most acclaimed performances. The night also features **Valley of**



MGM

the Dolls (1967), with Hayward as Broadway star Helen Lawson, and **I Want to Live!** (1958), the real-life crime drama that earned Hayward the Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Barbara Graham.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



DISNEY

- The Lion King** (2019, Family) Donald Glover, Seth Rogen **Disney, 6 p.m.**
- Grown Ups 2** (2013, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kevin James **E!, 6:30 p.m.**
- Galaxy Quest** (1999, Comedy) Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver **BBC America, 6:45 p.m.**
- The Devil Wears Prada** (2006, Comedy-drama) Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway **Freeform, 7:30 p.m.**
- Armageddon** (1998, Science fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton **USA, 8 p.m.**
- Brave the Dark** (2025, Drama) Nicholas Hamilton, Jared Harris **SHO, 8 p.m.**
- The Moonlight Murders** (2026, Suspense) Harley Bronwyn, Clayton Louis **LMN, 8 p.m.**
- The Secret Life of Bees** (2008, Drama) Queen Latifah, Dakota Fanning **BET, 9 p.m.**
- Wrath of the Titans** (2012, Fantasy) Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson **SYFY, 9 p.m.**
- The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (2003, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**
- John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum** (2019, Action) Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry **AMC, 11 p.m.**
- Die Hard With a Vengeance** (1995, Action) Bruce Willis, Jeremy Irons **FX, 11:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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What to watch FRIDAY

August 14, 2026

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

NFL Preseason Football: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets

NFL Network, 7 p.m. Live
Week 1 of the NFL preseason continues with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on the road to take on the N.Y. Jets at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Race at Richmond

FS1, 7:30 p.m. Live
Catch Layne Riggs, Kaden Honeycutt, Chandler Smith, Gio Ruggiero and other Craftsman Truck Series stars battle for 250 laps around Richmond Raceway.



BOB CROSLIN, GETTY IMAGES

WNBA Basketball

ION, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live
Friday night WNBA action on ION has the Dallas Wings at the Indiana Fever and the Portland Fire at the Seattle Storm.

My Lottery Dream Home

HGTV, 9 p.m.
In the new episode "Single Mom Defies the Odds," a single mom has made a loving, thriving home for her three children despite limited finances. After a lottery win, she's

calling on David Bromstad to help her find a home to enrich the lives of her kids in rural Pennsylvania.

Zillow Gone Wild

HGTV, 9:30 p.m.
In the new episode "Rock Out," Jack McBrayer's wild adventures continue as he tours a townhome that's a love letter to Asheville, North Carolina. Then, he visits a crisp multi-dome that can withstand a natural disaster, and tours a desert home that's carved into a mountain's natural bedrock.



WARNER BROS.

Some Like It Hot (1959), with Lemmon and Tony Curtis on the run in drag alongside Marilyn Monroe. "With *Some Like It Hot*, boy, we were really pushing an envelope, because there wasn't anybody who didn't think he was crazy," Lemmon remembered of Wilder in an interview with Kevin Lally, a former editor of *Film Journal International*. "The film was considered to be very expensive and the subject completely risky, putting our two leading men in drag for over 80% of the film and taking a five-minute burlesque sketch, in the opinion of most people, and trying to stretch it into a two-hour farce. They didn't think it would work, and they were damn near right, because the first preview was a disaster. Of all the films that I've done, including the rotten ones, that had the worst preview of any film of mine that I was at. Why? Who knows?"

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

- Transformers: Dark of the Moon** (2011, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel **E!, 6:30 p.m.**
- The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (2003, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen **TNT, 7 p.m.**
- A Murder Between Friends** (2026, Mystery) Joan Collins, Jacob Young **LMN, 8 p.m.**
- Pretty Woman** (1990, Romance-comedy) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts **TBS, 8 p.m.**
- The Karate Kid Part II** (1986, Drama) Ralph Macchio, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita **Sundance, 8:30 p.m.**
- The Predator** (2018, Science fiction) Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes **SYFY, 8:30 p.m.**
- Set It Off** (1996, Action) Jada Pinkett, Queen Latifah **BET, 9 p.m.**
- Captain America: The First Avenger** (2011, Action) Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell **FX, 10 p.m.**
- The Matrix** (1999, Science fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne **Bravo, 10 p.m.**
- Iron Eagle** (1986, Action) Louis Gossett Jr., Jason Gedrick **Sundance, 11 p.m.**
- The Wedding Singer** (1998, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore **Paramount, 11:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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SAVE
THE DATE

WALKING TRAIL
RIBBON CUTTING

Thursday, August 13, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Albany Technical College Campus
Newton Road Entrance, Next to the CDL Range

Join Albany Technical College as we celebrate
the opening of the new campus walking trail
and the continued expansion of campus wellness.

For more information - albanytech.edu/TitanFitness

Special Illustration

Albany Tech plans ribbon-cutting for walking trails

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The public is invited to be a part of a ribbon-cutting on the Albany Technical College campus Thursday opening the college's new campus walking trails.

A pair of trails, covering approximately 0.73 and 1.21 miles, expands the wellness

opportunities for students, staff and the community on the southwest Albany campus.

The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at the campus's Newton Road entrance, next to the CDL Range. The public is encouraged to enter the campus from Newton Road and follow the event signs to the ribbon-cutting area.



Special Photos: PCOM South Georgia

Future doctors

Around 100 future Osteopathic Medicine practitioners took a symbolic first step toward medical careers Friday when PCOM South Georgia hosted its annual white coat ceremony at the University of Georgia's Tifton Conference Center.

Lawmakers blame 'data loss' for non-payment of emergency funds due farmers

By Ross Williams
Georgia Recorder

STATESBORO -- Nearly two years after Hurricane Helene unleashed flooding and fierce winds across the South, some Georgia farmers say they still haven't received compensation for damages, despite efforts from both sides of the political aisle.

Newman Pryor remembers the night the storm hit. He runs Pryor farms, growing pecans and row crops across four east Georgia counties: Screven, Effingham, Bulloch and Jenkins.

"It was much scarier than we anticipated it to be because they predicted it to go more to the west," he said. "They were saying it was going to go to Atlanta, which would be well to the west of us, and it wasn't going to be all that bad. I knew we were going to get some wind from it, but I didn't think it was going to be nearly what we ended up with."

Pryor said his operation, particularly his pecan trees, took heavy wind damage.

"It just destroyed the trees, tore them up, put a bunch of limbs on the ground, knocked down power lines and stuff like that," he said.

Pryor Farms wasn't unique. The hurricane created at least \$5.5 billion in agricultural and timber losses, according to the University of Georgia.

But Pryor said he expected help from a type of federal hurricane insurance for wind damage to crops. It's available for farmers to purchase from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on top of their underlying crop insurance policy. Farmers can get it in regions that experience hurricanes, including all of Georgia.

"Our agent said, 'Don't wor-

ry, it's coming. Your claim is good,'" Pryor said. "It never did."

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff's office estimates up to 85 farmers could have missed out on indemnity payments they should have been eligible for.

Speaking to reporters at a recent event on a north Georgia farm, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said her agency is working on helping the farmers, but amending the program will ultimately require an act of Congress.

Rollins estimates up to two dozen Georgia farmers are facing this problem. She said she's met with leaders from the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the National Hurricane Center, and with Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who oversees NOAA.

"We continue to work on it," she said.

Congressman Buddy Carter, a Pooler Republican, has introduced a resolution he says he hopes will protect farmers after future storms, but time is running short for the measure to move forward this year.

Co-sponsored by Georgia Congressmen Rick Allen, an Augusta Republican, and Sanford Bishop, an Albany Democrat, it seeks to allow the agriculture secretary to create an alternate dataset for insurance determinations if the standard one is incomplete.

Citing reports that Helene damaged some of NOAA's systems, Carter said he blames damage from the storm for causing inaccurate wind data and leaving farmers in the lurch.

One NOAA document indicated that "widespread power outages caused nearly all automated observation sites to stop



Special Photo: Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder

Nearly two years after Hurricane Helene unleashed flooding and fierce winds across the South, some Georgia farmers say they still haven't received compensation for damages, despite efforts from both sides of the political aisle.

reporting, so it is quite likely that the strongest winds that occurred were not recorded by any observation platforms."

The resolution has been referred to committee, but it hasn't seen any further action. Carter expressed confidence his bill would take off.

"It needs to get through," he said. "We're going to do everything we can. We're going to sprint to the finish line, work as hard as we can to get it passed, and I'm very optimistic we've still got a good opportunity to get it passed."

Ossoff, a Democrat who is up for re-election this year in a nationally watched race, has sought to pressure the USDA to re-examine the eligibility of

farmers in 11 counties.

In a June letter to the agency, Ossoff cited a National Hurricane Center report describing wind gusts above the hurricane-force threshold of 74 miles per hour in at least three counties – Towns, Chatham and Echols – and asked the agency to take another look at the data.

"Ensuring that our farmers receive the support they planned for and invested in is the very least USDA can do," Ossoff wrote.

But in a July 20 response, USDA Under Secretary Richard Fordyce told Ossoff there was nothing the agency could do.

Fordyce wrote that the agency "acknowledges that gusts can be just as damaging as sus-

tained winds," but added that hurricanes, and the insurance policy, are defined by sustained winds and not gusts.

Last week, Ossoff followed up with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and requested confirmation that all weather data was ultimately recovered and if there was data loss, how it was accounted for in determining wind speeds.

But until Congress changes the rules or a flaw in the data is revealed, the farmers will remain in limbo, and Pryor said people are beyond frustrated.

"It is an insurance policy that we bought and paid for, and then we're denied for some bogus reason," he said. "And

there's no reason why any person couldn't see exactly where the hurricane went. You can see pictures from space where it took out the lighting, and it's right on us. It's obvious as anything that we got the hurricane."

Pryor said it feels impossible to generate profit in the current economy, and the lack of hurricane payments feels like being kicked when you're already down.

"We're all slowly selling our farms right now," he said. "The farm economy is the worst I've ever seen. This is just one more kick. It would really help if we could get it because of all the other things that we have going against us."

Strengthening El Nino will directly impact weather heading into fall

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. -- With flood threats in the southern United States and wildfires and smoke projected across the north, AccuWeather's 2026 Fall Forecast is setting up for a varied fall across the country.

AccuWeather expert meteorologists say this fall's pattern will be driven by a strengthening El Niño which shapes excessive rain and drought conditions across the U.S.

"When you have a strong El Niño, it changes the weather pattern across much of the country," AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Expert Paul Pastelok said in a news release. "Some areas become much wetter; others stay warmer than normal, and those shifts can have a big impact on flooding, drought, tropical activity, and even early-season snowfall."

Key forecast highlights include:

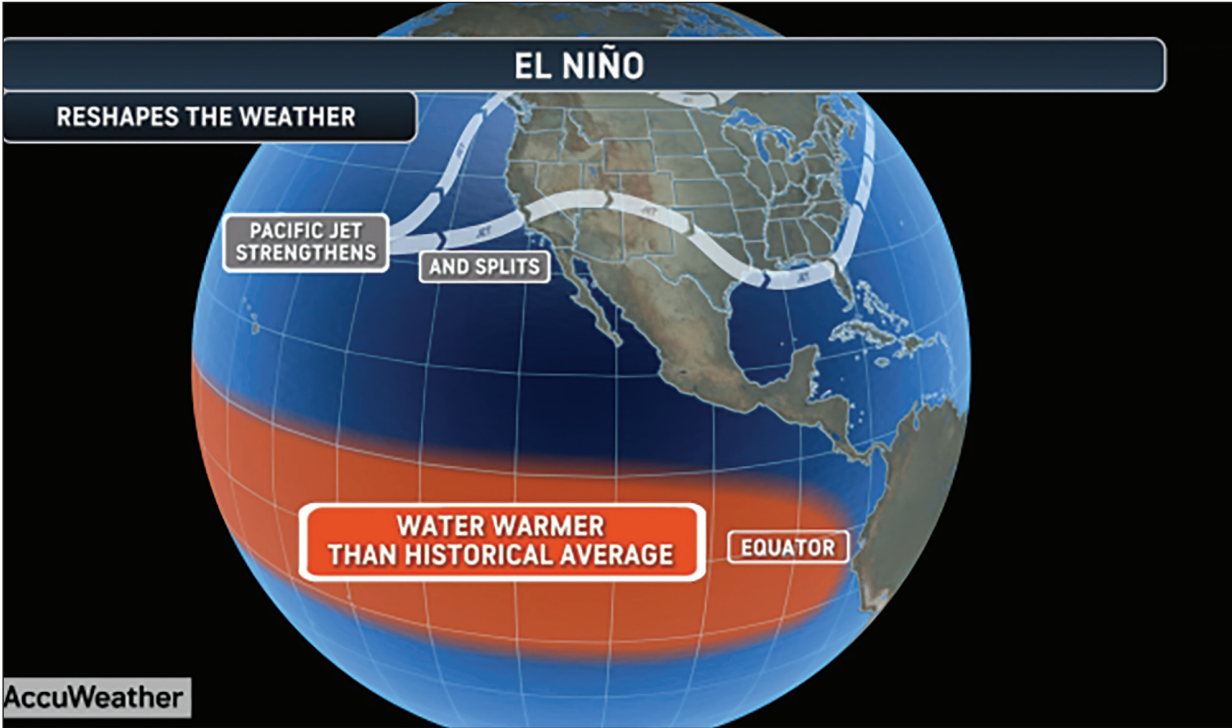
A wetter pattern is expected to develop from the Southwest into the Southeast, increasing the risk of repeated rounds of heavy rain and flooding.

The Northwest is expected to remain one of the nation's biggest wildfire concerns, with dry thunderstorms and gusty winds capable of fueling large fires well into early fall.

Northwest & Canadian wildfire smoke could once again impact air quality across parts of the Great Lakes and Northeast this fall.

Snow could arrive earlier than many expect, with flakes possible in the northern Rockies by late September and the potential for a more impactful snow event in parts of the Northeast during November.

Warm days followed by cool nights may set the stage for a vibrant fall foliage season in portions of the Northeast before wetter weather returns later in the season.



Special Illustration: AccuWeather

A strengthening El Nino will play a huge part in shaping the weather in the United States as summer ends and fall approaches. The Southeast is expected to see increased drought and flooding.



Deerfield-Windsor’s Mangam Pippin, left, and Gage Tomlinson will be key senior leaders for the Knights as they open their season in Valdosta against Valwood Friday night.

Football is Back: Let the games begin

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The helmets have been strapped on for weeks. The practices have been long, the South Georgia heat unforgiving and the opponents mostly familiar teammates.

Friday night, that changes. Deerfield-Windsor travels to Valdosta to renew its rivalry with Valwood in a game that counts, while Lee County, Dougherty and Sherwood Christian get their first tests against outside competition in preseason scrimmages.

For some, Friday is a chance to find problems before the season begins.

For Deerfield-Windsor, it’s already time to start finding wins.

Knights open against familiar rival Deerfield-Windsor coach Jake McCrae has reminded his players throughout the preseason that last year’s success doesn’t carry over.

The Knights have a different roster, different challenges and plenty still to prove.

“We have to approach this season as if we are a completely new team, because we are,” McCrae said. “But make sure the standard remains. We have to play to the standard we try to live by here.

“Run to the football. Stay

onside. Win individual battles and take care of the ball. Teams who do those things usually give themselves a chance to have success.”

Getting ready hasn’t been easy. McCrae said the oppressive South Georgia heat has made simply getting through quality practices a challenge.

Friday brings another one. Deerfield has beaten Valwood three consecutive times, including a 21-20 thriller in Albany last season. The Valiants’ last victory in the series came Oct. 27, 2023, when they rolled to a 52-7 win on their way to a state championship.

See **FOOTBALL**, 10A



Dougherty pitcher Jalexi Thomas delivers a strike during Monday’s game against Seminole County at Gordon Park in Albany. Thomas entered the game with one out in the first inning after Seminole scored seven runs, and the Lady Trojans rallied to win 27-12.

Dougherty rallies for win; Worth County remains perfect

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Dougherty High broke into the win column Monday, and the Lady Trojans did it with an offensive explosion.

Dougherty overcame an early deficit by scoring 26 runs over its final two trips to the plate, including a remarkable 20-run third inning, to rally past Seminole County 27-12.

The victory was the first of the season for the Lady Trojans, who improved to 1-2.

Dougherty found itself in a deep hole almost immediately as Seminole County scored seven runs in the top of the first inning and added four more in the second. The Lady Trojans trailed 11-1 before their offense came alive.

Dougherty scored six runs in the bottom of the second to pull within 11-7. Madison Zachery and Lena Harris each drew bases-loaded walks, while Deriyah Gibbs delivered a two-run single.

Seminole County added another run in the top of the third to stretch the advantage to 12-7, but that lead disappeared quickly.

The Lady Trojans sent batter after batter to the plate during a 20-run bottom of the third, turning a five-run deficit into a 27-12 advantage. Jalexi Thomas delivered one of the biggest hits of the inning with a three-run single.

Gibbs finished with four RBIs on two hits to lead Dougherty’s offense. She drove in two runs with

her second-inning single, added another RBI single in the third and drew a bases-loaded walk later in the inning.

Dougherty took advantage of Seminole County’s inability to find the strike zone, drawing 21 walks. Sorai Hamilton reached four times on walks, and the Lady Trojans also stole five bases.

Thomas earned the victory in relief, allowing one hit and four runs — all unearned — over 2 2/3 innings. She struck out four and walked four.

The win came after Dougherty dropped its first two games of the season.

Lady Rams remain perfect — and unscored upon

Worth County’s unbeaten start continued Monday, and so did an impressive streak by the Lady Rams’ pitching staff.

Laurie Pritchard struck out 10 and later put the game away with a seventh-inning grand slam as Worth County defeated Schley County 6-0.

The Lady Rams improved to 5-0 and have yet to allow a run this season, recording shutouts in each of their first five games.

Monday’s game was scoreless through five innings as Pritchard and Schley County starter Chloe Palmer matched each other in the circle.

Worth finally broke through in

See **RALLIES**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Terrell Academy quarterback Bryse Peachey runs away from a Frederica Academy defender during a scrimmage Friday night at Terrell Academy. The senior quarterback threw two touchdown passes and had a third one called back at the very end of the game.

Terrell, Monroe pass first tests

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Preseason football isn’t really about winning.

It’s about discovering something a team can carry into the games that matter.

Terrell Academy and Monroe may have found theirs last Friday.

For Terrell, it was an offense that repeatedly answered adversity and a quarterback capable of creating big plays. For Monroe, it was a defense that delivered when the Golden Tornadoes needed it most.

Neither performance was perfect. That’s what August is for.

Terrell refuses to go away

Terrell Academy battled Frederica Academy to a 21-21 tie in Dawson and came within a penalty of producing a dramatic victory.

With less than a minute remaining, quarterback Bryse Peachey escaped pressure on fourth-and-long and found Cal Powell alone in the end zone for what appeared to be the winning touchdown.

Then came the flag.

The score was erased, but the play was almost a fitting conclusion



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Terrell Academy players cool down under a blowing mist during Friday’s scrimmage in Dawson that started a 5:30 p.m. with the South Georgia sun blazing. Water breaks helped make sure no one overheated.

to an afternoon in which Peachey and the Eagles repeatedly found answers.

Terrell scored first when Peachey battled through the line on fourth-and-3 to finish a drive of more than 75 yards.

Frederica responded with two touchdowns to take a 14-7 lead,

but Peachey needed only one play to erase it. He found Alex Klughart behind the secondary for a 75-yard touchdown that sent the teams into halftime tied.

When Frederica went back in front

See **TESTS**, 10A

Sherwood sweeps Chess Academy in volleyball opener

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

TIFTON — After a summer of preparation, Sherwood Christian Academy didn’t waste much time showing it was ready for the new volleyball season.

The Lady Eagles opened their season Monday with a convincing straight-set victory over Chess Academy in Tifton, winning 25-9, 25-13 and 25-20.

Sherwood controlled the match from the beginning, dominating the opening set before continuing to build momentum in the second. Chess Academy provided a tougher

challenge in the third, but the Lady Eagles held off the hosts to complete the sweep and start the season 1-0.

For Sherwood coach Briana Collins, the result was encouraging, but she was just as pleased with the way her players competed and supported one another.

“Great first win,” Collins said. “Proud of our hustle and encouragement. We’ve been preparing all summer for a great season and are excited to start it off with a win.”

Monday’s match also carried some added significance for the host school. It was the inaugural home match for

Chess Academy’s volleyball program, giving Sherwood an opportunity to be part of the program’s first night of competition in its home gym.

“We were excited to be a part of Chess Academy’s inaugural home opener and look for great things for their program,” Collins said.

The victory begins a busy opening week for the Lady Eagles.

Sherwood is playing its first home match of the season Thursday at the school’s campus at 1418 Old Pretoria Road.



Special Photo: Submitted

Sherwood Christian Academy’s Lizzie Hooks, Lizzie Roberts and Mella Mallard prepare for their match against Chess Academy Monday in Tifton. The Lady Eagles swept the match in three straight sets.

From 9A
TESTS

21-14 on a 60-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, Terrell responded again.

Peachey connected with Colt Eisenhart for a 55-yard touchdown to make it 21-21.

Even the kicking game provided an encouraging sign. Sophomore Liam Kelley converted all three extra points and repeatedly drove his kick-offs into the end zone, preventing Frederica from generating returns.

The Eagles didn't get the victory when Peachey's final touchdown was erased.

They did learn something potentially more important.

When Frederica punched, Terrell punched back.

The Eagles have two weeks to build on it before opening the regular season Aug. 21 at home against Southwest Georgia Academy.

Monroe's defense answers the call

Monroe's scrimmage against Mitchell County at Hugh Mills Stadium wasn't nearly as explosive.

It didn't need to be.

The Golden Tornadoes won 14-6 in a defensive battle played under rules designed to protect the quarterbacks from contact. That restriction took away some of the mobility and improvisation both offenses will have once the regular season begins.

Still, Monroe found enough offense to take control.

Quarterback Jordyn Shorter connected with Dy'Karie Carr on an end-around pass for a touchdown that helped give

the Golden Tornadoes an 8-6 halftime advantage.

The score remained there until late in the game, when Justin Grice broke free for a long run and carried Monroe inside the Mitchell County 15.

Then came exactly the kind of mistake coaches want to discover in August rather than September.

Monroe fumbled.

Mitchell County recovered and suddenly had an opportunity to turn a two-point deficit into a victory.

The Golden Tornadoes' defense wouldn't allow it.

Monroe kept the Eagles pinned near their own goal line, and with seven seconds remaining Mitchell County fumbled. The Golden Tornadoes recovered and scored to provide the final points.

It wasn't always pretty, but preseason football isn't supposed to be.

It's supposed to expose mistakes, reveal strengths and give coaches something to fix.

Terrell discovered it could respond when an opponent landed a blow.

Monroe discovered its defense could respond when its own offense made a mistake.

Now both get time to build on those lessons.

Terrell opens Aug. 21 against Southwest Georgia Academy.

Monroe has an additional week before the degree of difficulty rises considerably. The Golden Tornadoes open Aug. 28 in Moultrie against Class 7A powerhouse Colquitt County.

By then, there are no more preseason lessons.

There are only results.

Atlanta adds veterans Sample, Sermon, Muse

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

FLOWERY BRANCH

— With one pass rusher already lost for the season and another potentially facing a lengthy suspension, the Atlanta Falcons are adding reinforcements as training camp moves closer to the regular season.

The Falcons have signed veteran defensive end Cameron Sample, running back Trey Sermon and tight end Nick Muse while also activating offensive lineman Jawaan Taylor from the active/physically unable to perform list.

Sample's addition could be the most significant considering the uncertainty surrounding Atlanta's pass rush. The Falcons lost Jalon Walker to a season-ending torn ACL during training camp last week, while James Pearce Jr. could also be unavailable for a significant portion of the season.

The Athletic reported Pearce could receive a suspension of at least eight games under the NFL's personal conduct policy following his February arrest stemming from a domestic dispute.

Sample, 26, gives Atlanta an experienced option on the edge.

A Snellville native, Sample was selected by Cincinnati in the fourth round of the 2021 NFL Draft out of Tulane and spent his first four NFL seasons with the Bengals. He has

appeared in 61 career games with five starts, recording 85 tackles, 26 quarterback hits, eight tackles for loss and seven sacks.

Sample played 14 games with two starts for Cincinnati last season, finishing with 17 tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble. He signed with San Francisco in April before being released last week.

Before reaching the NFL, Sample played four seasons at Tulane, totaling 161 tackles, 21 tackles for loss and 10½ sacks in 46 games.

While Sample provides help at a position suddenly dealing with significant uncertainty, Sermon adds experience to Atlanta's backfield.

The Marietta native was selected by San Francisco in the third round of the 2021 NFL Draft after finishing his college career at Ohio State. He has since spent time with the 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles, Indianapolis Colts and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Sermon has appeared in 46 NFL games with five starts, rushing for 505 yards and three touchdowns on 134 carries. He also has 22 receptions for 138 yards.

He played collegiately at Oklahoma from 2017-19 before transferring to Ohio State for the 2020 season, finishing his college career with 2,946 rushing yards and 26 touchdowns. He added 486 receiving yards and three scores.

The Falcons continued their roster moves by adding Muse



Special Photo: Katie Stratman-Imagn Images

Veteran defensive end Cameron Sample has signed with the Atlanta Falcons as the team adds depth to its pass rush following Jalon Walker's season-ending injury.

at tight end.

Muse was originally selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the seventh round of the 2022 NFL Draft out of South Carolina and has appeared in 16 NFL games. He has also spent time with the Detroit Lions, New York Jets, Los Angeles Rams and Arizona Cardinals.

The Belmont, N.C., native began his college career at William & Mary before transferring to South Carolina. In five collegiate seasons, Muse totaled 101 receptions for 1,303 yards.

Atlanta also received some encouraging news along the offensive line with Taylor's activation from the PUP list.

The Falcons waived long snapper Philip Florenzo and waived/injured offensive lineman Jack Nelson in cor-

responding moves following the additions of Sample and Taylor. Wide receiver Le'Meke Brockington and linebacker Malik Verdon were waived/injured to make room for the latest roster changes involving Muse.

The flurry of moves comes as the Falcons continue evaluating their roster during training camp, but the situation along the defensive front remains the most pressing.

With Walker out for the season and Pearce potentially facing a lengthy absence, Sample arrives with an opportunity to become more than simply another late-camp addition.

Atlanta may need him to become part of its pass-rush rotation quickly.

Braves' Strider, Waldrep cleared to throw

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves received some encouraging news regarding their battered pitching staff Monday, although it remains uncertain whether it will translate into either Spencer Strider or Hurston Waldrep returning to the mound this season.

Both right-handers have been cleared to begin throwing programs, manager Walt Weiss said, providing at least some optimism after injuries created the possibility that both had thrown their final pitches of 2026.

Whether there is enough time remaining for either to build back up and pitch in a major league game is another matter.

"I don't think you count on [Waldrep and Strider returning this year]," Weiss said. "But it's great that we're even talking about it at this point, because I'm sure most of us had probably written that off. So the fact that it's even a conversation, I think, is a positive thing."

Strider has been sidelined since June 12 because of inflammation in his right elbow. He visited Dr. Keith Meister three days later and was shut down from throwing with plans to be reevaluated.

For much of the past two months, indications pointed toward Strider missing the remainder of the season.

Now, at least, the door is slightly open.

"I think there was a possibility he could have been out for the year," Weiss said. "That's why it's tough to put timelines out there because things just change. Their progression changes from day to day. It's never linear. He's feeling good and the tests are positive."



File Photo

Atlanta Braves pitcher Spencer Strider has been cleared to begin a throwing program as he works his way back from right elbow inflammation that has sidelined him since June.

Waldrep's situation also appeared ominous.

The young right-hander removed himself from a July 19 start for Triple-A Gwinnett because of discomfort in his right arm. Weiss later said Waldrep was seeking multiple medical opinions, raising concerns that surgery — and the end of his season — could be a possibility.

A recent evaluation instead provided better news, clearing Waldrep to begin throwing again.

Being cleared to play catch, however, is a long way from being ready to face major league hitters.

Spencer Schwellenbach provides a reminder of how lengthy that process can become.

Schwellenbach underwent arthroscopic surgery in February to remove bone spurs from his right elbow and began a throwing program in June. As of Monday, he remained

in Atlanta awaiting clearance to report to the Braves' spring training complex and begin facing hitters.

Once Schwellenbach advances to live batting practice, he likely will need one or two sessions before beginning a minor league rehabilitation assignment. That process could stretch into the first couple of weeks of September, making his chances of returning during the regular season increasingly uncertain as well.

Recovery timetables can differ significantly, but the calendar is becoming an opponent for all three pitchers.

For Strider and Waldrep, simply being able to begin throwing again represents progress after both faced the possibility of being shut down for the remainder of the year.

And even if neither makes it back to Atlanta this season, beginning the throwing process now could have value

beyond 2026.

Rather than entering the off-season at the beginning of a throwing progression, Strider and Waldrep could potentially use the remaining weeks of the season to establish a foundation for their winter programs and preparations for 2027.

The Braves saw the potential benefit of that approach with Grant Holmes, who entered this season after getting valuable work during his recovery and has posted a 3.47 ERA.

For now, Atlanta isn't putting a return date on either Strider or Waldrep.

But after weeks in which a return this season appeared increasingly unlikely, the fact that both are throwing again qualifies as welcome news.

The next question is whether there is enough season left for either to make it all the way back.

From 9A
FOOTBALL

The teams are no longer region opponents after Valwood dropped to GIAA Class AA, but little else about the rivalry has changed.

And unlike everyone else playing Friday, Deerfield doesn't get to call this one practice.

Lee County chooses a heavy-weight Dean Fabrizio could have given his Lee County team an easier preseason opponent.

He chose the two-time defending state champion instead.

The Trojans will face Carver-Columbus in a matchup featuring two teams ranked among the best in Georgia. Lee County is No. 6 in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Class 6A preseason rankings, while Carver opens at No. 1 in Class 3A.

For Fabrizio, that's exactly the point.

"We want to play a lot of guys in the scrimmage to evaluate our players and just work on getting better," Fabrizio said. "That's why we pick such a good opponent to play like Carver — a two-time defending state champion. We want to see what areas we have to improve on and get good work in."

Against Carver, mistakes should be exposed quickly.

And Friday gives Fabrizio the luxury of correcting them before they count.

Dougherty starts with the basics

At Hugh Mills Stadium, Dougherty coach Uyl Joyner isn't looking for anything complicated when the Trojans scrimmage Northside-Columbus.

He wants execution.

"Defensively, we just want to make sure we can line up correctly and fly to the ball," Joyner said. "Offensively, we want to focus on our run game and get it going."

Those fundamentals will be important with a difficult opener looming.

Dougherty has two more

weeks to prepare before traveling to Americus on Aug. 28 to face Sumter County, which enters the season ranked No. 5 in Class 3A.

Friday provides Joyner with his first opportunity to see how the pieces fit when the opponent isn't another Dougherty player.

A historic night for Sherwood

For Sherwood Christian, Friday will be different from any preseason scrimmage the school has played.

The Eagles host Brookwood at Legacy Field in their first competition since making the jump from eight-man to 11-man football.

Few programs could enter such a transition with more momentum.

Sherwood dominated eight-man football over the previous four seasons, winning three state championships, going 45-2 and carrying a 23-game winning streak into its new era.

But much of what produced that success has changed.

Head coach Doug Eason has only four seniors, and two-time GIAA Player of the Year quarterback Tripp Roberts is now playing at Georgia Military College.

Chuck LaGrange, who rushed for more than 1,200 yards as a sophomore last season, will move from running back to quarterback.

Even Friday's opponent offers a preview of Sherwood's new reality. Brookwood is now one of the Eagles' Class AA region opponents, along with Valwood, Southwest Georgia Academy and Southland Academy.

Sherwood already knows how to win.

Friday night begins answering whether the Eagles can carry that tradition into an entirely different game.

For Lee County, Dougherty and Sherwood, there will still be time afterward to study the film, correct mistakes and try again.

Deerfield-Windsor gets no such safety net.

Friday night, football is back.

From 9A
RALLIES

the sixth when Ellasyn Gandy singled home the game's first run. The Lady Rams added another run before putting the game out of reach in the seventh.

Pritchard delivered the decisive blow, launching a grand slam to left field that stretched Worth County's advantage to 6-0.

She was just as dominant in the circle.

Pritchard allowed only two hits over six scoreless innings, striking out 10 and walking three. Austyn Kate Rucker finished the shutout with a hitless seventh, striking out two and walking one.

Pritchard finished with three hits and four RBIs, while Isabelle Hancock added two hits for the Lady Rams.

Through five games, Worth County's pitching has been flawless where it matters most: five victories, five shutouts

and zero runs allowed.

Monroe moves to 4-0

Monroe did not take the field Monday, but the Lady Tornadoes still added another victory to their record.

Monday's contest against Calhoun County was canceled and Monroe earned the win 1-0 with a forfeit.

The Lady Tornadoes are now 4-0 to begin the season.

From 2A
CROWDER

I started in this business by basically helping out a friend of mine at church. He told me to “find songs that fit a collegiate crowd, a Dave Matthews kind of thing.” So I started out trying to do stuff that we’d both be into. But the goal now is to find something that people can be moved by.

AH: Are there unrealistic expectations from fans and/or label executives when it comes to your music?

DC: I’m still all about trying to help out what the church is doing; I call it helping people’s relationship with the Divine. I’ve been fortunate enough to have people in my career just let me do what I want to do, what I feel. I’ll keep doing it that way until I don’t feel useful.

AH: Whose music do you

listen to, assuming you listen to lots of music?

DC: Oh, yes, I have it on all



David Crowder

the time. My wife’s like you, she’s a classic rock fan, and if she’s around she’s got it on. I’m not really sure she’s heard my music. I’m always searching for vibes, little niches, gathering them. Then I’ll take those

things that don’t necessarily go together and try to put them into the same pot.

AH: When you’re writing music, is there pressure to “be eclectic” or is it more you writing what you feel?

DC: Yeah, there’s none of that. The folks at the label are basically, “Let us know when you’re done.” I’m very fortunate to have that kind of freedom. I’m very grateful.

AH: We’re right up on the deadline they gave me for this interview. I’ve enjoyed talking music with you and could talk all day. But i’ll make this the last question: What can fans in Tifton who maybe haven’t seen you play live expect at your show?

DC: I tell everyone to come ready to sing. Because when people are singing along, when the room gets on the same page, gets communal, that’s when it really gets great.

Obituary
announcements

Hilda Schuster Arnold

Mrs. Hilda Schuster Arnold, 94, of Albany, peacefully passed away on Monday, August 10, 2026, at her home. Graveside funeral services will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in Floral Memory Gardens with Rev. Eron White and Rev. Paul Pritchard officiating. The family will visit with friends following the service. Born on January 30, 1932, in Steinbach am Worthersee, Germany, Hilda was a loving and devoted Airforce serviceman’s wife and devoted mother to her children. She worked at Belk’s for several years, loved growing vegetables and sharing them with her friends and church members. Her greatest love was God and her family, and she was a faithful member of Albany Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Amos W. Arnold and 7 siblings. Those left to cherish her memory include her children, Helen Arnold of Albany, Amos W. Arnold and Theresa of Alabama, and L.J. Arnold and Barbara of Leesburg; grandchildren, Kathy, William, Matthew, and Adam, several great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Hall and Hall Funeral Home has been given the honor of serving the Arnold family.

*My little children,
let us not love in word
or in tongue, but in
deed and in truth.*

1 John 3:18 - NKJV



John C. Sutton

Mr. John C. Sutton, 76 of Worth County died Saturday July 25, 2026 at Tift Regional Medical Center. The memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday August 15, 2026 at Pinson Memorial Methodist Church. Mr. Sutton was born on November 2, 1949 in Albany, GA. to the late Dr. Thomas B. and Jonnielyn Campbell Sutton. He served in the United States Coast Guard; was the former Manager of Sutton Livestock and later retired from the City of Sylvester as the Superintendent over the Water and Sewer Department. Mr. Sutton had a electrical degree from Albany Tech, attended Georgia Southern and ABAC. He enjoyed woodworking, saltwater fishing spending time with his family especially his grandchildren. Survivors include his wife, Gerry W. Sutton; sons, John C. Sutton (Dara) and Robert Sutton; grandchildren, Preslee Sutton, Maelee Sutton, Campbell Sutton, Jackson Sutton and Cassidy Sutton; sister, Sue Register; brother Dr. James Sutton (Stephanie) and a host of extended family. In addition to his parents Mr. Sutton was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Lindsey Giles Sutton; brother-in-law, Sonny Register. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Pinson Memorial Methodist Church P.O. Box 118 Sylvester, GA. 31791 Please sign our online guest registry at www.banksfh.com. Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

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 remains 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.



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MERCHANDISE
Yard Sale

YARD SALE, August 13th, 14th & 15th, 8 am until. 295 Flowing Well Road, Leesburg, GA 31763. Any questions, call or text 229-894-8048. 3 Families. More stuff brought in from storage. Everything from lots of antique furniture, chest drawer, twin bed frames, queen mattress, what-nots, end tables, pictures, stove. Plenty of clothes for everyone going cheap. Everything will be inside and outside. Full house of everything. Rain or Shine.



Release Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS 1 Biblical queen's land 6 "Hurry!" letters 10 Mojito garnish 14 Cultured sort? 15 Interpretation 16 Chimps and gorillas 17 Like 11-Down and 27-Across, often 18 Reply when Mr. Nicholson asks, "How do you like your coffee?" 20 Lode load 21 Bam Adebayo's team 23 Merchant stalls 24 Reply when Mr. Garfunkel asks how everyone is doing? 26 Beloved 27 Beer with a Grillo's Pickles flavor, briefly 28 Short clip? 29 Warbled 33 Bicycle spokes, essentially 36 Grand-scale tales 38 Battle (for) 39 Reply when Mr. Nye asks why there are so many wind turbines? 42 Yahoo! alternative 43 Midsized car 44 Great Grandma? 45 Lat neighbor 47 "Mean Girls" screenwriter Tina 48 Center prefix 49 Big bustles 51 Reply when Ms. Deeley mentions her new TV gig? 55 One with an eye for dotting i's 58 Downsides 59 Director DuVernay 60 Reply when Mr. Hamill says, "May the Force be with you?" 62 Along for the ride, say 64 Nerve 65 Lake at the Detroit River's end 66 Track star Bolt 67 Fashion monthly	DOWN 1 "Weird Al" specialty 2 Postimpressionist painter Rousseau 3 All finished, say 4 Wacoal garment 5 Cereal that once featured a crossword puzzle in magazine ads 6 Currently hitting 7 Curing agent 8 Otherwise called 9 Like a bird feeder 10 College paths 11 Some craft pours, for short 12 Make out 13 Tuts 19 Korean automaker 22 Go amiss 25 Grand-scale tale 26 "Bon appetit!" 28 Short trip? 30 Rental car giant 31 River near the Great Pyramid 32 Meshes well 33 Interphases 34 Spiky succulent 35 "Hi-ho, the derry-o" locale 36 Heads and tails 37 Academic gathering 40 Back on the straight and narrow 41 Fume 46 Be a rat 48 One billion years 50 "Yabba-dabba-__!" 51 Classic colas 52 Board game with settlers 53 Dance around 54 Like some port 55 Perimeter 56 Body wash brand 57 "C'mon, __ be fun" 58 Spot for a tot 61 Cal. neighbor 63 Codebreaker Challenge org.
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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08/13/26

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By Desirée Penner & Jeff Sinnock
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Albany Museum of Art offers free school field trips

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Albany Museum of Art invites teachers throughout southwest Georgia to schedule free field trips for the 2026–27 school year. Nearly 2,900 students participated in free AMA field trips during the last school year. Each visit includes an exploration of the galleries, guided discussion, and an art activity that students can take home.

“In the 2025-26 school year, we welcomed 2,887 students on free field trips to the museum,” AMA Executive Director Andrew James Wulf said. “We hope to host even more student groups this year.”

Director of Education and Public Programming Annie Van Oteghem noted that schools in metro Albany and throughout the southwest Georgia region take advantage of the free visits, which integrate art with other school sub-

jects, such as history, math, science, geography, English and foreign language arts.

“Art mixes in well with schools’ curricula,” Van Oteghem said, adding that field trips can be tailored for classes studying various subject matters.

“Demonstrating real-life applications of concepts is something art excels at, and it teaches students how to use critical thinking skills to reason out relationships they might otherwise not have connected,” she said. “English teachers, for instance, can have students write short essays in response to what they see. In science, sculptures can be used to explain physics and photography can show the result of chemical reactions. Many artists use math, such as the Golden Ratio, in their work. Students learn geography when we use maps to talk about where artworks come from.”

All activities and lessons at

the Albany Museum of Art meet national and Georgia performance standards, and are appropriate for students in prekindergarten and up. The curriculum will be updated in early September to incorporate fall art exhibitions that open on Sept 17.

“With tight budgets squeezing the availability of art programs in schools, it’s important that students have opportunities to be exposed to art in places like the Albany Museum of Art,” Van Oteghem said. “There is a reason parents sing to their babies as they learn speech, encourage them to listen to music and dance joyously when they’re toddlers, and watch as they capture their imaginations on paper with crayons.

“That doesn’t end when they are old enough to take a bus to school. Multiple studies have shown that incorporating art into education greatly benefits students, improving their educational outcomes

and making them more active and engaged with others. That’s especially true for at-risk students.”

School field trips are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis from September through May. They are conducted Tuesday through Friday, with start times ranging from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trips should be scheduled at least one week in advance of the desired date of the visit.

Teachers and other school officials interested in getting more details or scheduling a visit can reach Van Oteghem at annie.vanoteghem@albanymuseum.com.

The free field trips are made possible by the support the Albany Museum of Art receives from individuals and businesses in the community, especially through the Wayne and Alicia Gregory Family Foundation Paddle Raise conducted at Art Ball, the museum’s major annual fundraiser.



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Art

Campers with the Albany Recreation and Parks Department’s summer program strike poses in the fashion of one of the portraits in the exhibition “Vitus Shell: Power of Sight” during a June field trip to the Albany Museum of Art. Free field trips for schools in southwest Georgia resume when the new fall exhibitions open on Sept 17.

“That support does far more than pay for a museum visit,” Wulf said. “It places art, discovery, and possibility within

reach of thousands of young people. It is an investment in them — and in the future of our community.”

Area students recognized by colleges, universities

By Carlton Fletcher

carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Georgia Southern -- President's, Dean's Lists

STATESBORO -- Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 250 students for excellence in academics on the summer 2026 President's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade-point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester. Students recognized include:

Abigail Perrin of Poulan
Jecory Robinson of Albany
Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 370 students on the summer 2026 Dean's List. Gabrielle Naylor of Albany has been named to the list for excellence in academics. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.5 grade-point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

SWAINSBORO -- Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 125 students on the spring 2026 East Georgia Campus Dean's Merit List. Truth Wimberly of Camilla has been named to the list for excellence in academics. To be eligible for the Dean's Merit List, a student must have at least a 3.5 grade-point average or higher and carry at least 12, but less than 15, semester hours of coursework for the semester.

University of Maryland Global Campus -- Graduates

ADELPHI, Md. -- University of Maryland Global Campus graduated more than 7,300 students worldwide in the spring 2026 term. Local graduates include:

Kaleatrice Ford of Albany
Allen Janis of Albany
Tiffany Joiner of Leesburg
Patrick McCann of Albany
John Miller of Leesburg
Alejandro Nanez of Leesburg
Jerry Williams of Albany

Southern Regional Technical College -- President's, Dean's List, Pinning

THOMASVILLE -- Recently, the administration at Southern Regional Technical College recognized exceptional students achieving the honor of President's List for the summer 2026 term. In order to qualify for the President's List, students must meet two criteria: earn a grade of “A” in all coursework attempted and be enrolled in 12 semester credit-hours or more at the college. Students recognized on the President's List include:

Joey Stanford of Sale City
Abdul Brewley of Camilla
Teddy Jones of Camilla
Tavashia Williams of Syl-

vester

Ronald Cross of Pelham
Jeremy Garcia of Pelham
Chardarius Alexander of Camilla

Abigail Amos of Albany
Anabelle Pitts of Sylvester
Devan Tyson of Baconton
Alexis Walker of Albany
Artesian Edwards of Albany
Eu'Narika Brown of Pelham
Hailey Knox of Sumner
Amber Anderson of Leesburg
Sanyai Harris of Meigs
Ryan Aultman of Sylvester
Vernetta Watts of Sylvester
Mallory McDonald of Syl-

vester
Alyssa Hucks of Sylvester
Dustin Pitts of Sylvester
Taurianna Shivers of Pelham

THOMASVILLE -- The administration at Southern Regional Technical College recently recognized exceptional students achieving the honor of Dean's List for the summer 2026 term. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, students must meet two criteria: earn a grade of “A” in all coursework attempted and be enrolled between 9 and 11 semester credit hours at the college. Students recognized on the Dean's List include:

Jayla Bass of Baconton
Abbie Blanton of Albany
Eva Marie Eunice of Ty Ty
Lindsey Newell of Meigs
Cheyenne Edwards of Camilla
Gregory Jacobs of Bridgeboro
Diego Lucas of Ty Ty
Richard Blake of Ty Ty
William Garrett of Albany
Zachery Shanklin of Albany
Kendell Toombs of Camilla
Skyla Palmer of Pelham
Jamarre Walker of Meigs
Anecia Cobb of Ty Ty
David Jones of Pelham
Michael Waldron of Leesburg
Tyler Walker of Camilla
Jaylen Fluellen of Leesburg
Barbara Brown of Albany
Taylor Willey of Sylvester
Aaliyah Jones of Sylvester
Amber Crosby of Sale City
Meagan Williams of Pelham
Brenikki Reese of Albany
Gavin Harris of Poulan

MOULTRIE -- Southern Regional Technical College recently held a pinning ceremony honoring the most recent class of Practical Nursing students representing the SRTC-Tifton and SRTC-Thomasville cohorts. Students recognized included:

Shanyia Smith of Sylvester
Devin Burkett of Pelham
Princess Carter of Albany
Patrice Daniels of Meigs
Ashanti Hines of Camilla
Ivyon Jackson of Camilla
Pamela Randell of Camilla

MOULTRIE -- Southern Regional Technical College recently recognized eight graduating Surgical Technology students from both the Thomasville and Tifton cohorts at a pinning ceremony in Moultrie. The graduating Surgical Technology class includes Lo-



Special logo

ren Smith of Camilla.

University of North Georgia -- Graduates, President's Honor Roll, Dean's List

DAHLONEGA -- For the summer 2026 semester, the University of North Georgia awarded more than 400 degrees and certificates to graduates. Local students honored include:

Kale Banks of Leesburg, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Cyler Perkins of Albany graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs with a European Concentration.

DAHLONEGA -- Kaylin Hunter of Leesburg has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the University of North Georgia for achieving a 4.0 grade-point average during summer 2026.

Anthony Walsh of Sylvester made the summer 2026 Dean's List at the University of North Georgia for achieving at least a 3.5 grade-point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B.

Piedmont University -- Graduates

DEMOREST -- Piedmont recently conferred undergraduate degrees to 16 students, including three first-generation students, and 98 graduate students, including masters, EdS, and doctorate degrees. Students receiving degrees included:

Courtney Bennett of Albany, who earned a(n) Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction Ini Cert.

Rebecca Cory of Albany, who earned a(n) MS degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Melissa Wright of Albany, who earned a(n) Master of Education degree in School Counseling.

University of West Alabama -- President's List

LIVINGSTON, Ala. -- The University of West Alabama has announced nearly 1,200 outstanding undergraduate students receiving academic honors for the spring 2026 academic semester, including nearly 700 named to the

Dean's List and nearly 500 named to the President's List.

The Dean's List gives recognition to those undergraduate students with grade-point averages between 3.25 and 3.79, completing at least twelve semester credit hours, with no grade lower than a “C.”

Jaylon Dydell of Dawson, majoring in Health Sciences (Athletic Training) was named to the Dean's List.

Mississippi State University -- President's List

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. -- Students on the President's List at Mississippi State achieved a 3.80 or better GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework. The following local student attained this honor:

Timothy Ellis of Albany
Valdosta State University -- Graduates

VALDOSTA -- Valdosta State University has announced the members of its graduating class of spring 2026, including the following list of area residents:

Hannah Avery of Sylvester, Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching.

Melissa Barber of Sylvester, Bachelor of Science degree in Education in Elementary Education.

Carra Bell of Leesburg, Master of Music degree in Performance in Music Performance.
Zachary Cason of Poulan, Bachelor of Science degree in Education in Elementary Education.

Lacadia Cross of Albany, Education Specialist degree in Teacher Leadership.

Duane Fallin of Meigs, Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Felicity Felder of Albany earned the Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education.
Annalise Fowler of Pelham, Bachelor of Science idegree n Education in Communication Disorders.

Marcus Glass of Albany, Bachelor of Science degree in Education in Workforce Education and Development.

Ly'Chrystian Harris of Sylvester, Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

South Carolina man sentenced for setting fire to central Georgia church

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

MACON – A South Carolina man who set fire to a church in Byron has been sentenced to prison.

Luke Andrew Westefeld, 35, of North Augusta, S.C., was sentenced to serve 60 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Marc Treadwell after he pleaded guilty to one count of malicious use of fire. There is no parole in the federal system.

“Setting fire to a house of worship is a deeply destructive act in a community,” U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. “By working together with local, state and federal law enforcement, we will hold offenders accountable for these grievous crimes.”

“The act of setting fire to a place of worship is not just an attack on a building, it’s an assault on the community’s spirit,” ATF Atlanta’s Resident Agent in Charge Robert W. Davis said. “We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure justice is served.”

“This case was solved thanks to the crucial assistance provided to us by our law enforcement partners at ATF, GBI, the State Fire Marshals, and the Centerville Police Department,” Byron Police Chief Wesley Cannon said. “We are grateful to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Georgia for their diligence in securing the guilty plea. This case is another great example of law enforcement working together

for a successful outcome, and we know the citizens of Byron appreciate everyone’s efforts.”

According to court documents and statements in court, Westefeld approached a few Byron United Methodist Church (now Byron Heritage Church) members who were standing in the church’s parking lot on West Heritage Boulevard in Byron after their choir practice on Aug. 20, 2024. Westefeld asked for water, which the women declined, telling officers they were concerned about their safety.

Later that night, Westefeld broke into the church and became upset when he saw unlit candlesticks on the altar. Westefeld believed the candlesticks should remain lit through the night. He said he noticed that the Bible on the pulpit was opened to Ezekiel 24:21, which spoke of the desecration of the sanctuary due to sin. Westefeld took it as a sign for him to burn the church. Westefeld lit the candlesticks and burned the American and Methodist flags in the sanctuary.

Westefeld then went to the church office next to the sanctuary and found cash and checks. Westefeld said his “anger level reached a 10” because he believed the money should be deposited in a bank. Westefeld took the cash for himself. He then saw food in the office pantry and became even more enraged, believing it should be given to the poor. For these reasons, Westefeld set the Church’s office on fire.