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Perspectives  
Wayne Fowler  
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Prep football  
Friday night lights  
• Page 1C



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WEEKEND

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

## Two killed, five injured in Wednesday afternoon crash



Special Photo:  
Dougherty  
County

Emergency personnel responded to the scene of a single-vehicle auto accident on Wildfair Road that was reported at about 4 p.m. on Wednesday. The two occupants in the front seat were both killed, and five other passengers were injured.

Staff Reports  
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – A Wednesday-afternoon auto crash claimed the lives of two and injured an

additional five people.

Dougherty County Coroner Michael Fowler identified the deceased as Isel Perdomo Aquino, 57, and 47-year-old Jorge Montano Adame.

The single-vehicle crash on the 2200 block of Wildfair Road was reported at about 4 p.m., according to information released by Dougherty County officials. The occupants of the van were employed at Naomi

Plantation, and preliminary reports said that the van left the roadway and crashed into a tree.

The deceased were in the front seat of the van. The five injured passengers were transported to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. One of the passengers had critical injuries, four had less serious injuries and one passenger was able to exit the van and had

what were considered to be non-serious injuries.

In a separate incident, a fatal shooting that occurred on Wednesday evening has been ruled to have been the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Albany police responded to Country Place Apartments in the 4000 block of Gillionville Road at about 7:50 p.m. There they discovered the body of David Blair, 19.

## Dougherty Commission considers curfew

By Alan Mauldin  
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Will Dougherty County have a curfew for minors? That topic is one that is under discussion, and several commissioners indicated that it is something they would like to act on this year.

The city of Albany has had a curfew since September 2004, and Albany Mayor Bo Dorough and County Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard have been discussing a county curfew that would mesh with the city's, County Commissioner Clinton Johnson said.

Under the city's curfew, minors unaccompanied by an adult are prohibited from engaging in activities on streets and highways, playgrounds, restaurants and businesses between

11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on weekdays and from midnight to 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The city's ordinance includes some exceptions, such as for a minor driving home from work. It also contains a section that prohibits students suspended from school from being out during school hours unless accompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians, as well as the minor, can be cited under the ordinance.

The last time the county had a curfew in place was during the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in October 2018, Dougherty County Sheriff's Office Chief

Deputy John Ostrander said.

That curfew applied to all people, as officials looked to keep individuals off the roadways at night in the wake of the storm.

Johnson and County Commissioner Ed Newsome, both of

whom are members of the commission's Public Safety Committee, said they would like to hear more about the issue.

"I would sure like for us to have a curfew for kids," Newsome said. "I think that would be a really smart thing to do. I



Ed Newsome

See CURFEW, 2A

## FACT VS. ALLEGATION:

What Lee County superintendent contracts and state records actually show

By Kathryn Crockett  
kathryn@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG — In mid-February 2023, Lee County School System Superintendent Jason Miller announced he would retire that June, closing out a 32-year career with the system and leaving the board to find a successor at a difficult moment for public education.

That spring, the Nation's Report Card had just recorded the steepest decline in reading among 9-year-olds since 1990 and the first decline in math. In neighboring Dougherty County, chronic absenteeism had rocketed to roughly 32.5%, more than double the statewide rate. Federal COVID-relief funding that had propped up staffing and tutoring nationwide was about to run out. And Georgia school boards were competing for a shrinking pool of superintendents amid what researchers have described as record turnover in the profession.

By the time the board hired Kathleen Truitt that August, members say they were navigating that seller's market under pressure to move quickly. Internally, the district was carrying pandemic-era staffing levels no longer aligned with enrollment, an expiring federal funding stream tied to commitments already made and gaps in early literacy instruction just as Georgia moved to require new K-3 reading standards.

Three years later, the compensation package built around that hire is the subject of a monthslong public fight — one that unfolded largely through public criticism, with limited response from the district until now, and one the underlying

contracts complicate more than either account suggests.

What the contracts actually show Truitt's compensation has been set in four separate agreements, each approved unanimously by the Lee County

Board of Education at public meetings: Aug. 8, 2023; June 10, 2024; June 9, 2025; and June 22, 2026.

Measured the way the contracts themselves define salary, Truitt's base pay rose from \$194,523.58 when she was

hired to \$224,600 in the second agreement — an increase of \$30,076.42, or about 15.5%, the largest single adjustment of her tenure — then to \$229,902.01 in the third agreement, a further 2.4% increase. The contract approved June 22 holds base salary at \$229,902.01. Over three years, that is an increase of \$35,378.43, or about 18%.

The board separately publicizes a "total compensation package" figure that adds the value of board-paid benefits to that base salary: \$215,000 in year one, prorated to \$191,959.09 because Truitt, who had already worked part of that contract year for another Georgia district, was paid for 205 of the 230 contract days; \$264,698.04 in year two; \$270,000 in year three; and the same figure plus a new annual contribution — 5% of "the superintendent's total compensation package" — to a 403(b) retirement account starting this year. In response to questions from The Albany Herald, the district said Aug. 12 that 5% is applied to the total value of the contract, works out to roughly \$13,500 annually and is not paid unless Truitt



Kathleen Truitt

See FACT, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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From 1A

# FACT

completes the full contract year. Both figures are accurate for what they measure. They are not interchangeable, and using them interchangeably is where much of the public confusion appears to have started.

**The \$70,000 claim**

State salary records showing \$191,959.09 paid to Truitt in 2023-24 and \$264,698.04 the following year circulated widely on social media as evidence of a single-year raise exceeding \$70,000. The contracts don't support that. The first figure reflects a partial year of work, not a full annual salary; the second reflects a full year at the new, second-contract rate. Comparing them produces a number that isn't really a raise at all — it is the difference between partial- and full-year compensation under two different contracts.

Measured contract to contract, the actual base-salary increase between year one and year two was \$30,076.42. Measured by the board's own full-package valuations, it was \$49,698.04, or about 23% — still well short of \$70,000, but a meaningfully larger jump than the base-salary figure alone suggests because it also captures benefits added in the second contract.

**A statewide reporting gap, not a Lee County one**

The confusion has a structural cause that goes beyond Lee County. Open Georgia, the state's salary transparency portal that both the district and its critics have cited, reports actual wages and salary paid to public employees in a calendar or fiscal year — not the base salary written into an employment contract and not a standardized "total compensation" figure. The numbers can diverge significantly, especially in a superintendent's first partial year or when contract and reporting periods do not align. Oconee County offers a use-

ful comparison. That district's contract sets Superintendent Jason Branch's base salary at \$267,039 for 2024-25, but Open Georgia reported \$290,591 paid to him for calendar year 2024 — a gap of more than \$23,000 — while the district's own budget documents value his total compensation, including benefits, at \$301,663. None of those three numbers is wrong; they measure different things.

The same caveat applies to peer-district salary figures used by both the district and its critics to argue Truitt is paid too much or too little, including the district's citation of Open Georgia rankings placing Truitt 35th of 179 Georgia superintendents by overall pay but 108th by pay per pupil.

**Where the second-year increase actually came from**

Much of the gap between Truitt's base-salary raise and the board's larger package valuation traces to two benefit changes in the 2024 contract. Her 2023 contract provided health coverage under the UnitedHealthcare HMO "You and Spouse" option and required the board to pay her individual contribution to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. The 2024 contract changed her coverage to the Anthem Gold HRA family plan and added a provision requiring the board to pay her individual contribution under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act — the employee's share of Social Security and Medicare taxes. The practice is not uncommon in executive-level contracts, but it is a cost most public employees, including most teachers, pay from their own paychecks.

On a \$224,600 salary, those two employee-side contributions together are worth roughly \$27,000; the district values the full benefits component of her second-year package at approximately \$40,098.

Overall, both the structure and value of Truitt's compensation package are broadly comparable to those of superintendents in similar Georgia

districts.

**The board's case for paying to keep her**

Board member Trey Newell has been the board's most direct voice on why retaining Truitt — not simply rewarding her — has driven the increases. "The reality is this — in 2023 we were incredibly lucky to be able to attract Dr. Truitt," Newell told The Albany Herald, describing the market for experienced Georgia superintendents at the time as highly competitive.

Research lends support to the board's broader concern about stability. A study published in the American Educational Research Journal found 45% of 215 superintendents left their positions within three years and concluded that turnover can hinder district reform and improvement. More recent research examining districts in Florida and Texas found student achievement declined in the years following a superintendent change, although the measured effect was small.

Research on the economics of retention also supports part of Newell's argument. Longitudinal studies have found salary to be a strong predictor of whether a superintendent stays. Higher-paid superintendents were substantially more likely to remain, while those who changed jobs tended to receive significant salary increases. The findings suggest smaller and rural districts can be particularly vulnerable to losing leaders to larger, higher-paying systems.

That is the market Newell said Lee County was trying to avoid re-entering. After Truitt's first year, he said, the board believed her financial and academic results made her increasingly attractive to other districts.

"Our adjustments to her compensation were designed to establish stability and to keep her with our students," Newell said.

The Board of Education renewed Truitt's contract for the third consecutive year in June. Newell said the board

approached the latest renewal with long-term stability in mind, even as Truitt's compensation faced intense public scrutiny.

"From my perspective, the 2026 adjustment was designed to provide long-term stability to our school system by providing a competitive package that rewards her staying and working in the school system as opposed to moving onto one of the many other school districts that would be thankful to hire her," Newell said.

He argues the increases should be measured against what the district received in return, pointing to millions of dollars in additional funding and savings the board attributes to Truitt, along with improvements in financial efficiency and academic performance.

"Each adjustment to Dr. Truitt's compensation has been dwarfed by the savings and increased funding that she has found for our children," Newell said.

Whether those results justify the size and structure of Truitt's compensation is a separate question. But the board's stated rationale is broader than performance pay: It views the contract as a tool for keeping a superintendent it believes would otherwise have opportunities to leave.

"School systems across the state are struggling each year to find superintendents," Newell said. "We found a good one, and we want to build a long-term relationship with her so that she can continue to do a great job for Lee County students and parents."

**The termination clause**

Truitt's first three contracts capped what the district would owe if the board terminated her without cause at 18 months' salary or the value of the remaining contract, whichever was less. At her current salary, that cap would be roughly \$345,000.

The contract approved June 22 removes that ceiling. Instead, the district would owe the full value of the time remaining on her three-year term, calculated at a daily rate that now includes salary, insurance, retirement and FICA contributions, and deferred compensation.

That puts the district's maximum exposure at roughly \$850,000 at the beginning of a three-year term. Because each annual renewal starts a new three-year term, that potential liability resets rather than steadily declining.

The change also came amid intense public criticism of Truitt and the district. Newell's comments suggest the board viewed the renewal as an opportunity to signal the opposite: continued confidence in Truitt and a commitment to keeping her in Lee County.

Board leadership said the compensation and severance terms were negotiated in executive session before unanimous approval June 22. The contract also added a state-required financial-misconduct provision and moved Truitt's annual evaluation from June 1 to Jan. 1 to separate it from the budget cycle and allow more time for evaluation and suc-

cession planning.

**What the record does and doesn't support**

Board members say they weighed Truitt's evaluations, fiscal management, comparable compensation, experience, market conditions and the value of leadership stability in setting her pay.

Much of their case is supported by independent records. Lee County students outperformed statewide results across Georgia Milestones content areas in 2024-25, and Lee County High School's graduation rate reached about 95% for the Class of 2025.

Financial measures are also strong. Lee County earned a 4.5-star Financial Efficiency Star Rating for 2025, tied for second-highest among 180 districts, while its three-year average per-pupil spending was lower than all but seven. The latest state audit reported no financial or federal findings.

The district's fund balance grew from \$12.3 million in 2023 to \$16.1 million in 2025, even as local-revenue share of total revenue declined from 32.1% to 31.3%. That means 68.7% of the district's 2025 revenue came from nonlocal sources, principally state and federal funding.

Independent reporting also supports the district's claim of strong CCRPI performance. A local television station reported in March 2025 that Lee County ranked third among Georgia school districts on CCRPI. The district's separate claim that it ranks in the top 18% appears consistent with that broader performance, although the figures may reflect different years or comparison groups.

Truitt's base-pay increase also is not an outlier among district employees. Her salary has risen 18.2% since 2023, with no base increase in her two most recent contracts. The district reports increases of 32% for bus drivers, 23% for food-service assistants, 18% for beginning teachers and paraprofessionals, and 17% for custodians.

Two specific Advanced Placement claims remain unverified: an 11% increase in enrollment and a ninth-place statewide ranking for AP performance. Independent records do show strong AP results, however: Lee County High School earned AP School of Distinction recognition for a fourth consecutive year in 2024, with 25% of students taking an AP exam and 74.7% earning a score of 3 or higher. The specific data needed to independently verify the district's two claims were not publicly accessible at the time of publication.

**How Lee County compares**

Lee County High School's 94.7% graduation rate for the Class of 2025 was 7.5 percentage points above Georgia's 87.2% rate and among the strongest in southwest Georgia — but hardly alone. Sumter County reached 96.7% and Lowndes County 93.9%. Coffee County posted 92.5%, Tift County 88.6% and Dougherty County 89.6%. Across southwest Georgia, 35 schools graduated at least 90% of their students, and 42 matched or exceeded the state average.

Individual schools elsewhere performed as well or better. Westover High in Dougherty County reached 95.1%, Coffee County High 95% and Wiregrass Regional College and Career Academy 98.2%. Colquitt County High reached a record 90.6%, up 3.1 percentage points in a single year and 5.7 points since 2018.

Those comparisons cut against a simple pay-for-performance calculation in either direction. Tift County's superintendent earned \$246,723 under the same Open Georgia data Lee County's board cites — about \$17,000 more than Truitt — despite a graduation rate 6.1 points lower. Dougherty County's superintendent earned \$298,474, nearly \$69,000 more, with a districtwide graduation rate 5.1 points lower.

But graduation rates alone are an imperfect measure of superintendent performance.

Dougherty reached 89.6% from a considerably harder starting point, after chronic absenteeism peaked in 2022 and amid socioeconomic barriers district leaders say continue to affect student achievement. The district has now exceeded Georgia's graduation rate for five consecutive years.

The reverse is also true: Districts producing comparable academic gains are not necessarily producing comparable financial results. Lee County earned a 4.5-star Financial Efficiency Star Rating while maintaining one of Georgia's lowest three-year per-pupil spending averages.

That makes a simple pay-for-performance comparison difficult. Lee County's academic results are strong but not singular, while its financial measures are particularly strong. No single metric establishes what a superintendent should be worth — which is largely the board's argument that Truitt's compensation reflects the combined value of academic performance, financial management and leadership stability.

**The transparency claim**

A correspondence log the district produced in connection with a complaint to the Georgia Attorney General's office provides the clearest account of what happened — and complicates claims made on both sides.

The log follows Mike Sabot, who began seeking Truitt's contracts June 20 and copied the Lee County Ledger and County Commissioner Billy Mathis on nearly every message. Five days later, the district asked him to provide specific dates and search terms before it would begin searching.

What followed was seven weeks of back-and-forth over the scope of two requests. The district repeatedly sought specific contract years; Sabot repeatedly pressed for the records. On July 22, he told the district he had filed a complaint and threatened Superior Court action. Three days later, he submitted a formal request identifying the current contract and its approval date.

By Aug. 5, the dispute had shifted from what records he wanted to what producing them would cost. The district provided a price and asked Sabot to confirm he would pay before providing a timeline. Sabot responded the next morning that he wanted to continue with all requests, but the district's log says that as of Aug. 6 he had not confirmed payment.

The record does not support an earlier assertion that the district refused to release the contracts by invoking a legal exemption; no such exemption appears in the log or could be independently verified. But it also complicates the district's characterization that requesters simply "failed to complete the request process." Sabot remained engaged for seven weeks, filed a state complaint and was still pursuing the records days before the district responded to The Albany Herald.

Board leadership said Aug. 12 that three requests for Truitt's contracts had been filed since 2023. Two were not completed by the requesters, and the third requester was reviewing the documents that week.

Employment contracts for public employees are generally subject to disclosure under Georgia's Open Records Act. In the meantime, much of the public debate over Truitt's compensation proceeded without the contracts themselves, relying instead on Open Georgia wage figures that do not distinguish contractual base salary from other reportable compensation.

**When scrutiny becomes personal**

Public officials are expected to withstand scrutiny, and Truitt is no exception. Her compensation, financial decisions and the district's handling of public records are legitimate subjects for criticism.

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From 1A

# CURFEW

would totally be in favor of that.

"If you see the news, we're having 15-year-olds out there shooting people. I would certainly think we ought to do something."

Both Johnson and Newsome agreed that a curfew for unincorporated Dougherty County should complement the city's

"We need to put some teeth behind it and get the city and the county on the same page," Newsome said.

No ordinance has been drafted as of this time, Johnson said, but he would support a move to task County Attorney Alex Shalishali with preparing a proposed ordinance.

"I would implement one to kind of keep the kids in the house," he said. "Everybody needs to be somewhere."

See **FACT**, 11A



# Daily Horoscopes

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Love isn't something that can be forced but is likely to land for you anyway — allow someone close to express naturally. Freedom and pleasure are also things that come when they come, be chill and let things happen.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Something that's been troubling you on the home front could get resolved within a day or two. Bring your love and attention to a project but don't push to dominate it or make it solely yours.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Make your living area a sanctuary, even if just in one corner — give your inner child their own little safe space. If conflicted about whether to speak out or not, give it time to clarify in your mind.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Writing by hand accesses deeper areas of your brain than keyboarding, perhaps a handwritten letter that you never send could be the catharsis you've needed. Don't decide if you're feeling emotional.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You could have increased anxiety for a couple of days, even if problems don't grow commensurately. Breathe your way through, prepare when possible, let go of the rest. Examine old beliefs about prosperity and abundance.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Your kindness shows when your heart is in your eyes, lots of people could gravitate toward your warmth now. Understanding the root causes of fears and anxieties can help you release them.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A protestation of love or at least limerence could arise — it may or may not make any sense to you in the moment. A friend could need some reassurance or bucking up if their worries are overtaking them.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't succumb to an urge to spill any tea or tell romantic secrets, what's private should stay private. Concerns for your career could be solely due to the stars for the next few days, there may be no concrete reason to fear.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Emotions and the workplace can be a tricky mix. While authenticity can be appreciated, reactivity seldom is — better to work out feelings in private. Opt out of input that fires up your fears.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Financial concerns could turn out to be nothing, a few more days could make a real difference in perspective. While fools may rush in, angels and wise ones assess the situation before they make their entrance.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Someone close to you may need reassurance, or you could be the one wanting validation or confirmation. Be patient, everyone's needs vary. Between emotions and egos, a negotiation could stall out.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Your heart goes right to the ones you love, be sure those you love know how to hold you when you're vulnerable. Deadline anxiety in some form could drive your thinking for a few days.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.*

Walt Whitman,  
poet (1819-1892)

## 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

As per usual, Joe Whitfield has done another excellent job in preparing us for the coming high school football season with his Fantastic Fifteen stories. I hope the kids and coaches around here appreciate all the hard work he obviously puts into what is no doubt a labor of love for him.

Seeing the photo of these kids practicing in this god-awful heat and humidity makes me cringe. For some reason, the powers that be in our school systems -- local and statewide -- are having kids return to school in the middle of summer. And, of course, that means "fall games" played smack dab in the dog days of summer. Foolish and dangerous.

So many people inspired me to be nothing like them. They know who they are. That Man Without a Family

Will the "walking trails" at Albany Tech be wide enough for baby carriages with stops for free food along the way? Let's be prepared.

B.J. Fletcher for mayor. It's time, B.J.

It seems Sanford Bishop will not help the people on Ashford and Golfcourse Drive that want his hired sign man to park his huge rental box truck somewhere else. It is very evident that the code office and the city police are not going to do anything about it. We citizens feel that Sanford or his employee has sweet-talked officials into letting this violation slide. Sanford, we know exactly where your house is located, so why not park the big box truck on the street in front of your house?

I'm like you, Fletcher. I hadn't heard or seen Crowder before he played in Albany, but I'd heard so much about him I went with a church group to see him play at the Civic Center in '22. I didn't know what to expect, but I quickly realized that Crowder and his band are fantastic. You can bet I'll be there in Tifton on the 23rd for his show, and I can't wait.

Way to go, Jack Hodges, and all your Albany Boy Scout buddies for your work in cleaning up part of what's dirty in downtown Albany. (And congrats on nearing the Eagle Scout rank ... quite an accomplishment.) Any way we can get these guys to start on the north side of town and work their way south, east and west?

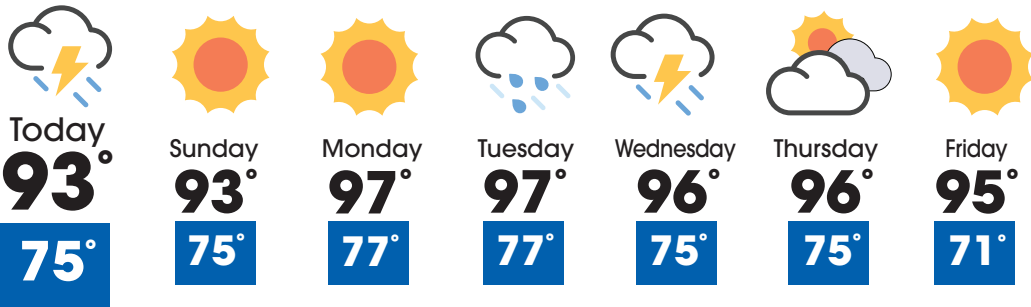
Squawker, we're not front-runners, those of us who criticize the Braves. We're just realists. I was surprised by the eight-game win streak, but three out of four losses to the New York teams -- including the last-place Mets -- show that this is a team with little hope of making a run in the playoffs. (A couple of more losses, and you'll grow quiet, too.)

What an insult and a shame when your eulogist sleeps through your funeral. It's a true reflection of how a life is lived when that person delivering your eulogy is one of the most hated persons in the world.

I cannot think of one person -- not a single one -- on the city and county commissions and the Dougherty School Board who cares one whit about this community and its people. Just a bunch of egotistical glad-handers who figure with all those millions of taxpayer money going out, they're going to find a way to get their hands on some of it.

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

## Weather Forecast



## Daily Bridge Club

### Simple Saturday

By Frank Stewart  
Tribune Content Agency

Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

The literature includes many

|                                   |      |       |          |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------|----------|
| NORTH                             |      |       |          |
| ♠ A 10 7 2                        |      |       |          |
| ♥ 6 5                             |      |       |          |
| ♦ 10 7 4                          |      |       |          |
| ♣ K Q J 3                         |      |       |          |
| WEST                              |      |       |          |
| ♠ Q 5 3                           |      |       |          |
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| ♣ 9 5 2                           |      |       |          |
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| ♠ K J 9 8                         |      |       |          |
| ♥ 9 3 2                           |      |       |          |
| ♦ 1 5 3                           |      |       |          |
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| SOUTH                             |      |       |          |
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| ♦ A Q 9 8 2                       |      |       |          |
| ♣ A 6 4                           |      |       |          |
| South                             | West | North | East     |
| 1 NT                              | Pass | 2 ♠   | Pass     |
| 2 ♦                               | Pass | 3 NT  | All Pass |
| Opening lead - ♥ K                |      |       |          |
| ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC |      |       |          |



Frank Stewart

learned plays. (That's "learn-ed" with two syllables, meaning erudite, not "learned," meaning absorbed.) I see players make learn-ed plays trying to demonstrate erudition -- and fall on their face.

Against 3NT, West led the king of hearts, and South thought it would be cool to play low, a "Bath Coup": West couldn't lead another heart without giving South two heart tricks. But East signaled with the deuce, and West shifted to a spade.

#### DOWN TWO

If South took dummy's ace, the defense would get three spades, a diamond and a heart. So dummy played low, but East won and led a heart, forcing out the ace. When West took the king of di-

amonds, he cashed three hearts. Down two.

South needed to save the erudition for some other deal. He must win the first heart, lead a club to dummy and pass the seven of diamonds. He sets up 10 winners, and his jack of hearts is safe from attack.

#### DAILY QUESTION

**You hold:** S 6 4 H A J 8 D A Q 9 8 2 C A 6 4. The dealer, at your right, opens one spade. You double, and your partner responds ("advances") two hearts. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** You have 15 points and a five-card suit, but really not enough to act again. To bid three diamonds would be a significant stretch. Your partner has promised no strength and may have nothing except some heart length. Pass and hope for a plus. South dealer N-S vulnerable

## Advice Columnist

### Husband of 40 years leaves abruptly

By Eric Thomas  
Tribune Content Agency

**Dear Eric:** My husband of more than 40 years left a note for me to come home to and was gone. It came as a huge surprise as every day he told me he loved me, up to the day before he left.

Our then-25-year-old son, too, was blindsided.

My husband ran to a recently widowed "friend." It's been five years. I have never heard from him again, except when he answered a text to help with a home question.

I still love my husband and knew he was a weak person when we were courting; he does not like confrontation and is easily led. I am the stronger partner and deal with things.

I continue to speak highly and well about him, especially to our son. I figure why disparage my son's father in his eyes? I would not like to hear ill of my parents. Yet, my husband was not perfect and because he was the one who fled I feel I'm looked upon as the bad apple because why did he feel he had to go?

So, do I share with our son the little things his father was "guilty" of all these years or take the high road and continue to be seen as the reason our marriage ended? Because I am strong, I always feel people think I can absorb any barbs. Not true!

— Spousal Report

**Dear Spousal:** You deserve to be heard. Your son may not be the audience for all the things you want to say, but you don't need to sugarcoat the truth to him. Indeed, he's already seen and been blindsided by your husband's

actions, so he's not under the impression that your husband was blameless.

I'm so sorry you experienced this. Your husband's abandonment was surely jarring, painful, and confusing. You can be honest with your son about how you're navigating this dramatic change and ask him how he's feeling. You can even ask your son what information he's comfortable hearing about his father from you.

Unfortunately, people who are seen as strong often need to be a little more proactive about asking for help, support, or just a listening ear. Don't be afraid to be honest with friends or relatives about what you need or where you are emotionally. By talking about it, you will probably find that few, if any, folks are thinking that you're the bad apple. And if anyone does think that your husband was perfect, that may not be someone about whom you need to give much thought or to whom you need to listen.

If you don't have one already, it will be helpful to talk with a therapist about what you've experienced and what you're feeling. As I wrote at the start, you deserve to be heard, and working with someone who is 100 percent there to listen to you and help you process can work wonders.

**Dear Eric:** I recently connected with my first love. We live a long distance from each other. I don't trust easily and started overthinking. He has been divorced for 20 years. I told him I love him. The relationship was passionate. I was scared of all the feelings I have for him. He was smitten with me after all these years.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at [eric@askingeric.com](mailto:eric@askingeric.com) or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at [erictthomas.com](http://erictthomas.com).

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**CLASSIFIED, DISPLAY OR ONLINE**

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

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

#### CLUES

- 1 bright (6)
- 2 distance covered by a step (4)
- 3 nanny Mary of film (7)
- 4 search for free food (6)
- 5 fine distinction (8)
- 6 heavy metal pioneer Ozzy (8)
- 7 human body's longest muscle (9)

#### SOLUTIONS

|     |     |     |    |     |
|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| CLE | LE  | PPI | PA | FOR |
| PO  | BO  | IUS | TY | SAR |
| OS  | NE  | SU  | NS | CE  |
| AGE | TOR | VER | UR | BT  |

Thursday's Answers: 1. DRIVING 2. VOLLEYBALL 3. STUDENTS 4. OBSERVES 5. CARTAGENA 6. PESSIMIST 7. CORKSCREWS 8/14

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

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

#### CLUES

- 1 Stitch's animated chum (4)
- 2 2008 Taylor Swift album (8)
- 3 boxy shipping carrier (9)
- 4 drummer Watts (7)
- 5 imitative (10)
- 6 fractal geometry pioneer (10)
- 7 they're under mushroom's cap (5)

#### SOLUTIONS

|     |      |     |     |     |
|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| NER | LI   | IE  | ESS | AT  |
| IVE | DE   | FEA | LLS | CH  |
| LO  | BROT | MAN | ARL | CON |
| DEL | RL   | RIV | TAI | GI  |

Friday's Answers: 1. CLEVER 2. PACE 3. POPPINS 4. FORAGE 5. SUBTLETY 6. OSBOURNE 7. SARTORIUS 8/15

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# Albany State HBCU-UP program demonstrates strong first-year success

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – Albany State University is building momentum in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education through the continued success of its HBCU Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) STEM Academy, a key initiative supported by a National Science Foundation grant aimed at increasing recruitment, retention, and on-time graduation of underrepresented students in STEM fields.

Now entering its second year, the program supports students majoring in biology, computer science, engineering, forensic science, and psychology by providing academic, financial, and community-based resources designed to ensure long-term success.

The inaugural cohort of 15 students demonstrated strong academic and personal growth throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. The group achieved a cumulative GPA

increase from 3.13 in fall 2025 to 3.16 by summer 2026, while also contributing 331 hours of community service. Students also engaged in high-impact experiences, and earned top honors at ASU’s 14th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, where three participants tied for first place in the poster presentation competition.

A hallmark of the program is its intentional, student-centered support system. Through structured mentorship, cohort-based learning, and targeted academic development, students are equipped with the tools needed to thrive in rigorous STEM disciplines.

One student’s journey highlights the transformative impact of the program. After being placed on academic probation following the fall semester, the student worked closely with program leadership to develop a personalized academic plan focused on time management, study strategies and accountability. By the end of the

spring semester, the student earned all A’s.

“The HBCU-UP program helped me learn how to manage my time, stay focused, and believe in my ability to succeed,” Albany State sophomore Forensic Science major Nigeria Numa said. “Having that support system made all the difference for me.”

Participants in HBCU-UP receive more than \$1,000 in financial support during their first year, including \$500 stipends at the end of both the fall and spring semesters, as well as a TI-84 graphing calculator to support their coursework. Beyond financial assistance, students benefit from a sustained system of academic and social support, including specialized coursework, mentoring, and opportunities for research and experiential learning.

“The success of our first cohort demonstrates the power of intentional support, community, and high expectations,” Chinenye Ofofiele, director of the HBCU-UP program and

chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics at Albany State. “We are not only preparing students to succeed academically, but also equipping them to become leaders, researchers, and mentors who will contribute meaningfully to the STEM workforce.”

As the program continues into fall 2026, 21 new students have been accepted into the next cohort. There are 14 returning participants. The semester will begin with an orientation on Aug. 19 and will include a robust schedule of academic sessions, workshops, and engagement opportunities.

Students will participate in Saturday academies featuring coursework in physics, biology, chemistry, computer science, English, mathematics and college readiness, along with field trips and interactive learning experiences. Additional programming throughout the semester will include mentorship pairings, mental wellness support, aca-



Special Photo: Albany State University

Albany State University is building momentum in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education through the continued success of its HBCU Undergraduate Program STEM Academy.

demic planning sessions, and community-building events designed to strengthen student engagement and success.

The program’s learning community model ensures that students progress together throughout their academic journey, building lasting relationships with peers, faculty and mentors. As participants advance, they are also given the

opportunity to mentor incoming students, reinforcing a cycle of leadership and support.

As Albany State University continues to invest in innovative programs like HBCU-UP, the institution reaffirms its commitment to expanding access, strengthening outcomes, and preparing the next generation of STEM leaders, university officials said.

# Georgia Quality Cotton Award winners announced

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**STATESBORO** – The 2025 Georgia Quality Cotton Awards were presented at the recent 2026 Georgia Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting. The awards are co-sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and Bayer Crop Science/Deltapine and administered by the University of Georgia Cotton Team.

Yangxuan Liu, extension economist at the University of Georgia, conducted the analysis, and Phillip Roberts presented the awards at the event in Statesboro on behalf of the UGA Cotton Team.

The purpose of the awards is to recognize producers and ginners of high-quality cotton fiber and to identify their general management practices for the benefit of other growers. The producers and their gins received a plaque, and the winning producers received a \$500 cash award. The UGA county extension agent for each winner also was recognized.

The awards are given in three cotton acreage categories: 1) less than 500 acres, 2) 500 to 1,000 acres, and 3) greater than 1,000 acres within the four regions of the state. Winners in these categories are determined by the loan value and



Special Photo: Georgia Cotton Commission

Jefferson County Farmer Stuart Goosen, left, and Ralph Sandeford of Midville Warehouse Inc., center, accept the 2025 Best Cotton Award as part of the 2025 Georgia Quality Cotton Awards. From left are Goosen; Georgia Cotton Commission Executive Director Taylor Silis; Sandeford; Jefferson County Extension Coordinator Pamela Sapp, and Bayer Crop Science official Will Duffie.

premiums of their cotton. The winners’ achievements are due largely to their management practices and expertise.

**Winners included:**  
**Region 1, Less than 500 acres**

Grower – Groves Landing Plantation LLC, Dooly County  
Ginner – Creek Cotton Company, Vienna  
Nominated by – Bill Starr  
500-1000 acres  
Grower – Reese Foster, Ter-

rell County  
Ginner – McClesky Cotton, Dawson  
Nominated by – Seth McAlister

**Region 2, Less than 500 acres**

Grower – Stuart Goosen, Jefferson County  
Ginner – Midville Warehouse Inc., Midville  
Nominated by – Pamela Sapp  
**500-1000 acres**  
Grower – Jacob Sandeford,

Burke County  
Ginner – Midville Warehouse Inc., Midville  
Nominated by – Cliff Collins & Peyton Sapp

**1000+ acres**  
Grower – Smith Farms, Jefferson County

Ginner – Farmers Gin & Storage Co. Inc., Wadley  
Nominated by – Pamela Sapp

**Region 3, Less than 500 acres**

Grower – Craig Drew, Brooks County  
Ginner – B.C.T. Gin Company Inc., Quitman  
Nominated by – Jacob Kalina & Michasia Dowdy

**500-1000 acres**  
Grower – Overstreet Farms, Appling County

Ginner – Southeastern Gin and Peanut, Surrency  
Nominated by – Will Brown

**1000+ acres**  
Grower – Turner Farms, Appling County

Ginner – Southeastern Gin and Peanut, Surrency  
Nominated by – Will Brown  
**Region 4, Less than 500 acres**

Grower – John Bulloch, Thomas County  
Ginner – Boston Gin, Boston  
Nominated by – Sydni Ingram

**500-1000 acres**  
Grower – Garrett Bridges Farms, Seminole County

Ginner – Clover Leaf Gin Inc., Donalsonville  
Nominated by – Justin E. Odom & Cody Powell

**1000+ acres**  
Grower – A P Farms, Decatur County

Ginner – Clover Leaf Gin Inc., Donalsonville  
Nominated by – Justin E. Odom & Brian Hayes

The final award given was the overall Best Cotton Award. This was awarded to the Georgia cotton producer with the highest loan value and premium. The 2025 Best Cotton Award went to Jefferson County’s Stuart Goosen with a loan value of 57.35 cents/pound and a premium of 5.35 cents/pound.



Special Photo: ABAC

“Sail On: The Beach Boys Tribute” will bring the iconic harmonies and timeless hits of the Beach Boys to Howard Auditorium on Oct. 1.

# 2026-2027 Arts & Culture at ABAC season to feature music, theater, literature and more

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**TIFTON** – Arts & Culture at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has announced its 2026-2027 season, “Rooted in Inspiration,” featuring a diverse lineup of performances, lectures, concerts and special events designed to celebrate creativity, culture and community.

The upcoming season will showcase professional artists, musicians, authors and performers from across the country while providing opportunities to experience the arts through live performances and engaging events. Visit arts.abac.edu for a description of each event and ticket information.

“Arts & Culture at ABAC celebrates the power of live arts to bring people together, preserve cultural heritage and reflect the rich diversity of our shared human experience,” Jeff Newberry, an ABAC professor of English and Poet in Residence, said. “Each season offers a dynamic tapestry of events ranging from classical and contemporary performances to literary presentations, theater, music and unique visual storytelling.”

The 2026-2027 season will include several signature series, including the “ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series,” the “First Tuesday Concert Series,” the “ABAC Tribute Series,” the “Herbert Shippey Visiting Writers Series” and the “Carter Arts & Lecture Series” at the college’s Bainbridge site.

The season opens with an ABAC Music Faculty Concert Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at the Tifton site. The “ABAC Tribute Series” will begin Oct. 1 with “Sail On: The Beach Boys Tribute,” bringing the iconic harmonies and timeless hits of the Beach Boys to Howard Auditorium.

The “ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series” will feature a variety of performances

throughout the year, including Quarteto Nuevo on Oct. 8; “American Tune: Simon, Croce & Taylor” Nov. 19; Steven Edenbo as Thomas Jefferson Feb. 18; Some Strings Attached March 9, and the Javier Nero and ABAC Jazz Ensembles April 15.

The “First Tuesday Concert Series,” which began in 2002, will continue offering free performances featuring regional and nationally recognized artists. The series includes performances by ABAC music faculty, Duo Fuerza, Youngmi Kim, Zheng Jennifer Huang and others throughout the academic year.

The “Herbert Shippey Visiting Writers Series” will welcome poet Jeff Weddle Nov. 24 and author Dana Ridenour Feb. 16. Both events will be held in Bowen Hall, Room 100 at the Tifton site and are free and open to the public.

“The Carter Arts & Lecture Series” at the Bainbridge site will bring additional cultural experiences to southwest Georgia, including performances featuring Lloyd Wheeler as Benjamin Franklin, Quarteto Nuevo, Jeff Weddle, Dana Ridenour, the Atlanta Shakespeare Company’s production of “Romeo and Juliet,” and the Javier Nero and ABAC Jazz Ensembles.

In addition to the professional performances, the season will include annual ABAC traditions such as “An ABAC Christmas” Dec. 3 and 4; ABAC Choral Day Oct. 22; the ABAC Jazz Festival April 15; “Cabaret at ABAC” March 12, and the annual “Songs of Broadway” performance April 6.

Tickets are required for events included in the “ABAC Presents!” and “ABAC Tribute Series” and may be purchased online at arts.abac.edu. The “First Tuesday Concert Series,” “Herbert Shippey Visiting Writers Series” and “Carter Arts & Lecture Series” events are free and open to the public.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA'S CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, August 31, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.** at the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia, concerning a proposed resolution establishing a temporary 180-day moratorium on the development of data centers within the unincorporated area of Dougherty County, Georgia.

The proposed moratorium is intended to provide Dougherty County with adequate opportunity to study the potential land-use, infrastructure, environmental, public safety, utility, and other impacts associated with data center development and to evaluate, develop, and consider appropriate zoning and land-use regulations governing such development.

If adopted, the proposed ordinance would temporarily suspend for a period of 180 days the processing, approval, issuance, or other consideration of applications, permits, rezoning requests, variances, special-use or conditional-use requests, and other development approvals relating to the establishment or development of data centers in the unincorporated area of Dougherty County, to the extent provided in the resolution.

At the public hearing, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed temporary moratorium.

This notice is published pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-66-4 and the applicable provisions of the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities should contact the ADA Coordinator at 229-431-2121 promptly to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.*



SATURDAY SQUAWKBOX

SQUAWKBOX@ALBANYHERALD.COM

Did a squawker say that services to the public from government sources go to hell in a handbasket when the leaders hire unqualified friends, families, and co-conspirators in their grifts? Wow, what a revelation. So now you're going to vote for someone who is pledging to run the state like the other billionaire runs the country. Will you ever get the hypocrisy?

It seems that all of Albany would be ashamed that a group of Scouts from out of town had to come into Albany to pick up trash in the Civil Rights Park. Albany's biggest problem is lack of responsibility from our youth, as well as most adults. This is not the first time out-of-town youth groups have come to Albany to do work, on their own time and money, to try to change and improve the city. But it seems the out-of-town efforts are not appreciated.

Do these buffoons who toe the party line and try to blame all of the country's problems on Democrats and Joe Biden not realize that Democrats have no power. This God-forsaken country is being run by Republicans who care only for themselves and their lord and master in the White House.

This Build Albany Housing initiative is a scam. Albany doesn't need workforce housing. Our City needs good paying jobs so that we can afford to live in and fix the hundreds of existing vacant homes. Good jobs left due to crime, and decades-long weak law enforcement leadership and pathetic inaction by our city commission. Our mayor and city manager need to take responsibility for their failures, and not stupidly fill contractors' pockets with taxpayer money.

Gas is \$4 a gallon. Prices are up in every sector. Are the Republicans in the state and country still doing what you elected them to do? If so, you are as low as they are.

People wonder why Dougherty County/Albany has no money to operate. A quick review of Dougherty property owners in the tax digest shows preacher Lorenzo and his church own more than 90 properties in the city. I am sure there are many more; I got tired of looking. I guess when the preacher bought the properties, they were taken off the tax digest. Georgia has got to talk to our state leaders about all of these nonprofits and the shysters that run them.

Sorry, I don't believe a word the pastor who is running United Way says. Rather than make all these boasts, how about an audit that shows where the money went? I'm willing to bet a lot of it went into people's pockets.

Passing Beattie Road and Summer Tree Apartments today, I saw large signs on the roadside advertising for renters, pet friendly, move in specials, etc. How can the commissioners of our city and county talk about housing shortages when every housing complex has huge signs of "Now Leasing" and all kinds of special incentives to new renters?

Let's see ... who was it that called our former president "Sleepy Joe?" Is it that vile individual who stays up all night posting nonsense on the internet and then sleeps through important meetings? I believe that's called hypocrisy.

Here's an idea: Let's get rid of the do-nothings in KADB and pay the Scouts to clean up this city. They'll actually do the job. One problem: They're not affiliated with the right church to get such a job.

Albany used to be such a nice, thriving community. Under the current leadership, this place is headed straight to hell. Yet we keep re-electing these very bad people, who lie, cheat, steal from taxpayers, and hand out our tax money to people they owe who've done nothing for that money.

COLUMNIST ■ SCOTT LUDWIG

One timely time capsule

Had I made a time capsule back in the 1970s, it would have included a mood ring, a rotary-dial telephone, and maybe a piece of shag carpeting. I might also have thrown in an 8-track tape of the Marshall Tucker Band, my powder blue leisure suit (please don't judge me) and – space permitting – the avocado green toaster I used for breakfast pastries in college.

Come to think of it, I believe I might still have a box of those pastries lying around. I'm sure they're still good, because I've always thought Pop-Tarts were like vampires: If they're not exposed to direct sunlight, they can live forever.

I was in the ninth grade when we put a man on the moon, which means that by the time I entered high school, the '70s were well under way. I remember when sniffing a freshly mimeographed copy of a pop quiz ranked high on the list of things I liked about school, right along with eating ice cream sandwiches for lunch and seeing the clock struck 3 p.m. to end another day.

If I still had room left in the time capsule, I would have added the white platform shoes I wore to senior prom (I can feel you judging me, and I clearly asked you not to) and the driver from my golf bag -- when the club heads were still made of wood. I also would have considered the yearbook from my senior year, only I thought it might be a little too personal for communicating with future generations.

About those yearbooks: Back then we were able to purchase bona fide hard-copy editions – not the digital versions that are offered today. What we did with the yearbooks was pass them around in class so everyone could sign them – which, now that I think about it, might be the reason they're now digital. Since schools no longer teach cursive writing, no one can sign their name anyhow.

For those of you who will never partake in the annual tradition of signing yearbooks, it's a shame you'll miss out on it because the day we signed them was almost like a holiday. All we did on one very special day was pass our yearbooks around in class and write personal messages to one another. And sign our names, of course. In script.

The messages were to congratulate one another that the school year was over and to wish every-



LUDWIG

one a terrific summer and/or successful future. Some chose to write complete fabrications about a suddenly-realized school spirit that was never exhibited at any time throughout the entire time the student was in high school.

If you looked at my senior class yearbook and read the comments from my classmates, it might surprise you that for the most part, all of us were strangers.

By far the most popular option when signing yearbooks was to offer a few words of advice. The majority of those comments can be summed in just two words: "Stay cool."

However, in my yearbook there were two notable exceptions to everything I've mentioned thus far. One was what Cindy wrote. When she signed my yearbook, we had been dating for a little over five months. Today we've been married for almost 50 years. She wrote a chronicle about what the future had in store for us, and wouldn't you know, most of it came true.

The other was written by a classmate named Robin. On the day we signed yearbooks, there

was an eclipse, so for most of the day it was dark as night outside. Robin wrote just six words: I pray it gets light outside.

Recently I thought about what Robin wrote in my yearbook. If you've been watching the news – and by that I mean the reputable stations, not "performance art" networks like MSNOW and Fox News – you know that we're constantly being inundated with horrifying news about what's going on in the world. Day after day after day. It never seems to end, nor ever get any better.

Which brings me back to what Robin wrote back in my yearbook back in 1973. Maybe she wasn't referring to the eclipse like I thought at first. It's very possible she was just expressing her hope for the future.

On that note, there's a chance I might be wrong about my yearbook being a little too personal for a time capsule. If someone opened my yearbook right now, in these darkest of days, Robin's words could very well be what we all need at the moment.

Hope for some light at the end of one very dark tunnel.

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

The attack of the \$20 burrito

Turning Point USA's Andrew Kolvet got people talking with an early August tweet in which he relates a student activist's take on the "affordability" issue. "A burrito," the student told him, "shouldn't cost \$20."

On the putative political "right," responses range between two endpoints.

At one end, various "burrito index" projects demonstrate that it's difficult, if not impossible, to find a \$20 burrito in America unless it's delivered or from a restaurant with a big-name chef that charges \$200 a plate for things cooked with weird "reductions" and served covered in even weirder "aolis," if you can even get a reservation without first showing your Oscar trophy or mega-millions net worth to establish cred.

At the other end, soon-to-be-former Texas congressman Dan Crenshaw's "stop whining, get a job, eat Ramen like the rest of us did in college, on a budget with 4 roommates" tweet.

Before going further down the \$20 burrito rabbit hole, I think it's important to let Kolvet rescue himself from the notion that he's a \$20 burrito complaint radical himself. He ratchets the situation down to the more obvious real problem:

"Yeah, a lot of this is a hangover from COVID and Biden-era inflation," he writes, because, of course, a Republican will always shift as much blame as possible to a Democrat, "but the lived experience is the same: It just feels like basic things cost too much."

Fact check: Yes, that's true.

I did a little "burrito index" type checking in my own neck of the woods, and the most expensive burrito I could find cost \$16.95.

The "El Dueno," on offer at my favorite local Tex-Mex place, Los Avina in Archer, Fla., is "stuffed with steak strips, topped with white cheese dip, sautéed onions, bell peppers, grilled chicken and shrimp," and is served with a side of rice (all diners get "bottomless" chips and salsa there, too). With



KNAPP

a drink, call it \$20 plus tip for a full meal, of which the incredibly robust burrito is only part.

So, yeah, the "\$20 burrito" complaint is wildly overblown.

But back to "the lived experience." Yes, things cost more than they used to. That's always the case, but it's been more the case over the last few years. While there are various reasons for that, the biggest one is taxes, and the most pernicious, if not always the largest annual, tax is inflation.

People tend to think of inflation as just another word for "price increases," and mainstream media use of the word encourages that.

But, as the late economist Milton Friedman explained, "inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon."

To unpack that a little: Inflation occurs when there's more "money" chasing after the same amount of goods, and that's caused when "money" is created

by a central authority (the Federal Reserve) which can just magically create more any time its partner (the U.S. government) wants to borrow a bunch.

In theory, the Fed tries to keep inflation at an annual rate of about 2%. In 2026, it's running at about 3.5%, after hitting a high of 8% in 2022.

When a restaurant's costs – ingredients, rent, electricity, labor, etc. – go up by 2% or 8%, its prices are going to go up as well. The restaurateur isn't going to lose money for the privilege of serving you the El Dueno. And who can blame him?

If inflation is at "only" 2%, you're paying \$1 in taxes for every \$50 you spend from savings, above and beyond income taxes, sales taxes, etc. Inflation is as real as those other taxes, just not as immediately obvious.

The Burrito Liberation Front's mission is to stop the Fed from creating, and the government from borrowing, so much money.

COLUMNIST ■ CHARLIE HAYSLETT

Number of Georgia counties reporting more deaths than births rises to 98 in 2025

The number of Georgia counties reporting more deaths than births rose again in 2025, according to new data published by the Georgia Department of Public Health. That unhappy number hit 98, up from 94 of the state's 159 counties in 2024, and one county broke even, with the same number of births and deaths.

The number of counties reporting more deaths than births has been rising steadily since 2010. Before that – from 1994 (the earliest year for which DPH has data) until 2009 – the number floated primarily in the teens, not breaking 20 until 2010. But since then, with rare exception, it stair-stepped steadily up, peaking at 124 counties during the COVID pandemic before dropping back into its pre-COVID trajectory in 2023.

Not surprisingly, most of the counties posting more deaths than births are small, sparsely populated counties south of the gnat line. Georgia has 102 coun-

ties with populations of fewer than 35,000 people; overall, those 102 counties suffered 3,286 more deaths than they gained in new births.

Virtually all of deep southwest Georgia posted negative numbers. That includes Thomas (Thomasville) and Dougherty (Albany) counties, both important population and economic centers. It's not until you get into the south-central part of the state, along Interstate 75, that you start to find some positive numbers, including in Tift and Lowndes counties, whose county seats are Tifton and Valdosta, respectively.

Statewide, Georgia last year posted 125,143 births against 97,802 deaths, a net gain of 27,341. Nearly all of that net gain – 22,004 net births, or 80.5% of the state's total – took place in



HAYSLETT

my Trouble in God's Country 12-county metro Atlanta region. The other areas posting relatively positive numbers were the exurban counties just north of Atlanta; the fast-growing counties between Atlanta and Athens, and the coastal region anchored by Savannah and several neighboring counties, including Bryan County, site of the new Hyundai meta plant.

The differences even turn up in the state's political geography. Of the state's net 27,341 new births, 22,175 – 81.1% -- were in the 27 counties that sided with then-Vice President and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential race. Only 5,166 net births took place in the 132 counties that went for Donald Trump.

Some 89.5% of Georgia's 2025 net births took place in the 71

counties I put into north Georgia (drawing that line can get to be a little subjective), and the remaining 10.5% were in the 88 south Georgia counties.

Across the belly of the state, it wasn't just small rural counties that had more burials than births: Macon-Bibb, located in the center of the state; Baldwin County, home to Middle Georgia College and State University, and Laurens County, anchored by Dublin, all fell into negative territory.

And even the regional hub counties that did manage to post positive numbers couldn't come close to keeping pace with the Atlanta area counties: Columbus-Muscogee posted 3.9% more births than deaths; Augusta-Richmond, 2.0% more births, and Chatham County, anchored by Savannah, 7.8%. The biggest metro Atlanta counties all produced at least 10% more births than deaths, led by Gwinnett County with 17.1% more births.



THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany  
HERALD  
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Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

— Georgia Trust for —

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S  
BIBLE  
VERSE

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

**Joshua 24:15**

COLUMNIST ■ CARLTON FLETCHER

For some Lee County ‘leaders,’  
ego trumps success

School’s out for summer. School’s out forever.

-- Alice Cooper

Watch a little deeper than the surface the actions of certain individuals in Lee County, and you’ll have no problem figuring why the once-thriving county to the north of Albany is one of the few Republican enclaves in the region.

Pay attention as you see entrenched elected officials and some of their selected henchmen try to remake the county in their own image, and if you don’t see Trumpian action, you’re just not paying attention.

I refer to Lee County as “once-thriving,” because there is activity afoot to wrest control of the county’s greatest asset by individuals who just can’t stand the fact – a la Trump – that another entity in the community gets more than a lion’s share of credit for the county’s improbable resurgence that is well into its fourth decade.

The once-untouchable Lee County School System is now under fire from individuals – some of them elected, some of them self-appointed keepers of their own eerie faith – who don’t like the fact that the education system is the basis for Lee’s improbable growth.

Oh, everyone was fine with the school system when Mr. Clay -- the incomparable Robert Clay -- was running things. One of the county’s own, Clay – by force of his impressive will – led a metamorphosis in the school system that saw it evolve from a “a bunch of good ole country school houses” into one of the finest systems in the state.

That was OK with the self-imposed saviors of the county, but it seems that the more the narrative became “Lee County’s growth is attributable to the school system” – and, thus, the more taxpayer money the system required – individuals with no ties to the system and too old to have been part of its renaissance started to blanch at the thought of someone else getting credit that everyone – or every right-thinking person – knew they deserved.

So a rift is developing among these “leaders” as they seek to subvert and diminish the impact of the ultra-successful school system and its leaders, a little “showing them who has the power around here.”

And who suffers? The students who are in the system, of course.

You’d have a tough time finding people who’d say so out loud, but before things started turning around in Lee County, its school system was a mess. Its teachers were doing what they could with inadequate supplies, and curriculum matters were far behind other more advanced schools in the

state.

But things started turning around when a little something called “white flight” became a driving force in the county. Whites living in Dougherty, Terrell, Sumter, Crisp and other surrounding counties started moving to what they saw as a “safer environment,” taking their students out of what were overcrowded and ever-diminishing public schools and, rather than enroll them in costly private schools, just moved into Lee County.

And these people who were making the move had grown accustomed to top-of-the-line services in the counties they were leaving behind, so they started demanding the same in their newer, whiter neighborhoods.

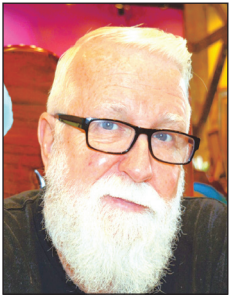
Infrastructure improvements were not only demanded by all these new citizens, they were required by state officials who basically said, “No one else moves into the county until you make upgrades” ... on things like roads, waste treatment, water supplies, utilities.

Some, to this day, take credit for bringing the infrastructure upgrades to the county, but the fact is leaders had no choice. It was make improvements or halt the sudden momentum that caught the region and the state by surprise.

Even as those service upgrades were being made, new young educators with dynamic ideas about how to improve the school system started making their way into the system. And as the schools improved, the white flight that had initially spurred the county’s growth changed as well. It became more of a brain-drain, as parents were anxious to be a part of the improving school system with new facilities, new attitudes, and new ideas.

Now, it seems the leaders and self-imposed wags who “know what’s best for the county” – some of whom have no ties to Lee or to its school system but like the idea of taking the elite down a few pegs to feed their own enormous egos – are taking aim at school officials, trying to exert their will and prove to any who will listen that they’re the reason Lee County has enjoyed an economic boom, not these namby-pambies who sit behind desks all day.

These individuals may indeed get their way, may eventually succeed in putting school leaders in their place. One might ask them what they hope to get out of their efforts to exert control over the successful school officials, but that question is moot. Most of these people do not care about the county, its students or the success of the exceptional school system. They just want to make sure everyone understands that they’re the ones who deserve the credit.



FLETCHER

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

It’s not always about luck

Louis Weertz was a high school boxer. Some disconcerting injuries from that sport motivated him to pursue another, quite different, interest: piano.

Weertz enjoyed playing a fusion of jazz, classical and pop, but his college allowed only classical music. They caught him playing the pop tune “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” and expelled him. Nevertheless, he persisted.

His performance at the Hotel Madison impressed one of the guests, David Kapp. Kapp Records immediately signed the pianist and gave him the stage name Roger Williams. Williams was one of the most popular musical entertainers during the mid-20th century.

I heard Williams speak and conduct a seminar at my college back in the day. He said (my paraphrase), “People think to make it in the music industry, you have to be lucky. That’s not all of it. You have to be prepared and ready when luck happens.”

It’s not surprising that hard work and preparation are prerequisites for success in the music industry. It makes sense that unexpected opportunities can look like luck and contribute to success. But be careful trying to apply the idea of luck to the Christian life. To do so hints at doing things for God rather than joining in the things God is doing. The difference is who does the preparing and doing.

The founder of Samari-

tan’s Purse, Bob Pierce, used the term “God room.” He said, “God has to fill that space – that room – between what’s possible and what He wants done that’s impossible. That’s what I mean by God room.”

Pierce recognized the limitations of human vision, resources, and effort and welcomed the providence of God in accomplishing His purposes. The Bible says, “You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.’” (Jas. 4:14-15)

Jesus used the verbal imagery of a vineyard to express this idea in a very personal way. He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

As the vine provides sustenance to the fruiting branch, He provides what you need to accomplish His purposes in you. This is how “your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58)

God made you to be productive. Discipline and hard work are admirable traits. But those, plus luck, are not what accomplishes God’s work in and through you. Success and joy come by making your home (abide) in Christ and leaving the results (fruit) to Him. Luck has nothing to do with it.

SHARE YOUR  
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EMAIL: carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

MAIL: Albany Herald News

306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701

COLUMNIST ■ SEAN DIETRICH

The optimist’s guide to the present

The complainers speak in all caps sometimes.

“AMERICA IS FALLING APART,” they often say. “THINGS ARE WORSE NOW THAN EVER BEFORE.”

But just because something was typed in capital letters doesn’t make it true.

Actually, things are not worse than ever before. Less than 100 years ago, in 1933, nearly 30% of Americans were unemployed. More than 2 million children abandoned schoolhouses for factory jobs. About 150,000 families were starving, eating weeds and roadside scraps to combat malnutrition.

Whereas today, the unemployment rate is 4%. Meanwhile, we’re more educated than ever – federal law mandates free K-12 education for all. Also, more than 86% of households are food secure.

“WHATEVER,” the angry people type while compressing the Shift key. “THIS IS STILL THE WORST PERIOD IN HISTORY.”

Is it? Let’s talk Earth history for a moment. Millions of years ago, temperatures were approaching 150 degrees, which is almost as hot as a Porta-John at a bluegrass festival. Earth creatures retreated to polar

regions, en masse. They starved, of course.

Mass extinction was the norm. Acid rain burned plants, killed trees, and destroyed animal eyesight. A super-volcano spewed enough lava to cover North America in a layer of lava half a mile deep. Meantime, here comes an asteroid. Whereas today, you have Starbucks.

“OKAY, MAYBE THE WORLD ISN’T LITERALLY FALLING APART. BUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS DESTROYING OUR WAY OF LIFE.”

This is exactly what they said about machines during the Industrial Revolution, but we survived.

“WHAT’RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MACHINES HAVE RUINED US. THEY MAKE LIFE SOOO COMPLICATED.”

Complicated?

“YES!”

But machines make your life easier.

“NUH-UH.”

Yes-huh.

“NUH-UH!”

OK. Do me a favor. Go to your pantry. Select an item from your shelf. Any item. Go ahead, I’ll wait.

Great. That can of pineapple you’re holding didn’t just land on the shelf by itself. And you certainly

didn’t pick the pineapple with your own two hands. You were too busy fondling your caps lock key. I’m going to tell you how that pineapple got to your shelf.

“NO. PLEASE DONT.”

First, tractors somewhere in Hawaii dragged mechanically intelligent implements across the soil, unrolling plastic onto soil beds to control weeds and retain moisture. Pineapples were then planted by machines, then watered by automated irrigation systems.

Whereupon, self-propelled farming equipment harvested each pineapple, placing them into cargo trucks. Next, pineapples were dumped onto conveyor systems where automated circular saws sliced off their leaves. Fruit then passed into industrial baths of high-pressure water jets, which scrubbed away soil, debris, pesticides and mammalian excreta.

“GROSS. YOU SAID MAMMALIAN EXCRETA.”

Next, high-speed digital cameras inspected each pineapple, calculating diameter, then routed each pine-

apple to its correct processing area. Then, the fruit was ushered into the “Henry Ginaca machine.” The Henry Ginaca machine was invented during the Technological Revolution, in 1911, by a guy whose name was ... Well, I can’t remember.

In one lightning-fast swipe, the Henry Ginaca machine topped, tailed and punched out a perfect pineapple core, while simultaneously carving away the tough outer rind.

“PLEASE STOP TELLING ME ABOUT PINEAPPLES.”

Afterward, the fruit was dropped onto rotary blades that chopped it into uniform slices. While this was happening, a depalletizer was pushing empty tins off pallets with robotic arms, flipping them upside down, and blasting them with steam.

Pineapple slices were then stacked into cans and sent to an automatic “syrup injector.” Then came the automated vacuum sealer. Then the lid crimper. Then the quality-control machine, then ...

“I’M BEGGING YOU.”

Sealed cans then traveled through a massive, multi-story intelligent pressure

cooker to heat them, cooking pineapple inside the tins, which destroyed dangerous microorganisms. Hot cans then passed under a machine, spraying them with cold water to stop the cooking process and prevent fruit from becoming mush. Then rapid-fire rollers labeled each can. Then, cans were robotically packed. A mechanical palletizer then wrapped the shipment in plastic. Then came a forklift and ...

“BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FAMILY UNIT? WE’RE SEEING THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY.”

Are we? According to studies compiled by organizations like the World Economic Forum and the University of California, Irvine, parent-child time has skyrocketed since the mid-20th century. American children now receive an average of four hours of daily facetime with parents. This might not sound impressive, but only 50 years ago, the same child would have gotten 17 minutes.

“REALLY?”

Really. During the Industrial Age, for example, kids could expect an average of two minutes of facetime. Likewise, only 50 years ago, an average mother would

spend 40 to 56 weekly hours on housework. Today, the American mother spends 18 hours.

“BUT WHAT ABOUT CRIME? WE HAVE MORE WEIRDOS OUT THERE. CRIME IS WORSE. THIS WORLD IS MORE DANGEROUS.”

Nope. You might be confusing this era with the 14th century, when annual homicide rates in cities like, for instance, London, were around 110 deaths per 100,000 people. Today, the average homicide rate in Europe is around one per 100,000.

On a global scale, however, things have changed more dramatically. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime found that worldwide homicide rates – even in just the last 30 years – have dropped sharply. In the United States alone, violent crime fell by more than 50% since 1993.

You might want to read that last sentence again.

“I STILL DON’T BELIEVE YOU. YOU’RE SMOKING CRACK.”

“GIMME A BREAK. THIS WORLD IS A SICK PLACE. YOU CAN’T CONVINCE ME OTHERWISE.”

I will agree with you there. Because negativity is definitely a disease.





Special Photos: TRMC  
New health care providers at Tift Regional Medical Center are, from left, Dr. Faustine Ceasor, Dr. Manojna Sanjeev and Logan Franks.

## TRMC welcomes three hospital-based providers

**Staff Reports**  
*news@albanyherald.com*

**TIFTON** -- Tift Regional Medical Center recently welcomed three new hospital-based providers. The trio includes:

Dr. Faustine Ceasor:  
Specialty: Pediatric Hospital Medicine  
Medical School: Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Medicine, Uganda  
Residency Training: NYC Health + Hospitals/Wood-

hull, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Dr. Manojna Sanjeev  
Specialty: Anesthesia  
Medical School: Andhra Medical College, A.P. India  
Residency Training: Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Long Island, N.Y.  
Fellowship: University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston  
Logan Franks  
Specialty: Anesthesia  
Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia: University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

## A new plan to preserve Georgia marshes: Give them space to migrate

**By Emily Jones**  
*WABE/Grist*

**MIDWAY** -- In coastal Liberty County, a creekside park nestled between the town of Midway and Interstate 95 is losing its battle with high tide. “If we walk that way, you’ll be able to see some of the, well, just plain erosion,” Phil Odom, chairman of Liberty County’s Consolidated Planning Commission, said on a recent afternoon. “This is how much it has collapsed. We’ve lost about six, eight feet right here.”

Decades ago, in order to build up a solid foundation for the highway, construction crews dug up earth from this spot and left a deep pit. Although the park is more than 15 miles from the ocean, the tide washes up the creek and into the manmade basin twice a day. Over time, the salt water has deposited sediment in the pit, turning it into a shallow mud flat with little islands of marsh grass cropping up in the middle.

But the tide also has steadily eaten away at the land. The grasses halt abruptly where they reach the small, muddy cliff of the bank — shorn away sharply where the tide has battered it.

Local leaders like Odom are hoping to fix that erosion at the water’s edge, and they’re taking a natural approach, having learned from prior,



Special Photo: Alphonso Whitfield/WABE  
Coastal Georgia’s salt marshes provide a critical buffer against storms and sea level rise.

failed attempts to address the problem.

“We hope for it to replicate nature,” Shannon Marino with Zulu Marine, which builds what are known as living shorelines, said.

Instead of putting up a wall or using chunks of concrete to hold the soil in place, the county is attempting to restore the marsh grasses that grow here naturally. Their roots will help hold the soil in place.

“When our solutions are done, you should look at it and not really recognize it as a repair or a bulkhead or a solution,” Marino said. “It

should just look like nature.”

It’s an increasingly popular way to address coastal erosion in the face of rising seas. Farther down the coast in Brunswick, Zulu Marine is installing a living shoreline along a canal where high tide and an overwhelmed stormwater system regularly flood a nearby recreation path and threaten a local water supply well. While the work is underway, native marsh grasses wait in temporary transport pools; they’ll be replanted over the stabilizing mesh.

But as sea levels rise due to climate change, protecting and replanting the existing marsh plants is only one step. Because the marshes will need to rise along with the tides.

Georgia is home to more than a third of the connected marsh habitat along the coast of the Southeastern U.S. — hundreds of thousands of acres. The salt marsh serves as a critical buffer against storms, and it’s broadly protected under state law.

Salt marshes by their very nature are always moving. Odom, an avid fisherman, has watched Georgia’s dynamic coast change in slow motion over the last 75 years: deep salt water moving into areas that once teemed with marsh grass, marshes in new places, the tide creeping ever higher and leaving the ghostly skeletons of salt-choked trees in its wake.

“Remember Jurassic Park, like nature can always find a way,” University of North Carolina wetland scientist Lori Sutter said. “Because of the magic of salt marshes they’re able to persist in this environment where they’re flooded twice a day, every day.”

But that magic of salt marshes only works if they have somewhere to go. Sea level rise driven by climate change is forcing marshes to move faster and farther inland. The sea level on Georgia’s coast is projected to rise one to two meters in the next 75 years. If the marshes can’t keep up, the coast will be left that much more vulnerable.

Once a migrating marsh encounters a paved road or a building, it hits a dead end. There’s nowhere for new grasses to take root, which means the rising tide can sweep in unabated, swamping the marsh and threatening man-made structures behind it that the marsh once protected.

That’s why a new action plan

by a coalition of conservation groups, scientists, government agencies, and coastal communities calls for protecting not just the salt marsh itself, but also the adjacent land. The plan from the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative has identified more than 56,000 acres of land in Georgia where marshes will likely migrate that are also currently open to development.

“That creates this really vast area that you’re trying to conserve, which can be overwhelming,” Courtney Reich, the coastal director for Georgia Conservancy, said. Her group is working with Phil Odom and the other stakeholders in Midway and Brunswick and is spearheading the Georgia work under the initiative, which is a multi-state effort to restore and protect coastal salt marshes.

The plan is a roadmap, not a binding policy or seizure of anyone’s land. Instead, the authors hope to help landowners and public officials make informed decisions.

“You know, do we want to build up to the edge of the water or do we want to leave room?” Reich said.

Short-term needs often drive land use conversations, she said. This plan aims to get people thinking about the long view.

Reich and the other members of the Georgia SASMI implementation team have been meeting with coastal stakeholders, including landowners and local leaders, to educate them on the needs of the marsh and the options for conservation and policy.

“We really do have to up our conservation game in Georgia,” she said.

That means advocating for policy change at the local and state level and also helping both local governments and private landowners undertake marsh-friendly projects. A key component of that work is compiling funding sources, drawing on what Reich called the “ecosystem” of land trusts, nonprofits, and both public and private grants.

“We want to make sure that we support and increase their capacity to do this work in our coastal environment,” she said.

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.

## Congress Votes

**By Targeted News Service**

**WASHINGTON** -- Here’s a look at how Georgia’s members of Congress voted over the previous week.

Along with its roll call votes, this week the Senate also passed the Youth Poisoning Protection Act (S. 289) to ban the sale of products with a high concentration of sodium nitrite to individuals; the Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment Act (S. 3977) to modify certain bankruptcy eligibility requirements; the Foreign Robocall Elimination Act (S. 2666) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force on unlawful robocalls; and the Kay Hagan Tick Reauthorization Act (S. 2398).

There were no key votes in the House this week.

### SENATE VOTES:

**CDC DIRECTOR:** The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Erica Schwartz to

direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Schwartz has been a health manager in the Coast Guard and Navy, was deputy surgeon general in 2019 and 2020, and was an executive at United Healthcare from 2022 to 2026. The vote, on Aug. 5, was 51 yeas to 44 nays.

**NAYS:** Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

**PFAS REGULATIONS:** The Senate has rejected a motion to consider a bill (S.J. Res. 187) sponsored by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., that would have disapproved of and voided an Environmental Protection Agency rule issued this April regarding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Whitehouse claimed that the rule, by delaying reporting requirements for the PFAS, would enable efforts by the chemical industry to weaken PFAS protections. A bill opponent, Sen. Shelley Moore



**Raphael Warnock**

Capito, R-W. Va., said the EPA delayed the requirements “for a straightforward reason, which is that the infrastructure that is needed to support this reporting program is still being built.” The vote, on Aug. 5, was 48 yeas to 50 nays.

**YEAS:** Ossoff D-GA, Warnock D-GA

**EN BLOC NOMINEES:** The Senate has passed a motion to end debate on a bill (S. Res. 817) sponsored by Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., to consider, en bloc, 74 presidential nominees to



**Jon Ossoff**

various positions, including ambassadors to Brazil and Norway, several judges, and other judicial branch nominees. An opponent, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said: “Even though I support some of the nominations in the bloc, I must stand up today to speak against the other nominations and the lack of bipartisan representation at independent agencies.” The vote, on Aug. 5, was 50 yeas to 44 nays.

**NAYS:** Ossoff D-GA

**NOT VOTING:** Warnock D-GA

## Georgia tax revenues remained strong in July

**By Ty Tagami**  
*Capital Beat News Service*

**ATLANTA** — Georgia tax revenue continued to rise in July, bolstered by strong receipts from the sales and use tax, which sent more money to local governments.

Net tax collections were \$2.57 billion, up \$78.1 million from July 2025.

That 3.1% increase came despite a 2.1% year-over-year drop in collections from individual income tax.

That \$27.1 million decline from July of last year was counterbalanced by soaring receipts from the corporate income tax, which rose 34.3%, up \$18.4 million.

The decline in individual income tax revenue continues a slide from June, when individual income tax collections fell 6.7%, or nearly \$100 million, driven significantly by rising tax refunds.

The recent increase in corporate income tax revenue builds on a 7% year-over-year increase in June.

The July numbers, released by Gov. Brian Kemp’s office, indicated that shoppers were helping to prop up tax revenues.

Net proceeds from the sales and use tax rose 10% year over year, up \$79.2 million, for a total of \$875.3 million. Gross receipts totaled \$1.78 billion, up \$162.8 million

from July of last year.

Adjusted sales tax distributions to local governments rose \$85.9 million, totaling \$894.5 million.

The overall increase occurred despite another decline in motor fuel tax collections. The \$10.6 million year-over-year drop in July came despite the end in early

June of a gas tax suspension that Gov. Brian Kemp and lawmakers had approved to counter rising prices during the Iran conflict.

The motor fuel tax had fallen nearly \$197 million in June compared to the prior year, nearly the same amount as in May when the suspension first went into effect.

## Healthcare costs are a potent political issue in Georgia, but more for Democrats than Republicans

**By Ty Tagami**  
*Capital Beat News Service*

**ATLANTA** — With healthcare costs continuing to rise, the issue could prove to be a potent one in Georgia’s upcoming election for governor.

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms has made it a core part of her campaign, blaming Republicans for refusing to accept Medicaid expansion as a solution.

Rick Jackson, her Republican opponent, agrees that rising costs are a problem, but he argues that increased access

to commercial insurance is the solution.

A new survey of about 1,000 likely voters by the University of Georgia complicates the narrative.

Conducted in June for the Georgia Health Initiative, the survey found that more than 90% of Democrats and Republicans who responded had health insurance coverage.

Yet concerns about rising costs crossed party lines, with 54% of Democrats and 38% of Republicans saying they were very or somewhat wor-

ried about being able to afford their monthly premiums over the next year.

“Republicans on average, compared to Democrats or independents, tended to be slightly less worried about various healthcare-related costs,” M.V. Hood III, the political science professor in charge of the survey, said. But he said he found remarkable similarity regardless of party affiliation.

GOP respondents “weren’t quite up at the same level as Democrats or independents, but you’re still talking about a very siz-

able number of people here.”

Nearly three-quarters of Democrats and more than two-thirds of independents said healthcare in Georgia was not very affordable or not affordable at all. Fewer Republicans, but still just shy of half, felt the same.

Nearly half of Democrats and a quarter of Republicans said they had skipped or delayed care in the past year due to the cost.

Democrats were more exposed to the cost of private insurance — either through an employer or a personal policy,

with a fifth of them on Medicare versus nearly a third of Republicans.

Talking to reporters later, she leveraged the issue to attack Jackson, who built his personal wealth through the healthcare staffing company he created.

“I’m not mad about him being a billionaire,” Bottoms said of Jackson. “God hasn’t seen fit to make me one yet. But what I am mad about is that he’s got a healthcare company and he doesn’t want to expand Medicaid.”



# Georgia Farm Bureau accepting entries for hay contest, directory

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**MACON** — Georgia Farm Bureau currently is accepting entries of dry bermudagrass hay, any variety, until Oct. 30 for its 35th annual GFB Quality Hay Contest. Hay entered in the contest will be tested at a University of Georgia lab using the Relative Forage Quality Test, which provides an analysis of the nutritional value of the hay.

Winners will be determined by the RFQ analysis and will be announced at the GFB convention in December. Prizes will be presented to the top five producers. The first-place winner will receive the free use of a Vermeer wheel rake for one year, courtesy of the Vermeer Corporation. The winner will have the option to purchase the rake at a reduced price at the end of the year.

“If you grow any variety of bermudagrass hay, entering this contest is a great way to

have the nutritional quality of your hay analyzed,” Dougherty County Farm Bureau President John Takash said in a news release. “Everyone who enters hay samples in this contest will benefit from learning what management adjustments they can make to their hay fields to improve the quality of their hay.”

Contest rules, applications and instructions for submitting samples are available at the

Dougherty County Farm Bureau office or may be downloaded at [www.gfb.ag/Hay-Contest](http://www.gfb.ag/Hay-Contest). All hay entered must have been grown in Georgia on a field with at least 25 days of maturity or regrowth. Hay samples should be naturally dried in the field. Any sample with moisture above 18% will be disqualified. Any samples with nitrates above 4,500 parts per million will be disqualified.

Entrants should fill a one-gallon, zip-lock bag with hay taken from the center of at least five different bales (rolls

or squares) that come from the same field and cut under uniform conditions. Hay samples should be taken with a hay probe.

Contestants must be a Georgia Farm Bureau member to enter the contest and have their own membership number. Non-Farm Bureau members may join at the county Farm Bureau office of their choice or at <https://www.gfb.org/join/join-today>. There is a \$25 entry fee for each sample entered in the contest to cover the cost of the lab analysis. Hay producers may enter more than one sample and will receive RFQ analysis for all samples submitted.

Contestants submitting multiple samples, however, may only place in the contest’s top five for their sample with the highest RFQ score. Entry fees, forms and samples should be sent to the GFB Public Policy Department, 1620 Bass Road, Macon, Ga., 31210. Entry fees, forms and samples may also

be taken to a county Farm Bureau office.

GFB is also accepting listings for its online hay directory. Farm Bureau members with hay for sale or who offer custom harvesting or custom sprigging services are invited to list their hay and/or services in the GFB Quality Hay Directory published on the GFB website. Hay for sale or services can be listed or removed from the directory throughout the year.

To be included in GFB’s online hay directory, complete a submission form by visiting a county Farm Bureau office or online at [www.gfb.ag/hay](http://www.gfb.ag/hay). Hay producers who enter the GFB Quality Hay Contest receive a free listing in the GFB Hay Directory. Hay producers who don’t enter the hay contest but would like to list their hay for sale should send a \$10 check made payable to Georgia Farm Bureau for each listing of hay, custom harvesting or custom sprigging.



**Special Photo: Georgia Farm Bureau**  
Georgia Farm Bureau is accepting entries for its annual hay contest,

## Georgia election panel turns focus on 2028

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**ATLANTA** -- In 2028, as Georgia residents cast their ballots in the presidential primary, voters across the state will be using a brand new election system. At least, that’s the hope of a special committee dedicated to helping state officials make the switch.

The committee, which includes mostly Republican lawmakers from both chambers as well as current and former election officials and other experts, held its first meeting recently at the state Capitol. The panel was established under a new law passed in June during the state’s special legislative session.

Lawmakers had been faced with a self-imposed deadline to end the use of ballot QR codes to tally votes last month. The measure passed earlier this summer extended that deadline to 2028, when Georgia will be required to count ballots using text that can be deciphered by humans. A last-minute amendment to that law instructed the committee to focus solely on hand-marked paper ballot voting systems.

Georgia’s current system uses machines to mark voters’ selections and then prints a completed paper ballot. The machines were purchased for

\$107 million from Dominion Voting Systems, which is now known as Liberty Vote, and used statewide in Georgia for the first time during the 2020 election.

Rep. Victor Anderson, a Cornelia Republican who co-chairs the committee alongside Sen. Max Burns of Sylvania, said he is concerned about the tight timeline to overhaul Georgia’s election system, but remains optimistic that the committee can deliver on its promises.

“We have buy-in from three of the legs of the stool in this state: the Senate, the House and the governor’s office,” he said. “Everybody understands the importance of this. Everybody understands the immediacy of us getting it done, and so I feel very confident that we can do that.”

Anderson added that the committee will be able to build on previous work from other legislative bodies, such as a “blue ribbon” committee on elections that met throughout last summer and fall.

Atlanta Rep. Scott Holcomb, the panel’s sole Democratic appointee, urged the committee to dedicate some of its time to cleaning up the state’s election code and removing references to old systems and technologies that are no longer in use, such as direct-recording electron-



**Special Photo: Maya Homan/Georgia Recorder**  
Members of Georgia’s Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee hold their first meeting in Atlanta earlier this month.

ic voting machines that were used statewide before 2020.

“Part of what we also should be doing is to identify where the code really needs some modernization and updating,” he said. “These things are not divorced from each other. In fact, they’re central and critical to the overall policies that we might implement going forward.”

The committee’s final report is due next year at the end of January to allow state lawmakers to begin the procurement process. The 2027 legislative session will start in January.

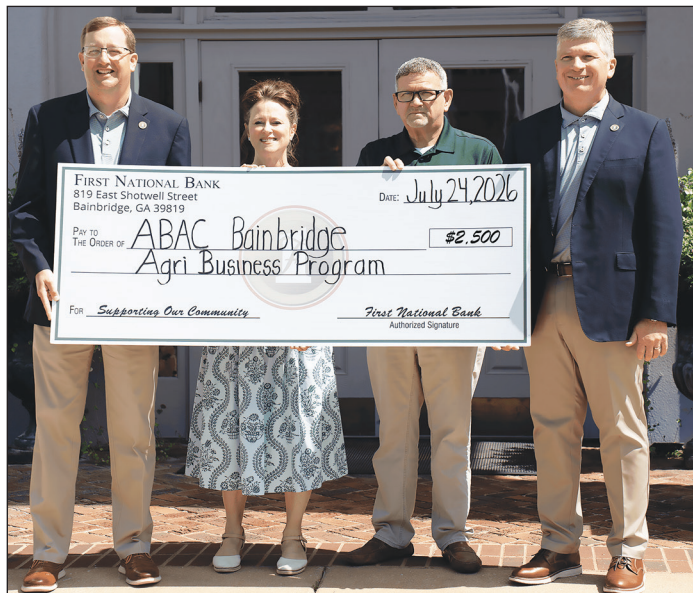
But Deidre Holden, a Paulding County elections director who was also appointed to the panel, urged her colleagues to try and submit it before the end of this year to ensure that local election workers have as much time as possible to implement

the new equipment.

“There’s a lot that goes into the procurement process, and there’s also a lot that goes into public education and also into training our staff and our poll workers,” she said.

Procuring the new system is designed to be a multi-step, competitive process. Assuming everything goes smoothly, it could take between four and six months according to Georgia Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Rebecca Sullivan.

The committee is scheduled to hold two additional meetings focused on gaining insight from a variety of experts, and another two meetings hearing from election equipment vendors and learning about their technical capabilities. The next meeting will be held on Sept. 3 in Atlanta.



**Special Photo: ABAC.**  
From left.: Bert Hines, the market manager of First National Bank of Bainbridge, ABAC President Tracy Brundage, Martin Bius, the coordinator of ABAC-Bainbridge’s School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Brad Barber, the president and CEO of First National Bank, take part in a check presentation.

## ABAC-Bainbridge ag program receives support from local bank

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**TIFTON** — Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has received a gift from First National Bank of Bainbridge. The donation, which supports ABAC-Bainbridge’s agricultural program, demonstrates a shared commitment to preparing the next generation of agricultural professionals, school officials said.

The gift was commemorated recently by Bert Hines, market president of First National Bank of Bainbridge; Brad Barber, president and CEO of First National Bank of Bainbridge; Martin Bius, coordinator of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC-Bainbridge; and ABAC President Tracy Brundage.

The \$2,500 donation will enhance hands-on learning opportunities for students in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at ABAC-Bainbridge. The program allows students in southwest Georgia to earn a four-year agriculture degree close to home while preparing for careers in one of the region’s most important industries.

ABAC President Tracy Brundage said partnerships with local businesses are essential to providing students with meaningful educational experiences and strengthening the agricultural workforce.

“Our local partners play a vital role in the success of ABAC and our students,”

Brundage said. “When businesses invest in our programs, they are investing in the future workforce and strengthening the communities we serve. We are grateful to First National Bank of Bainbridge for its generous support of our agriculture program and for helping us continue to provide students with the hands-on education and opportunities that prepare them for successful careers.”

Martin Bius, coordinator of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC-Bainbridge, said the gift will directly benefit students through experiential learning.

“Agricultural Education and Agricultural Studies students in Bainbridge will be able to obtain hands-on learning in and around Decatur County to develop a well-rounded understanding of agriculture components in southwest Georgia, north Florida and east Alabama,” Bius said.

The Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at ABAC-Bainbridge was created to increase access to agricultural education for students across the region while helping meet the workforce needs of one of southwest Georgia’s largest industries. The partnership with First National Bank of Bainbridge reflects a shared investment in educational opportunities, economic development and the future of agriculture, ABAC officials said.

## Four Georgia men sentenced in \$17 million pandemic-relief fraud case

**Staff Reports**  
news@albanyherald.com

**COLUMBUS** — Four Georgia men who conspired to defraud taxpayers by unlawfully claiming millions in pandemic relief funds designed to help small businesses and workers have been sentenced to prison following a National Fraud Enforcement Division investigation that stemmed from Operation Sweet Silence, a major organized crime takedown in Columbus.

“Stopping fraud and protecting taxpayer resources is a central mission for this office and DOJ,” U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. “This multimillion-dollar pandemic fraud was uncovered during Operation Sweet Silence, a coordinated law enforcement effort that dismantled a major criminal gang in Columbus. With our law enforcement partners, we will pursue every lead wherever it goes to ensure justice and safeguard the public.”

“This scheme attempted to

steal nearly \$17.5 million from programs meant to help struggling workers and small businesses survive the pandemic — not bankroll luxury purchases and personal gain,” Special Agent in Charge of FBI Atlanta Marlo Graham said. “The FBI will aggressively pursue anyone who exploits national emergencies for profit.”

“These defendants took COVID relief funds meant for businesses working to keep employees on payroll,” IRS Criminal Investigations Special Agent in Charge Demetrius Hardeman of the IRS’s Atlanta Field Office said. “IRS Criminal Investigation special agents and our federal partners are actively investigating and will continue to hold accountable those who defrauded these programs at a time when the country was most in need of economic relief. Protecting taxpayer funds remains a top priority.”

Christopher Upshaw, aka “Troub,” 26, was sentenced to serve 96 months in prison

to be followed by five years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$411,112.21 in restitution to the U.S. Treasury. Upshaw pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud.

Johnathon Swift, aka “JB,” aka “John Boy,” 34, was sentenced to serve 63 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$417,095.56 in restitution to the U.S. Treasury. Swift previously pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud.

Dontavis Williams, aka “Turk,” 41, was sentenced to serve 115 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$156,531.74 in restitution to the U.S. Treasury. Williams pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud.

Donterious Sparks, 37, was sentenced to serve 41 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$311,072.55 in restitution to the U.S. Treasury. Sparks pre-

viously pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud.

U.S. District Judge Clay Land sentenced the defendants on Aug. 5. There is no parole in the federal system.

According to court documents and evidence presented at sentencing, law enforcement first noticed unusually large IRS deposits into the bank accounts of Tommie Mullins, 32, of Columbus, as part of Operation Sweet Silence, a broader organized crime investigation. Almost simultaneously, court-ordered wiretaps captured Mullins discussing a 20% cut from a fraudulent Employee Retention Credit scheme.

Law enforcement consulted with IRS agents and opened a formal investigation into the pandemic tax fraud. The ERC was a tax credit created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage businesses to keep people employed.

Swift, Williams, and Sparks similarly filed falsified tax returns, fraudulently claiming they were entitled to COVID tax credits.



Fantastic Fifteen: Worthy’s pursuit of perfection continues

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**SYLVESTER** — The state championship ring is tucked away. The celebration has long since ended. The championship banners have been hung.

But for Worth County quarterback Lyndon Worthy, last season’s perfect ending has already become yesterday’s news.

The Rams’ senior quarterback has little interest in reliving the memories of a 15-0 season and the school’s first football state championship since 1987. Instead, he’s focused on something even more difficult than winning it all.

Doing it again.

“What motivates me is to be that good again this year and strive for perfection like last year,” Worthy said. “I want to help lead this team to another perfect season and win another state championship.”

That mindset has become one of the defining characteristics of the Rams’ four-year starter.

Long before he became one of Georgia’s most accom-

plished high school quarterbacks, Worthy was a 5-year-old learning the position from his father, Jared, a former quarterback himself. Those early lessons developed into a career that has placed Worthy among the most productive passers in state history.

Before taking a single snap as a senior, Worthy has already appeared in 39 varsity games, throwing for 9,101 yards and 92 touchdowns while helping transform Worth County into one of Georgia’s premier programs.

The accolades have followed. He was selected as the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s preseason Player of the Year entering last season and was named this year to the AJC’s Georgia Power 100, recognizing the state’s elite football prospects.

None of that happened overnight.

If the freshman version of Worthy could watch the player he has become today, he believes the biggest surprise wouldn’t be his statistics.

“What would surprise me the most is the way I’ve developed my game and how my understanding of the game

has changed,” he said.

Worth County coach Jeff Hammond has witnessed that evolution from the sideline.

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

Hammond may get his wish. The Rams face a much steeper climb this season after moving into Class 3A, where they’ll battle a new region featuring perennial powers Carver-Columbus and Sumter County. It’s a challenge many would rather avoid.

Not Worthy.

“It’s gonna be a tough and competitive year, and I’m excited for it to see how we can perform this year,” he said.

While Worthy’s production on the field has made him one of South Georgia’s most decorated quarterbacks, the recruiting process hasn’t unfolded quite the way he envisioned. Scholarship opportunities have been slower to develop than expected,

although interest continues to grow. Most recently, UT Martin extended an offer, and more schools are expected to keep a close eye on his senior season.

For now, Worthy isn’t dwelling on recruiting rankings or scholarship offers. His attention remains on leading another championship chase.

“My goal this season is to have a great year and be a part of a great competitive team,” he said. “After high school I hope to play at the college level.”

Ask Worthy how he’d like to be remembered around Sylvester a decade from now, and his answer has little to do with passing yards or touchdown records.

“I hope they remember me as a humble and positive athlete,” he said. “I also hope they never forget that state championship.”

The numbers suggest Worthy has already secured his place among the greatest players in Worth County history.

By the time his final pass is thrown this fall, those numbers will almost certainly be even larger.

But if Worthy has his way,



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

A four-year starter for the Worth County Rams, quarterback Lyndon Worthy has set a goal to win another state championship for Worth County after helping the team to a perfect 15-0 season last fall.

the statistic people will remember most won’t be 9,101 passing yards or 92 touch-

down passes. It will be another perfect season.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor’s Emily Phillips scores during Monday’s game against Brooks County in Albany. The Lady Knights fell 17-16 to visiting Brooks County.

Softball Roundup:  
Brooks edges Lady Knights; area teams roll

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** - Deerfield-Windsor scored nine runs in the first inning, watched an eight-run lead disappear, then staged a six-run rally to regain the lead.

And somehow, there was still one more twist.

Brooks County scored in the top of the seventh inning Tuesday to escape with a wild 17-16 victory over the Lady Knights.

Deerfield-Windsor outlived Brooks County 12-10 and led 10-2 after two innings, but couldn’t put away the Lady Trojans.

Brooks County struck first with two runs in the top of the first before Deerfield-Windsor’s offense erupted.

The Lady Knights sent nine runs across in the bottom of the inning on six hits. Millie Champion delivered one of the biggest blows with a two-run single, helping Deerfield take a 9-2 advantage.

Mary Ruth Courtney’s RBI single in the second stretched the lead to 10-2.

Then everything changed.

Brooks County scored eight times in the third to tie the game and added four more in the fourth to build a 14-10 advantage.

This time it was Deerfield-Windsor’s turn to rally.

The Lady Knights exploded for six runs in the bottom of the sixth. Emily Phillips delivered an RBI single before Jennings Curington and Claire Hockman each drew bases-loaded walks. Anna Beth Brady followed

with a two-run double, and Reynolds Bryson’s RBI single completed the comeback and gave Deerfield-Windsor a 16-14 lead.

But the lead didn’t hold.

Brooks County battled back again and ultimately went ahead 17-16 when Macie Wilson delivered an RBI single in the seventh.

Courtney led Deerfield-Windsor with three hits, while Brady went 2-for-4 and drove in a team-high three runs. Champion added two hits.

The Lady Knights also drew 10 walks and stole six bases.

Courtney worked six innings in the circle, allowing 11 runs — eight earned — on eight hits while striking out six and walking five.

Deerfield-Windsor will host Flint River Monday at 4 p.m.

**Monroe splits slugfest-filled doubleheader**

**ALBANY** - There wasn’t much pitching room for error when Monroe and Randolph-Clay got together Tuesday.

The teams combined for 65 runs in two games, with Monroe winning the opener 14-12 before Randolph-Clay captured the second game 20-19.

The split left the Lady Tornados at 4-1.

In the opener, Ariya Lee delivered three hits and three RBIs, including a two-run inside-the-park homer, as Monroe finished with 16 hits.

The Lady Tornados led 7-4 after two innings, but Randolph-Clay battled back and

See **SOFTBALL**, 10A

Lady Trojans push Lowndes to three sets

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — Lee County showed flashes of what it can become Tuesday night as the Lady Trojans opened the 2026 volleyball season with a pair of tough tests at home.

With head coach Tondra Davis back after a year away from the program, Lee County fell to Brookstone in straight sets before pushing Lowndes to three sets. The Lady Trojans won the opener against Lowndes 25-23 before the Lady Vikings rallied to take the final two, 25-21 and 15-8.

For Davis, facing strong competition immediately was no accident.

“Although we have been working diligently since June, playing good teams such as Brookstone and Lowndes helps us refine areas that they expose,” Davis said. “Brookstone showed us every weakness we had. The first set was decent, but our confidence, morale and fight went out the door in the second set.”

The Lady Trojans responded with a much stronger performance against Lowndes.

Jada Ridley helped Lee grab an early advantage in the opening set, while Leila Perkins later served the Lady Trojans to four straight points and a 14-11 lead.

Lowndes rallied to move ahead 18-16, but Carly Harris stopped the run with a kill. With Ragan Selman serving, Lee regained a 20-18 advantage



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County libero Ellie Crosson, left, and Ragan Selman set to return a volley during Tuesday night’s game against Lowndes in Leesburg. The Lady Trojans took the first game against Lowndes, but the Lady Vikings took the next two to win 2-1.

tage after Zhniyah Black delivered a kill.

The teams battled to a 23-23 tie before Ridley hammered a kill to give Lee set point. Mayce Roberts then served the final point as the Lady Trojans closed out the 25-23 victory.

Lee carried that momentum into the second set. With Roberts serving, Ridley delivered three consecutive kills, and Lindsey Kate Starr later helped the Lady Trojans build a 7-2 advantage.

Lee appeared in control at 15-9 before Lowndes se-

nior Abby O’Neal changed the match.

O’Neal served the Lady Vikings to 11 consecutive points, turning Lee’s six-point lead into a 20-15 deficit. The Lady Trojans fought back to within 20-19 but couldn’t regain the lead as Lowndes held on for a 25-21 victory.

The Lady Vikings carried that momentum into the deciding set, using strong serving and solid play at the net to pull away for a 15-8 win.

“We picked it up against Lowndes, but it is true when they say volleyball is a game

of errors because we decided to make too many,” Davis said. “I felt that caused a huge shift. After that, I believe mentally we couldn’t get it back.”

Despite beginning the season with two losses, Davis believes opening night provided exactly the kind of lessons the Lady Trojans can use moving forward.

“Overall, we have to work on limiting errors, being consistent through adversity and finishing,” Davis said. “No one likes a loss or two, but it will help us in so many ways.”

Tua gets first shot in Falcons QB battle

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Falcons have named a starting quarterback, but only for their preseason opener.

Atlanta coach Kevin Stefanski told reporters on Wednesday that Tua Tagovailoa will start the Falcons’ first preseason game against the visiting Denver Broncos on Friday. He added, though, that the quarterback battle between Tagovailoa and incumbent starter Michael Penix Jr., who still hasn’t been fully cleared after sustaining a torn ACL last November, still hasn’t been decided.

“Looking forward to Tua getting his first action in the game in this system,” Stefanski said. “There’s a lot of newness for him as well, in terms of that kind of thing, first time in the building for him as a Falcon. Just understanding all the things that go with it.”

Tagovailoa signed a vet-minimum one-

year, \$1.215 million contract with the Falcons in March after he was released by the Miami Dolphins, who took on nearly a \$100 million salary-cap hit in dead money over the next two seasons by releasing him.

The former first-round pick (fifth overall) in 2020 completed 68% of his passes for 18,166 yards, 120 touchdowns and 59 interceptions over six seasons with the Dolphins.

Penix, a first-round pick (eighth overall) in 2024 by Atlanta, has completed 59.6% of his passes for 2,757 yards, 12 touchdowns and six interceptions over 14 games (12 starts) over two seasons with the Falcons.

He’s been practicing in a limited capacity during training camp, but Stefanski said he still won’t be cleared for 11-on-11 drills in next week’s joint practice against the Indianapolis Colts.

Stefanski said the starters will play



Special Photo: Dale Zanine, Imagn Images

Tua Tagovailoa, left, and Michael Penix Jr. watch practice during Atlanta Falcons training camp. Tagovailoa will start Friday’s preseason opener against Denver as the Falcons continue evaluating their quarterback competition.

approximately 10 plays in the opening preseason game, with Tagovailoa set to be followed by veteran Cooper Rush and undrafted free agent Jack Strand at quarterback.



# Braves power past Mets to take series

## Field Level Media

Tyler Mahle pitched six strong innings and was supported by three solo homers as the Atlanta Braves defeated the visiting New York Mets 6-3 on Wednesday.

The victory enabled the Braves to take two-of-three from the Mets in their final meeting of the year. New York won the season series, 7-6.

Mahle (4-9), who was acquired from San Francisco at the trade deadline, allowed one run — ending his 11-inning scoreless streak since joining Atlanta in the sixth — on four hits with seven strikeouts.

The home runs came from Lane Thomas in the second inning and on back-to-back shots from Mike Yastrzemski and Austin Riley in the

seventh. The Braves also got three hits apiece from Drake Baldwin and Riley.

Zac Thornton (3-3) was the losing pitcher. He worked six innings and allowed three runs on seven hits and one walk, striking out two.

The Braves opened the scoring in the second when Thomas launched a 412-foot solo homer into the left-field seats. It was his 11th home run and his first since being acquired by Atlanta at the trade deadline.

The Braves opened the third inning with runners on the corners, but the Mets enticed Matt Olson into a double play to kill the big inning, although Ronald Acuna Jr. scored on the play.

Riley doubled and Sean Murphy singled to open the fifth inning. Acuna stroked an

RBI single to center but was thrown out trying to reach second base.

The Mets got on the board in the sixth when Luis Torrens hit a solo homer to right field, his fifth, then added a solo homer from Luis Robert Jr., his sixth, in the seventh inning to cut the lead to 3-2.

The Braves padded the lead with three runs in the seventh off reliever Dedniel Nunez. Yastrzemski's ninth homer and Riley's 15th homer started the inning and Acuna doubled and scored on Baldwin's single.

New York's Bo Bichette led off the ninth with a solo homer, his 12th, off Raisel Iglesias. The Mets had runners on the corners with one out but left both men on base.



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images  
Atlanta Braves third baseman Austin Riley had three hits, including his 15th home run, in Wednesday's 6-3 victory over the New York Mets.



Special Photo: Kirby Lee-Imagn Images  
Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' team remains the NFL's most valuable franchise, with Sportico valuing the team at \$15.5 billion

## From 9A SOFTBALL

eventually tied the game 9-9. Monroe finally took control with five runs on six hits in the bottom of the sixth. Lee's RBI single broke the tie and helped the Lady Tornados build a 14-9 advantage before holding off a final Randolph-Clay rally.

Jamiya Duhart also had three hits and three RBIs, while Nariah Tinch, Glendalya Harvey, Raquel Timley, Desarae Johnson and Trinty Toomer each collected multiple hits.

The second game was even wilder.

Monroe pounded out 19 hits and scored 19 runs but couldn't complete the sweep.

Harvey had a huge game at the plate, going 5-for-5 with three doubles and a triple. Monroe scored five runs in the first, four in the second and four more in the third. Randolph-Clay kept coming, however, scoring five runs in both the fourth and fifth innings before rallying to tie the game in the seventh and eventually earning the 20-19 victory.

Lee, Harvey, Timley, Layla Clay and Duhart each drove in two runs for Monroe, which stole 12 bases.

Monroe will begin region play Tuesday when they host Columbus at Gordon Park. Game time is 5 p.m.

## Lee County 4, Colquitt County 1

**MOULTRIE** - Tina Benton delivered Lee County's best pitching performance of the young season as the Lady Trojans earned a 4-1 road victory over Colquitt County.

Benton threw a complete game, limiting the Lady Packers to five hits and one unearned run over seven innings. She struck out eight and walked three as Lee County improved to 2-1.

The Lady Trojans took the lead with a run in the third before Makinley Duke provided the biggest swing of the game in the fifth, blasting a two-run homer to left field with two strikes.

Lee County finished with 11 hits. Porter Butler went 3-for-4 from the leadoff spot, while Mac Davis and Brylyn Parsons each had multiple hits.

Lee County begins region competition Tuesday at home against Thomas County Central. First pitch is planned

for 5 p.m.

## Westover 14, Carver-Columbus 2

**ALBANY** - Neal drove in four runs and Westover used an eight-run second inning to overwhelm Carver-Columbus 14-2.

Neal had an RBI single in the first before delivering the biggest blow of the game with a three-run inside-the-park homer during Westover's second-inning outburst.

Morgan Polite and Ma'Lyisha Washington added run-scoring doubles in the second, while Polite and Janiyah Winslow had RBI doubles as Westover tacked on three more runs in the third.

Chamyra Astin earned the victory in the circle, allowing no hits and one unearned run over three innings.

Neal and Polite each had two hits, while the Lady Patriots stole 10 bases.

Westover begins region play by hosting Bainbridge Tuesday at Gordon Park. First pitch is set for 5 p.m.

## Terrell Academy 12, Southland Academy 3

**DAWSON** - Jacey Lane drove in four runs and Terrell Academy collected 15 hits in a 12-3 victory over Southland Academy.

Southland jumped ahead 2-0 in the first, but the Lady Eagles tied the game in the second before taking control in the third.

Lane singled home a run, Blakely Aultman delivered an RBI double and Jaelynn Oliver added a run-scoring single as Terrell Academy moved in front.

Lane finished with three hits, including a two-run double in the sixth. Lily Addison also had three hits, while Aultman, Oliver and Michaela Zingerelli each had multiple hits.

Aultman earned the win, allowing five hits and three runs — two earned — over six innings. She struck out four and walked two.

The Lady Eagles are on the road this week with games at Brookwood and Westwood. They will be home again on August 24th when defending state champion SGA comes to Dawson.

# Cowboys top NFL club values again

## Field Level Media

The Dallas Cowboys remain the NFL's most valuable franchise at \$15.5 billion, according to Sportico's annual valuation list released Wednesday.

The number represents a 21% increase from last year.

While profitable off the field, Jerry Jones' Cowboys haven't won a Super Bowl since Jan. 28, 1996.

The Los Angeles Rams (\$12.7 billion) and New York Giants (\$12 billion) are second and third, respectively, on the list.

In total, nine NFL clubs are valued at least \$10 billion. The group includes the New England Patriots (\$10.4), New York Jets (\$10.35), Philadelphia Eagles (\$10.31), Miami Dolphins (\$10.25), San Francisco 49ers (\$10.21) and Las Vegas Raiders (\$10.1).

The Atlanta Falcons are inching closer

to that mark at \$9.78 billion. The Washington Commanders (\$9.64) and Super Bowl-winning Seahawks (\$9.61) round out the top 12, with Seattle seeing a 46% leap from last year.

The Cincinnati Bengals ranked last in the 32-team league at \$7.4 billion.

Per Sportico, the average NFL team is now worth \$9.34 billion — an increase from \$7.13 billion last year.

# Kushner, Iger to buy Lakers for \$12.5B

## Field Level Media

American businessman Josh Kushner and former Disney CEO Bob Iger have agreed to purchase controlling interest in the Los Angeles Lakers in a record \$12.5 billion deal, ESPN reported Wednesday.

The transaction, which would establish a record valuation for a U.S. professional sports franchise, is still subject to approval by the NBA Board of Governors.

Kushner and Iger reached an agreement to acquire the controlling stake from Mark Walter, who took control of the Lakers less than a year ago. Walter purchased controlling interest from the Buss family at a \$10 billion valuation in October 2025, with the NBA Board of Governors unanimously approving that transaction Oct. 30.

The new agreement represents a \$2.5 billion increase

in the Lakers' valuation in less than a year.

"As lifelong NBA fans, we are deeply honored for the opportunity to become stewards of the Los Angeles Lakers, one of the most iconic sports franchises in the world," Kushner and Iger said in a statement. "We have immense respect for the leadership and vision of Jerry and Jeanie Buss.

"Our long-term commitment is to build on that foundation, compete at the highest level, and serve this extraordinary team, its fans, and the city of Los Angeles."

Kushner, 41, is the founder of venture capital firm Thrive Capital and the younger brother of Jared Kushner, who is married to Ivanka Trump, the daughter of President Donald Trump. Josh Kushner is married to model and entrepreneur Karlie Kloss.

While the Kushner family built much of its wealth

through real estate, Josh Kushner established his own business career primarily through technology investments. He founded Thrive Capital in 2009, and the firm has invested in a number of prominent technology companies.

Iger, 75, is one of the entertainment industry's most recognizable executives after spending decades at Disney, including multiple stints as CEO. During his tenure, Disney expanded significantly through acquisitions that included Pixar, Marvel Entertainment, Lucasfilm and much of 21st Century Fox.

Walter is chairman and CEO of diversified holding company TWG Global. His sports investments have included the Los Angeles Dodgers, Premier League club Chelsea and the Professional Women's Hockey League.

"Owning the Los Angeles

Lakers has been one of the great honors of my life — an extraordinary investment, but what I will carry with me is the community, the fans, and a city that treats this team as family," Walter said in a statement to ESPN.

"I am grateful to Jeanie Buss, the Buss family, the players, and the staff for welcoming me into this chapter. The Lakers belong to Los Angeles, and I have every confidence the best is still ahead."

Kushner and Iger reportedly had been involved in efforts to pursue a potential NBA expansion franchise in Las Vegas before turning their attention to the Lakers.

If approved, the \$12.5 billion transaction would surpass the previous record price for a U.S. professional sports franchise and mark another dramatic change for one of the NBA's signature teams.

# Tony's Take: Ready or not, college football is back

By Tony Duckworth  
TonyDuckworthsr@gmail.com

Dawg Jackets. A senior member of the YMCA stopped me earlier this week to ask for my thoughts on the upcoming CFB season. He bleeds Red and Black. We talked for a couple of minutes. He asked me if I ever imagined college football would be in the state that it is today. He believes that P4 CFB is now professional. He's not wrong, but everyone knows there is no getting that genie back in the bottle.

Given that water cooler conversation, and knowing we are approaching the middle of August, why not write about CFB?

I am a rare Georgia Peach who wants both UGA and GA Tech to be successful. My dad bought me a T-shirt when I was a teen that read "My two favorite teams are GA Tech and whoever is playing Georgia", so pulling for both P4 in-state teams was a long shot.

A WWII veteran fellow church member, who played for the Dawgs, gave me a cassette tape of the 1980 UGA National Championship season when I was 11. As you can see, I had adults influencing my fandom. I

remember pulling for UGA during that memorable season. One of the most iconic plays in Bulldogs lore is Buck to Lindsay against those Gators.

Trailing 21-20 with just over 60 seconds remaining, UGA faced 3rd-and-8 from its own 8-yard line. Valdosta native Buck (QB) Belue scrambled away from the Gators D, and spun it to Lindsay (WR) Scott in the middle of the field. Scott ran 92 yards for the game-winning touchdown to defeat Florida to preserve an undefeated season. Dawgs fans can still hear legendary broadcast Larry Munson screaming "Run Lindsay, run!"

A decade later, Tech pulled off an improbable season and won a shared 1990 national championship when polls decided the champions. The Ramblin' Wreck Faithful are still proud of that amazing run.

I own the commemorative Coke bottles of the '80 and '90 seasons. So, for the upcoming 2026 season, GO JACKETS AND GO DAWGS!

Gunner. Who is Gunner Stockton? For starters, he drives his grandpa's 300,000+ miles 1984 F-150 with four on the floor. When asked, Gunner doesn't

believe any of his teammates could drive the classic truck.

My dad purchased three on the tree suped-up full-size truck from my Uncle James when I was a teenager. It was royal blue metal beast, and as I recall, a Chevy. About the only time I drove it was a few miles up the road to a dirt road where the large county trash cans rested. Surprisingly, I picked up changing gears quickly and the light rear would fish-tail when punched on a dirt road. While it wasn't smart at the time, the stories my dad shared about drag racing on the streets indicated the apple didn't fall far from the tree. I, like Gunner, am confident few if any of my friends could have moved to 2nd or 3rd gear in that hoss.

The thing that strikes me about Gunner is his sheepish, boyish humility during interviews despite him being a fierce competitor. None of us have been in the film room, huddle, weight room, training, or practice field, but clearly Gunner has command of the team. The team rallies around him, throwing his body around and taking hard hits while bouncing back and moving to the next play.

I have liked Gunner since he took over luxury car driv-

ing Carson Beck in the SEC title game against the Longhorns. For me, I have always preferred CFB QB's who are dual threats. While running with the ball presents risk of injury, there is something to be said for those who can make positive yards with their feet when the designed pass play doesn't materialize. Knowing when to slide, run out of bounds, throw it away all demonstrate the QB's football IQ. Gunner has the QB IQ to know when and why.

In addition to his toughness, leadership, and ability to make plays with his feet (3.6 yards per carry despite sacks counting against a QB's running yards stat line), Gunner's 2025 season stats are really impressive.

CMP ATT PCT YDS TD INT RA  
313 452 69.2% 3,482 27 7 147.9

GA Tech's starting QB, Haynes King, has had similar characteristics the past few seasons, but I believe while there is room to grow, Gunner is a more accurate passer down the field.

No sport builds with anticipation to the start of the season like CFB, so ready or not - Are You Ready For Some College Football? I know I am.



From 2A

# FACT

But relatively little of the criticism directed at Truitt on an anonymous Facebook page that has kept the issue at the forefront of public discussion for months has been tied to measurable indicators of her performance as superintendent. Some criticism instead focused on the district's handling of a tax-digest error originating with the county tax assessor's office, while other posts targeted Truitt's appearance and gender, ridiculed her personally or suggested her leadership reflected poorly on women in leadership generally.

Research has documented a persistent double-standard for women in leadership: Criticism can shift from what they have done to who they are — their personality, appearance or gender — in ways male leaders are less likely to experience. That



**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.



**Mr. Gordon Kennedy**

Gordon Kennedy passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at the age of 96. He was born in 1929, the son of the late John Lee Kennedy and the late Carolyn Glass Kennedy.

Gordon is predeceased by his son Larry Thomas Kennedy, and both of his parents. He is survived by his spouse, Jean Kennedy; his daughters, Jill Henrichs and Meg Bishop (Hale); his grandchildren, Blair & Amy Tripp, Brent Watson, Katelyn and Tim Boyd, Michael Patrick Kennedy, John Thomas Kennedy, Taylor & Brian Deal, and Abi & Zac Moore; as well as his great grandchildren, Berkeley Tripp, Savannah Tripp, & Brandon Tripp, Timothy & Benjamin Boyd, Adyson & Emilynne Watson, Briar Deal, and Georgi Moore.

A memorial service will be held at Avalon Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia on Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 2:00 PM.

does not shield Truitt from legitimate scrutiny. But accountability measures performance; personal and gendered ridicule undermines authority without measuring it. That distinction matters for Lee County's first female superintendent, whose academic and financial record is broadly supported by independent data.

**Where this leaves things**

Three years after Truitt arrived, the records leave a more complicated picture than the public fight surrounding her.

The \$70,000 raise that helped fuel the controversy did not happen. Her 18% base-salary increase is comparable to raises the district reports for other employees, and independent records largely support the board's case that Lee County has paired strong academic results with unusually strong financial efficiency. The board also has evidence behind its argument that stability has value in a superintendent market marked by high turnover.

But vindication on those points does not put the contract beyond scrutiny. Truitt's compensation has grown in ways base salary alone does not capture, and the newest agreement exposes the district to substantially greater expense if the board someday terminates her without cause.

The larger takeaway is that the strongest arguments on both sides were not the ones that generated the most attention.

Critics had less evidence for some of their loudest claims than the public debate suggested; the board had more evidence for its defense than it put before the public. And measured against the independent academic and financial records reviewed by The Albany Herald, Truitt's performance as superintendent is remarkably strong — a picture often difficult to recognize in the online narrative surrounding her.

Meanwhile, consequential changes in her contracts went largely unscrutinized because the documents needed to identify them were not yet in public hands.

The record does not demand agreement, but it does demand an accurate debate.

RELEASE DATE—Sunday, August 16, 2026

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

**“THREE’S COMPANY” BY RICH KATZ**

**ACROSS**

1 Best of the best

5 Syrup source

10 That partner

14 Fistfuls of dollars

18 Authorize

19 Cookies with a “You asked for it” collaboration with 29-Across

20 Surrounding glow

21 La Scala solo

22 Ron + (Kristen + Alexander Graham)

26 NYC drama award

27 Slangy contraction

28 Land between Can. and Mex.

29 Peanut butter cup brand

30 Sally + (Julia + Philip)

34 Like stress balls and fidget spinners

35 End of term?

36 “Knock yourself out!”

39 Suzuki who won nine batting titles in two countries

43 Knocked out

44 Some reservoir residents

48 Barry + (Elliot + Jimmy)

51 Nia + (Elton + Tommy)

54 Othello’s betrayer

55 Bulgarian, e.g.

56 Endow with, as authority

58 Autonomous vacuum

59 Utmost degree

60 Aligned

62 Labors mightily to accomplish

63 Grover + (Alton + Helen Gurley)

68 Term of endearment?

71 Leveraged \_\_\_, corporate acquisition

72 “Print to” option

75 Really sad

76 Sound from a kettle or a snake

78 Actor Epps

80 Island home of the Hana Highway

81 (Adam + Minnie) + Helms

83 Fiona + (Lemmon + London)

85 Speaker brand

86 Theater reviewers

89 Plug’s place

90 Channel that rarely fails to make one cry

92 Matinee hrs.

94 “The Return of the King” king

98 Cleary + (Faith + Jonah)

104 Small donkeys

105 Ballerina’s turning point

107 Ancient France

108 “So Sick” R&B singer

109 Keith + (Garfunkel + Carney)

111 (Underwood + Fisher) + Johnny

114 New Mexico art hub

115 Santa’s specialty

116 Leading

117 Nikon rival

118 Nikon products

119 Novelist Émile

120 Baking gloves

121 Pt. of IMF

**DOWN**

1 Defense witness, often

2 Basic skateboard trick

3 Many a Seanan McGuire work

4 Sheepish sort?

5 Crib accessory

6 Venues that often have corporate names

7 Nails, as with snowballs

8 “U r 2 funny!”

9 Start at the beginning?

10 Guitar player’s aid

11 Hawaiian dance

12 Nest egg letters

13 Holy

14 Boat trailers?

15 Schoolyard retort

16 Certain hardware store patron, casually

17 Smart-alecky

18 Lead-up to a date?

23 Convertibles

25 Lotto game

28 Thrifted, perhaps

31 Bleak

32 Spots for scrubs

33 “ManningCast” brother

34 In stitches

37 “\_\_\_ well that ends well”

38 Smokestack dust

39 “Game, set, match”

40 Puss, in Paris

41 Top temperature

42 Skater Midori

43 101, for one

44 Tricks

45 Measures of resistance

46 Liberty org.

47 Hurdle for a DA-to-be

49 Pain relief brand

50 Donated

52 “Oh, \_\_\_ up!”

53 Connect

56 Williams with five Wimbledon singles titles

57 Whirlpool

61 Captures

62 Completely wreck

63 Eggnog spice

64 Concede a golden goal, say

65 Of all time

66 Nose-tapping sounds

67 Kind of roast

68 Site for film fans

69 Lawnmower brand

70 Sanskrit honorifics

72 Rat or Brat follower

73 Team led by Mike Krzyzewski for 42 seasons

74 Clenched hand

76 Munich mister

77 Terse affirmative

79 Provide a new look

80 Prefix in many a Scottish surname

82 Printer function

83 Closer at the Globe

84 Kid

87 \_\_\_ sock

88 Winter puddle topper

90 Many a “Who Framed Rabbit” character

91 Fake

92 Landing spot of Noah’s Ark

93 Liquids

94 Borders

95 Like most farmland

96 Shady spot

97 Wimbledon surface

99 Everglades wader

100 Like Machu Picchu

101 Listed, to a Brit

102 Antibacterial brand

103 Kind of Kind, in Köln

105 Texter’s “Bye for now”

106 Peak near Olympus

110 Aussie hopper

111 Vid taker

112 Sashimi choice

113 Ecol. or geol.

8/16/26

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ X I Q O I K N F B A L F Y J D I U X F I F B F Y O I D L N F M B X A L B W B A L B A F N X L B . . . F M I F ’ N O M B D B X F M X A G F M B F D H B N F Y D K F B Q Q X A J X N T B X A J F Y Q L . ” — I I D Y A W I H Q

Previous Solution: “My father ... was a wonderful comedian and he was a really funny guy ... he encouraged it in his children.” — Marlo Thomas

TODAY’S CLUE: *N sjenba 7*

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ N Q N E N L B J Z P L J V X H B W J I V R J J Y H P B K J O X N L , N ’ D C J N P C L J A T X A Y H K K J O X V L J Z P L J E X X N Q L T J E X V N C T L E H V X H O H N K H R K X . ” — J A L H O N H E G X P A X V

Previous Solution: “I always tend to gravitate towards the independent side ... that’s where I think the true storytelling is being told.” — Aaron Paul

TODAY’S CLUE: *N sjenba 4*

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92/91/8

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

ANSWER TO TODAY’S PUZZLE

Release Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

**ACROSS**

1 Teddy bear

6 Carousel rider?

9 Basaltic plain on the moon

13 Roadside snack

16 Driver on a movie set

17 Sign that means it’s time to turn around

18 Spam musubi wrapper

19 White-hot

20 Lights up

22 Quick kiss

23 Useful spot

24 Some sci-fi villains

25 Multipurpose tool

27 Verb coined in “Stranger in a Strange Land”

28 Hindi honorific

29 Berry grown in Ohio?

30 Jordan who won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay

31 Org chart leader

32 “Sure, that tracks”

35 “J to \_\_\_ L-O!”: 2002 remix album

36 Replacements after leaving marks?

37 Huffs and puffs

38 \_\_\_ de deux

39 Mass agreement

40 Huffs and puffs

41 “Yes, captain”

42 Clear (of)

43 Clear of contaminants

44 Varied

46 Opportunities to learn the hard way

50 Mil. no-show

51 “Mine! Mine! Mine!”

53 “The Goonies” role for Ke Huy Quan

54 Brings the temperature down, maybe

**DOWN**

1 Fed. IDs

2 Della Warrior’s heritage

3 Priceless?

4 One-night stand, perhaps?

5 Frustrated expression

6 [All of a sudden!]

7 Stanford’s gp.

8 Disbands?

9 Digital art, informally?

10 Juvenile

11 Special indulgences

12 Targets of smog checks

14 Bridge unit

15 Choke

21 One who tries not to overshadow the star?

23 Feeds (on)

25 Googly—

56 Fashion letters

57 Trapped, in a way

25 “Shantay, you stay” opposite

26 “This is important”

27 Mount

29 Top tunes

30 Trimmed (down)

33 Hair curler?

34 1982 Hall & Oates song

40 Shows signs of age

43 Chappell Roan’s “\_\_\_ Pony Club”

45 Chuffed

46 Edina, Minnesota is home to the first U.S. indoor one

47 Lucci role

48 Conditional word in Python

49 Blair Braverman vehicle

52 Portrayed

ANSWER TO TODAY’S PUZZLE:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | E | H | L |   | T | S | A |   | D | E | A | E |   |
| E | S | N | E | S | S | X | T | V | L | V | L | V | D |   |
| T | T | V | L | I | N | V | M | I |   | T | O | M | V |   |
| S | E | X | V | L | S | I | W |   | D | E | G | N | V | H |
|   |   |   | E | H | N | D |   | D | I | H |   | E | A | V |
|   | S | L | N | V | H |   | N | E | W | V |   | S | V | D |
| S | L | N | V | H |   | S | O | H | N | E |   | V | H | L |
| N | V | E | W | N | O | A | L | V | H | M | E | E | S | I |
| O | E | O |   | E | T | E | E | D |   | E | T | T | V | H |
| I | H | S | X | O | H | G | X | H | O | D | S |   |   |   |
| S | L | E | V | S | O | E | X | O | E | D |   |   |   |   |
| S | E | T | I | W | S |   | G | N | I | H | L | E | E | S |
| I | H | O | N |   | E | O | N | V | H | L | N | E | O | N |
| M | V | D | V | O | O | V | L | L | E | O | H | L | S |   |
| E | H | V | M |   | G | V | B |   |   | A | L | J | O | S |

08/15/26

By Barbara Lin & Jess Rucks

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08/15/26



# 10 tips to vacation-proof your home while you're away

BY FEATURE IMPACT

Whether you're headed toward the beach, the mountains, a new city or your favorite quaint small town, it's exciting to look forward to a vacation. Making sure all the logistics are planned, prepped and ready before your departure is the tough part, but it's well worth putting in the effort now to save yourself stress later. That includes taking precautions to protect your home from break-ins, water damage and other unpleasant surprises you'd rather not return to.

"A vacation should end with great memories, not an unexpected repair bill," said Larry Anderson, director of underwriting operations for Mercury Insurance. "Taking a few simple steps before you leave can help protect your home, reduce unnecessary stress and give you greater peace of mind while you're away."

Use these 10 steps as a pre-vacation checklist so you can enjoy a worry-free trip.

**Lock Doors, Gates and Windows**

You probably won't forget to lock the front door before you leave, but other entry points can be easier to forget. Check all your windows, sliding glass doors, side entrances and gates. If you have any outbuildings like a shed or detached garage, secure them before you leave as well.

**Automate Lights for a Lived-In Look**

Although you don't have to go full "Home Alone," a home that appears occupied is less of a target for burglars. Use timers or automated smart devices to turn lights on and off through-

out the day, ideally varying the schedules in different rooms.

**Hold Mail and Packages**

Beyond being easy prey for porch pirates, stacks of packages and overflowing mail signal no one is home to collect them. Contact your post office to place a hold on deliveries or arrange for a trusted neighbor to get the mail for you.

**Consider Shutting Off the Water**

A small leak can quickly become a big problem when there's nobody home to notice. If practical, shutting off your home's main water supply can help prevent major plumbing issues - and at the very least, be good for your peace of mind.

**Set the Thermostat**

It's important to maintain a safe indoor temperature in your home while you're away. The usual wisdom is to set the thermostat at 55-60 F during the winter to prevent pipes from freezing, and about 85 F during the summer to reduce energy use while protecting the home from excessive heat and humidity. Smart thermostats allow you to monitor and control temperatures remotely if the weather changes unexpectedly.

**Test Smoke Alarms and Other Devices**

Make sure your emergency alert systems are ready to do



their jobs while you're gone. Test smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and any leak sensors, smart devices or security systems. If needed, replace batteries and confirm your monitoring apps are set up to get notifications promptly.

**Ask a Trusted Person to Check In**

Neighbors, friends or family members will often keep an eye on the place during your vacation (especially if you return the favor during theirs). It's up to you whether you want to give them a key to check things out inside; otherwise, a quick walk around the property can identify external damage or signs of forced entry.

**Be Social-Media Savvy**

Even if you trust everyone on your online friends list, it's better to be safe than sorry. Save the vacation photos to post once you're safely back

so you don't unintentionally advertise that nobody's home.

**Tidy Up Outdoor Spaces**

Well-maintained landscaping gives the impression someone is home and cares about the property. An afternoon of yardwork before you leave can keep things looking fresh for a while.

**Review Your Homeowners Insurance**

No matter how well you prepare, it's smart to have a fall-back plan in case something goes wrong. Before your trip, review your homeowners policy to make sure you know what it covers and how to reach your insurance company in the event of any incidents.

For more information about homeowners insurance coverage and ways to help protect your home year-round, visit [MercuryInsurance.com](https://www.mercuryinsurance.com).



Photos courtesy of Shutterstock



Photos courtesy of Shutterstock

## STAY PROTECTED FROM CYBERATTACKS:

### Simple Safeguards to Reduce Cyber Intrusions and Real-World Losses

BY FEATURE IMPACT

Connected homes are becoming the norm with millions of Americans relying on Wi-Fi networks, mobile apps and smart devices to manage everything from door locks to thermostats.

As convenience increases, so does exposure, and the experts at multiple-line insurance carrier Mercury Insurance are reminding homeowners that basic cybersecurity practices can help reduce both their digital and physical risks.

"Smart-home technology is incredibly useful, but it also expands the number of entry points into your home - not just digitally, but physically," said Dustin Howard, head of info security at Mercury Insurance.

"The good news is that many of the most effective protections are simple, proactive steps that homeowners can take today."

Smart-home adoption continues to accelerate with recent studies showing roughly 70% of U.S. households now use at least one connected device. From video doorbells to smart garage doors, these tools provide visibility and control, but if not properly secured, they can also create vulnerabilities that bad actors may exploit.

Consider these cybersecurity best practices for connected homes:

**• Secure your Wi-Fi network:** Use strong, unique passwords - at least 14-16 characters with a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols - and enable WPA3 encryption when

available to prevent unauthorized access. Also turn on your router's built-in firewall and disable Wi-Fi protected setup.

**• Update devices regularly:** Firmware and software updates often include critical security patches that close known vulnerabilities. Turn on automatic updates for operating systems, applications, browsers and smart home devices such as thermostats and cameras. If devices are no longer able to update, it may be time to replace them to avoid compromising security.

**• Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA):** Adding a second layer of verification significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized account access. Enable MFA for email accounts, banking and financial apps, cloud storage and social media accounts, and use an authenticator app for confirmation rather than receiving a code via text or email.

**• Segment your network:** Consider placing smart-home devices, including televisions, security cameras and speakers, on a separate network from personal devices like laptops and phones. Also create a guest network for visitors to use to help further protect

your main network.

**• Change default settings:** Many devices come with default usernames and passwords that are widely known and easily exploited. Change the defaults on your router as well as login credentials for any new devices, making admin accounts more difficult to target.

**• Monitor device activity:** Regularly review connected devices and remove any that are unfamiliar or no longer in use. If your router supports it, enable notifications for new device connections for real-time visibility.

"As homes become more connected, cybersecurity becomes a core part of overall home protection," Howard said. "It's not just about protecting your data - it's about protecting your property, your privacy and your peace of mind."

With smart-home technology expected to continue expanding, homeowners should treat cybersecurity as a routine part of home maintenance - just like checking smoke detectors or locking doors - to stay ahead of evolving risks.

For more information about protecting your home from cyberattacks, visit [mercuryinsurance.com/resources](https://www.mercuryinsurance.com/resources).



ON - LINE AUCTION

ESTATE OF CHARLES WILLIAM PETTIFORD

COURT ORDERED # 2024-ES-4516

201 S. CHURCH ST. TYTY, GA. 31795

2 AUCTIONS

# 1. PERSONAL PROPERTY:  
2014 FORD TRUCK, 1994 FORD EXPLORER,  
6' X 14' TRAILER, KUBOTA TRACTOR L4701 WITH  
LOADER, .54" KUBOTA ZERO TURN LAWN MOWER  
BIDDING OPENS: AUG.18<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:00 AM  
BIDDING CLOSES: AUG. 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 2:00 PM  
15 % BUYERS PREMIUM

#2.REAL ESTATE: 7.31 ACRES WITH POND  
ACCESS & A 24' X 52' 1999, 3 BDR /2 BTH,  
REDMAN - RIVERVIEW MOBILE HOME  
& 2 STORAGE BUILDINGS.  
BIDDING OPENS :AUG. 26<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:00 AM  
BIDDING CLOSES: SEPT. 9<sup>TH</sup> @ 2:00 PM  
10 % BUYERS PREMIUM

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE DETAILS AND  
BIDDING INFORMATION  
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**RE/MAX**  
of Albany

**Linda C. Turpin**  
REALTOR®/Lic. #162005

Cell: 229-881-1529 • Office: 229-434-1600  
Fax: 229-317-4331 • Direct: 229-317-4330  
Email: [lindaturpin@gmail.com](mailto:lindaturpin@gmail.com)  
Website: [REMAXofAlbany.com](http://REMAXofAlbany.com)  
Website: [lindaturpin.remax.com](http://lindaturpin.remax.com)

2017 Award 2020 Award 2010 Award

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Associate Broker, CRS, ABR

**REMAX of Albany**  
1819 Dawson Road  
Albany, GA 31707

229.434.1600 - Office  
229.343.4200 - Mobile  
[debfulford@gmail.com](mailto:debfulford@gmail.com)  
[www.remaxofalbany.com](http://www.remaxofalbany.com)



**RE/MAX**



**VICKIE GILES-GRIFFIN**  
Associate Broker

229-894-2424  
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## HUNTING SEASON DATES

Alligator: NOW (Sunset) – October 5 (Sunrise)  
Squirrel: August 15 – February 28  
Squirrel (Falconry): August 15 – March 15  
Raccoon & Opossum: August 15 – February 28  
Dove: September 5 – October 11  
Canada Goose: September 5 - 27



# What's old is new again ... history of the .45-70 cartridge



Special Photos: Tom Seegmueller

A pair of modern .45-70 guns are throwbacks to the days when the cartridge was a staple.

By Tom Seegmueller  
news@albanyherald.com

**ALBANY** – In the world of firearms nothing gives more credence to the ideology that “everything old is new again” than the venerable .45-70 cartridge introduced more than 150 years ago.

For those who accept the definition of “classic” as being something that has been judged over a period of time to be the highest quality and outstanding of its kind, or to be something of a simple elegant style not subject to change, the .45-70 Government cartridge certainly fills the bill.

Although the cartridge is massive when compared to most modern ammunition, it was actually designed as a downsized alternative to the .50-70 Government cartridge adapted by the U.S. immediately following the War Between the States. At the time, military projectiles measured more than .500 of an inch and could weigh as much as 500 grains. The standard military load for the new .45-70 was a 405gr lead bullet with a velocity of 1,330 fps.

To better understand the attributes of the .45-70 in comparison to other cartridges, an understanding of the term “grains” as it relates to ammunition is important. It is a unit of weight used to measure both bullet and powder weight with 7,000 grains being the equivalent of one pound.

This English weight system traces its roots back to the Bronze Age when the weight of a single grain of barley was the basis for measuring mass. Originally designed around .a 458-decimal lead projectile weighing 405 grains and a slightly tapered brass case holding 70 grains of black powder, the cartridge would be adopted by the U.S. Army for use in the newly developed breechloading M1873 Springfield rifle, commonly referred to as the “trap door.”

This cartridge and rifle combination would see service in the Indian Wars and the Spanish-American War with mixed reviews. When Custer rode into the valley of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, the troopers riding with him were carrying trap door carbines chambered

in .45-70. Contrary to popular belief, the 7th Calvary was not wiped out in the resulting rout. However, of the 700 troopers that rode into the valley, 210 didn't ride out.

For decades one of the primary excuses given for Custer's defeat was that the troopers' carbines jammed, allowing Sioux and Cheyenne warriors to overrun them as they made their last stand. However, in 1983 a prairie fire at the site of the battle revealed forensic evidence that this was not the case. More than 9,000 artifacts were recovered, with each cartridge case bearing ballistic marking that allowed archeologists to track the movements of individual fighters on the battlefield.

The reconstruction of the 90-minute battle confirmed the accounts of the Native Americans who fought there that day. It also determined that few of the .45-70 shell casings showed any evidence of being pried out of the chamber due to a jam. While the troopers fought with their single-shot carbines and Colt revolvers, the Native Americans had more than 41 types of different firearms that they brought to bear against the outnumbered troops.

The forensic evidence also indicates that the Native Americans had between 700 to 800 different guns on the battlefield. Not only did they have more guns, they also had superior weapons, including lever-action carbines. Custer was outmanned, outgunned and outfought.

As the Indian Wars were winding down, global conflicts were growing and the .45-70 would play a part on the battlefields of the Spanish-American War. When the United States declared a state of war following the sinking of the USS Maine, the American Army was not prepared for a war. However, the Navy and National Guard units filled the void until more than 220,000 volunteers came forward to fill the ranks of the U.S. Army.

Combat in Cuba and the Philippines was a curious combination of old and new technology and tactics. The U.S. Army and Marines used Krag-Jorgensen bolt-action rifles, firing .30-cal-

iber 220 grain smokeless powder cartridges with a velocity of 2,000 fps.

Meanwhile the National Guard units were equipped with the single-shot black-powder weapons. Not only did they have a slower rate of fire than the soldiers equipped with bolt action rifles, each shot they made with the black-powder .45-70 produced a cloud of white smoke that gave away their position on the firing line.

Cuban guerillas and Spanish forces were armed with Spanish Mauser rifles, chambered for a 7 mm 173 grain smokeless powder cartridge traveling at 2,300 fps, a very high-performance cartridge for the time, leading to it being called the “Spanish Hornet.” That reputation was earned at the battle of San Juan Hill, where 500 Spanish defenders put up heavy resistance against an attacking force of more than 8,000 Americans ordered to take the hill. The hornets accounted for 144 American dead and 1,024 wounded in one day.

Although the .45-70 was phased out of military service following the Spanish-American War, it was well-received as a hunting cartridge. The high volume of inexpensive surplus rifles chambered for the cartridge added to its popularity until the turn of the century. By 1930, the demand for lighter firearms chambered for higher velocities brought an end to its reign as America's premier big game cartridge.

Although the Krag was a quantum leap from the black-powder era, the firearm suffered in comparison to the Mauser and would be in military service for only a decade, haunted by the ghosts of San Juan Hill. By 1906, the U.S. Army was pursuing the development of lighter and faster rifles and cartridges. This would lead to the development of the “cartridge, ball, caliber-30, Model 1906,” more commonly known as the .30-06. The 150-grain cartridge had a velocity of 2,700 fps when fired in the 1903 Springfield.

The .30-06 cartridge would see extensive service in both WWI and WWII as well as Korea. Numerous military fire-

arms would be chambered for the cartridge, including the M1 Garand, the BAR, and several machine guns. It would also become one of the most popular civilian cartridges for hunting and shooting sports, a popularity once again fueled not only by ballistics but the availability of affordable surplus military firearms.

The war in Vietnam would call for an even lighter and faster cartridge combination. The result would be the Armalite AR-15 rifle. The rifle was controversial from the start, offering semi-automatic and full automatic operation in a light-weight firearm chambered for a 55-grain bullet with a velocity of 3,260 fps. The .556 is based on the .223 Remington cartridge designed for the civilian market.

The comparison between the modern 556 NATO cartridge and the antiquated .45-70 highlight the contrast in ballistic goals. It takes more than seven of the projectiles from .556 bullets to equal the weight of a single .45-70 .405-grain bullet. (Some modern .45-70 cartridges are now loaded with payload that approaches a 600-grain weight.) However, the light-weight .556 cartridge develops a velocity that is double that of the 1330 fps of the .45-70. At 100 yards, the bullet is traveling in excess of the speed of sound, and in some cases can approach a velocity of Mach 2, or twice the speed of sound, lending credence to the axiom, “You never hear the bullet that kills you.”

This need for speed led to the development of the .22-284, which is loaded with a 15-grain iron bullet that still achieves accuracy with a top velocity of 6585 fps. Taking these goals and advances in mind, one might assume that the .45-70 has long ago been relegated to serving as a wall hanger at the local Cracker Barrel. However, nothing could be farther from the truth.

As the race for faster cartridges carried over into the civilian shooting world during the first decades of the 20th century, it appeared that the smaller faster cartridges would win the popularity race there as well. As smokeless powder gained in popularity, the .45-70 made



the transition with the powder being used to create mild pressures suited to the guns chambered for the cartridge.

However, in 1917, Marlin dropped its 1895 model designed to handle the cartridge. Winchester would follow, stopping the production of the model 1886 chambered for the cartridge. In 1920, Winchester stopped production of its Model 1885 falling block rifle, which was then considered the last factory rifle chambered for the .45-70. With the vast number of firearms that were chambered for the cartridge still in safe operational condition, factory ammunition was continuously offered to the civilian market. However, this ammunition was loaded to only achieve mild pressures that would be safe in even the oldest .45-70.

For almost 50 years, no firearms manufacturer designed a new rifle for the cartridge. Then, in 1966, Bill Ruger chambered his new No. 1 single-shot rifle in .45-70. This new design, built with modern materials and technology, was now capable of safely shooting cartridges loaded to higher pressures.

Today the .45-70 is once again one of the most popular firearms on the market. A number of factors have contributed to the resurgence of the venerable cartridge. These include the popularity of cowboy action shooting, more restrictive hunting regulations, and the desire to return to more traditional firearms for aesthetic and philosophical reasons.

Lever-action and single-shot rifles with gleaming blued metal and wood stocks began to reappear between the synthetic earth tone semi-automatics that had seemingly pushed them into obscurity. Winchester, Marlin, Sharps and Henry designs from the late 19th century reappeared, manufactured from modern metals using state-of-

the-art technology.

These new firearms are capable of safely digesting anything from a light 300-grain load suitable for targets and whitetail deer to a hard-hitting 500-grain hard-cast projectile capable of harvesting any North American game animal, including moose and grizzly bear.

Italian and Japanese companies, including Uberti and Miruku, which had been making high-quality reproductions of small-caliber classic firearms for decades, jumped on the .45-70 bandwagon. Restoration specialists like Turnbull are restoring well-worn original firearms back to or beyond their original luster and performance. These upgrades can include case-hardening, custom bluing, restocking, checkering and engraving.

While reproductions of classic firearms are popular with a large segment of the shooting community, the .45-70 has bridged the gap between traditional and tactical firearms with many models being constructed with synthetic stocks, stainless steel and light-weight alloys, creating a new style of tactical firearm. Other gunmakers, including Henry and CVA, are following in Ruger's footsteps, designing new single-shot rifles and carbines around the .45-70.

Although the .45-70 has always had a reputation as a high-recoil firearm, much of this is related to design and ammunition selection. Original firearms with metal crescent butt plates will obviously not be as comfortable to shoot as a modern firearm with a recoil-absorbing design. There is also a significant difference in felt recoil between a light 300-grain load and a heavier cartridge designed for big game.

Today, there are enough .45-70 firearms out there that a Top 10 selection list is available that leaves off many models and makes.



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YARD SALE. Sat. & Sun. Aug. 15th & 16th, 9am-5pm 616 Bison Lane, Albany. John Deere riding lawn mower & trailer, \$1500. Weber barbecue grill, \$50. New Frigidaire refrigerator with icemaker, \$1000. Frigidaire dishwasher, \$300. Secretary, \$75. 2 China cabinets, \$50 & \$75, 3 curios, \$75 each. Recliner, \$75, brand new. China, \$50, Crystal, \$50. 2 barstools, \$20 each. Living room sofa & 2 chairs, \$100. Wall pictures, \$10 each. Clothes, \$1 each. Bookcase, \$50. 2 Chest of drawers, light wood, \$50 each. Bedroom set, \$200. 8 ft. screen & projector, \$100.

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.

Auctions

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ESTATE OF CHARLES

WILLIAM PETTIFORD

Court Ordered

# 2024-ES-4516

201 S. CHURCH ST.

TYTY, GA. 31795

2 AUCTIONS

#1. PERSONAL

PROPERTY:

2014 Ford Truck,

1994 Ford Explorer,

6' x 14' Trailer,

Kubota Tractor L4701 with

Loader,

54" Kubota Zero Turn Lawn

Mower

Bidding Opens:

Aug. 18th @ 11:00 am

Bidding Closes:

Aug. 25th @ 2:00 pm

15 % Buyers Premium

#2. REAL ESTATE:

7.31 Acres with pond

access & a 24'x52' 1999, 3

BR / 2 bath Redman -

Riverview mobile home & 2

storage buildings.

Bidding Opens:

Aug. 26th @ 11:00 am

Bidding Closes:

Sept. 9th @ 2:00 pm

10 % Buyers Premium

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JOBS

Full-Time

**Employer:** Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Inc.

**Position:** Medical Technologist

**Location:** Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia

**Duties:** Provide laboratory information based on the performance of analytical tests on human body substances; correlate and interpret test data to detect evidence of or prevent disease or impairment and to promote and monitor good health; monitor quality assurance and maintain laboratory instrumentation including all documentation; follow established guidelines and protocols to provide requested clinical information to physicians, nurses, and other relevant health care personnel; and perform phlebotomy duties as needed.

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology; 1 year experience in clinical laboratory in the same or similar discipline; Clinical laboratory scientist certification through CGFNS and medical laboratory scientist certification by one of the following: ASCP, AMT, NCA, or AAB.

**Resume to:** Savannah Hughes, srhughes@phoebehealth.com

Albany Legals

Construction/Service Bids

**A-789**

INVITATION TO BID

Conduit & Wire Installation Phase 2

**BID REF. #27-014**

Sealed bids will be received by City of Albany, Procurement Division, 222 Pine Avenue, Suite 260, Albany, Georgia, 31701, until 2:30 PM on September 8, 2026. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM on August 14, at the Procurement office. A 5% Bid Bond is required for bid submittal. Bid documents can be obtained from Procurement, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and www.albanyga.gov. For additional information contact Joshua Williams, Procurement Manager at jswilliams@albanyga.gov. \by\ Michael Eaton, Chief Financial Officer

August 15, 2026

Debtors & Creditors

**A-813**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of Joyce Ann Sherry, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 12th day of August 2026.

Sherman Willis, Attorney for Cynthia Collins, Executor of the Estate of Joyce Ann Sherry

GARDNER WILLIS PLAIRE & WILSON, LLP

P.O. Drawer 71788

Albany, Georgia 31708-1788

229-883-2441

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-805**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

NOTICE is hereby given to all debtors and creditors of the Estate of Gawnna Cambell Hicks, of said county, deceased, to render an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. All persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 11th day of August 2026.

Adrian B. Hicks, Executor of the Estate of Gawnna Cambell Hicks c/o S. Tanner Lowe, Esq.

MOORHEAD LAW FIRM LLC

314 W. Residence Avenue

Albany, Georgia 31701

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-803**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS & CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of William Ernest Nordstrom, late of Dougherty County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 11th day of August 2026.

MARY N. SHAPARD

Executor of the Estate of William Ernest Nordstrom

% DIVINE FINNEY DAVIS, PC

600 N. Jackson Street

Albany, GA 31701

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-804**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of James Bruce Folmar, deceased, late of said State and County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor.

This 11th day of August, 2026.

To be published: Four consecutive Saturdays

Ellen Schramm Folmar,

Debtors & Creditors

as Executor of the Estate of James Bruce Folmar, deceased c/o Perry & Walters, LLP Post Office Box 71209 Albany, Georgia 31708

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-788**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF FRED WOODROW KEGLER, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Fred Woodrow Keglér, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executors of the Estate of Fred Woodrow Keglér.

This \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2026.

Jason Jerome Keglér, Executor of the Estate of Fred Woodrow Keglér

2254 Duitman Road

Albany, Georgia 31705

or

MOORE, CLARKE, DuVALL & RODGERS, P.C.

2829 Old Dawson Road (31707)

Post Office Drawer 71727

Albany, Georgia 31708

(229) 888-3338

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-703**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Clinton Arlo Mowery, deceased, late of said State and County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Executor.

This 25th day of July, 2026.

To be published: Four consecutive Saturdays

Debra Dianne Dorrough Mowery, as Executor of the Estate of Clinton Arlo Mowery, deceased c/o Perry & Walters, LLP Post Office Box 71209 Albany, Georgia 31708

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**A-695**

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Raymond James Barlow, Sr. a/k/a Raymond Barlow, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 19th day of July 2026.

Raymond Barlow, Jr., Executor of the Estate of Raymond James Barlow, Sr. a/k/a Raymond Barlow, deceased c/o Phil Cannon Georgia Bar 107895 Meeks and Cannon, P.C. P O Drawer 720 Leesburg, GA 31763 229-759-9111 phone

July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2026

**A-693**

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Margie A. Lashley a/k/a Margie Christine Lashley, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 19th day of July 2026.

Celyse Champion, Executor of the Estate of Margie A. Lashley a/k/a Margie Christine Lashley, deceased c/o W. Edward Meeks, Jr. Georgia Bar 500850 Meeks and Cannon, P.C. P O Drawer 720 Leesburg, GA 31763 229-759-9111 phone

July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2026

**A-690**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

All creditors of the Estate of Barbara Turner deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 20th day of July 2026.

Sharmille Nichole Edmonson, Administrator of the Estate of Barbara Turner

3978 Longleaf Ct.

Concord, NC 28025

July 25, August 1, 2026

**A-755**

NOTICE

GEORGIA

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

NOTICE is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Randle Lloye Burns, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Magdalene Collins Burns

Executrix of the Estate of Randle Lloye Burns

c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC

P.O. Box 352

Albany, GA 31702

(229) 430-9989

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-753**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS & CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of Barbara Knight Danzer, late of Dougherty County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 30th day of July 2026.

JEFFREY LAURENCE DANZER

Executor of the Estate of Barbara Knight Danzer

Debtors & Creditors

DIVINE FINNEY DAVIS, PC

600 N. Jackson Street

Albany, GA 31701

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-749**

NOTICE

GEORGIA

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Estate of Bernice F. Jones, deceased, to present an account of their demands to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

John A. Lee, Jr., Executor of the Estate of Bernice F. Jones c/o Larry B. Owens, LLC

P.O. Box 352

Albany, GA 31702

(229) 430-9989

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-748**

GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

RE: ESTATE OF RAY ANTHONY REESE, DECEASED

All creditors of said estate are notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Ray Anthony Northern, Executor c/o DIVINE FINNEY DAVIS, PC

600 N. Jackson St

Albany, GA 31701

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-743**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of GENEVA S. HILL late of Dougherty County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 20 day of July, 2026.

Doris Gothard Executor, Administrator, Attorney of the Estate of GENEVA S. HILL, Deceased

Name: CRAIG LERMAN

Address: 5755 NORTH POINT PKWY, SUITE 51

City/State/Zip: ALPHARETTA, GA 30022

Phone No. 770-274-4898

Email address

KJOHNSON@LERMANLAWPC.CO M

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-741**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

All creditors of the Estate of EDSSEL MARTIN FORD deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 29th day of July, 2026.

LAUREN H. WILLIAMSON, Administrator of the Estate of EDSSEL MARTIN FORD

P.O. BOX 70639

Albany, GA 31708

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**A-731**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS OF PRISCILLA ANN HAYES

All creditors of the Estate of Priscilla Ann Hayes, deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make payment to me.

This 28th day of July, 2026.

/s/ Demetria Sutton

Administrator of the Estate of Priscilla Ann Hayes

Kim H. Stroup

Attorney for the Estate of Priscilla Ann Hayes

James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP

231 Riverside Drive, Suite 100

PO Box 4283

Macon, Georgia 31208-4283

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**A-728**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

All creditors of the Estate of Larry Hunt deceased, late of Dougherty County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 27th day of July, 2026.

Bobbi Porto

Administrator of the Estate of Larry Hunt 1542 Piermaj Lane

Lutz, FL 33549-5744

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

Divorces

**A-784**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Sharolyn Miller V.

Respondent: Margita Miller

Civil Action Case Number: 26CV6478-1

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS**

To: Margita Miller, Respondent

Named Above: This notice has been published to let you know that a Divorce case was filed against you in Superior Court on 7/20, 2026. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on 8/5, 2026. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 2806 Capers Lane Albany, GA 31721. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Petition for Divorce.

This 6th day of August, 2026.

Samantha Sebastian, Dep Clerk

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-706**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Melvin Bradley

Divorces

V.

Respondent: Jacqueline Bradley

Civil Action Case Number: 25CV-637-3

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS**

To: Jacqueline Bradley, Respondent

Named Above: This notice has been published to let you know that a Divorce case was filed against you in Superior Court on 6-25, 2025. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on 07-10, 2025. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 2414 Brierwood Dr.Apt 30 You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Petition for Divorce.

This 10th day of July, 2025.

Whitney Williams

Dep Clerk

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**A-580**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Rhoda King V.

Respondent: Delvin Devon King

Civil Action Case Number: 26-CV-377-1

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS**

TO: Delvin Devon King, Respondent

Named Above: This notice has been published to let you know that a Divorce case was filed against you in Superior Court on April 17, 2026. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on July 23, 2026. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 612 Heartwood Lane Albany, GA 31705. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Divorce.

This 23rd day of July, 2026.

Samantha Sebastian, Dep. Clerk

Dougherty County Superior Court

State of Georgia

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

**A-750**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner: Shauna-Kay Levy V.

Respondent: Adrain Lumpkin

Civil Action Case Number: 2026-SU-CV-000395-V

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS**

To: Adrain Lumpkin, Respondent

Named Above: This notice has been published to let you know that a Divorce case was filed against you in Superior Court on 4/27, 2026. The court issued an order for service of summons by publication on 07/9, 2026. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the clerk of Superior Court and serve the Petitioner with a copy of the Answer. The Petitioner's address is 900 Crossings Dr Apt. 622, PCB Florida 32413. You must file your Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to file an Answer, then a judgment by default will be taken against you, and the Petitioner will get everything he asked for in the Petition for Divorce.

This 9th day of July, 2026.

Samantha Sebastian, Dep Clerk

**A-698**

PUBLICATION

DOUGHERTY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

IN THE MATTER OF: J.W., B/M, DOB: 11/25/2012

To: Rose White, Jawaski Cobb and any other individual who might be the biological father of one male child born to Rose White on November 25, 2012.

A petition was filed in this Court by Social Services Case Supervisor Treena White, on the 18th day of August 2025. The Petition alleges the above-referenced child to be dependent according to Georgia law and seeks termination of your parental rights, if any. You may obtain a copy of the Petition, which sets forth the specific allegations in detail, from the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, 225 Pine Avenue, Basement, Juvenile Court, Albany, Georgia, phone is 229-431-2162.

By authority of an Order for Service by Publication by the Judge of said Court on the 21st day of July, 2025, you are commanded to be an appear in the Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, at the Dougherty County Courthouse located at 225 Pine Avenue, Basement, Juvenile Court, Albany, Georgia, within sixty (60) days of said Order for Service by Publication and on the 29th day of September, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. to then and there make defense to allegations of the petition, and to show cause why the prayers of the petition should not be granted, and why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law. The hearing is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.

You or any other interested party may file a written objection or answer on or before the date and time for the hearing stated above by filing the same at the office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Dougherty County, 225 Pine Avenue, Basement, Juvenile Court, Albany, Georgia, within sixty (60) days of said Order for Service by Publication and on the 29th day of September, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. to then and there make defense to allegations of the petition, and to show cause why the prayers of the petition should not be granted, and why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law. The hearing is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.

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## Local Government

vs. This property is known as **504 Ninth Ave., Albany, Georgia, bearing Tax ID# 0000F/00006/021; and ELF HOLDINGS, LLC, Property Owner; Interested Persons as Defined in O.C.G.A. § 41-2-8(8): WIDIYO LLC AND GREG BRONER, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 504 NINTH AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-42**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TO: ELF HOLDINGS, LLC, WIDIYO, LLC AND GREG BRONER, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 504 NINTH AVE., ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA:** You are hereby notified that a Petition To Remedy Code and Ordinance Violations has been filed concerning the property located at 504 Ninth Ave. in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as All of Lot 31 and the western 16 feet of the northern ½ of the adjoining Lot 32, all in Block C of North End Addition according to the plat of the subdivision as is recorded in Deed Book 15, Page 357, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the **28th day of August, 2026**, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court located at the Law Enforcement Center, 201 W. Oglethorpe Blvd., Albany, Georgia, why the relief requested in said Petition should not be granted and the Code violations remedied and the nuisance abated at your expense. Let this notice be published and posted as required by law.

Witness the Honorable Ingrid Driskell, Chief Judge, Municipal Court.

Michael M. Custer  
Ga. Bar No. 525350  
Attorney for Petitioner

222 Pine Ave., Suite 560  
Albany, Georgia 31701  
(229) 431-2805 (office)  
mcuster@albanyga.gov  
August 15, 22, 2026

**A-810**  
**CITY OF ALBANY MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**CITY OF ALBANY, Petitioner,**  
**CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**  
**vs.**  
**This property is known as 1201 Gillespie Ave., Albany, Georgia, bearing Tax ID# 0000H/00019/007; and LW&DS DEVELOPMENT, LLC AND EMPIRE GROUP & INVESTMENTS, LLC, Property Owner; Interested Persons as Defined in O.C.G.A. § 41-2-8(8): F4K REAL ESTATE, LLC, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1201 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TO: LW&DS DEVELOPMENT, LLC, EMPIRE GROUP & INVESTMENTS, LLC AND F4K REAL ESTATE, LLC, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1201 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**

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**TO: LW&DS DEVELOPMENT, LLC, EMPIRE GROUP & INVESTMENTS, LLC AND F4K REAL ESTATE, LLC, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1201 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TO: LW&DS DEVELOPMENT, LLC, EMPIRE GROUP & INVESTMENTS, LLC AND F4K REAL ESTATE, LLC, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1201 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TO: LW&DS DEVELOPMENT, LLC, EMPIRE GROUP & INVESTMENTS, LLC AND F4K REAL ESTATE, LLC, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1201 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-43**

## Local Government

Ordinance Violations has been filed concerning the property located at 206 Edison Dr. in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows:

All of Lot 39 of Pecan Haven, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 269, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the **28th day of August, 2026**, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court located at the Law Enforcement Center, 201 W. Oglethorpe Blvd., Albany, Georgia, why the relief requested in said Petition should not be granted and the Code violations remedied and the nuisance abated at your expense. Let this notice be published and posted as required by law.

Witness the Honorable Ingrid Driskell, Chief Judge, Municipal Court.

Michael M. Custer  
Ga. Bar No. 525350  
Attorney for Petitioner

222 Pine Ave., Suite 560  
Albany, Georgia 31701  
(229) 431-2805 (office)  
mcuster@albanyga.gov  
August 15, 22, 2026

**A-808**  
**CITY OF ALBANY MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**CITY OF ALBANY, Petitioner,**  
**vs.**  
**This property is known as 1503 Gillespie Ave., Albany, Georgia, bearing Tax ID# 0000H/00022/009; and FORTUNE RENTAL PROPERTIES, LLC, Property Owner; Interested Persons as Defined in O.C.G.A. § 41-2-8(8): THIS & THAT INVESTMENTS, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1503 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, GA, Respondent(s).** **CIVIL DOCKET NO. 26-NA-39**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TO: FORTUNE RENTAL PROPERTIES, LLC AND THIS & THAT INVESTMENTS, AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1503 GILLESPIE AVE., ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA:** You are hereby notified that a Petition To Remedy Code and Ordinance Violations has been filed concerning the property located at 1503 Gillespie Ave. in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 19 in Block E of Avalon Subdivision according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 94 (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide A-12), in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Said Petition seeks to abate the conditions existing on said property which constitute a nuisance in violation of codes and ordinances of the City of Albany, Georgia. You are ordered to show cause before the undersigned on the **28th day of August, 2026**, at 9:00 a.m. and from time to time thereafter as the same may be called in the Municipal Court located at the Law Enforcement Center, 201 W. Oglethorpe Blvd., Albany, Georgia, why the relief requested in said Petition should not be granted and the Code violations remedied and the nuisance abated at your expense. Let this notice be published and posted as required by law.

Witness the Honorable Ingrid Driskell, Chief Judge, Municipal Court.

Michael M. Custer  
Ga. Bar No. 525350  
Attorney for Petitioner

222 Pine Ave., Suite 560  
Albany, Georgia 31701  
(229) 431-2805 (office)  
mcuster@albanyga.gov  
August 15, 22, 2026

**A-872**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Dougherty County**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**In re the name change of: Alayia Lopez Dunson**  
**Civil Action File No. 26-SUCV-724-3**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

I, Atrial Lopez Dunson, filed a petition in the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 27th day of July, 2026, to change my name from Atrial Lopez Dunson to Alayia Denise Dunson. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.

Signed this 27th day of July, 2026.

Atrial Lopez Dunson, Petitioner

500 Pine Ave  
Albany GA 31701

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-757**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Dougherty County**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**In re the Name Change of the Child(ren)**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

I, Stephanie Carter, filed this petition to the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 19th day of May, 2025, to change the name(s) of the minor child(ren) as follows:

Current Name of Child: Ryschambria Corbin

Date of Birth: 08/18/2007

Proposed New Name: Ryschambria R. Carter

Any interested or affected party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within thirty days as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

This 19th day of May, 2025.

Stephanie Carter  
Petitioner pro se

433 Wadkins Ave Apt B  
Albany, GA 31701  
229-462-4672

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-686**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Dougherty County**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**In re the Name Change of the Child(ren)**

Isaac John Jefferson, Minor

## Name Changes

child(ren)  
Civil Action File No. 26SUCV668-3  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
I, Taylor Howard Jefferson filed this petition to the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia on the 16th day of July, 2026, to change the name(s) of the minor child(ren) as follows:  
Current Name of Child: Isaac John Jefferson  
Date of Birth: 01-14-2026  
Proposed New Name: Isaac John Howard  
Any interested or affected party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within thirty days as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 19-12-1(f)(2) and (3).

This 16th day of July, 2026.

Taylor Howard Jefferson  
Petitioner pro se

615 W 3rd Ave  
Albany, GA 31701  
229-699-3959

July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2026

**Probate Court Administration**

**A-790**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: DEBRA D. RONEY**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2025-ES-333**

**Dwain Roney** has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **DEBRA D. RONEY**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **September 8, 2026**.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Judge, Probate Court  
Dougherty County, GA  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-792**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: GARY LEE SMITH**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-253**

**Lisa Merritt Smith** has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **GARY LEE SMITH**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **September 8, 2026**.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Judge, Probate Court  
Dougherty County, GA  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 15, 22, and 29, September 5, 2026

**A-794**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: DOMEKA D. HICKS**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-252**

**Terrika Brantley** has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **DOMEKA D. HICKS**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **September 8, 2026**.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Judge, Probate Court  
Dougherty County, GA  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 15, 22, and 29, September 5, 2026

**A-793**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: CARLOS R. PEREZ A/K/A CARLOS PEREZ**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-245**

**Luz Marina Alonzo** has petitioned to be appointed **administrator** of the estate of **CARLOS R. PEREZ A/K/A CARLOS PEREZ**, Deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261, and waiver of bond/reports/statements.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before **September 8, 2026**.

All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or

## Probate Court Administration

before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Judge, Probate Court  
Dougherty County, GA  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 15, 22, and 29, September 5, 2026

**Probate Court Guardianship**

**A-807**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF Dougherty County**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF A.C. MINOR**  
**ESTATE NO.**

**NOTICE**

**To: Ricky Coleman:** You are hereby notified that Cynthia Waters has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian, must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia probate court clerk and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees.

**NOTE:** If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date.

August 15, 22, 2026

**Probate Court 12 mth Support**

**A-737**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF: BROADUS ANDREW BAILEY**  
**ESTATE FILE NO: 2026-ES-456**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The Petition of **Judy Weldon Bailey** for a year's support from the estate of **BROADUS ANDREW BAILEY**, Deceased, for Decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before **August 31, 2026**, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds for any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleading/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Judge, Probate Court  
Dougherty County, GA  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-806**  
**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**CASE NAME: MAMIE CARTER NELSON**  
**CASE NO: 2018-ES-629**  
**IN RE: The Amended and Restated Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,**  
**TO: PAUL SMITH, EDDIE B. CARTER, TROY CARTER, ALONZO CARTER, DARRELL STUBBS, NAT THOMAS, SONYA THOMAS, JANE DOE (UNKNOWN DAUGHTER OF HOWARD THOMAS, JR. & GRAND DAUGHTER OF INEZ THOMAS) AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition in this Court on or before **September 8, 2026**.

**Be notified further:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Leisa G. Blount  
Probate Judge  
P.O. Box 1827  
Albany, GA 31702  
(229) 431-2102  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**Public Sales/ Auctions**

**A-801**  
Notice of Public Sale Ledo Self Storage 1661 Ledo Rd. Albany, GA 31707 (229) 490-4960. Property of the following tenant(s) will be sold to satisfy rental liens in accordance with the Georgia Code 10-4 -213 et seq for Georgia Lien Statutes. All items will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Sales will be conducted online at storageauctions.com, September 3, 2026 at 10AM EST. All goods will be sold AS IS condition. All items or spaces may not be available at time of sale. All sales are final, and a \$100 refundable cleaning deposit is required for all sales. The following units will be auctioned.

Unit A31 Sandra Knight-HH Goods

Unit A35 Audriana Smith-Toys/HH Goods.

Unit C53 Justice Jones Williams-Furniture.

August 15, 22, 2026

## Public Sales/ Auctions

**A-759**  
**UNKNOWN VEHICLES STRUMS ELITE TOWING & RECOVERY**

You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If a lien is foreclosed, the Court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is: Strum's Elite Towing & Recovery  
2800 Phillips Dr  
Albany Ga 31721

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

VIN: 2C3CDZBT4KH661546  
Year: 2019  
Make: Dodge  
Model: Challenger  
Case: 2026-236AV

VIN: 2CNDL13F876071216  
Year: 2007  
Make: CHEVY  
Model: Equinox  
Case: 2026-233AV

VIN: JTDUB4EE1BJ094928  
Year: 2011  
Make: TOYTA  
Model: Corolla  
Case: 2026-232AV

VIN: 1GNEC13Z25R249973  
Year: 2005  
Make: CHEVY  
Model: Tahoe  
Case: 2026-234AV

VIN: KMHCT4AE5HU197429  
Year: 2017  
Make: HYUNANDI  
Model: Accent  
Case: 2026-235AV

VIN: 1HGCJ1654WA048557  
Year: 1998  
Make: HONDA  
Model: ACCORD  
Case: 2026-167AV

August 8, 15, 2026

**A-756**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**Family Heirloom Storage of Albany**  
**431 S. Mock Rd**  
**Albany GA 31705**

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

A21 T. Green  
M022 T. Reddell  
M029 T. Reddell  
F002 S. Sipp  
P008 V. Harris  
J030 A. Williams  
D002 P. Sutton  
H005 D. Harri  
H028 M. Bryant  
Auction will be held at www.bid13.com and will end on or after 11:00AM on 08/24/2026  
August 8, 15, 2026

**A-747**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:**

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (A) (2), that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to foreclose liens for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at: A-1 Wrecker Service, 213 7th Ave, Albany, GA.

Make: Nissan  
Year: 2014  
Model: Altima  
Vin ID: 1N4AL3AP2EC142659  
License: SML2079  
State: GA  
Case #: 2026-218AV

Make: Mack  
Year: 2020  
Model: Anthem  
Vin ID: 1M1AN3GY5LM011317  
License: NONE  
State:  
Case #: 2026-212AV

Make: Mercury  
Year: 1997  
Model: Grand Marquis  
Vin ID: 2MELM75W3VX734310  
License: RTT6837  
State: GA  
Case: 2026-214AV

Make: Nissan  
Year: 2011  
Model: Versa  
Vin ID: 3N1BA1CP9BL504215  
License: TBP6400  
State: GA  
Case #: 2026-211AV

Make: GMC  
Year: 2005  
Model: Envoy  
Vin ID: 1GKDS13S852173148  
License: TBZ047



Foreclosures

present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000W-00007-055 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 213 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-782  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 800 N SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF.O.C.G.A.§48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being all of Lot 4 in Block 3 of Cleveland Heights, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 204 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 800 N. Slappey Boulevard according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000D 00007 002 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at DeedBook 5339, Page 144 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-776  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1108 THIRTEENTH AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County of Georgia and being all of Lot No. 3 and the east three(3) feet of Lot No. 5, Brookwood Subdivision, according to plat of same as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 100, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 1108 Thirteenth Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 021 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at DeedBook 5339, Page 185 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on**

Foreclosures

**or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-781  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 2019 WHISPERING PINES ROAD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and more particularly described as follows: All of Lot 2 of Groveland Subdivision which Lot 2 is a redivision of parts of Lots 50 and 49 of Groveland Subdivision according to a plat of same as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 116 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 2019 Whispering Pines Road according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000O 00005 003 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 203 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-780  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1803 N SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, consisting of 0.46 acres, more or less, and being located at 1803 N Slappey Blvd., and is a portion of that property identified as "Tract 1" in that quit claim deed between Thomas James Marshall Jr and Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC in Deed Book 4441, Page 72, Dougherty County, Georgia public records, being bounded as follows: On the North by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 081 (now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC); on the West by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 008 (now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC); on the South by an alley, the south side of which is the northern property line of Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000G 00001 007 (now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC) and Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000G 00001 006 (now or formerly owned by Newaze LLC); and bounded on the East by the western right-of-way of N Slappey Blvd. The above-described property being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 08J per the maps and records of the Dougherty County Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 198 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is

Foreclosures

not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem. **The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-779  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1700 N SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being the south portion of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 37 of Rawson Circle Subdivision, according to a map or plat of same recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 17 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows: Begin at the northeast intersection of North Slappey Drive and Tenth Avenue, thence run east along the north right-of-way line of Tenth Avenue 155.2 feet; thence run north at an angle of 90 degrees along the east line of Lot No. 7 a distance of 70 feet; thence west parallel to Tenth Avenue 154.1 feet to the east right-of-way line of Slappey Drive; thence south along the east right-of-way line of Slappey Drive 70 feet to the point of beginning. Being commonly known as 1700 N. Slappey Boulevard according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00032 003 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 201 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-778  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1110 THIRTEENTH AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and more particularly described as the west 70.3 feet of Lot 5, Brookwood Subdivision, according to a map or plat of same recorded in Plat Book 2, page 100 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 1110 Thirteenth Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 020 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property;and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at DeedBook 5339, Page 184 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the**

Foreclosures

**redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-777  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1805 W OGLETHORPE AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being all of Lot No. 34 of Avondale "B" Subdivision according to map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 123, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 1805 W Oglethorpe Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000O 00017 009 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 207 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-775  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO COMMERCIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1807 N SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, consisting of 0.76 acres, more or less, and being located at 1807 N Slappey Blvd., and is a portion of that property identified as "Tract 1" in that quit claim deed between Thomas James Marshall Jr and Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC in DeedBook 4441, Page 72, Dougherty County, Georgia public records, being bounded as follows: On the North by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 023 (now or formerly owned by Lagrange 4584, LLC) as well as an alley to the west of said parcel; on the West by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 008 (now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC); on the South by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 008J (now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC); and bounded on the East by the western right-of-way of N Slappey Blvd. The above-described property being known as 1807 N. Slappey Boulevard according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 08I per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 197 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the

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property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-773  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1114 THIRTEENTH AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and in the City of Albany, and being more particularly described as follows: All of Lot Nine (9) in Brookwood Subdivision, according to map or plat of same recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 100, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, being improved property with dwelling at 1114 13th Avenue. Being commonly known as 1114 Thirteenth Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 018 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 183 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-772  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:EILEN MARIE ZIRKELBACH GILES;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 3320 NEWTON ROAD REAR, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as all of Lot 9 of Block A of Colonial Place Subdivision, according to the plat of the subdivision as is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 273, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. EXCEPTED FROM THE LOT is the western 175 feet of the lot and the tract conveyed fronts 100 feet on the eastern side of Newton Road and runs back east an even width of 175 feet. The described tract is known as 3320 Newton Road Rear according to the current system of numbering of street in the City of Albany, Georgia. The described property was acquired by Donald R. Zirkelbach by a deed recorded in Deed Book 490, Page 244, in the Dougherty County land records. Being commonly known as 3320 Newton Road Rear according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0054 00001 09A per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2026, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 229 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also

Foreclosures

constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

Aaron Development, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-770  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 408 FIFTH AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that part of City Lot of Land Number Forty (40) on Fifth Street, in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, described as follows: Begin at the northeast corner of said lot and go west on the south side of said Fifth Street Seventy (70) feet, for a starting point, and thence go south two hundred (200) feet to Alley, thence west on said Alley Seventy (70) feet, thence north two hundred (200) feet to said Fifth Street, thence east on the south side of said Fifth Street Seventh (70) feet to said beginning point, the same being the middle one-third (1/3) of said lot number Forty (40) said Fifth Street above referred to is known as Fifth Avenue according to the present map of the City of Albany. Being commonly known as 408 Fifth Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000F 00020 014 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 112 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-768  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM [REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**  
TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1401 W THIRD AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lot no. Seven (7) of Relswood Terrace, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 99 of the Land Records of Dougherty County



Foreclosures

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 71 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

WUPA, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-763  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY; ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 802 N. SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:  
**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lots 1, 2 and 3 in Block 3 of Cleveland Heights Subdivision according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 1, page 204 in the Dougherty County, Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Office. Being commonly known as 802 N. Slappey Boulevard according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000D 00007 001 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at DeedBook 5339, Page 143 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-761  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: GREENLEO COMMERCIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;  
ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1300 WHISPERING PINES ROAD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described in that certain deed from Mark Cohen filed May 22, 1973 and recorded in Dougherty County Superior Court Deed Book 508, Page 89, as well as that certain deed from Thomas James Marshall Jr. filed 8/24/2017 and recorded in Dougherty County Superior Court Deed Book 4441, Page 72, being Tract 2 therein, which descriptions are incorporated herein by reference. The above tract is part of LL 371, 1st Land District of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and contains 15.94 acres. Being commonly known as 1300 Whispering Pines Road according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 08B per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 195 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed.

Foreclosures

That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-762  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY; ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 825 SHADOWLAWN DRIVE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying all and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and being all of Lot No. 78 in West Town Subdivision, Section 1, according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 36, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 825 Shadowlawn Drive according to the present system of numbering properties in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 00230 00005 007 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 319 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

ARXY, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-764  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
THOMAS JAMES MARSHALL, JR.;  
CITY OF ALBANY;  
ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1005 FIRST AVENUE, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT/OWNER/OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. §48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock(4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA§48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, being Lot 9, in Block 2, of Cleveland Heights Subdivision according to map or plat of said subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 204 of the records of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This property is known as 1005 First Avenue according to the present system of numbering streets in the City of Albany. Being commonly known as 1005 First Avenue according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 0000D 00006 007 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 122 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

Aaron Coleman, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

Foreclosures

**A-774  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: GREENLEO COMMERCIAL RENTAL, LLC;  
CITY OF ALBANY;  
ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 1809 N SLAPPEY BOULEVARD, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City Of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, Consisting of 9.6 Acres, more or less, and being located at 1809 N Slappey Blvd, and is a portion of that property identified as "Tract 1" in that quit claim deed between Thomas James Marshall Jr and Greenleo Commercial Rental LLC in Deed Book 4441, Page 72, Dougherty County, Georgia Public Records; being bounded as follows: On the North by an alley, the north side of which alley forms the southern property line for lots 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 of Brookwood Subdivision; On the East by Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 08I and Dougherty County Tax Parcel ID 0000N 00027 08J (both now or formerly owned by Greenleo Commercial Rental, LLC); On the South by an alley, the south side of which alley forms the northern property line of Lots 100 through 104 (inclusive) of Block G & Lots 105 through 112 (inclusive) of Block H of the North Slappey Heights Subdivision; on the West by the western right-of-way of Hoover Street; said tract also being bisected by Taft Street. The above-described property being known as tax parcel number 0000N 00027 08 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 182 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.  
Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-766  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**[REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46]**

TO: THERESA S. WATSON; A/K/A THERESA S. WATSON;  
CITY OF ALBANY;  
ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 2501 IMPERIAL STREET, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;  
RE: FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)  
Take notice that:

**The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later:**

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lot 1, Paradise Estates Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as shown and recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 27 in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Being commonly known as 2501 Imperial Street according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 225-1 00000 001 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. Also including any and all claims in and to that certain mobile home situated on the above-described property being described as a 1987 Piedmont Champion 14 x 60 mobile home assigned serial number 537320-P4183, which mobile home appears permanently affixed to the land.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 95 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

WUPA, LLC  
c/o John Coleman, Esq.

Foreclosures

Coleman Law, LLC  
Trinity Title Building  
437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.974.4537  
Please be governed accordingly.  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-800  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY**

**TO: HARRISON AND WALKER PROPERTIES LLC** [3000 CORPORATE CENTER STE 375, MORROW GA 30260] **AND ALL PERSONS HAVING OF RECORD IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON, THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW:**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT:**

The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:  
ADDRESS: **511 WEST MERCER AVE**  
PARCEL ID: 0000E/00006/009 REAL  
DESCRIPTION: BLK 46 PT LT 47 DISTRICT: 001 CITY OF ALBANY will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2026.

THE REPAYMENT: \$2312.27 for tax Auction, previous tax year tax, interest and service fees. Cash or cashier's check will only be accepted.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5TH day of AUGUST 2025, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Deed Book: 5339 at Page: 131-132. Filed: September 30, 2025 at 8:31am.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 25TH Day of September 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

**Tax-Sale Purchaser:**  
**ANTONIO M. KENDRICK**  
**Address for Redemption:**  
**512 W. MERCER AVE**  
**ALBANY GA 31701**  
Please be governed accordingly.  
Tax-Sale Purchaser  
Date: AUGUST 10, 2026  
August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-799  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION TO:**

GEENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL LLC AND THOMAS MARSHAL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN **1409 EAST LINCOLN AVE Albany, Georgia 31705** and all persons who can claim any interest in and to said property; Take Notice that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY, GEORGIA, BEING ALL OF LOT 3 OF ISABELLA HEIGHTS ADDITION ACCORDING TOA MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS THE SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 84 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IS LOCATED AT 1408 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE of record, as set forth in the aforementioned deed Parcel No.000QQ-00010-009 will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026. The Tax Deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5TH day of August 2025, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Deed Book 5339, Page 300-300. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: ANTONIO M. KENDRICK, 512 W. MERCER AVE Albany, GA 31701 PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY. By: 229/288-7979 mahkey75@aol.com. August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-798  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION TO:**

JENNIFER ARLENE FOUNTAIN AND ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN **321 SOUTHWOOD DR, Albany, Georgia 31701** and all persons who can claim any interest in and to said property; Take Notice that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY, GEORGIA, BEING ALL OF LOT 24 OF FLINTLAND SUBDIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT OF SAME RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 181, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Subject to visible easements and easements and restrictions of record, as set forth in the aforementioned deed Parcel No.000BB-00023-002 will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026. The Tax Deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5TH day of August 2025, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Deed Book 5339, Page 260-260. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: ANTONIO M. KENDRICK, 512 W. MERCER AVE Albany, GA 31701 PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY. By: 229/288-7979 mahkey75@aol.com. August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-797  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION TO:**

HARRISON AND WALKER PROPERTIES LLC, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN **509 MERCER AVEAVE Albany, Georgia 31701** and all persons who can claim any interest in and to said property; Take Notice that: The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY, GEORGIA, BEING ALL OF BLK 46 PT LT AS THE SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5339, PAGE 133-134 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IS LOCATED AT 1408 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE of record, as set forth in the aforementioned deed Parcel No.0000E-00006-010 will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026. The Tax Deed to which this notice relates is dated the 5TH day of August 2025, and is

recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia, in Deed Book 5339, Page 300-300. The property may be redeemed at any time before the 25TH day of SEPTEMBER 2026, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: ANTONIO M. KENDRICK, 512 W. MERCER AVE Albany, GA 31701 PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY. By: 229/288-7979 mahkey75@aol.com. August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

**A-719  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 7, Rolling Acres Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000476, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit: All of Lot Seven (7) of Rolling Acres Subdivision as shown by a map or plat recorded in Plat Book Two (2), Page One Hundred Thirty-two (132) in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Said subdivision being a part of Land Lot Two Hundred Seventy-eight (278) of the Second Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **2912 Leary Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00311/00001/003. Current Owner: Edward Eugene Davis and Annelle Strawder Davis.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2021 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner  
Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251  
Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-718  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Part of City Lot 93, Block 23, City of Albany, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000475, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, And being a part of City Lot 93, in Block 23, more particularly described as follows: COMMENCING at the northeast corner of Davis Street and Pine Avenue and go thence east along the north side of Pine Avenue a distance of 321.4 feet to the point of beginning, from this point of beginning continue east along the north right of way line of Pine Avenue a distance of 49.3 feet; from this point go north with an interior angle of 89° 42' a distance of 134 feet; go thence in a westerly direction parallel to Pine Avenue a distance of 46.5 feet to a point; go thence in a southerly direction, parallel to the east line a distance of 30 feet to a point; go thence in a westerly direction, parallel to Pine Avenue a distance of 2.8 feet; go thence in a southerly direction, parallel to the east line a distance of 104 feet to the side of Pine Avenue and point of beginning.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **619 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia**  
Tax Parcel ID # 0000D/00039/010. Current Owner: Thomas James Marshall, Jr.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the

Foreclosures

Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner  
Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251  
Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-717  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 11, Resubdivision of Lots 33 and 34, Block C, Emily G. Henderson Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000436, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and more particularly describes as follows: Lot 11, of the resubdivision of Lots Thirty-Three (33) and Thirty-Four (34) of Block C of the Emily G. Henderson Subdivision according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 161, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **621 Parkwood Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 000BB/00008/031. Current Owner: Delores McGahee.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner  
Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251  
Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-715  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE**

DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 10, Resubdivision of Lot 33, Block C, Emily G. Henderson Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000435, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit: All of Lot 9, of a re-subdivision of Lot 33, Block C, Emily G. Henderson Subdivision, as per map or plat of same recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 161, in the Office of the Clerk



Foreclosures

Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia and more particularly described as follows:

Begin at a point on the East side of Monroe Street one hundred seventy (170) feet South from where the South side of Lincoln Avenue intersects with the East side of Monroe Street; thence proceed in an easterly direction one hundred (100) feet; thence due South for a distance of sixty-nine (69) feet to Gordon Avenue; thence due West for a distance of one hundred (100) feet to Monroe Street; thence due North for a distance of Sixty-nine (69) feet to point of beginning.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **606 S. Monroe Street, Albany, Georgia.**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000E/00025/001.

Current Owner: George Brunson and Russell Tanksley.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2024 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-711**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Part of Lot 1, Block B, Riverside Park Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000431, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being a portion of Lot 1, Block B, of Riverside Park Subdivision according to a plat of same as recorded in Plat Book 2, page 221, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia described as commencing at the southeast corner of the intersection of River Road, also known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, and Alice Avenue and go thence in an easterly direction along the south right of way of Alice Avenue for a distance of 103.6 feet to a point; go thence in a southerly direction for a distance of 98.1 feet to a point on the south lot line of Lot 1, Block B, of Riverside Park Subdivision; go thence in a westerly direction along the said south lot line of Lot 1, Block B, or Riverside Park Subdivision for a distance of 105.3 feet to the east right of way of River Road, also known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive; go thence in a northerly direction along the east right of way of River Road, also known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, for a distance of 98.1 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being known as 312 Alice Avenue and also as 312 and 314 Alice Avenue, according to the present system of numbering in the City of Albany, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **312 Alice Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000I/00035/031.

Current Owner: Bettye Jackson.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2024 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

Foreclosures

**A-710**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Part of Land Lot 343, First Land District, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000430, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN Land Lot 343 of the First Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

Beginning at the intersection of the northern right-of-way line of Fifth Avenue and the eastern right-of-way line of Avenue K and run thence South 20° 08' West 93.33 feet to a point on the southern line of Fifth Avenue, and run thence North 88° 00' West 1500 feet along the right-of-way to a point on the southern line of Fifth Avenue which is the point of beginning of the hereindescribed tract; FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, run thence South 2° 00' West 290.40 feet to a point; run thence North 88° 00' East 150 feet to a point; run thence North 2° 00' East 290.40 feet to a point on the southern right-of-way of Fifth Avenue; and run thence South 88° 00' East along the right-of-way line 150 feet to the point; of beginning.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **1020 Butternut Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00200/00001/017.

Current Owner: John Lee Favors and Mary Ann Favors.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-709**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 9, Block A, Pineview Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000429, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lot 9, Block "A" of Pineview Subdivision, according to a plat of same as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 259, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **110 N. West Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000I/00011/004.

Current Owner: Greenleo Residential Rental, LLC

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

Foreclosures

**A-708**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 91, Coachman Park Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000428, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lot 91 of Coachman Park Subdivision, according to a map or plat of same as recorded4 in Plat Book 2, Page 34 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **1703 S. Jefferson Street, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000I/00033/034.

Current Owner: Greenleo Residential Rental, LLC

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-707**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 9, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 5, Block A, Pineview Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000427, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as follows: All of Lot 5 in Block "A" of Pineview Subdivision according to a map or plat of said subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 1, page 259, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **106 N. West Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000I/00011/006.

Current Owner: Greenleo Residential Rental, LLC

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-705**  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER  
GEORGIA, Dougherty COUNTY

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain **Security Deed** given by **Latoya Katrice Lewis** to **Capital City Home Loans, LLC**, dated **10/03/2025** and filed **10/07/2025**, recorded in Deed Book **5342**, Page **175-190**, **Dougherty** County, Georgia Records, **later assigned to Capital**

Foreclosures

**City Bank**, conveying the after-described property to secure a **Note** in the original principal amount of **one hundred twenty nine thousand dollars and no cents (\$129,000.00)**, with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of **Dougherty** County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on **Tuesday September 1, 2026**, the following described property:

**All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows: BEGIN in the northwest corner of Jackson Elementary School property, then go north and in the east margin of Central Street a distance of 474 feet to the north margin of East Fourth Avenue, then go west and across Central Street a distance of 78 feet, then continue west 175 feet, and from this as the Point of Beginning, go north 135.6 feet to an alley, then go west 85 feet, then go south 137.6 feet, then go east and along the north margin of East Fourth Avenue 85 feet, to the Point of Beginning, and this is to be known as Lot No. 5, in Block NN, of proposed subdivision to be known as Jackson Heights Section C, and contains 11,611 square feet, said property being generally known as 1211 East Fourth Avenue according to the present system of numbering in use in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia.**

**Parcel ID No. 0007T/00041/020**

The debt secured by said **Security Deed** has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the **Note** and **Security Deed**. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the **Security Deed** and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not due and payable and which may not be of record, any right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the **Security Deed** first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is **Latoya Katrice Lewis** or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **1211 E 4th Ave, Albany GA 31705-1329**.

In compliance with Georgia law, please find below the contact information for the entity who has authority to negotiate, amend, and modify the terms of the loan documents which may include a note, mortgage, security deed or deed to secure debt.

**Capital City Home Loans, LLC**, 50 Chastain Center Blvd Kennesaw GA 30144 (855)232-8519

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the **Security Deed**. to any rights of rescission of the party conducting this foreclosure sale pursuant to Georgia law including, but not limited to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non- judicial sales in the state of Georgia.

Please note that the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above and final review by the party conducting this foreclosure sale for compliance with contractual and legal obligations pursuant to the terms of the loan documents and State and Federal law, including but not limited to any and all rights of rescission.

**Capital City Bank**, as Attorney in Fact for **Latoya Katrice Lewis** By: **Andrew D. Gleason** Attorney for **Capital City Bank**

5555 Glenridge Connector Suite 900 Atlanta, Georgia 30342 (404)869-6900 (404)869-6909 (fax)

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-700**  
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER WRIT OF FIERI FACIAS**

**GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Writ of Fieri Facias against Glenn Singfield II dated April 9, 2026, filed for record April 10, 2026, recorded at Lien Book 602, Page 142, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, in the original amount of \$23,667.04, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold, by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse Door, or designated area in **DOUGHERTY COUNTY, Georgia**, or designated area, within the legal hours of sale on the **first TUESDAY in SEPTEMBER 2026**, the following described property:

**That certain 2016 GMC Yukon XL Denali with VIN Number 1GKS2HKJXR3S05589.**

This sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt owned under the above Writ of Fieri Facias, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees and other payments provided for under the terms of the Writ of Fieri Facias and Georgia Law.

The above-described motor vehicle will be sold AS IS and subject to any liens. No recorded liens were found as of June 2, 2026 by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

For further information about this Writ of Fieri Facias or Notice of Sale: Contact: Sherman Willis Gardner Willis Plaire & Wilson, LLP 1115 W. 3rd Avenue, Albany, GA 31707 Phone: 229-883-2441

Foreclosures

Email: sherman.willis@gwplaw.com  
July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2026

**A-720**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 8, Rolling Acres Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000477, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and being all of Lot #8 of ROLLING ACRES SUBDIVISION, according to a plat of same recorded in Plat Book (2), Page (132) in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia and being part of Land Lot (278) in the Second Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **2914 Leary Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00311/00001/004.

Current Owner: Edward Eugene Davis and Annelle Strawder Davis.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2021 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-772**  
**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM**  
**(REF. O.C.G.A. Section 48-4-5 et seq.; 48-4-45 & 48-4-46)**

TO:GREENLEO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL, LLC; CITY OF ALBANY; ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HAVING OF RECORD IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST IN, OR LIEN UPON 837 VAN DEMAN STREET, ALBANY, GEORGIA INCLUDING ANY TENANT / OWNER / OCCUPANT OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; RE:FORECLOSURE OF EQUITY OF REDEMPTION FOR TAX SALE DEED (REF. O.C.G.A. § 48-4-45, 46)

Take notice that: **The right to redeem the following described property, to wit will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred as of four o'clock (4 p.m.) on and after September 21, 2026, or within 30 days after legal service of the Notice pursuant to OCGA 48-4-45 et seq., whichever date is later.**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia and being described as follows: All of the north one-half of Lot Number 5 of Block "K" of Rood Pecan Park Subdivision, as per map or plat recorded in Plat Book 1, Pages 102-103 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Said one-half lot fronting one hundred one (101) feet on the west side of Van Demon Avenue and extending west same with a distance of one hundred eighty two (182) feet, more or less, on which is located a frame dwelling now or formerly known as the H.E. Dean House and lot located at 837 Van Deman Avenue. Being commonly known as 837 Van Deman Street according to the present system of numbering properties in Dougherty County, and also being known as tax parcel number 00001 00004 009 per the maps and records of the Dougherty County tax assessor and tax commissioner. TOGETHER WITH all right, title, and interest running with the above-described property; and TOGETHER with all rights, members, privileges and appurtenant easements.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated August 5, 2025, and is recorded at Deed Book 5339, Page 100 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This notice also constitutes a demand for possession of the property described herein on and after the foreclosure date and time set out above in the event the property is not timely redeemed. That a party is named in this notice is not determinative that such party has a legal right to redeem.

**The property may be redeemed on or before the time and date stated above by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:**

OCMC Investments, LLC c/o John Coleman, Esq. Coleman Law, LLC Trinity Title Building 437 E. Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030 404.974.4537

Please be governed accordingly.

August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2026

Foreclosures

**A-721**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 9, Rolling Acres Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000478, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia and more particularly described as all of Lot 9 of Rolling Acres Subdivision, according to a Plat of said Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 132. And being a part of Land Lot 278 in the 2nd Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **2916 Leary Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00311/00001/005.

Current Owner: Edward Eugene Davis and Annelle Strawder Davis.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2021 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-723**  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 11, Block 11, Ragsdale Addition, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000480, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 11 of Block 11 of Ragsdale Addition, according to the plat of the subdivision as recorded in Deed Book 15, Pages 344-345, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This tract is known as 422 Dorsett Avenue according to the present system of numbering of streets in the City of Albany, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **422 Dorsett Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000I/00018/025.

Current Owner: Charlie Brown, Sr.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2021 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner

Stephen G. Gunby  
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse,  
Tucker & Ford, P.C.  
P. O. Box 1199  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey,  
Dougherty County Tax Director and  
Ex Officio Sheriff  
August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-754**  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Kathryn D. Bishop to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as grantee, as nominee for LoanDepot.com, LLC dated June 9, 2023 and recorded on

June 14, 2023 in Deed Book 5097, Page 91, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, and later assigned to loanDepot.com, LLC by Assignment of Security Deed recorded on May 12, 2026 in Deed Book 5380, Page 395, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$115,500.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on September 1, 2026 the following described property:

The following described property situated in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, to wit:

A parcel of land located in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and known as: being Lot Number 115 in Westwood Subdivision, Section III as shown in the recorded plat/map thereof in Plat Book 4, Page, 88 of Dougherty County records.

Being the same which Thomas E. Ward, III and Cynthia B. Ward by Deed dated December 28, 1983 and recorded December 29, 1983 in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia in (Book) 725 (Page) 11 conveyed unto Kathryn D. Bishop. Parcel/APN/Tax ID: 00348/00003/028

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Your mortgage servicer, loanDepot.com, LLC, as servicer for loanDepot.com, LLC, can be contacted at 866-970-7105 or by writing to P.O. Box 5710 , Chicago, IL 60680-5681, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the parties in possession of the property are Kathryn D. Bishop or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **1510 Westwood Drive, Albany, GA 31721**.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

loanDepot.com, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Kathryn D. Bishop

McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 404-474-7149

MTG File No.: 26-002654-01

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

Foreclosures

**A-751**  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Jennifer A Dorminey and Joyce L Stewart to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Renasant Bank, its successors and assigns dated 4/15/2016 and recorded in Deed Book 4309 Page 308 Dougherty County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Renasant Bank, conveying the afterdescribed property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$78,551.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on September 1, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and being all of Lot 8 of Murray Hill Subdivision, Section I, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as same is recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 133 (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide A-91), in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in



**Foreclosures**

covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. Renasant Bank as agent and Attorney in Fact for Jennifer A Dorniney and Joyce L Stewart Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1017-8167A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-8167A

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-740  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated July 30, 2005, from Carolyn Cooper to Citifinancial Services, Inc., recorded on August 3, 2005 in Deed Book 3012 at Page 338 Dougherty County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A. as Trustee of CFMT 2024-NR1 Trust by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated July 30, 2005, in the amount of \$24,967.77, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Dougherty County, Georgia, on September 1, 2026 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

**ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY, STATE OF GA, TO-WIT:**

**ALL OF LOT 11 OF SYLVANDALE SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SAME AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 159 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING THAT PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO ANDREW COOPER, JR. AND CAROLYN B. COOPER FROM AMMON G. MCCLELLAN BY THAT DEED DATED 12/17/1976 AND RECORDED 12/17/1976 IN DEED BOOK 574, AT PAGE 88 OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GA PUBLIC REGISTRY.**

**BEING THAT PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO CAROLYN COOPER FROM ANDREW COOPER BY THAT DEED DATED 12/03/1987 AND RECORDED 12/11/1987 IN DEED BOOK 886, AT PAGE 77 OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GA PUBLIC REGISTRY.**

The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Carolyn Cooper.

The property, being commonly known as **1521 Cora Jinks Lane, Albany, GA, 31705** in Dougherty County, will be sold as the property of Carolyn Cooper, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suite 1300, Orange, CA 92668, 800-561-4567 . The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

**ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS:** On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicious Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

<https://www.fincen.gov/rre> and <https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs> The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

Albertelli Law Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust, N.A. as Trustee of CFMT 2024-NR1 Trust as Attorney in Fact for Carolyn Cooper 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 10039 Atlanta, GA 30339

**Foreclosures**

Phone: (770) 373-4242 THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 25-016302

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-734  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, DOUGHERTY COUNTY** Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Bennie Harris Russell to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Flagship Financial Group, LLC, its successors and assigns dated 11/25/2016 and recorded in Deed Book 4374 Page 252 Dougherty County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC , conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$184,664.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on Tuesday 1, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: The land referred to herein being is situated in the county of Dougherty, State of Georgia, and is described as follows: All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 74 in the Second Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 32 of Gillionville Forest Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as the same is recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 125, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-35), in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Parcel ID: 074-2/00000/121 Commonly known as 706 White Oak Dr, Albany, GA 31721-9013 However, by showing this address no additional coverage is provided. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as **706 White Oak Dr, Albany, GA 31721-9013** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Estate/Heirs of Bennie Harris Russell or tenant or tenants. Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage. Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd. Coppell, TX 75019 1-888-480-2432 Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Bennie Harris Russell Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1006-2823A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1006-2823A

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-733  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY** Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Samantha B Mayberry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Society Mortgage, its successors and assigns dated December 15, 2021, recorded in Deed Book 4918, Page 33, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 5112, Page 47, Dougherty County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$249,153.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Dougherty County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in September, 2026, the following described property: **SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF** The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default having been made of the terms of the Note and Security Deed.

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**Foreclosures**

The terms remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the total debt, including all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law which includes, but is not limited to, attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, (888) 480-2432.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

Upon information and belief, said property is more commonly known as **1824 Green Valley Ln, Albany, GA 31707**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.

**ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS:** On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including some that go beyond the typical one-to-four family residence) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. If applicable, as part of this Rule, buyers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable." This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

"The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC as Attorney in Fact for Samantha B Mayberry McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 1544 Old Alabama Rd Roswell, GA 30076 [www.foreclosurehotline.net](http://www.foreclosurehotline.net) EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 506 of Lake Park Subdivision "C", Section 6, as shown on a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 263, (Plat Cabinet 1, Slide B-7) in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Dougherty County, Georgia. This conveyance is made subject to the public utility easements and other easements, visible and/or of record, affecting the conveyed property; to any valid and enforceable protective covenants and restrictions applicable to the property and to the valid and enforceable laws, ordinances and regulations governing and regulating the use of the conveyed property. KR September 1, 2026 Our file no. 23-12180GA 23-12180GA

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-732  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER** Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by SYLVIA WRIGHT to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN in the original principal amount of \$115,000.00 dated October 19, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 3238, Page 1, Dougherty County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR REGISTERED HOLDERS OF FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FF18 the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 9/1/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows: **ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND BEING ALL OF LOT 43 OF LORETTA HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO PLAT OF SAME AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 PAGE 123 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA. Said property being known as: 3206**

**Foreclosures**

**RADIUM SPRINGS RD, ALBANY, GA 31705**

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

Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

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

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

Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS

SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR REGISTERED HOLDERS OF FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FF18, as Attorney-in-Fact for SYLVIA WRIGHT

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 13010 Morris Rd, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Phone: 470-321-7112 Firm File No. 26-386544

August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-727  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 10, Coachman Park Addition et al, Case No. SUCV2026000483, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and being all of Lot 10 of Coachman Park Addition, according to plat recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 52, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **511 Louis Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00010/00033/010. Current Owner: Jesse E. Gadson.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 1992 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner Stephen G. Gunby Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C. P.O. Box 1199 Columbus, Georgia 31902 706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey, Dougherty County Tax Director and Ex Officio Sheriff August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-726  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Part of Lot 9, Plat of Property of Mrs. Frances Wellman, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000482, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

**Foreclosures**

(September 1, 2026), to wit: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 94 of the First Land District of Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as all of Lot 9 according to a map or plat of survey entitled "Plat Property of Mrs. Frances Wellman" dated January 26, 1959 and recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 28 in the Dougherty County, Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Office.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed. The improvements thereon being known as: **2709 Moultrie Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00146/00001/008. Current Owner: Greenleo Development, LLC.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner Stephen G. Gunby Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C. P.O. Box 1199 Columbus, Georgia 31902 706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey, Dougherty County Tax Director and Ex Officio Sheriff August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-725  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on July 17, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Part of Land Lot 362, 2nd Land District, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000564, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in Part of Land Lot No. 362, Second Land District, Dougherty County, Georgia designated on the Tax Maps of Dougherty County, Georgia as Parcel ID 00316/00001/10B. As of 2026, said parcel is bounded on the north and west by property currently owned by Industry Service and Development Company and David L. Keenan and on the east and south by property currently owned by Rajahn Hassan. An accurate description of the subject property is not available but includes all land contained within the above-identified parcel number and not taxed under a separate parcel number by the Dougherty County Tax Department. Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **Calvary Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00316/00001/10B. Current Owner: Patsy Wilson Paulk.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2014 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner Stephen G. Gunby Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C. P.O. Box 1199 Columbus, Georgia 31902 706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey, Dougherty County Tax Director and Ex Officio Sheriff August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-724  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 10, Block 10, Ragsdale-Odom Addition, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000481, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All of Lot 10, Block 10, Ragsdale-Odom Addition to the City of Albany, as per map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Deed Book 15, Page 344 and 345 in the Office of

**Foreclosures**

the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. This property is known as 418 Holloway Avenue according to the present system of numbering in the City of Albany, Georgia.

Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **418 Holloway Avenue, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 00001/00017/029. Current Owner: Samuel Thornton.

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2022 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner Stephen G. Gunby Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C. P.O. Box 1199 Columbus, Georgia 31902 706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey, Dougherty County Tax Director and Ex Officio Sheriff August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-722  
NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE SALE DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Pursuant to Order entered by the Dougherty County Superior Court on June 30, 2026, in the case of Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia, Plaintiff, versus Lot 62, Whispering Pines Subdivision, et al, Case No. SUCV2026000479, Shonna Colley Josey, Tax Director, Dougherty County, Georgia and Ex Officio Sheriff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81 and applicable law, will sell the real property described herein, its improvements, buildings, fixtures and appurtenances, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Dougherty County Courthouse, 225 Pine Ave, Albany, Georgia, at the usual hour and location for Sheriff's Sales, on the first Tuesday of September, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (September 1, 2026), to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Dougherty County, Georgia and being more particularly described as a part of Land Lot 371 of the First District of said County, and more particularly described as all of Lot 62 of Whispering Pines Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 262 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia. Together with all rights, title, and interest running with the above-described property but not taxed under a separate tax reference number as delineated on the tax maps of the petitioner for the year(s) for the taxes being foreclosed.

The improvements thereon being known as: **1400 Whispering Pines Road, Albany, Georgia**

Tax Parcel ID # 0000N/00027/066. Current Owner: Greenleo Development, LLC., Horace W. Musgrove and Mark Cohen

The above-described property is subject to a lien in favor of Petitioner for unpaid ad valorem property taxes for the years 2023 through 2025. The taxes remaining unpaid, the sale will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof to the payment of the taxes, accrued interest and penalties and expenses of the sale and all other payments provided by applicable law. The above-described property will also be sold subject to rights of redemption as described in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-81. Any excess proceeds resulting from the sale will be deposited into the Registry of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Georgia to be distributed by the Court to the interested parties, including the owner, as their interests appear and in the order of priority in which their interests exist.

SHONNA COLLEY JOSEY, Dougherty County Tax Director, Petitioner Stephen G. Gunby Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C. P.O. Box 1199 Columbus, Georgia 31902 706-324-0251

Attorneys for Shonna Colley Josey, Dougherty County Tax Director and Ex Officio Sheriff August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**A-739  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated July 28, 2000, from Judge Gilbert and Mary Gilbert to First Family Financial Services of GA Inc., recorded on August 1, 2000 in Deed Book 2117 at Page 129 Dougherty County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB as trustee of WV 2017-1 Grantor Trust by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated , in the amount of \$31,920.77, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Dougherty County, Georgia, on September 1, 2026 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

**LAND REFERRED TO IN THIS COMMITMENT IS DESCRIBED AS ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN ALBANY IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY, AND STATE OF GEORGIA AND BEING DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 12/08/72 AND RECORDED 12/15/72, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND STATE SET FORTH ABOVE, AND REFERENCED AS FOLLOWS: BOOK 495 PAGE 165**

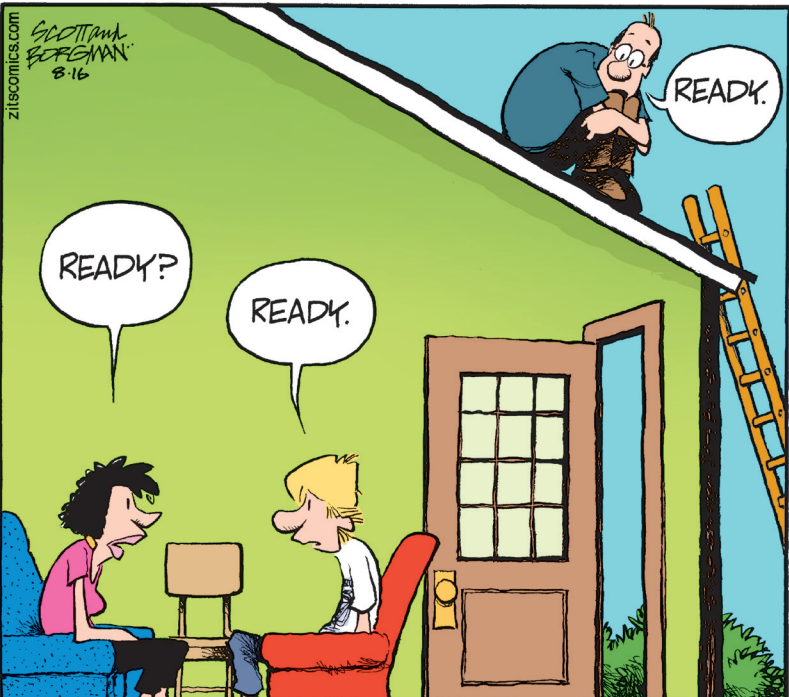
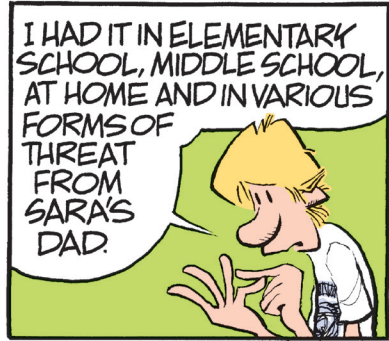
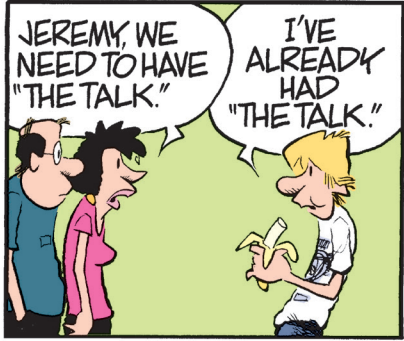
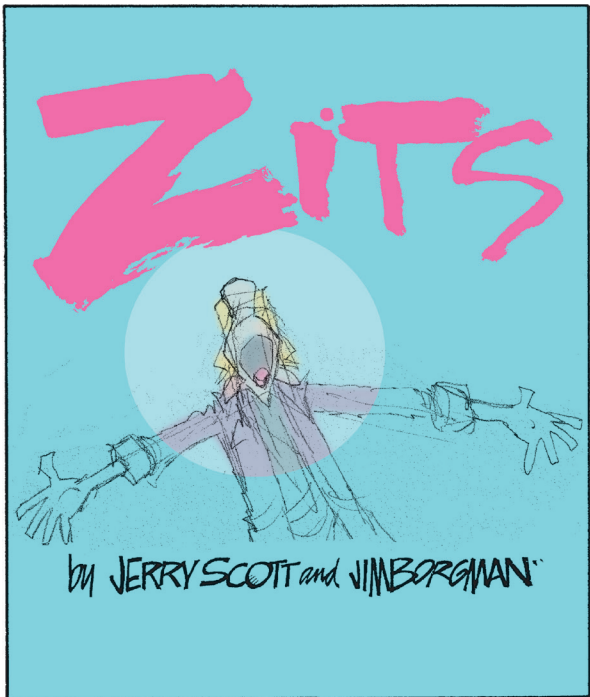
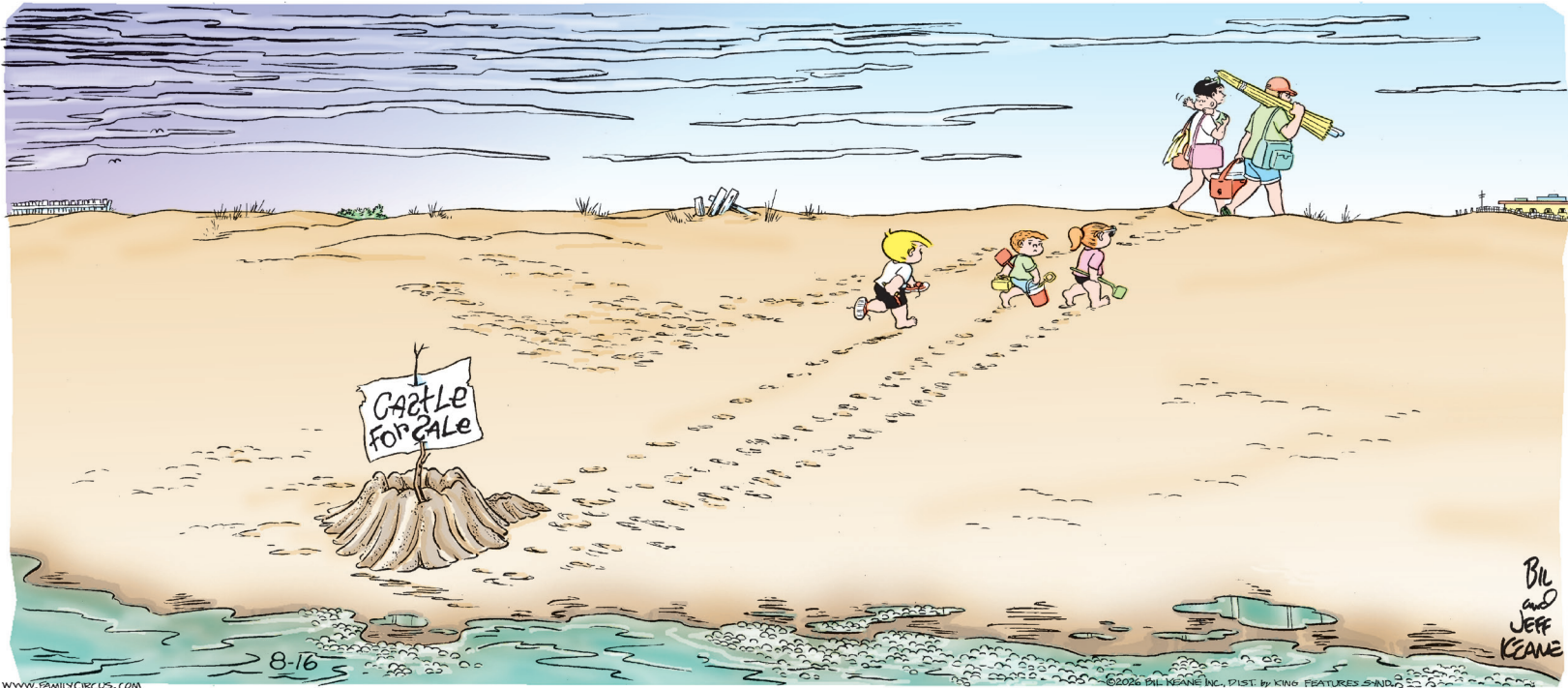
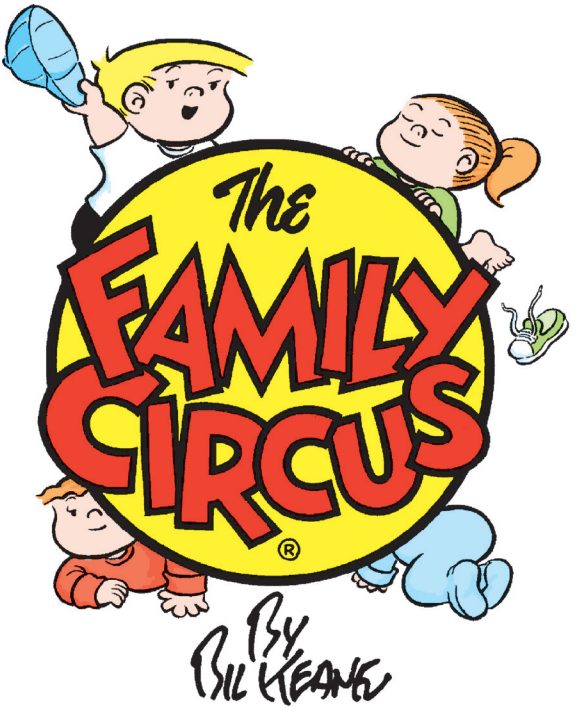
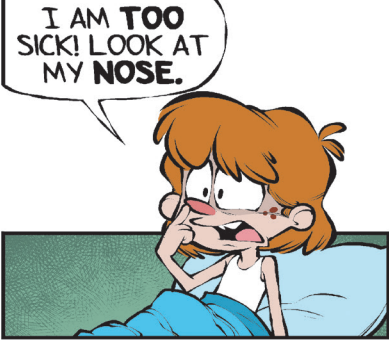
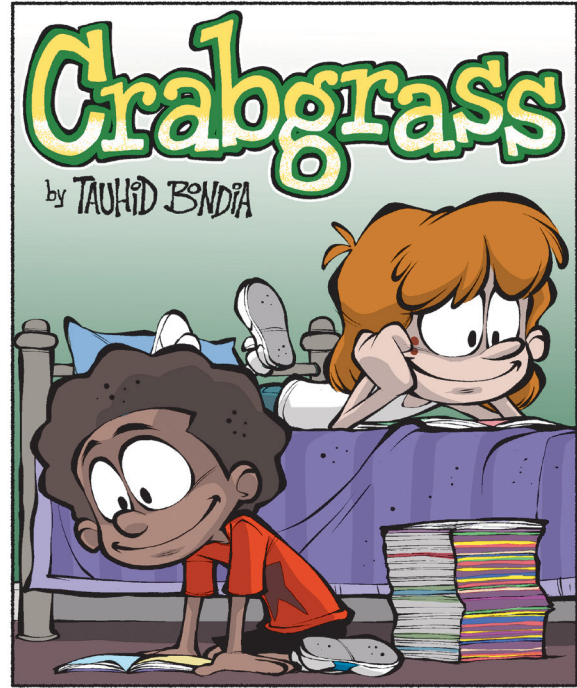
**ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY,**



The Albany  
HERALD  
ALBANYHERALD.COM

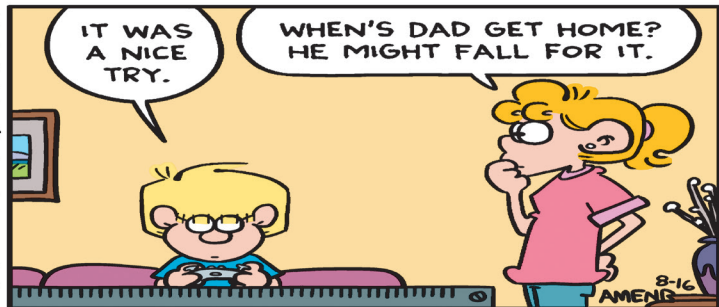
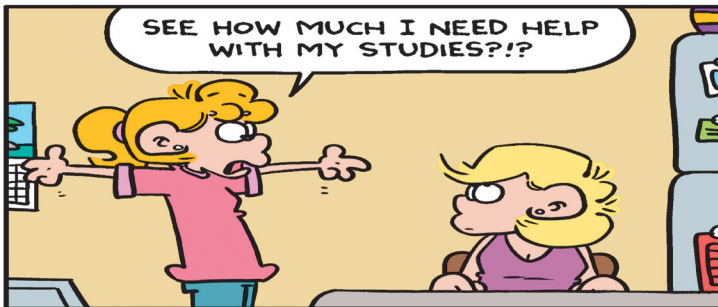
Weekend Comics

AUGUST 15-16, 2026



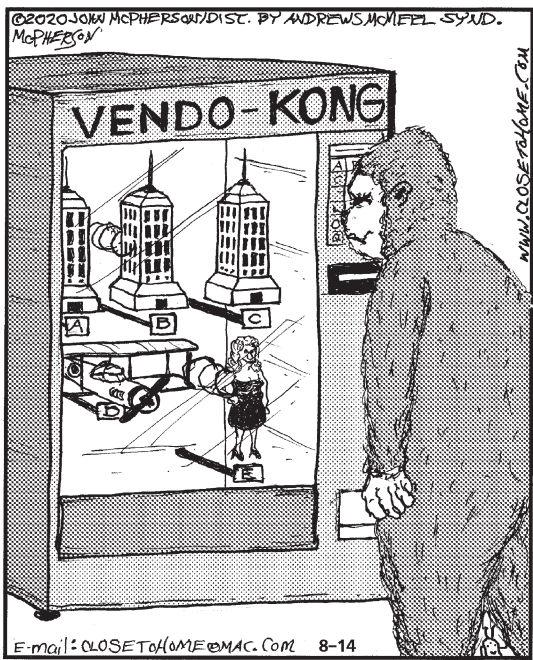
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

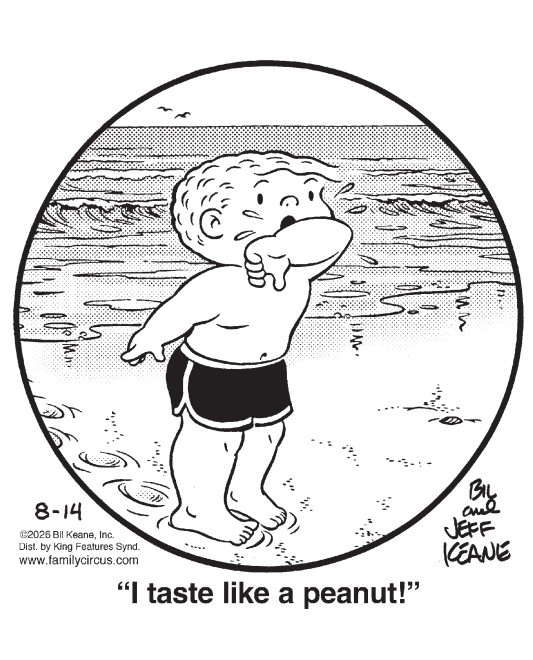




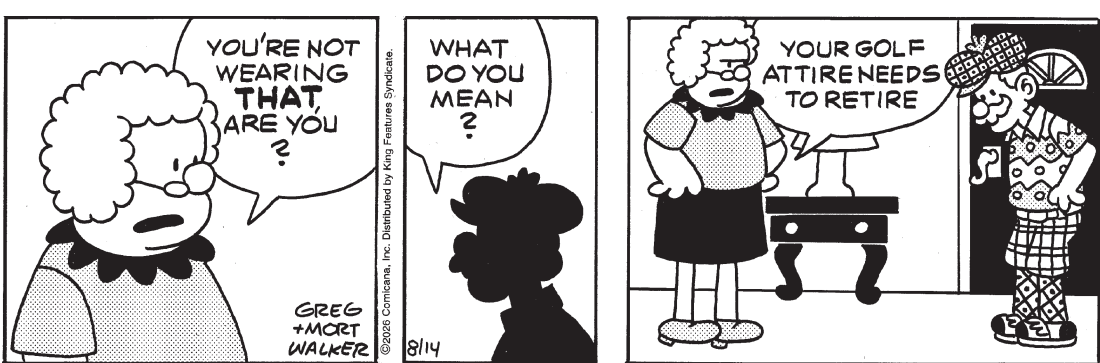
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



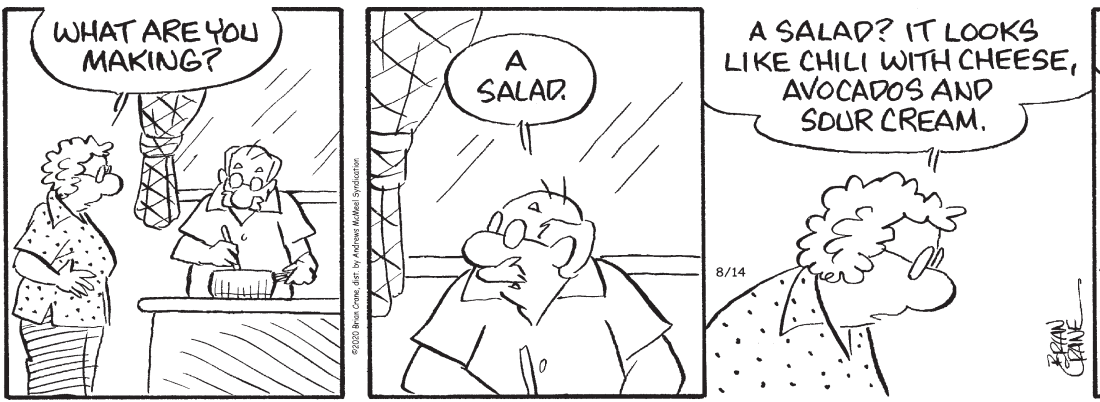
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

**TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:**  
Overnight bag

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

|                                                                                  |                                              |                                        |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                                                    | <b>DOWN</b>                                  | <b>33</b> US Open locale               | <b>46</b> Region with many Nats fans, briefly |
| 1 "Cor, blimey!"                                                                 | 1 Networking assistance                      | 34 Interstate stopover                 | 47 Overview producer?                         |
| 5 Oxygen co-creator                                                              | 2 Grammy winner Twain                        | 35 Fig. for ordering replacement parts | 49 Canteen stack                              |
| 10 Mascaron image                                                                | 3 "Is This Thing On?" star Will              | 36 Set pieces                          | 50 Perceived to be                            |
| 14 Drive-_____                                                                   | 4 Big laugh                                  | 37 Peach                               | 51 1-Down callers                             |
| 15 Tricky tennis serve                                                           | 5 Activist/actor Davis                       | 38 "So sweet!" spot                    | 52 Uncool                                     |
| 16 Traffic-dependent figs.                                                       | 6 Straight up                                | 39 Side mirror                         | 56 Auto care brand                            |
| 17 Azaria of "Brockmire"                                                         | 7 Classic laundry soap                       | 43 Cider source                        | 57 Actress Grier                              |
| 18 "Action figure at the bottom of a pool?"                                      | 8 "Jeepers!"                                 | 45 Like some cheesecake                | 58 Come up short, maybe                       |
| 20 WSW reversal                                                                  | 9 Little laugh                               |                                        | 59 Minor quibble                              |
| 21 Virtual citizenry                                                             | 10 Beyond irritated                          |                                        |                                               |
| 22 Dad's sister                                                                  | 11 Try to make right                         |                                        |                                               |
| 23 "Naval officer's very quiet "ahoy there"?"                                    | 12 Pasadena research univ.                   |                                        |                                               |
| 28 Outdoor dining spot                                                           | 13 Pre-naturalization test course, for short |                                        |                                               |
| 29 "Oh, now I see"                                                               | 19 Meemaw alternative                        |                                        |                                               |
| 30 TV controller?                                                                | 21 "McSorley's Bar" painter                  |                                        |                                               |
| 31 19th Greek letter                                                             | 24 "____ Andronicus"                         |                                        |                                               |
| 33 Cryptography org.                                                             | 25 Ceremonial accessory                      |                                        |                                               |
| 34 Mineralogist who created a scale                                              | 26 Rental after closing, maybe               |                                        |                                               |
| 35 "Jokes about miscellaneous items?"                                            | 27 Hardware for Xbox                         |                                        |                                               |
| 38 2025 WNBA champions                                                           | 32 Cow's milk source                         |                                        |                                               |
| 40 Solstice mo.                                                                  |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 41 Live and _____ live                                                           |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 42 "Starship Troopers" backdrop                                                  |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 43 Zing                                                                          |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 44 Gives, but not forever                                                        |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 48 "Essential for authors who work at the beach?"                                |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 53 Olympic swimmer Torres                                                        |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 54 Cruising                                                                      |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 55 _____ leaf: stew herb                                                         |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 56 Clean energy option, or a hint to what the answers to the starred clues have? |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 59 Snitch (on)                                                                   |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 60 "Copacabana" bartender                                                        |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 61 Hugo or Edgar                                                                 |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 62 Wayfair rival                                                                 |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 63 Referendum side                                                               |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 64 Like some buns                                                                |                                              |                                        |                                               |
| 65 Join (up)                                                                     |                                              |                                        |                                               |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | V | E | L |   | A | S | S | E | W |   | S | O | R | D |
| V | E | X | I |   | D | H | V | M | V |   | A | N | O | L |
| C | H | V | N |   | H | E | M | O | d | H | V | T | O | S |
| A | V | H |   | V | E | S |   | V | E | V | H | V | D |   |
| X | O | O | T | B | N | S | S | H | E | I | H | M |   |   |
| S | D | N | E | T |   |   | d | E | d |   | H | V | M |   |
|   |   |   |   | E | T |   | O | E | d | S | E | O | V |   |
|   |   |   |   | H | O | W | N | H | A | H | D | N | N | S |
| S | H | O | W |   | V | S | N |   | N | V | I | L |   |   |
| C | H | O |   | V | H | V |   | O | I | L | V | d |   |   |
| P | E | E | P | N | S | O | B | E | T | L | L | I | T |   |
|   |   |   |   | I | N | O | N |   | S | W | I | S |   | E |
| T | O | O | N | E | X | N | N | S |   | X | N | V | H |   |
| S | V | L | E |   | E | O | I | T | S |   | N | V | S | I |
| E | A | C | E |   | H | V | A | P | O |   | A | V | S | I |

08/14/26

|    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3 | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |   |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |   |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |   |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |
| 23 |    |   | 24 |    |    |    |    | 25 | 26 |    |    |    |    | 27 |
| 28 |    |   |    |    |    |    |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |
|    |    |   | 31 |    | 32 |    | 33 |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |
|    |    |   | 35 |    |    | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    |    |
| 38 | 39 |   |    |    | 40 |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |   |    | 43 |    |    |    |    | 44 |    | 45 | 46 | 47 |    |
| 48 |    |   | 49 |    |    |    |    | 50 | 51 | 52 |    |    |    |    |
|    | 53 |   |    |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |
| 56 |    |   |    |    |    |    | 57 | 58 |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |
| 60 |    |   |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |    |
| 63 |    |   |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |

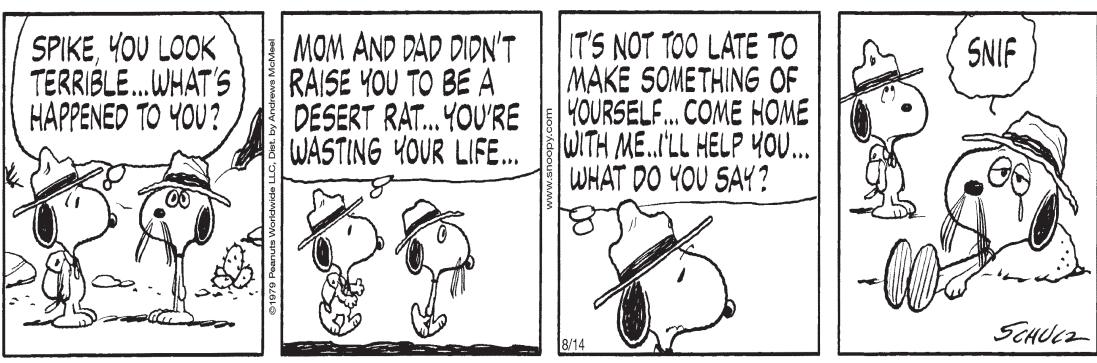
By Katie Hale  
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08/14/26

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

**BAMBOO SLEEPWEAR** Solution: 9 letters

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

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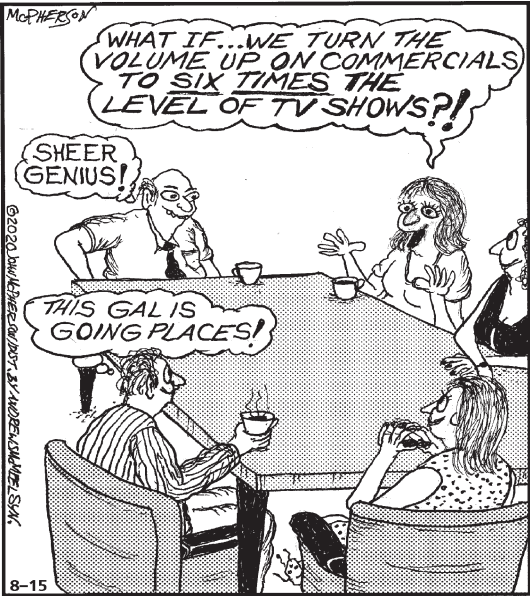
8/14

Absorbent, Antibacterial, Beds, Blue, Bold, Breathable, Climate, Comfort, Cooling, Cozy, Dress, Durable, Eco-friendly, Fabric, Fresh, Gentle, Green, Hygiene, Hypoallergenic, Lightweight, Organic, Pajama, Pants, Plant, Renewable, Rest, Robe, Sateen, Sensitive, Shorts, Silky, Skin, Soft, Sustain, Sweats, Thermodynamic, Throw, Tops, Wash

**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Nightgown

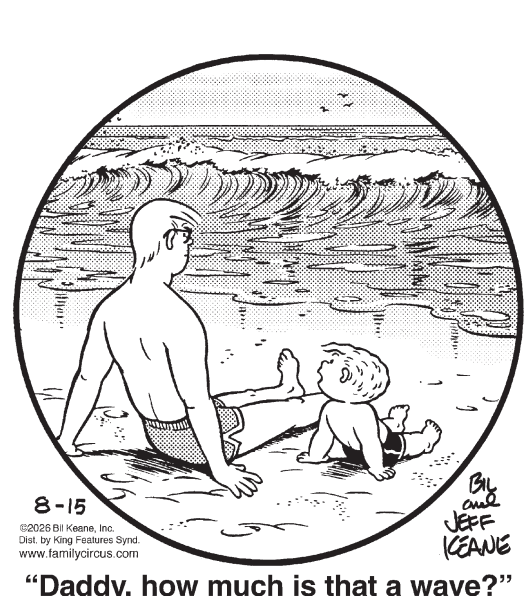


CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



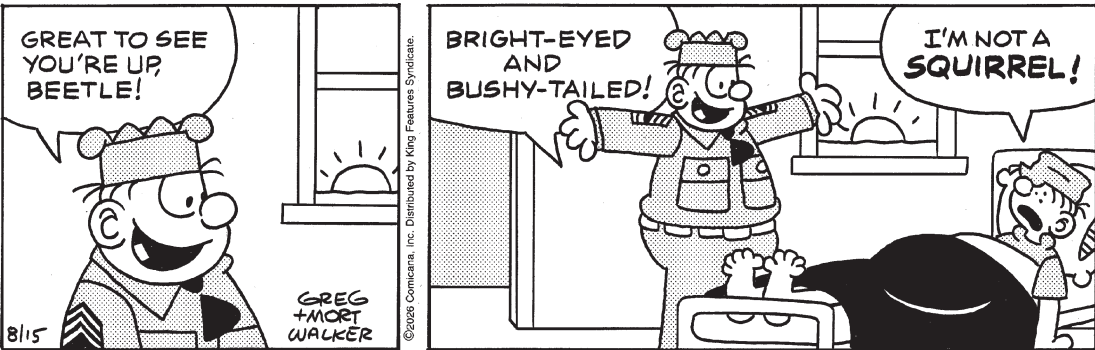
At the advertising department of a major TV network.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



8-15

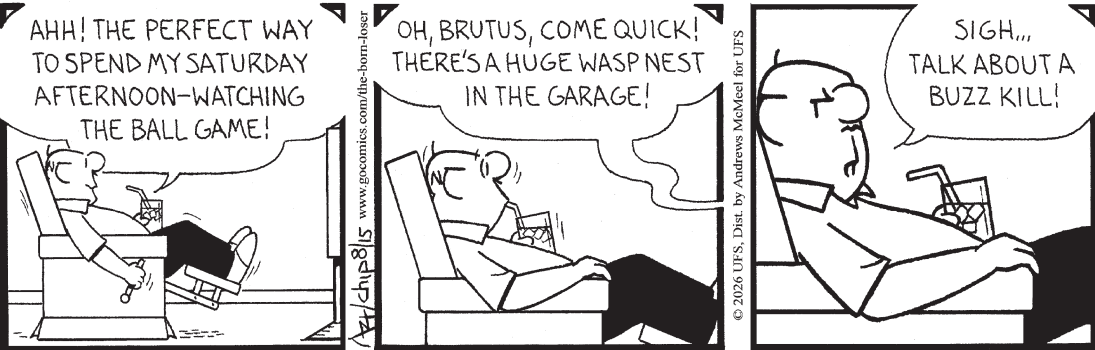
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



**SUDOKU**

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

**WHATZIT?**

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

**Señoritas**

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

**TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:**

Damsels in distress

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1 Band blaster  
4 Italian island  
8 Stitches  
12 Fastening  
13 Villain's retreat  
14 Musical group  
15 Curvy letter  
16 Wheel shaft  
17 Small stream  
18 Dance movement  
20 Repeated  
22 Tax agcy.  
23 All right (Hyph.)  
24 Antediluvian  
28 Look searchingly  
31 Secular  
32 "Wynken, Blynken and —"  
34 Payable  
36 Cover

**DOWN**

1 Stopped a fast  
2 Feel the absence of

**TODAY'S SOLUTION:**

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

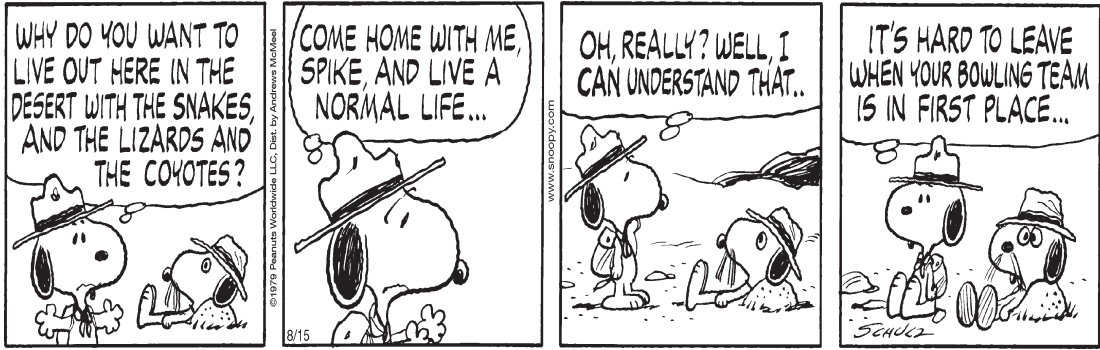
**3 Insect killer**  
**4 Go by**  
**5 Careless**  
**6 Ill humor**  
**7 Betel palm**  
**8 Swimming movement**  
**9 Port in Pennsylvania**

**10 Untamed**  
**11 Costa del —**  
**19 Guitarist — Clapton**  
**21 Short flight**  
**24 Totality**  
**25 Brad**  
**26 Compass pt.**  
**27 Warty creature**  
**29 Opinion piece**  
**30 Hold sway**  
**33 Tint**  
**35 Days long gone**  
**38 Couch**  
**40 Light snowfall**  
**41 Container**  
**43 Say under one's breath**  
**45 Sheen**  
**47 — noir**  
**48 Long time**  
**49 Release**  
**51 Hemingway nickname**  
**52 Offer to buy**  
**54 Writer — Levin**  
**56 Modern**

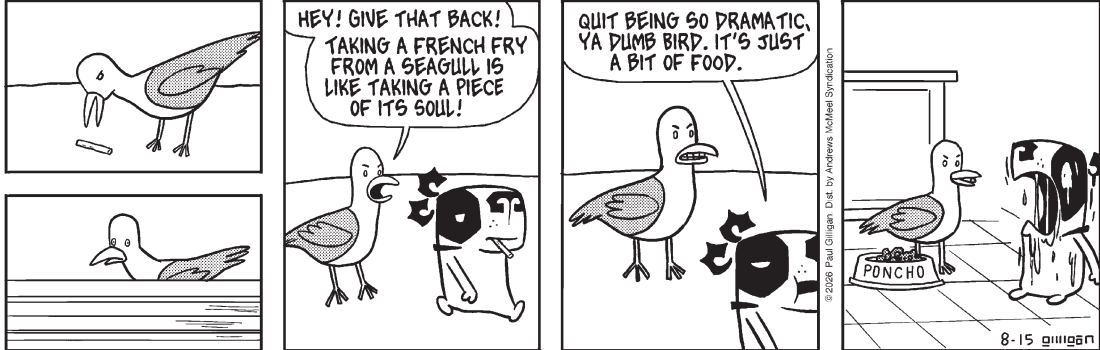
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



**WONDERWORD**

By DAVID OUELLET

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

**BEES SOMETIMES STING**

**Solution: 5 letters**

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

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Allergy, Anaphylaxis, Backyard, Bandage, Blister, Bumblebee, Burn, Buzz, Camping, Chemical, Cold, Colony, Comb, Dressing, Emergency, Flowers, Forest, Hands, Hornet, Ice Pack, Injury, Itchy, Medical, Nest, Orchard, Pollen, Puncture, Queen, Rash, Reaction, Redness, Remedy, Remove, Rinse, Sharp, Skin, Soap, Spring, Stinger, Swarm, Swelling, Venom, Wasp

**TODAY'S ANSWER:** Wound



ADAM@HOME

BY ROB HARRELL

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M DEAD.

BECAUSE OF THE HEAT?

AND BECAUSE I RAN AROUND THE HOUSE 38 TIMES.

UM... WHY?

I ATE AN ENTIRE FAMILY-SIZED BAG OF SKITTLES.

I WAS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION. I COULD SMELL TIME. MY BRAIN SAID "RUN."

THAT SOUNDS AWFUL.

SAYS THE MAN ON HIS FOURTH POT OF COFFEE.

8-16

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON

SO, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, WE'RE SUING THE HOSPITAL WHERE ED HAD HIS DOUBLE KNEE REPLACEMENT DONE FOR \$5 MILLION.

WWW.CLOSETOHOME.COM

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THE BORN LOSER

by Art & Chip Sansom

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YOO-HOO, BRUTUS! I'M HOME!

BEFORE I DROPPED MAMA OFF AT THE BUS DEPOT, WE STOPPED AT THE STORE TO BUY THIS SODA YOU WANTED.

THANKS, DO YOU HAVE MY CHANGE?

MAMA WANTED A SCRATCH-OFF LOTTERY TICKET...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MIND IF SHE BOUGHT EACH OF YOU A LOTTERY TICKET WITH YOUR CHANGE,

WELL, OKAY, WHERE'S MY TICKET?

MAMA WAS IMPATIENT, SO SHE SCRATCHED OFF BOTH TICKETS!

I'M SORRY TO SAY, YOUR TICKET WASN'T A WINNER, SO SHE THREW IT AWAY,

BUT GUESS WHAT- MAMA WON FIFTY DOLLARS WITH HER TICKET! ISN'T THAT GOOD FORTUNE?!

Jeff MacNelly's SHOE

By Ben Lansing & Susie MacNelly

PADRE, WHAT DO YOU PRAY FOR THESE DAYS?

"PLEASE GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT..."

"ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS I DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ."

©26 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM Susie MacNelly Lansing 8/16

ERNIE! WE'RE LATE AND UNDER PRESSURE TO FINISH THIS STRIP.

CAN'T WORK, FRANK--I'M UNDER THE WEATHER.

DID YOU SAY YOU'RE FEELING UNDER PAR?

SORRY...I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPEAK UNDER MY BREATH.

COME ON--YOU DON'T WANT TO BE UNDER SUSPICION.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I PREFER TO BE UNDER THE RADAR.

IF WE DON'T GET THIS DONE, OUR EDITOR WILL BE HOT UNDER THE COLLAR.

WELL, HE CAN PUT ME UNDER OATH.

LET'S SEE IF HE'LL TAKE THAT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

TELL HIM I'M UNDER THE COVERS.

HE SAID CONSTANT LATE TIMING GETS UNDER HIS SKIN.

UH-OH! IT SEEMS I FINALLY WENT OVER THE TOP!

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# BLONDIE

BY DEAN KUNZ & JOHN MARSHALL

HONEY, DID WE SETTLE THAT ARGUMENT EARLIER?

SWEETHEART, I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS AN ARGUMENT

IT SOUNDED LIKE AN ARGUMENT TO ME

NO, HONEY, IT WAS MORE OF A DISAGREEMENT

WHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!

GOOD NIGHT, BEAUTIFUL

KISS

SLEEP WELL, HONEY

SO IT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, THEN?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT

Mort Walker's  
**beetle bailey**

ROCKY, I NEED YOU TO PUT TOGETHER A BAND TO REPRESENT CAMP SWAMPY

COOL!

SARGE ASKED IF WE COULD FORM A MARCHING BAND FOR THE PARADE

I CAN PLAY A DRUM

I CAN DIG OUT MY SOUSAPHONE

I'VE GOT MY SAX!

HOW ABOUT A FLUTE?

GREG + MORT WALKER

LOOKS LIKE THIS BAND COULD USE A BANJO

PLINK PLUNK

8/16

Hank Ketchum's

# Dennis the Menace

## DOCTOR GEORGE

THE MOST AMAZING THING JUST HAPPENED.

OH?

GEORGE JUST CURED MY ANXIETY!

WOW!

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

HE SAID "DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."

NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

YOU KNOW I CAN HEAR YOU, RIGHT?

CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ

I'M SENDING A MESSAGE TO SOME KID ACROSS THE OCEAN...

WHAT KID?

I DON'T KNOW...ANY KID WHO GETS THE MESSAGE..

I'M NOT GOING TO SEND IT IN A BOTTLE, EITHER...I'M GONNA PIN THE NOTE TO THIS BEACH BALL!

WITH A SAFETY PIN?

WITH A SAFETY PIN

SSSSSSSS

SORRY, KID! MAYBE I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL SOMETIME!

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

WHEN DID YOU AND PIG GET BACK FROM YOUR TRIP?

FLEW HOME LAST NIGHT. TERRIBLE FLIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL, FIRST OFF, THE SECURITY LINE AT OUR AIRPORT WAS RIDICULOUSLY LONG.

AND THE FLIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE AT 2 O'CLOCK, BUT IT GOT DELAYED A HALF HOUR.

THEN DURING THE FLIGHT, THE WIFI WENT OUT, SO I COULDN'T EVEN WATCH A MOVIE.

I SEE...HOW WAS PIG WITH ALL THAT?

I WAS JUST GRATEFUL THAT SOMEONE INVENTED A THING THAT WHISKS YOU INTO THE SKY AND LETS YOU ZOOM TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

HE WAS DROPPED ON HIS HEAD AS A BABY.



# sports

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

### *The Albany Herald's 2026 Football Season Preview*

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT OF THE ALBANY HERALD

## DCSS FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2026 SEASON

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# New era begins as Sherwood Christian makes leap to 11-man football

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — For the past four seasons, Sherwood Christian Academy has been one of the most dominant football programs in the Georgia Independent Athletic Association. The Eagles won three state championships in four years, compiled a remarkable 45-2 record and enter the 2026 season riding a 23-game winning streak. Everything changes next Friday night. Sherwood opens its season at Central Fellowship Chris-

tian in Macon, marking the beginning of a new chapter as the Eagles transition from eight-man football to the traditional 11-man game. The move also places Sherwood in what many consider the toughest Class AA region in the GIAA, forcing the Eagles to replace an accomplished senior class while facing a dramatically higher level of competition. “We have a lot of new faces,” Sherwood Athletic Director Jay Flynt said. “We know what we have signed up for. This will give us a chance to see where we stand against some really tough competition.” No team in Southwest Georgia has undergone a bigger transformation this offseason.

The Eagles must replace perhaps the greatest senior class in school history, led by two-time GIAA Player of the Year Tripp Roberts, who is continuing his football career at Georgia Military College. Also gone are an entire offensive line anchored by all-state performers Micah Hall, Aaron Mackey and Jack NeSmith, along with standout receivers Qwinton Murray, Grady Mills and Wesley Brooks. Defensively, Sherwood must replace impact players David Albano and Dallas Williams. Head coach Doug Eason knows replacing that production won’t happen overnight. “We graduated one of the



Special Photo: Sherwood Christian Academy

The Sherwood Christian Academy Eagles will open their new season playing 11-man football Friday night in Macon against Central Fellowship. The home opener follows next week against defending state champion Robert Toombs.



## 2026 Sherwood Christian Football Schedule

- Aug. 21 - Central Fellowship Christian Academy - Away - 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 28 - Robert Toombs Christian Academy - Home - 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 11 - Windsor Academy - Away - 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 - Chattahoochee County - Home - 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 25 - Calhoun County - Home - 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 2 - Southwest Georgia Academy\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9 - Valwood\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 16 - Brookwood\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23 - Pataula Charter - Home - 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 30 - Southland Academy\* - Home 7:30 p.m.

\*Region game

## Fantastic Fifteen: Chuck LaGrange ready to lead

Special Photo: Sherwood Christian Academy  
Junior Chuck LaGrange rushed for more than 1,200 yards last season as Sherwood Christian’s main running back. This year he takes over under center to lead the offense at quarterback.



By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — Sherwood Christian was losing 56-0 when a seventh-grader who wasn’t even supposed to be on the field caught a kickoff and raced the length of the field for the Eagles’ only touchdown. Now, five years later, that

same player is preparing for the biggest assignment of his football career. Chuck LaGrange will replace record-setting quarterback Tripp Roberts while leading Sherwood Christian into a new era as the Eagles transition from 8-man to 11-man football.

See LAGRANGE, 5C

## Fantastic Fifteen: More than sacks define Clark

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — For most defensive ends, success is measured by sacks. Dylan Clark is learning that sometimes the biggest play is the one that allows someone else to make the tackle. After spending the past several years chasing quarterbacks in Sherwood Christian Academy’s championship-winning 8-man football program, Clark enters his senior season with a different assignment. Contain. Hold the edge. Force the play back inside. Let the linebackers clean it up. It’s a role that won’t always show up on the stat sheet. It also happens to fit Clark

See CLARK, 5C



Special Photo: Sherwood Christian Academy

Sherwood senior defensive end Dylan Clark is ready to lead the Eagle defense as the program opens a new era. The Eagles will move into one of the GIAA’s toughest regions this year and play 11-man football after dominating 8-man football the last four years.

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# Growing Up Fast: Knights face new challenge

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Winning a state championship has a way of changing expectations.

At Deerfield-Windsor, simply making the playoffs is no longer the standard.

The Knights captured the GIAA state championship two years ago before returning to the title game and finishing as state runner-up last season. Now comes perhaps coach Jake McCrae's biggest coaching challenge yet — replacing a record-setting senior class while trying to keep Deerfield-Windsor among the state's elite.

play and now it's here. This is what they have been waiting for. Love these kids, love this team. I am really excited about some really good underclassmen that are coming up."

The challenge will come quickly.

"We have four players on offense who have experience," McCrae said. "Everybody else is new. So we are going to have to grow up quick."

Ground attack takes center stage

For the past two seasons, Deerfield-Windsor's offense revolved around the passing game.

This fall, expect a different identity.

The Knights return perhaps

Sophomores Maddox Skipper and Jay Sceals spent the summer competing for the starting job, with McCrae naming Skipper the opening-day starter while indicating Sceals will also see meaningful playing time.

The coaching staff believes the competition will ultimately benefit both young quarterbacks as they develop.

Defense expected to carry the load

While the offense searches for its identity, McCrae expects the defense to become the foundation of the football team.

"The defense is going to have to lead the way for the Knights," he said. "The defense is going to

pears solid with Daniel Hoerner handling punting duties and Bryson Newsome taking over the kicking responsibilities.

New-look region  
Deerfield-Windsor also enters a new region landscape.

With rivals Valwood and Brookwood moving down to Class AA, the Knights now share a region with Terrell Academy, Westfield School, Central Fellowship Christian and Tiftarea Academy.

McCrae expects every Friday night to be a challenge.

"The region is going to be challenging," he said. "This region is full of really good coaches and kids that play really hard. All the teams are like carbon copies of each other."

He declined to identify a favorite.

Brutal beginning  
If the young Knights are going to mature quickly, the schedule won't give them much time.

Deerfield-Windsor opens Aug. 14 on the road against longtime rival Valwood, carrying a three-game winning streak into Valdosta after surviving last year's thrilling 21-20 victory.

The Knights then return home Aug. 21 to face First Presbyterian Day of Macon, an 8-4 team that finished third in GIAA Class AAAA last season.

"Brutal," McCrae said of the opening schedule.

It may be exactly what Deerfield-Windsor needs.

The Knights are no longer relying on a veteran roster that has already proven itself. This year's team must establish its own identity, and it will do so against quality competition from the opening kickoff.

For McCrae, that's part of the excitement.

The names may be different, but the expectations remain the same: compete for another championship.

## Fantastic Fifteen: Pippin ready to lead the Knights

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The loudest voices are gone.

The seniors who led Deerfield-Windsor to a state championship two years ago and another trip to the state title game last fall have graduated, taking with them the experience, confidence and energy that helped define one of the most successful eras in school history.

Now, when the Knights look around for someone to lead them into a new season, they turn to senior linebacker and fullback Mangham Pippin.

The player who once followed championship-caliber leaders has become one himself.

See PIPPIN, 6C



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Deerfield-Windsor senior Mangham Pippin will play on both sides of the ball again this year - at running back on offense and at linebacker on defense.

## Fantastic Fifteen: Tomlinson chases baseball dreams while anchoring Knights defense

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Gage Tomlinson smiles when he talks about football.

Not because of touchdowns.

Not because of championships.

Because of tackles.

"I love hitting people and knocking them down," the Deerfield-Windsor senior said with a grin. "Then picking them back up."

That sentence explains just

See TOMLINSON, 6C



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Deerfield-Windsor senior Gage Tomlinson is one of the returners who played in two state championship games and will now be one of the defensive leaders as the Knights try to maintain their spot as one of the top football programs in the GIAA.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Deerfield-Windsor seniors Mangham Pippin, left, and Gage Tomlinson are expected to lead a tough defense this season. Coach Jake McCrae said his team will lean on the defense while it figures out what the offense is good at.

Fortunately for McCrae, his young roster has one quality he values above all else.

"I feel really good," McCrae said. "Me and my coaches love coaching and we are going to get to do a lot of that this season. The thing is, these kids we have, love to be coached. They are eager and hungry. They have been waiting for the chance to

their deepest position group at running back with senior Turner Simmons joined by Mangham Pippin, West Rushton and JP Hutchins, all of whom carried the football last season.

"Turner is going to have to be our guy this year," McCrae said.

Replacing the quarterback production from recent seasons won't happen overnight.

have to hold down the fort until our offense figures out what we are good at."

The unit returns considerably more experience than the offense, led by Simmons, Pippin, Gage Tomlinson and Hutchins.

The biggest question comes in the secondary, where the Knights must replace every starter.

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**Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls**  
Lee County's Carter Blackwell, Jordan Bush and Jace Murray are three of the nine Trojans who have made Division I commitments as Lee County prepares to open the 2026 football season Friday night against Hapeville Charter.

## Talented Lee County Trojans looking for big season

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — Carter Blackwell could have talked about the college prospects scattered throughout Lee County's lineup. He could have talked about the experience, the expectations or the possibility of another state championship run.

The Clemson-bound tight end chose three words instead. "Just wait and see."

There may not be a more appropriate message for the 2026 Lee County Trojans.

On paper, they have almost everything.

Nine seniors have already committed to Division I programs. The roster includes some of Georgia's most highly recruited players, experienced starters on both sides of the football and enough firepower to make Lee County one of the state's most intriguing teams.

Coach Dean Fabrizio doesn't dispute the talent.

He also knows championships aren't won in August.

"We have a lot of experience and talent returning," Fabrizio said. "We have to get it done on the field to be mentioned in the same rank as championship teams we have had."

That's the challenge.

The Trojans don't have to prove they're talented. They have to prove they're a championship team.

The opportunity begins next Friday night when Hapeville Charter visits Leesburg. The Hornets finished 10-5 last season and advanced to the Class AA state championship game.

It's hardly a warm-up.

Then again, Lee County isn't

looking for one.

"Our players and community like the big games," Fabrizio said. "I believe playing great competition makes us better."

Few players will attract more attention than senior wide receiver Jaden Upshaw.

The Texas A&M commit is regarded as the No. 1 wide receiver recruit in Georgia and was recently selected to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super 11, recognizing the state's elite senior football players. After catching 47 passes for 902 yards and eight touchdowns last season, Upshaw gives Lee County a game-breaking threat every time the ball is snapped.

And he is hardly alone.

Running back Dominique Ball provides another explosive option in the backfield. Ball is expected to play college football but has yet to publicly announce his destination.

Then there is linebacker Gregory Batson, one of the centerpieces of a defense that expects to be physical and fast. Batson had been committed to Florida State before reopening his recruitment and figures to be one of the most heavily watched prospects on the Trojans' defense.

Beside him is Army commit Jace Murray, a rare four-year starter who has accumulated 168 tackles, 44 tackles for loss and 14 sacks during his first three seasons.

Murray doesn't shy away from what he believes this group can accomplish.

"I know we can win state this year," Murray said. "We have a lot of talented players and we have really good team chemistry. We work together really well."

## LEE

### 2026 Lee County Football Schedule

**Aug. 21** - Hapeville Charter - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 28** - Carol City (Fla.) - Home - 7 p.m.

**Sept. 4** - Sequoyah - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 11** - Colquitt County - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 25** - Thomas County Central\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 2** - Coffee\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 9** - Veterans\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 16** - Northside-Warner Robins\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 23** - Tift County\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 6** - Houston County\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

\*Region game

Fabrizio believes that chemistry may be as important as the scholarship offers.

"We have been blessed that the big-time recruits we have had in the past were focused on leaving their legacy at Lee County," he said. "They handled their recruiting, but their main focus always stayed on having a great senior year."

Fabrizio believes this senior class has adopted the same mentality.

"This year's senior group is very close and very focused on having a great season," he said.

There are weapons throughout the offense.

Mercer commit Jordan Bush

See **LEE**, 4C

## Fantastic Fifteen:

### Carter Blackwell - a matchup nightmare

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — There isn't a defense in Georgia that can comfortably decide how to cover Lee County's Carter Blackwell.



**Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls**

Lee County tight end Carter Blackwell has emerged as one of Georgia's top college football prospects, earning a commitment to Clemson.

Line him up next to the tackle and he's powerful enough to block defensive ends.

Split him out wide and he's athletic enough to beat defensive backs.

Put him in the backfield and he can serve as a lead blocker or slip into the passing game.

It's the versatility that has made Blackwell one of Georgia's premier tight ends and earned him a scholarship to Clemson.

It's also what makes him so difficult to defend.

"Carter is a lot like Tyrus Washington in that he can play as an attached tight end, as a fullback and split out wide," Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio said. "He is truly a matchup nightmare."

The Clemson commitment is the first player featured in

the Albany Herald's Fantastic Fifteen, a preseason series highlighting Southwest Georgia's top high school football players entering the 2026 season.

For Blackwell, football has been part of his life almost as long as he can remember.

He began playing flag football at age 7 and begged to make the jump to tackle football. His mother finally agreed when he turned 9.

He hasn't looked back.

"I loved it ever since then," Blackwell said. "I wanted to be better and be the best. Football can get you so many different places."

Those places now include Clemson, one of the nation's premier college football programs.

But before Blackwell heads to

See **BLACKWELL**, 6C

## Fantastic Fifteen:

### Jordan Bush embraces every role

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — Most football players spend their careers trying to earn one position.

Jordan Bush has spent his learning all of them.

Quarterback.  
Running back.  
Wide receiver.  
Slot receiver.

Ask Bush where he wants to line up on Friday nights, and his answer has never changed.

Wherever Lee County needs him.

That mindset will likely be tested again this season.

Bush spent much of the summer taking snaps at quarterback after filling in admirably last fall when starter Marcus Snipes was injured. He is expected to begin the season behind center, but

the arrival of Colquitt County transfer Cohen Lawson gives the Trojans another experienced quarterback.

For Bush, it changes nothing. He'll simply play wherever the next snap takes him.

"Jordan Bush is a versatile and unselfish player," Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio said. "He helps us in so many ways—quarterback, running back, wide receiver. He plays wherever we need him to and he plays it well."

That willingness to embrace any role stems from something much deeper than football.

Bush hopes the game can open doors not only for himself, but for his family.

"I want football to help improve my family's life," he said.

That dream began when he was just 4 years old.

Bush started playing flag foot-



**Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls**

Jordan Bush doesn't care what position he plays as long as he is helping the team. He prepared as Lee County's quarterback most of the summer, but will also likely see time at running back and receiver for the Trojans this year.

See **BUSH**, 6C



# Colquitt County embraces new identity for 2026 season

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**MOULTRIE** — Few football programs in Georgia begin a season with a greater challenge—or higher expectations—than Colquitt County.

The Packers will find out exactly where they stand on Aug. 21 when they travel to Thomasville to face defending Class 5A state champion Thomas County Central, opening a season that also includes one of the state’s most demanding region schedules.

After finishing 9-3 a year ago, Colquitt County enters 2026 with a new quarterback, a roster built on chemistry and physicality, and the expectation of competing for another Region 1-7A championship.

Head coach Sean Calhoun believes this year’s team already has developed its own personality.

“Fast, focused and physical,” Calhoun said. “That’s who we want to be.”

The Packers face one of their biggest offseason changes under center.

With two-year starter Cohen Lawson transferring to Lee County, the offense is expected to be led by Khi Mitchell, a transfer from Mount Zion in Jonesboro. Mitchell steps into one of the state’s most scrutinized quarterback positions, replacing a proven starter while guiding one of Georgia’s perennial powers.

Calhoun believes Mitchell is one of several players poised to make a major impact this fall.

Offensive lineman Canyon Cook, defensive lineman Ty’Mhyr Moore, running back Jason Stephenson Jr. and linebacker Markeverin Graham are also among the players the veteran coach expects to emerge as difference-makers.

While talent has never been an issue at Colquitt County, Calhoun believes this team’s greatest strength may be something less measurable.

“This team enjoys being around each other and playing for each other,” he said.

That chemistry, he said, has been built through months of preparation that extend well beyond football practice.



Special Photo: Colquitt County High School

The Colquitt County Packers will open their season in Thomaville against defend- ing state champion Thomas County Central next Friday night.

The message to his players has remained consistent since they returned to school in January: success begins with daily habits.

“We’ve got to stay focused on the task that we’re involved in,” Calhoun said. “That means off-the-field decisions, in the classroom and hallways, in the weight room, in film, and lastly on the field.

“We can become better football players by being better people.”

That mindset will be tested every week.

Region 1-7A again figures to be among Georgia’s toughest, with longtime rivals Lowndes and Valdosta both earning preseason top-10 rankings. Calhoun believes Colquitt County’s demanding non-region schedule is intentional, giving the Packers the opportunity to prepare for the weekly grind awaiting them in region play.

“Our non-region schedule is difficult to prepare us for our region schedule,” Calhoun said. “To become region champions, we must be the most consistent team each week and make more plays than our opponent.”

If consistency becomes this team’s trademark, the Packers believe they’ll once again be playing meaningful football deep into November.

But before region championships and playoff runs take center stage, Colquitt County’s season begins with a cham-



### 2026 Colquitt County Football Schedule

**Aug. 21** - Thomas County Central - Away - 7:30 p.m.  
**Aug. 28** - Monroe - Home - 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** - Cook - Home - 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** - Lee County - Away - 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 18** - Lincoln (Tallahassee) - Home - 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 2** - Rickards (Tallahassee) - Home - 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** - Richmond Hill\* - Away - 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** - Valdosta\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 30** - Camden County\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.  
**Nov. 6** - Lowndes\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.  
\*Region game

pionship-caliber opponent on opening night. This test should reveal just how quickly the Packers’ new identity has taken shape.

## From 2C SHERWOOD

best senior classes in school history,” Eason said. “Those seniors set a tremendous standard for leadership, preparation and unselfishness.”

The encouraging sign, Eason said, is how quickly the next generation has embraced those expectations.

“Our young players are beginning to understand what it takes to prepare every day,” he said. “The biggest area we’re still developing is consistency. Young players have great moments, but great teams learn to perform at a high level every single day.”

The move to 11-man football presents another significant challenge.

While Sherwood’s winning tradition provides confidence, Eason said the physical demands and strategic differences require adjustments across the roster.

“Moving from eight-man to 11-man football has been exciting, but it’s been an adjustment,” Eason said. “Schematically, there are more moving parts, more personnel to manage, and the game is much more physical at the point of attack.”

Even so, he believes the core principles that fueled Sherwood’s championship success remain unchanged.

“Whether it’s eight-man or 11-man football, we focus on discipline, physicality and doing your job every single play,” Eason said. “Our players have embraced that challenge. We’re not trying to prove we belong; we’re trying to build a program that can compete at a high level for years to come.”

The Eagles won’t have much time to ease into their new surroundings.

Sherwood joins a loaded Class AA region featuring defending state runner-up Southwest Georgia Academy, perennial contender Southland Academy and former Class AAA powers Valwood and Brookwood. Valwood captured the GIAA state championship three years ago and reached the state finals

again two seasons ago before falling to Deerfield-Windsor. “Playing great opponents forces you to improve every week,” Eason said. “You quickly find out your strengths and weaknesses, and there’s no room for complacency.”

The schedule doesn’t get any easier after opening night. Sherwood hosts defending GIAA Class AA state champion Robert Toombs on Aug. 28 in its home opener, giving the Eagles another early opportunity to measure themselves against one of the state’s elite programs.

Despite the inexperience, Eason believes several players have emerged as leaders during the offseason. Dylan Clark, Hunter Gregg and Chuck Lagrange have helped fill the leadership void, while the team’s work ethic has impressed the veteran coach.

“The biggest surprise has been how quickly this group has embraced the challenge,” Eason said. “They know people have questions about how we’ll transition to 11-man football, but instead of being intimidated, they’ve been motivated.”

As campus pastor in addition to head coach, Eason said his mission extends well beyond the scoreboard.

“Coaching has always been about more than wins and losses,” he said. “It’s about developing young men who love God, love people and become leaders in their homes, churches and communities.”

That philosophy also shapes how he will judge the season. Sherwood certainly hopes to contend for a playoff berth, but Eason believes success will be measured by more than victories.

“If this team finishes the season more disciplined, more united, stronger mentally and spiritually, and playing its best football in November, then we’ve had a successful season,” he said.

The Eagles may no longer be the experienced powerhouse that dominated eight-man football, but they enter a new era determined to establish the same championship standard in 11-man football.

The journey begins Friday night in Macon.

## From 2C CLARK

perfectly.

“It’s a little humbling,” he said. “You’re going for the tackle, but sometimes you’ve got to let the linebacker make the play. That’s just part of it.”

That willingness to sacrifice personal statistics for the good of the team has become one of the defining qualities of the Eagles’ senior leader.

At 6-foot-5 and 200 pounds, Clark returns as an All-State defensive end after recording 51 tackles and six sacks during the Eagles’ final 8-man football season. Now one of only four seniors on the roster, he’ll anchor a defense as Sherwood makes the historic transition to 11-man football.

The challenge doesn’t intimidate him.

“Thankfully, we’ve got a very coachable team,” Clark said. “A lot of us already knew a little bit about 11-man football, so the adjustment hasn’t been that hard. We’ve got good athletes, and I feel pretty good about the season.”

His football journey began almost before he can remember.

Clark was only 3 years old when he first stepped onto a football field.

While many young athletes are drawn to individual accomplishments, football appealed to him for a different reason.

“I think football is the best team-building sport,” he said. “It’s the family aspect of it.”

That family atmosphere has been especially meaningful during his six years at Sherwood.

His favorite football memory came as a sophomore when the Eagles captured the 2024 GIAA state championship at Georgia Southern University.

“It was our first state championship,” Clark said. “Playing in that huge stadium with all the lights—it was awesome.”

Now Clark hopes to help lead Sherwood into a new era.

The Eagles move from 8-man

to traditional 11-man football this fall while stepping into one of the GIAA’s toughest classifications, a challenge that will test one of the youngest rosters in Southwest Georgia.

Clark embraces that responsibility.

A quiet leader by nature, he’s become someone younger teammates naturally follow. His teammates respect his work ethic, and his willingness to put the team’s success ahead of individual recognition has helped strengthen an already close-knit locker room.

Football, however, has never been the center of Clark’s life. Faith is.

“Our skill is secondary,” he said. “Our faith should always be first. The main focus is glorifying God.”

That conviction shapes his plans long after his playing days are over.

Clark hopes to continue playing football in college if given the opportunity, but his ultimate calling reaches beyond the football field.

He plans to devote his life to children’s ministry or sports ministry, using athletics as a way to share his faith with others.

The son of Samantha and Bo Clark believes football has prepared him for that mission.

Not because of the tackles.

But because the game has taught him what it means to serve something bigger than himself.

Sherwood will celebrate Meet the Eagles Night on Friday before hosting Brookwood of Thomasville in a preseason scrimmage at Legacy Field. The Eagles open the regular season Aug. 21 at Central Fellowship Christian in Macon, beginning a new chapter in school history.

For Clark, that chapter won’t simply be about adjusting to 11-man football.

It will be another opportunity to lead the only way he’s ever known.

By example.

# Fantastic Fifteen: Murray brings leadership, physical edge to Trojans

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**LEESBURG** — Jace Murray was 4 years old when he discovered what he loved most about football.

He could hit somebody. “I realized I could hit the crap out of somebody,” Murray said.

Thirteen years later, the enthusiasm hasn’t disappeared. “I love to hit people,” Murray said. “And that’s what I’m going to do.”

For four seasons, that mentality has helped make Murray a fixture in the middle of Lee County’s defense. But the senior linebacker has become much more than one of the Trojans’ hardest hitters.

He has become one of their leaders.

Murray enters his senior season as a rare four-year starter for one of Georgia’s most successful high school football programs, and earlier this summer he committed to continue his career at Army.

For those accomplishments, Murray has been selected to the Albany Herald’s Fantastic Fifteen, recognizing 15 of Southwest Georgia’s top high school football players entering the 2026 season.

“Jace is a rare four-year starter for us,” Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio said. “He’s a leader on our team, a great student-athlete and one of the most physical players I’ve ever coached here at Lee County.”



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Lee County linebacker Jace Murray is focused on helping the Trojan defense contain opponents this season. He is committed to playing college football at Army after graduation.

## From 2C LAGRANGE

“I’m really excited for the opportunity to play a different position and to lead the team,” LaGrange said. “I want to be able to help the team in any way I can.”

Sherwood athletic director Jay Flynt still remembers the day he realized LaGrange was special.

“I remember when Chuck was in seventh grade, we were at a middle school game in Vidalia and getting killed 56-0,” Flynt said. “The ball was kicked to Chuck — he wasn’t even supposed to be the guy on the field — and he caught it and ran it all the way back for a touchdown. It was the only time we scored that day.”

LaGrange didn’t begin playing football until he arrived at Sherwood Christian in the seventh grade. The son of Jon and Virginia LaGrange, he quickly developed into one of the Eagles’ top offensive weapons, rushing for more than 1,200 yards as a sophomore while helping Sherwood build one of the state’s premier eight-man football programs.

Now comes an entirely different challenge.

The Eagles have a new quarterback, a new offensive line and new receivers while adjusting to the wider field and different spacing of 11-man football. They also move into what many

That combination of experience and physicality has made Murray one of the constants on a Lee County defense that has changed around him.

Getting on the field as a freshman was impressive enough. Staying there for four years required Murray to continue getting stronger, smarter and better.

The numbers show just how productive he has become.

Over his first three seasons at linebacker, Murray has recorded 168 tackles. An impressive 44 of those have come behind the line of scrimmage, and he has added 14 sacks.

In other words, Murray doesn’t just find the football. He frequently gets there before the offense wants him to.

That aggressive style goes back to those first days of football when Murray was 4, but his understanding of the game — and his role within a team — has changed considerably since then.

The son of James Murray and Quinteros Lewis, Murray said he has grown to enjoy the responsibility that comes with being a leader. He likes helping guide teammates, something that has become increasingly important as he has gone from the young freshman in Lee County’s lineup to the senior other players now look toward.

It is also part of what Murray envisions for his life long after his playing days are finished.

He intends to study mathematics in college and hopes eventually to become a math teacher and football coach, giving him an opportunity to work with young people and give back to his community.

Before that happens, football will take him to West Point.

Murray committed to Army earlier this summer after building a connection with the Black Knights’ coaching staff and considering what the United States Military Academy could offer beyond Saturdays on a football field.

“It came down to the coaches, the relationships with those coaches and the opportunities they presented to me,” Murray said.

There is plenty awaiting him at Army.

Murray isn’t ready to think too far ahead, however.

He has one season remaining at Lee County, and after

See **MURRAY**, 6C

consider the toughest region in GIAA Class AA.

“It’s definitely going to be different,” LaGrange said. “We’ve got a whole new offensive line and new receivers. Plus now the field is wider since we are moving from 8-man to 11-man. There is more room, but there are also more players on the field, so the gaps to run through are smaller.”

Despite all the changes, LaGrange likes what he has seen throughout preseason practice.

“We have a lot of talent on this team — new faces but talented,” he said. “We’ve just got to adjust and work together and play together.”

Although quarterback is new territory, football itself isn’t.

LaGrange says what he enjoys most about the game hasn’t changed.

“I really love playing football,” he said. “I like the contact, the competition and being able to be with the team and my friends.”

He hopes football continues after high school and plans to play at the collegiate level if given the opportunity.

Before then, he’ll help lead one of the biggest transitions in Sherwood Christian history.

The Eagles open the season Aug. 21 at Central Fellowship Christian before hosting defending GIAA Class AA state champion Robert Toombs Academy the following week at Legacy Field.

Sherwood’s championship run in eight-man football is over.

Its next one begins with Chuck LaGrange.



# Anderson lays foundation for Terrell County turnaround

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**DAWSON** — Before Art Anderson can rebuild Terrell County football, he believes he must first rebuild something else.

Trust.

The Greenwave’s new head coach inherited more than a football program that finished 1-9 last season. He inherited a group of players who have experienced constant change, with the current junior and senior classes already playing for three different head coaches during their high school careers.

“My staff and I are building trust,” Anderson said. “The senior and junior classes have had three head coaches during their time here. Building trust will help everything else come easy.”

Anderson, who spent the past several years as the head football and basketball coach at Merry Acres Middle School, was hired earlier this summer to replace Marco Kirk, now an assistant coach at Lee County

High School.

His mission extends well beyond wins and losses.

“My staff and I are holding them accountable, building character as well as integrity,” Anderson said. “We are establishing faith. They must believe they can be successful on and off the field.”

The Greenwave will take the first step in that process Aug. 21 when they open the season at Chattahoochee County before hosting Scintilla Charter Academy in Dawson on Aug. 25.

As Anderson prepares for his debut, he already knows the identity he wants his team to embrace.

“We will be relentless,” he said. “We will fight until the triple zeros are on the clock. We will be disciplined, be able to handle adversity as well as success. Most importantly, be humble and hungry at the same time.”

Although Anderson has been on the job only a few months, he has been encouraged by what he’s seen since meeting the team in late May.



Special Photo: Submitted

The Terrell County Greenwave will travel to Cusseta next Friday night to take on Chattahoochee County in the football season opener. New head coach Art Anderson and the team have been working through the summer to prepare for the upcoming season.

“I’m very impressed with the hunger they already have,” he said. “When I met these young men, I told them my expectations. Since then, a consistent 25 players have responded every day.”

What has impressed him most isn’t one standout player. It’s the progress of the entire roster.

“These young men have gotten stronger and faster from June 1 to July 24, and I’m talking about significantly stronger,” Anderson said. “They’re finishing workouts that challenged

them when we first started. I’m very proud of the progress we’ve made this summer.”

Anderson said those improvements won’t matter unless they translate into Friday nights.

His only expectation in the season opener is that his players compete with confidence.

“We as a staff just want our young men to compete to the best of their abilities,” he said. “We’re giving them the tools to be successful. We just want them to use those tools.”

For Anderson, success in Year 1 won’t be measured solely by

victories.

He hopes to see his players become better students, stronger leaders and young men prepared for life after football.

“Success is giving these kids the keys to be successful,” he said. “That means in the classroom, being leaders on and off the field, graduating, playing on the college level or becoming pillars of the community.”

Anderson also knows restoring the Greenwave will require the support of the Dawson community.

“We need their support,” he said. “It takes time, patience and a strong will to be great. We have the right people in place to have this program grow and become one to be proud of.”

The wins may not come overnight.

The turnaround won’t happen in a single season.

But if Anderson succeeds in restoring trust, accountability and belief inside the program, the foundation for Terrell County football’s future may already be taking shape.

**2026 Terrell County Football Schedule**

**Aug. 21** - Chattahoochee County - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 4** - Jordan - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 11** - Baconton Charter - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 18** - Calhoun County - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 2** - Early County\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 16** - Miller County\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 23** - Pelham\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 30** - Randolph-Clay\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 6** - Seminole County\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

\*Region game

## From 4C LEE

rushed for 976 yards and 14 touchdowns last season and gives the Trojans unusual versatility with his ability to play quarterback, running back or receiver.

Blackwell creates another matchup problem. The Clemson commit can play as a traditional tight end, line up in

the backfield or split wide, giving Lee County another way to force defenses into difficult decisions.

Add Upshaw and Ball, and opposing defensive coordinators won’t have many obvious places to focus their attention.

The Trojans are loaded defensively, too, with Murray and Batson among the leaders of a unit Fabrizio expects to play the physical brand of football that has become a Lee County trademark. The defensive back-

field is full of Division I recruits for 2028, including Trey Bush and Montravius Clay.

Fabrizio also points to Murray, Batson and Shavezz Dixon as players who have emerged as leaders.

“The expectations are high every year here in Lee County, so that isn’t anything new for our kids,” he said.

Neither is a difficult schedule. After opening against Hapeville Charter, Lee County eventually enters a Region 2-6A gauntlet

featuring Thomas County Central, Coffee, Houston County, Veterans, Northside-Warner Robins and Tift County.

There won’t be many oppor-

## From 4C BUSH

ball and immediately felt at home. “I loved it from the beginning,” he said. “It just felt natural.”

Natural has become an appropriate description for almost everything he does on a football field.

As a junior, Bush rushed for 976 yards and 14 touchdowns despite constantly moving from

one position to another. His quickness, vision and versatility made him one of the most dangerous offensive weapons in Southwest Georgia.

Now, with one final high school season ahead of him, he’s aiming even higher.

His goal is 2,000 all-purpose yards.

College coaches have already recognized his unique skill set.

Bush has committed to Mercer University, where he plans to study finance and market-

ing while continuing his football career.

Before heading to Macon, however, his attention remains squarely on Lee County.

The Trojans once again possess one of Georgia’s deepest and most talented rosters, and Bush believes they have everything necessary to compete for a state championship.

“I think we’ve got what it takes to make a serious run at state,” he said. “If nothing happens and we can all stay together.”

The son of Errica Jarrie and Derrick Bush has always enjoyed mathematics, his favorite subject in school, and approaches football with much the same mindset—solve the problem in front of you.

Sometimes that problem calls for a quarterback.

Sometimes it needs a running back.

Sometimes it needs a receiver.

Jordan Bush has never worried about the title.

He’s always focused on the opportunity.

The position may change. His purpose never does.

## From 4C BLACKWELL

Death Valley, he has one final mission in Leesburg.

“I think this team is very special,” he said. “Wait and see.”

Lee County returns one of the state’s deepest and most talented senior classes, and Blackwell believes the Trojans have everything needed to compete for a state championship.

His personal goals are simple. Win games.

Keep improving.

Play into December.

While recruiting rankings and scholarship offers have followed him throughout high school, Blackwell said those aren’t what he’ll remember most about wearing a Lee County uniform.

Instead, he’ll remember the relationships.

“The brotherhood,” he said. “Everybody’s drive to help me ... being out here with so many different friends and relationships.”

Football has shaped him in other ways as well.

The game has taught him resilience, helping him overcome adversity while preparing him for challenges beyond the field.

Those lessons will serve him well at Clemson, where he hopes to eventually reach the NFL.

Still, Blackwell knows football won’t last forever.

He plans to major in construction management and someday own a construction or land-clearing business.

His fascination with heavy equipment began long before recruiters began calling.

“I fell in love with big machines,” he said.

For now, however, Clemson can wait.

Blackwell’s focus remains on one last season in a Lee County uniform, one more opportunity to chase a state championship with teammates he considers brothers.

The scholarship is secured. The future is waiting.

But before the next chapter begins, Blackwell believes the Trojans have unfinished business.

“I think this team is very special,” he said.

“Wait and see.”

## From 3C TOMLINSON

about everything anyone needs to know about Tomlinson.

He plays football with controlled violence, but he never forgets there’s another player on the other side of the collision.

That’s the way Deerfield-Windsor has taught the game for years.

It’s also why Tomlinson has become one of the emotional leaders of a Knights defense expected to be among the best in the GIAA this season.

Ironically, football wasn’t always part of the plan.

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior dreams of playing college baseball and, if everything breaks right, one day pitching professionally.

On the diamond, he’ll be one of Deerfield-Windsor’s top pitchers while anchoring the infield at shortstop.

Football was almost an afterthought.

Tomlinson didn’t put on shoulder pads until he arrived at Deerfield-Windsor as a freshman.

At first, football was simply another sport.

Then came his sophomore season.

He fell in love with the weight room.

He became stronger.

He became more confident. And somewhere along the way, he realized he had become a pretty good defensive football player.

That season ended with Deerfield-Windsor celebrating a state championship after defeating Valwood in Statesboro.

Suddenly, football wasn’t just preparing him for baseball.

It had become one of the best parts of his life.

Not because of the wins. Because of the people.

“It’s these brothers that you meet and spend so much time with,” Tomlinson said. “They are friendships that will last a lifetime.”

Those relationships are now driving a defense filled with experienced players.

While the Knights must replace much of last year’s offensive production, Tomlinson believes the returning defense can keep Deerfield-Windsor among the state’s elite.

The focus throughout the offseason has been simple.

Play faster.

Pursue the football.

Finish every play.

“We’ve got to take it one game at a time, one play at a time,” Tomlinson said. “We’ve got to see the ball on every play and go put them on the ground.”

The expectations haven’t changed despite graduating a talented senior class.

If anything, they have grown.

“They set the standard for us,” Tomlinson said. “They made us all better. They did their jobs. Now we have to do ours.”

The son of Neal and Amber Tomlinson, Gage understands his football career may end before his baseball career does.

He’s perfectly fine with that. Football has already given him something he wasn’t expecting.

A second family.

And one final opportunity to help lead Deerfield-Windsor’s defense when the Knights open the season Friday night against Valwood in a matchup that serves as a reminder of how far the program has come.

Whether Tomlinson’s future eventually unfolds on a baseball field or, perhaps, a professional mound, he’ll always remember the lessons he learned on Friday nights.

Sometimes the toughest players are also the first ones to lend a hand.

rizio said. “We have to be prepared to play our best every week and improve throughout the season.”

If there is a formula for turning all this talent into a cham-

See **LEE**, 7C

## From 3C PIPPIN

“They were our hype men,” Pippin said. “Now it’s more of a challenge to get the energy up, but we will get it.”

Pippin is the latest player featured in the Albany Herald’s Fantastic Fifteen, a preseason series highlighting Southwest Georgia’s top high school football players entering the 2026 season.

For Deerfield-Windsor coach Jake McCrae, Pippin’s leadership isn’t measured by speeches or statistics.

It’s measured by the example he sets every day.

“Mangham is the guy everyone looks at when they need to remind themselves what it takes to be great,” McCrae said. “He understands the benefits of hard work and being a great teammate. Selfless, but also knows his hard work gives him the best chance of attaining everything he wants.”

That work ethic has made Pippin one of the school’s premier multi-sport athletes.

Fall belongs to football.

Winter brings wrestling and basketball.

Spring means soccer and track.

Before stepping away last sea-

son, he was also one of Deerfield-Windsor’s top cross country runners.

If there’s a scoreboard anywhere on campus, chances are Pippin has competed in front of it.

The son of Trey and Shena Pippin, he began playing football after enrolling at Deerfield-Windsor in the third grade. More than a decade later, he has become one of the most respected players in the Knights’ locker room.

Last season, Pippin finished with 76 tackles and 12 tackles for loss, helping Deerfield-Windsor reach the state championship game for the second straight year.

This fall, he’s chasing another goal.

“I want to break the school record for sacks,” he said.

His aggressive style has been shaped by watching one of football’s greatest linebackers.

Pippin studies Hall of Famer Ray Lewis, admiring the passion and relentless intensity that made Lewis one of the NFL’s all-time great defensive players.

He hopes to bring that same edge to the Knights’ defense every Friday night.

But statistics aren’t what concern him most entering his senior season.

Replacing a championship senior class is.

“It’s been kind of sloppy up until now,” Pippin admitted. “But we will get it together. We will be organized and ready.”

He believes this year’s team has the talent to keep Deerfield-Windsor among the state’s best.

The challenge is making sure everyone believes it.

For the first time, that responsibility falls on players like him.

Instead of looking to older teammates for motivation, Pippin has become the player younger teammates expect to set the standard.

It’s a role he embraces.

His teammates don’t follow him because he demands it.

They follow him because they see him putting in the work long before Friday nights arrive.

Pippin plans to attend college after graduation and hopes to study at the University of Georgia.

Before then, however, one mission remains.

Help Deerfield-Windsor stay where it has become accustomed to being — competing for championships.

Two years ago, Mangham Pippin helped carry a state championship trophy.

This fall, he’s trying to carry the responsibility that comes with keeping a championship tradition alive.

**2026 Deerfield-Windsor Football Schedule**

**Aug. 14** - Valwood - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 21** - First Presbyterian Day - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 28** - Frederica Academy - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 11** - Southwest Georgia Academy - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 25** - St. Anne-Pacelli - Home - 7:30 p.m.

\*Region game

**Oct. 2** - Lakeland Christian - Home - 7 p.m.

**Oct. 9** - Terrell Academy\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 16** - Tiftarea Academy\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 23** - Central Fellowship Christian Academy\* - Away - 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 30** - Westfield School\* - Home - 7:30 p.m.



# Harrell, veteran defense anchor Blazers’ hopes

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**BACONTON** — Four straight victories at the end of last season gave Baconton Charter confidence.

A veteran defense led by two-time Defensive Player of the Year Carson Harrell has the Blazers believing they can turn that confidence into their best season yet.

Head coach Jermaine King enters his fourth season with a program that finally has something it hasn’t enjoyed in years — stability.

Instead of learning another new system, returning players have spent the offseason refining the one they already know. The result, King said, has been a dramatic shift in the team’s culture.

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

That message has become the standard inside the program.

King said players are no longer simply showing up for workouts. They’re investing in one another, pushing teammates through offseason conditioning and spending extra time in the weight room.

“Our improvement in the weight room has been very significant,” King said. “The kids have been working hard, and they’ve spent a lot of time together.”

That chemistry could pay immediate dividends on defense.

King believes the Blazers return one of their deepest defensive units since he arrived, with most of last year’s starters back in the lineup.

At the center of it all is Harrell.

The standout linebacker has been named Baconton’s Defensive Player of the Year in each of the past two seasons and is expected to anchor the defense once again.

“I expect Carson to be there again,” King said. “He has a nose for the football.”

While the defense appears ahead of schedule, several offensive questions remain.

Quarterback is still the team’s most competitive position battle.

If the season opened today, King said Kayden Logue would get the starting nod, although Preston Hurst continues to make the decision difficult.

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

Logue is also expected to

handle the kicking and punting duties.

King believes running back Braylen Hundley could become one of the team’s biggest offensive weapons after an impressive offseason.

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

Perhaps the biggest key to the offense, however, won’t be in the backfield.

It will be up front.

King said Baconton’s emphasis on strength training was designed to improve offensive line play, and he’s looking for a group of six linemen who can develop chemistry before the opener.

“We’re looking for five starters and one guy who can rotate in,” King said. “If those guys can gel together, it’ll make a big difference in us moving the football.”

King also expanded his coaching staff by adding Ryan Marnard as offensive line coach, Jay Tully to coach the receivers and Marcus Singletary to work with the running backs.

The Blazers will again play an independent schedule while continuing to build toward future region competition.

Baconton opens the season Aug. 21 at home against Southland Academy before traveling to neighboring Pelham for a rivalry game on Aug. 28. The schedule also includes perennial GIAA power Southwest Georgia Academy.

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

The Blazers also welcome eight freshmen to the varsity roster. King believes they’ll make an immediate impact because they already understand the system after coming through the middle school program under coach Zack Dallas.

“They know the schemes, the expectations and the terminology,” King said.

For King, that’s another sign the program is heading in the right direction.

Four years ago, Baconton Charter was trying to estab-



Special Photo

Baconton Community Charter School 2026 football team.

lish an identity.

Today, the Blazers believe

they have one.

“I’m looking forward to our

best year yet,” King said. “The

kids are really buying into

what we’re teaching, and good things are coming.”

## Fantastic Fifteen: Williams focused on helping Patriots surprise doubters

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

There are plenty of things that can distract a high school football player entering his senior season.

Recruiting. Social media. Expectations. The opinions of everyone who thinks they know what comes next.

Morgan Williams has learned to tune them out.

“Block out all the outside voices and focus on what’s in front of me,” the Westover senior said.

What’s in front of Williams is one final high school football season — and an opportunity to make it his best one yet.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound defensive back enters the 2026 season as one of the players Westover coach Corey Joyner believes can make a significant difference for a Patriots team with championship aspirations.

“Morgan is one of the most dedicated players we have,” Joyner said. “He plays multiple positions. His speed allows him to help us contain

Division I-type athletes. He’s a great player and a vital part of our defense.”

Williams played in seven games as a junior and has lined up at cornerback and safety while also seeing time at running back and wide receiver during his Westover career.

But defense is where the Patriots need him most now.

His combination of size, speed and versatility gives Westover someone capable of matching up with different types of offensive weapons, and Williams has spent the offseason working to make sure his senior season looks different from his junior year.

He has concentrated on becoming stronger and faster while sharpening the technique required to play in the secondary. Running track has helped develop the speed that has become one of his biggest assets on the football field.

Now Williams wants to turn all that work into something bigger.

A championship. Westover enters the season



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Westover senior defensive back Morgan Williams will lead the Patriot defense in the backfield this season as the Patriots look to make some noise in the region and push for state prominence.

with plenty to prove after a difficult 2025 campaign, and Williams knows the Patriots aren’t necessarily the team everyone expects to emerge from the region.

That’s fine with him.

“We’re going to shock them again,” Williams said. “Everybody believes in each other. We’ve got to push hard and fight every game.”

That confidence comes from someone who has spent most of his life around the game.

The son of Nature and Tracy Williams, Morgan started playing Pop Warner football when he was 5 or 6 years old, initially drawn to the sport in part because of his older brother.

“I enjoyed being around my brothers playing football,” Williams said.

What began as something a little boy enjoyed doing with his brother has grown into something Williams hopes can change his future.

His goal is to play Division I college football.

Joyner believes Williams has the physical tools to make that possible, particularly the speed and versatility required of modern defensive backs. Williams knows, however, that college opportunities will take care of themselves if he takes care of what is immediately in front of him.

That’s why recruiting isn’t consuming him.

Neither are rankings, predictions or outside expectations. Williams would rather concentrate on Friday nights, his teammates and helping Westover become the team he believes it can be.

Away from football, world history is his favorite subject. On the field, however, Williams is much more interested in writing a little history of his own.

He has one season left to do it.

And if people are overlooking Westover — or overlooking him — Williams isn’t interested in arguing with them.

He’d rather show them.

His football role model is Pro Football Hall of Famer Champ Bailey, one of the greatest defensive backs in NFL history.

Like Bailey, Williams wants to make his biggest impact by shutting down opposing receivers.

And if he continues developing the way Joyner expects, the recruiting attention may soon follow.

For now, Williams is content letting his play do the talking.

After all, that’s exactly what’s in front of him.

### From 6C LEE

pionship, Fabrizio believes two ingredients are essential.

Stay healthy.

Stay hungry.

“We have to stay healthy during the season,” he said. “Also, we need to avoid coasting during the season and continue to improve every week.”

That may ultimately determine how this Lee County team is remembered.

Recruiting rankings won’t do it. Neither will college commitments or preseason expectations.

Fabrizio’s championship teams earned their place in Lee County history between August and December. This group must do the same.

Murray believes it can end with another state championship.

Fabrizio wants a team that plays hard, plays physical and enjoys doing it.

And Blackwell?

“Just wait and see.”

Beginning next Friday night, the waiting is over.

## Dougherty Trojans push for big gains

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — The turnaround didn’t begin on a Friday night.

It didn’t begin with a touchdown.

Or an interception.

Or even a victory.

It began in the weight room.

Just days after the Dougherty Trojans’ season ended with a first-round playoff loss to top-ranked Jefferson, players who had endured a 2-9 season made a decision.

They were going to become stronger.

Nearly nine months later, head coach Uyl Joyner believes that decision could change the direction of his football program.

“These guys started working in the weight room as soon as they could when they got back from Jefferson, and they have kept working,” Joyner said. “They have worked hard, they have transformed their bodies and now they can do things that they could not do before.”

For Joyner, the transformation isn’t measured only by pounds lifted or muscle gained.

It’s measured by confidence.

“These guys are hungry,” he said. “We’ve definitely seen a change in the attitude and the confidence. These guys are raring to play and they are tired of losing. They have worked really, really hard in the off-season and it shows.”

Now entering his third full season as Dougherty’s head coach, Joyner believes the players who arrived as freshmen when he took over are finally ready to become the team he envisioned.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Dougherty seniors Eric Spann, David Burgess and Trevion Williams will lead the Dougherty Trojans to an improved season as Dougherty moves into its fourth season under Head Coach Uyl Joyner.

“I believe this could be our best year yet,” Joyner said. “These guys that were freshmen when I took over, they are seniors now. They have stuck with us and they are all starting somewhere on the field.”

**Where it all starts**

Ask Joyner about his football team, and he doesn’t begin with his quarterback or his playmakers.

He starts with five players whose names rarely make headlines.

Richard Washington.

Amari Jones.

Jayden Walker.

K’nyron Holliday.

Kyle Jackson.

Joyner believes those five offensive linemen have transformed not only themselves but the entire football team.

“They’ve made a big jump in the weight room and are lifting varsity weight now,” Joyner said. “The offensive line determines what we can do and

can’t do on the football field.”

Because that group is stronger, the Trojans expect every part of the offense to improve.

Sophomore quarterback Micah Joyner returns after throwing for nearly 1,000 yards as a freshman.

His favorite target will once again be senior David “Blue” Burgess, one of Southwest Georgia’s top college prospects who can also line up at quarterback.

The running game will feature Morris Hill, Jayden Richardson and Zion Johnson, while sophomore receiver Jherel Gibson emerged as another offensive weapon during summer workouts.

**Iron sharpens iron**

The offensive line hasn’t just improved the offense.

It has made the defense better.

“We say iron sharpens iron,” Joyner said. “But sometimes you just get tired of being whipped

See **DOUGHERTY**, 8C



### 2026 Baconton Charter Football Schedule

Aug. 21 – vs. Southland

Academy, 7:30 PM (home)

Aug. 28 – vs. Pelham,

7:30 PM, (away)

Sept. 4 – vs. Brookwood,

7:00 PM (away)

Sept. 11 – vs. Terrell

County, 7:30 PM (home)

Sept. 18 – vs. Aucilla

Christian, 7:00 PM (home)

Sept. 25 – vs. Terrell

Academy, 7:30 PM (home)

Oct. 9 – vs. Southwest

Georgia Academy, 7:30

PM (home)

Oct. 16 – vs. Jordan,

7:00 PM (away)

Oct. 23 – vs. Southwest

Georgia STEM Charter,

7:30 PM (away)

Oct. 30– vs. Calhoun

County, 7:30 PM (away)



# Fantastic Fifteen: Williams leads Dougherty’s defensive charge

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

ALBANY — Every great defense needs a heartbeat.

At Dougherty High School, that player is Trevion Williams.

The senior linebacker doesn’t just lead the Trojans in tackles. He sets the standard for how the defense practices, plays and prepares. When Dougherty needs a big stop, Williams is usually in the middle of it. And when the offense needs a couple of tough yards, he becomes the bruising running back coaches trust to move the chains.

After leading the Trojans with 93 tackles as a junior, Williams enters his final high school season as one of Southwest Georgia’s top defensive players and is the latest member of the Albany Herald’s Fantastic Fifteen, a preseason series spotlighting 15 of the area’s top football players.

Football has been part of Williams’ life for as long as he can remember.

The son of Orlando and Lowrinzo Williams, he began playing for the Georgia Sting-ers when he was just 4 years old and hasn’t looked back.

Now, nearly 14 years later, he’s hoping the game he loves opens the door to a college education.

“I want to go to college to become a physical education teacher and coach,” Williams said.

His play has already attract- ed attention from college re- cruiters. Williams has received six scholarship offers, but he believes a strong senior se- son could bring even more opportunities.

Before thinking about re- cruiting, however, Williams has unfinished business at Dougherty.

The Trojans struggled to a 2-9 record last season but still earned the final playoff berth in Class 3A before running into the state’s top-ranked



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Linebacker Trevion Williams is the “heart of the defense” for the Dougherty Trojans and will also play running back again this season. A first-team All-Region standout a year ago, Williams is looking to make a big impact as the Trojans have big expectations in 2026.

team in the opening round.

Williams believes that ex- perience will pay dividends.

“We are all buying in,” he said. “Everybody is on the same page. We are focused on the goal to get to state.”

He believes Dougherty has enough talent to make that happen.

The biggest obstacle isn’t physical.

It’s mental.

Williams said learning how

to win consistently is the next step for a program that hasn’t experienced much recent suc- cess.

“It’s just because we haven’t won a lot,” he said.

Even as one of the team’s unquestioned leaders, Wil- liams says accountability goes both ways.

Some of the younger Tro- jans have no problem chal- lenging him when his effort slips, something he appre-

ciates.

Rather than taking of- fense, he sees it as proof the culture inside the pro- gram is changing.

Those are the kinds of moments that give Wil- liams confidence the Tro- jans are headed in the right direction.

As one of the team’s senior leaders, he knows setting the example starts with him.

Whether he’s delivering a tackle, powering through a defender for a first down or encouraging a teammate during practice, Williams understands leadership isn’t about words.

It’s about actions.

If Dougherty is going to take the next step in 2026, Williams expects to be lead- ing the way.

And if he continues mak- ing plays the way he has throughout his career, he’ll also be moving one step closer to his dream of play- ing college football before one day returning to the sidelines as a teacher and coach.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Dougherty’s David Burgess will again be a dangerous re- ceiver or maybe the quarterback for the Trojans. Burgess doesn’t care where he plays as long as he can help Dough- erty win. He said he hopes to make a college commitment during mid-season.

# Fantastic Fifteen: Wherever needed, Burgess delivers

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

ALBANY — In an era when many of the nation’s top foot- ball recruits want the ball in their hands every snap, David Burgess has spent his high school career asking a much different question.

“What does the team need?”

Sometimes the answer has been quarterback.

Sometimes it has been wide receiver.

Sometimes it’s been safety.

For Burgess, the position has never mattered nearly as much as the result.

“I’ve always had the mind- set of doing whatever was best for the team,” Burgess said.

That attitude has made the Dougherty High senior one of Southwest Georgia’s most respected athletes—and one of its most heavily recruited.

The 6-foot-4, 195-pound play- maker enters his senior season with 15 Division I scholarship offers, including national pow- ers Florida State, Oklahoma and Stanford. More offers could arrive before Burgess announces his college de- cision, something he expects to do during the football season.

Despite excelling on the bas- ketball court as well, the choice of sport has become clear.

“Football can take care of me better,” Burgess said. “I like football better, and I think it’s the best option for me.”

His rise has been anything but conventional.

As a freshman, Burgess wasn’t expected to be Dougherty’s quarterback. That changed almost overnight when re- cord-setting quarterback Kam Davis suffered an injury, forc- ing Burgess into one of the most demanding positions on the field.

He stayed there throughout his freshman and sophomore seasons.

Then last year came ano- ther change.

With Micah Joyner emerg- ing at quarterback, Burgess shifted much of his attention to wide receiver while con- tinuing to help at quarterback whenever needed.

Some highly recruited ath- letes might have viewed the move as a sacrifice.

Burgess saw it as another opportunity.

The transition has helped transform him into one of Georgia’s most versatile pros- pects, capable of changing a game with his arm, his hands or his athleticism in the sec- ondary.

“I work on my craft every day so when game time comes I can be prepared,” Burgess said. “I work smarter at the game and try to outthink my opponents.”

Those traits have caught the attention of college coaches across the country.

But Burgess insists his focus remains much closer to home.

The son of Chantelle and David Burgess Sr. believes Dougherty’s greatest improve- ment this offseason hasn’t been measured in speed, strength or statistics.

It’s been unity.

“Our brotherhood got stron- ger,” he said. “We’ve come together more and play for each other.”

That bond, he believes, gives the Trojans a chance to com- pete with anyone if they can block out the distractions that inevitably come with high ex- pectations.

“We’ve got to stay in our cir- cle and keep pushing,” Bur- gess said. “Not listen to the outside noise.”

His individual goals are am- bitious—1,000 receiving yards while adding another 500 through the air—but they’re secondary to what he hopes will be a memorable final season. “Our way is to the state cham- pionship,” he said.

The recruiting process will eventually end.

One school will win the battle for one of Georgia’s premier athletes. Until then, Burgess isn’t worried about hats on a table or commitment cer- emonies.

He’s worried about Friday nights.

One play he may be throw- ing a pass.

The next he may be catch- ing one.

Wherever Dougherty needs him most, that’s where one of Georgia’s top recruits ex- pects to be.

And that’s exactly where he’s been all along.

# Fantastic Fifteen: New school, same big dreams for Spann

By Joe Whitfield  
*Sports Editor*

Eric Spann didn’t leave Mon- roe because he wanted to.

Life simply pointed him in a different direction.

When his mother moved and Monroe underwent a coaching change, the talented defensive back faced a difficult decision. Staying where he was com- fortable or embracing a new opportunity at Dougherty.

He chose the challenge.

“I loved Monroe,” Spann said. “But with friends grad- uating, the coaching change and everything going on with my family, it just felt like the right time.”

Now the 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior hopes that decision be- comes the first step toward an even bigger dream.

Spann has already committed to Georgia Southern, choos- ing the Eagles over 15 Divi- sion I scholarship offers after an official visit to Statesboro earlier this summer.

“The coaching staff really impressed me,” Spann said. “I believe they can help me develop and eventually get to the NFL.”

He plans to major in crimi- nal justice while chasing that dream.

Football, he said, represents far more than a game.

“I’m hoping football can improve life for me and my family.”

Ironically, football wasn’t even his favorite sport grow- ing up.

During middle school, Spann spent most of his time think- ing about basketball.

Everything changed when he arrived at Monroe as a fresh- man.

He discovered a passion for football that has turned him into one of Southwest Geor- gia’s most sought-after defen- sive backs.

Last season, Spann filled



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Dougherty transfer Eric Spann is one of the most highly recruited defensive backs in South Georgia. Spann has committed to play college football at Georgia Southern.

the stat sheet with 76 tackles, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and two fumble re- coveries, proving he could im- pact a game in almost every way imaginable.

Those numbers attracted college recruiters from across the Southeast, but Spann never allowed recruiting to distract him from improving.

This offseason, he’s focused on refining the details that separate good defensive backs from great ones.

He’s worked extensively on man-to-man coverage, tak- ing better pursuit angles and becoming a more consistent tackler in space.

Now he’ll bring those skills to a Dougherty team he believes is ready to surprise people.

Spann immediately noticed a difference after joining the Trojans.

“These guys want it more,” he said. “They’re hungry.”

That mentality convinced him he had made the right decision.

His arrival gives Dougherty one of the area’s premier de- fensive playmakers and an experienced leader in the sec- ondary.

More importantly, it gives Spann one final opportunity to help change a program before beginning the next chapter of his football journey.

The son of a determined family who has supported him every step of the way, Spann knows his commitment to Georgia Southern isn’t the finish line.

It’s the beginning.

His goal isn’t simply to play college football.

It’s to use football to create opportunities that last long after his playing days are over.



## 2026 Dougherty Trojan Football Schedule

Aug. 28 – vs. Sumter County, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 4 – vs. Spencer, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 11 – vs. Monroe, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 18 – vs. Crisp County, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 24 – vs. Columbus, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 2 – vs. Shaw, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 16 – vs. Cairo, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 23 – vs. Bainbridge, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 30 – vs. Westover, 7:30 PM  
Nov. 6 – vs. Hardaway, 8:00 PM

## From 7C DOUGHERTY

and you fight back. I think that’s kind of where our defensive line got to.”

The strength of the defense will be an experienced linebacker corps led by Trevion Williams, JerMarcus Potts and Tyrone Canady.

One is a four-year starter.

The other two have started for three seasons.

Joyner believes few teams in Geor- gia can match that kind of experience.

Behind them, the secondary has added another difference-maker.

Transfer Eric Spann arrives as one of the area’s most highly recruited defensive backs and joins Amari El- lison, sophomore Jaidynn Snow and freshman Makhi Hill.

Snow, Joyner said, had the best summer of anyone on the roster.

“He picked off more passes than anybody during our 7-on-7s and padded camps,” Joyner said. “These guys are looking for an opportunity. If that ball gets near, they will get it.”

### Building a program

Joyner believes the future is just as bright as the present.

Every eighth grader from Albany

Middle School chose Dougherty this year, giving the Trojans one of their strongest freshman classes in years.

“I’m not sure how much they’ll play on varsity this year,” Joyner said. “But this group of freshmen is really talented, and I’m excited they’re at Dougherty.”

Special teams should also remain a strength.

Senior Christian Hernandez re- turns for his fourth season as Dough- erty’s kicker.

Joyner still smiles when he re- members finding him kicking soccer balls into a basketball goal inside the

school gym.

“Christian has always been a pretty good kicker,” Joyner said. “Now he is really good, so he can be a weapon for us when we need him to.”

### A new beginning

Joyner knows Region 1-3A won’t hand the Trojans anything.

Cairo enters the season as the fa- vorite.

Bainbridge has a new head coach with multiple Alabama state cham- pionships.

The Columbus schools are loaded with athletes.

Still, Joyner believes Dougherty

belongs in the conversation.

“I think we can match up with any- body in the region,” he said.

Friday night’s preseason scrim- mage against Northside-Columbus at Hugh Mills Stadium will offer the first glimpse of the new-look Trojans. The regular season opens Aug. 28 at Sumter County.

Those games won’t determine wheth- er Dougherty has changed.

They’ll simply reveal what nine months of work have already built.

The turnaround didn’t begin un- der the Friday night lights.

It began in the weight room.



# A New Chapter: 2026 Rams ready to write their own story

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**SYLVESTER** — Worth County can celebrate 15-0 forever. The Rams just can't take any of those 15 victories with them into Friday night.

The defending state champions will begin again when Brooks County comes to Syl-vester for the season opener, and head coach Jeff Hammond has spent the offseason reminding his players that the championship trophy they earned last December guar-antees them nothing in 2026.

"That is the challenging part," Hammond said. "Each team has its own identity. What will be the identity of this year's team? We will have to use experi-ences from last year, but what we did last year won't win us any

games in the future."

That's the balancing act fac-ing Worth County.

The Rams don't want to for-get the lessons that carried them through a perfect season and delivered the program's first state championship since 1987. But this isn't the same football team.

A special senior class is gone. Worth County has moved into Class 3A. A difficult new region awaits. And every Friday night, the Rams will take the field with a target that comes with be-ing the defending champions.

What they do have is a cham-pionship culture and some elite talent returning to lead the transition.

Quarterback Lyndon Worthy, defensive end Malik Muham-mad and place kicker Brodey Hancock were all named pre-season Class 3A All-State selec-tions, giving the Rams proven difference-makers in all three phases of the game.

Worthy may be the most important.

The senior quarterback enters his fourth season as a starter after directing Worth County's championship offense a year ago. He has already experi-enced just about everything a high school quarterback can encounter, and Hammond believes that experience will be especially valuable while younger players settle into larger roles.

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

Muhammad gives the Rams a disruptive presence on de-fense, while Hancock provides a proven weapon in the kick-ing game.

Their experience matters be-

cause Worth County must re-place a senior class that Ham-mond believes was special for more than simply its talent.

"The 2025 senior class was a special class," Hammond said. "It seems like each game there was a different player that stepped up and made great plays in major moments."

Now Hammond is waiting to discover who will become those players for this team.

"I do think each group this year is progressing to fill those gaps," he said. "We will rely heavily early in the season on who comes back with expe-rience until our young guys catch up."

That's where the residue of a championship season can help.

Hammond doesn't have to convince his players what win-ning football looks like. The old-er Rams have lived it, and the younger ones have watched it.

"The culture has been set here in Worth County," Ham-mond said. "My kids really love playing football. They enjoy practicing. Every day I see a younger kid doing something better that day than they did the day before."

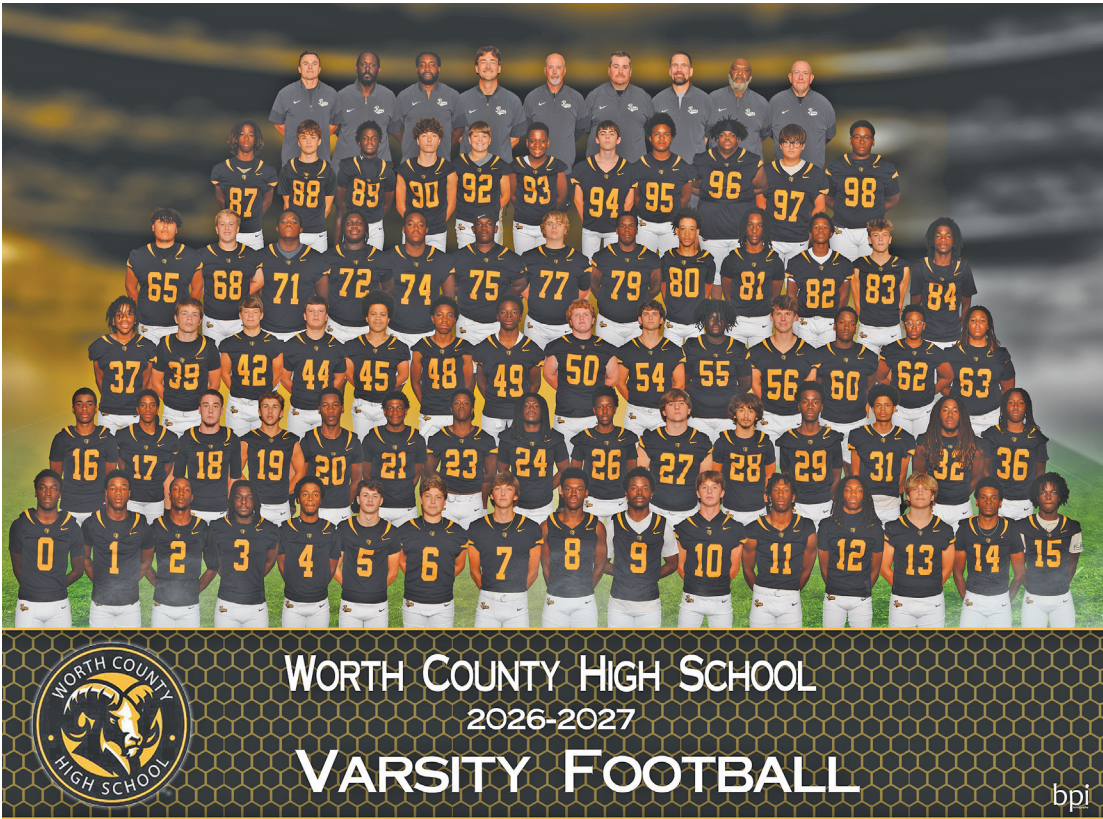
They may need to grow up quickly.

The move to Class 3A puts Worth County into a region that includes Carver-Columbus and Sumter County and leaves little room for an off night.

Hammond isn't complaining. "Our entire schedule is filled with quality programs," he said. "Every game will be a challenge, and we will have to be mentally tough enough to treat each week as a playoff-type game to have a chance to be successful."

If the Rams survive it, Ham-mond believes the schedule could make them dangerous when the games really do be-come win-or-go-home.

"We will definitely be battle-tested when the playoffs begin," Hammond said. "With the qual-



ity of teams in our region, the fan base for all the teams will see some good football each and every week."

The expectations haven't changed.

Hammond said the goals remain the same as they were before Worth County became a state champion: make the playoffs, win the region and win a state championship.

Getting there again, how-ever, will require this team to find its own way.

"Can we continue to improve from week to week? Can we overcome adversity?" Ham-mond said. "Can we tune out the outside noise and focus on us being the best version that this football team can be?"

Those questions can't be an-swered in August.

But Hammond already knows what he wants people to see when they watch the Rams, regardless of the final score.

"Those kids play with class and effort," he said. "They are

poised and disciplined. I just want the people from Worth County to be proud that these boys represent them."

Last year's team gave Worth County a season people in Syl-vester will talk about for gen-erations.

This year's Rams don't have to recreate it.

They have to create some-thing of their own.

That opportunity begins Friday night against Brooks County.



**2026  
Worth County  
Football Schedule**

Aug. 7 – vs. Valdosta, 8:00 PM  
Aug. 21 – vs. Brooks County, 7:30 PM  
Aug. 28 – vs. Cairo, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 4 – vs. Early Coun-ty, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 11 – vs. Thomas-ville, 8:00 PM  
Sept. 18 – vs. Fitzgerald, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 9 – vs. Kendrick, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 16 – vs. Crisp Coun-ty, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 23 – vs. Sumter County, 7:30 PM  
Nov. 6 – vs. Carver-C, 7:30 PM

## Fantastic Fifteen: Jordyn Shorter, From defender to leader

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

**ALBANY** — Jordyn Shorter never dreamed about becom-ing a quarterback.

He dreamed about making tackles.

Long before he was reading defenses and throwing touch-down passes for Monroe High School, Shorter loved football for one simple reason.

"I liked defense," he said. "I liked being aggressive, hitting people and being around the guys. Winning made me love

football even more."

Ironically, the position he never imagined playing has become the one that now de-fines his senior season.

Quarterback wasn't part of the plan.

It became his opportunity.

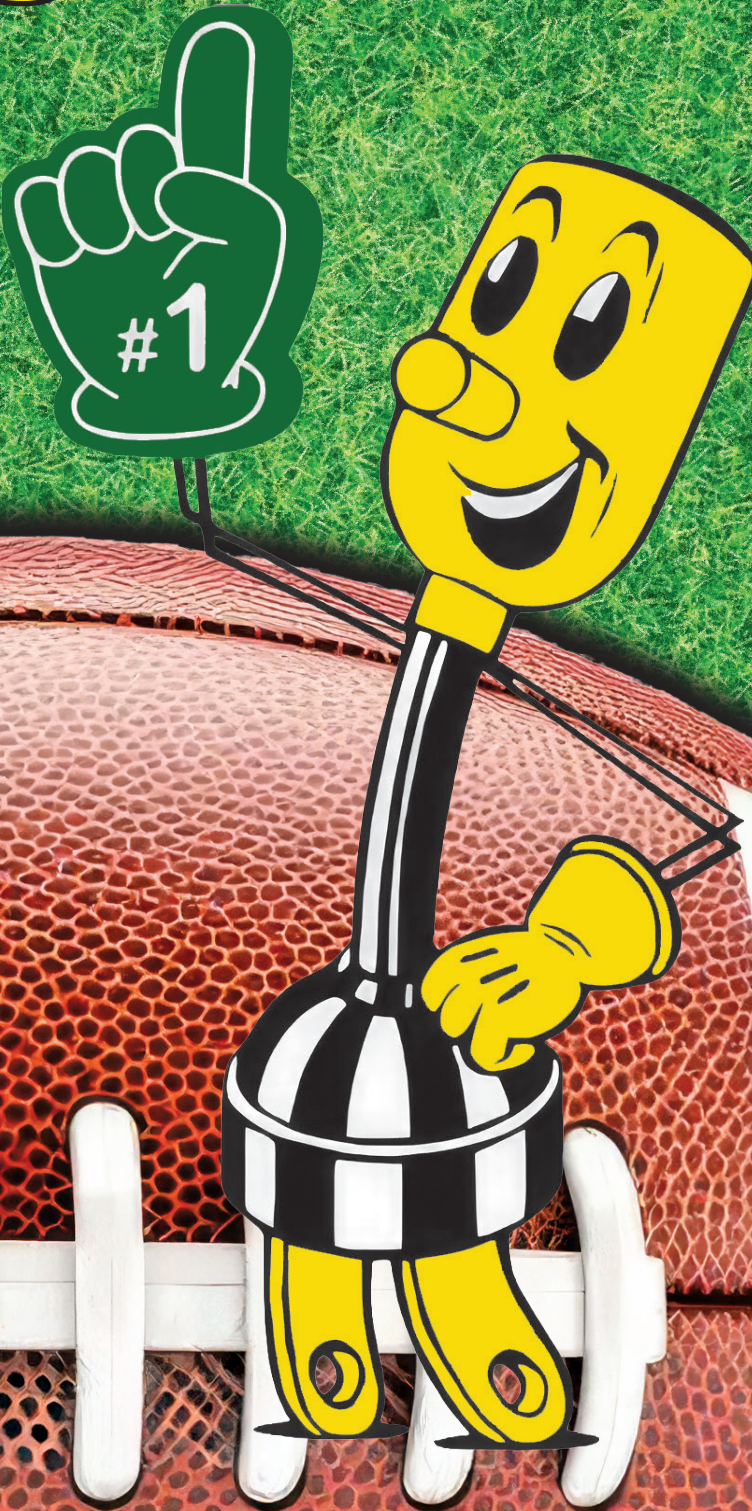
Football wasn't even Shorter's first sport. Soccer came first, followed by basketball and baseball. Growing up, he spent as much time outdoors as he could, and admits he carried extra weight as a youngster



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield  
Monroe quarterback Jordyn Shorter is looking to help his team win and his teammates earn college offers as the Monroe Golden Tornadoes start the season with new head coach Bo Daniels.

See **SHORTER**, 11C

# Mitchell EMC wishes you a winning season



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# Be Monroe: Daniels gives Tornadoes an identity

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Bo Daniels has spent the summer talking about what he wants Monroe football to become.

Friday night, the Golden Tornadoes offered the first glimpse.

Monroe defeated Mitchell County 14-6 in a preseason scrimmage, and perhaps fittingly for a program now led by a coach who built his reputation on defense, the Golden Tornadoes made their biggest statement without the football.

It was only a scrimmage. It won't count in the standings. But for Daniels, who has spent his first offseason as Monroe's head coach preaching fundamentals, discipline and attention to detail, it was evidence that the foundation he has talked about all summer is beginning to take shape.

Now comes the real test.

Monroe opens the 2026 season Aug. 28 in Moultrie against perennial state power Colquitt County, and Daniels isn't interested in changing his message simply because the opponent will be one of Georgia's most recognizable programs.

"No matter who we are playing, we've got to be Monroe," Daniels said. "It doesn't matter who it is or what the scheme is. We've got to go and be Monroe, be fundamentally sound and be organized."

That has been the message almost from the moment Daniels returned to his alma mater this spring.

The former Monroe player came home after serving as an assistant at Westover, where he coached the defensive line on Corey Joyner's staff. His first head coaching opportunity brought him back to a program with which he already had a deep connection, but Daniels knew familiarity alone wouldn't rebuild Monroe football.

He wanted a foundation first.

"When you're coming in as the new head coach, you have to start from the ground up," Daniels said. "You have to work with the players, the parents and the coaching staff to get everybody on the same page."

His expectations are straightforward: no excuses, complete commitment and a willingness to sacrifice for the program.

Daniels has emphasized standards for everyone — not just players, but coaches as well — and believes consistency will eventually show up on Friday nights.

"Things come up and you just work through it," Daniels said. "You can't catch me off guard if you lean on your standards and your rules."

Those standards are particularly evident on defense.

Daniels wants a unit that doesn't have to reinvent itself every week depending on the opponent. Alignment, assignments, technique and communication have been stressed repeatedly throughout the summer.

The idea is to give players rules they can trust regardless of what an opposing offense

throws at them, allowing them to play faster without sacrificing discipline.

Monroe's performance against Mitchell County provided an encouraging first return.

The Golden Tornadoes surrendered only six points in the 14-6 victory, showing the kind of defensive toughness Daniels hopes will become a trademark.

He has helped installing that mentality.

Daniels brought four new coaches into the program, including offensive coordinator Cecil Lester and defensive coordinator Roscoe Byrd.

Daniels likes Lester's ability to adapt an offense to the personnel available to him, describing him as a coach with experience getting "a lot with a little."

Byrd brings college coaching experience from Benedict College and Savannah State, along with an attention to detail that fits Daniels' philosophy.

That coaching staff also has some proven players to build around.

Quarterback Jordyn Shorter enters the season as one of Monroe's most important offensive pieces, while receiver Kohlin Brownlee gives the Golden Tornadoes an experienced playmaker on the perimeter.

Jayvin Range, Arzoreion Bryant and Isaiah Rivers are among

the other veterans Daniels expects to provide leadership.

But one of the most encouraging developments of the offseason has been what is happening behind them.

Daniels has been impressed by a sophomore class that includes Jayden Alexander, Robert Adams, Trayshaw Wallace, Curtis Ware and Javion Shavers. Several young players have pushed for larger roles and given Daniels reason to believe Monroe isn't simply trying to put together one successful season.

It is trying to build something sustainable.

"The future of Monroe football is looking very bright," Daniels said.

That doesn't mean Daniels intends to wait for the future.

He expects this team to compete now.

"We're going to show up every game and leave our footprint," Daniels said.

The schedule will provide plenty of opportunities.

Starting with Colquitt County means Monroe won't have the luxury of easing into the season. The Packers represent a dramatic step up in competition from a preseason scrimmage, but Daniels sees that challenge as another opportunity to reinforce the identity he wants his program to develop.

Fundamentals don't change

because the opponent does. Neither do expectations.

And neither, he insists, should Monroe.

The opportunity to establish that philosophy at his alma mater has made Daniels' first offseason particularly meaningful. He has been encouraged by the response from former players and alumni, many of whom have donated to the program and helped provide what the Golden Tornadoes need.

He has also praised the support of principal Lawanna Johnson and the Monroe administration.

For a coach trying to convince players that everyone must be invested, Daniels sees the community doing exactly that.

Now comes the part everyone has been waiting for.

Friday's scrimmage offered the first evidence — a defense that allowed six points, a victory and a team beginning to take on the personality of its new coach.

The next time Monroe takes the field, it counts.

And whether the opponent is Mitchell County, Colquitt County or anyone else on the schedule, Daniels wants the Golden Tornadoes to be recognizable by something more important than the green and gold on their uniforms.

He wants them to play like Monroe.



Staff Photo Joe Whitfield

Monroe senior Kohlin Brownlee has earned his spot in the Fantastic Fifteen for being one of Monroe's hardest-working players since Coach Bo Daniels took over the program. Daniels said Brownlee's speed will make him hard to catch when he catches a pass this season.

## Fantastic Fifteen: Monroe's Brownlee focused on earning his shot

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

The dream started in a front yard.

As a young boy, Kohlin Brownlee watched his older cousins, family members and neighborhood friends throw a football around after his family moved to Albany. Before long, he wanted to be part of every game.

Then came a family trip to Ohio when he was 10 years old.

Meeting several well-known football players transformed a childhood interest into something much bigger.

Today, Brownlee is entering his senior season at Monroe with one goal in mind — earning the opportunity to continue playing football in college.

"I want to do well enough to earn a scholarship," Brownlee said.

For Brownlee, however, individual success means little if it doesn't translate into team success.

The Golden Tornadoes endured a difficult season a year ago, missing the playoffs after struggling to find consistency. Brownlee admits that was the toughest part of the season.

"Not winning and not making the playoffs," he said.

This fall, he believes Monroe has the opportunity to change that.

His favorite part of football isn't necessarily making spectacular catches or scoring touchdowns. It's spending Friday nights with teammates, riding the bus to games and celebrating victories together afterward.

Winning, he says, makes all of those moments even more meaningful.

New Monroe head coach Bo Daniels quickly recognized Brownlee as one of the players capable of helping restore that winning culture.

"Kohlin is a very high-character football player," Daniels said. "He wants to win and he works for it."

Daniels was impressed long before the first official practice.

"When I first came over to Monroe, he was there every time, even when he didn't really have to be there," Daniels said. "We were doing condi-

tioning and he didn't have to come because he was involved in other things, but he was here."

That commitment is one reason Daniels expects Brownlee to become one of the area's most dangerous playmakers this season.

At 6 feet tall, Brownlee has developed a reputation for his speed and his ability to make difficult catches in traffic. His favorite route leaves little doubt about the kind of receiver he wants to be.

"I like going deep and catching the ball," Brownlee said with a smile.

Daniels believes those deep routes often end the same way. "When he catches the ball, he's gonna score," Daniels said. "I'm excited for him. He's a kid I'm pulling for."

The son of Natasha Godwin and Caelton Brownlee, Brownlee understands this season represents more than one final opportunity to wear Monroe's purple and gold.

It's a chance to show college coaches he belongs at the next level.

Daniels has little doubt his senior receiver will be successful wherever life takes him.

"He has shown a lot of character and leadership," Daniels said. "He is going to be successful."

Brownlee hopes that success begins with helping Monroe return to the postseason.

If he can do that while turning long receptions into touchdowns, the scholarship offers he's chasing may not be far behind.



Special Photo

Terrell Academy 2026 football team.

## Peachey, Eagles ready for fresh start

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

DAWSON — Jack Harris doesn't need anyone to remind him what happened last season.

He lived it every Friday night. One injury became two.

Two became five. Eventually, nearly half the roster was affected.

Approximately 30 Terrell Academy players missed at least one game during Harris' first season leading the Eagles, forcing lineup changes that made consistency nearly impossible. Quarterback Bryse Peachey suffered a broken leg after earning Albany Herald Fantastic Fifteen honors, quarterback Josh Cabitat was also sidelined, offensive linemen were shuffled from position to position, and a promising season unraveled into a 4-7 finish.

Now entering Year 2, Harris believes the Eagles are finally positioned to move forward.

"We're still climbing the hill," Harris said. "But we've got our foot in the door."

The biggest reason for optimism begins with Peachey.

Now fully recovered, the senior quarterback has returned at full strength and reminded teammates why he's been one of southwest Georgia's most respected competitors.

"You don't get to coach many kids like Bryse," Harris said. "He's accepted his role as a leader. He leads by his actions, practices hard every day and he's been giving our defense fits this summer."

Harris laughed when describing the challenge.

"You can't corral him," he said. "He's physical. He's not going to shy away from contact. He'll bring it."

Peachey's return gives Harris the experienced leader the offense lacked for much of last season.

It also helps that the Eagles have more weapons around him.

Senior Hudson Massey takes over at running back after what Harris called an outstanding offseason.

"He's quick, explosive and hard to handle," Harris said.

Junior transfer Alex Klughart arrives from Lee County, bringing exceptional speed and reliable hands to the receiving corps, while sophomore Colt Eisenhart, a transfer from Deerfield-Windsor, has quickly adapted to the Eagles' system.

Cal Powell enjoyed one of the best summers on the team, according to Harris, becoming bigger, stronger and faster while emerging as another dependable receiving target.

Veteran Sam Hester provides additional experience at split end, giving Terrell more depth than it enjoyed a year ago.

One familiar name will have a different assignment.

After serving as the Eagles' top receiver last season, Walt Lee will spend most of his time in the defensive secondary, returning to offense only in selected situations.

The player Harris may be happiest about, however, doesn't carry the football.

"Everything starts with the offensive line," he said.

It's a phrase Harris repeated often while discussing this year's team.

Senior tackles Billy Summerfield, a three-year starter, and Quint Henley center the edges, while junior center Levi Ivey provides stability in the middle. Dylan Freeman, Braden Harris and Jason Birdsong headline the competition at guard, with younger players pushing for playing time.

Perhaps most importantly, Harris believes improved depth will allow many of those linemen to focus primarily on offense instead of playing both ways.

For a small-school program, that's a significant advantage.

"It lets those guys stay fresh," Harris said.

Defensively, Terrell returns much of the same philosophy but with more experience and competition.

Charlie Oosterveen and Grant Suber rotate at nose tackle, while Trey Parrish and Jace

Berry work at defensive end.

The linebacking corps features Freeman, Lex Bryant, Brody Cowart and Liam Kelley, who also handles kicking duties.

"He can kick the heck out of the ball," Harris said.

Lee headlines the secondary alongside Willis Henley, Carson Miller, Landon Parrish, Kipton Fraser and Brooks Strickland, while Mathis Chester and freshman Jackson Moore compete at safety. Charlie Proctor is among several young players pressing for playing time.

Harris said numerous backup positions remain undecided — exactly the type of competition he wants.

"Iron sharpens iron," he said.

The Eagles will need every bit of that depth.

Their schedule offers little margin for error.

Terrell opens Aug. 21 at home against Southwest Georgia Academy, last year's GIAA Class AA state runner-up.

Region play won't get any easier.

Defending state finalist Deerfield-Windsor remains one of the league's measuring sticks under Jake McCrae, while Westfield joins the region with one of the state's most accomplished coaching staffs. Central Fellowship adds another athletic challenge.

"All of the coaches in this region are top-notch," Harris said. "If you're not prepared every week, they'll find your weaknesses."

Still, Harris likes the direction of his football team.

The injuries that derailed last season have healed.

The roster is deeper.

The seniors have embraced leadership.

And after spending the summer becoming stronger both physically and mentally, the Eagles believe they're better equipped for the grind ahead.

"We're excited," Harris said. "Our kids have worked hard. They want to be better, and that's where it all starts."



### 2026 Terrell Academy Football Schedule

Aug. 21 – vs. Southwest Georgia Academy, 8:00 PM

Aug. 11 – vs. Pataula Charter, 7:30 PM

Sept. 18 – vs. Southland Academy, 7:30 PM

Sept. 25 – vs. Baconton Charter 7:30 PM

Oct. 2 – vs. Central Fellowship, 7:30 PM

Oct. 9 – vs. Deerfield-Windsor, 7:30 PM

Oct. 16 – vs. Calhoun County 7:30 PM

Oct. 23 – vs. Westfield School 7:30 PM



### 2026 Monroe Golden Tornadoes Football Schedule

Aug. 28 – vs. Colquitt County, 7:30 PM

Sept. 11 – vs. Dougherty County, 7:30 PM

Sept. 18 – vs. Cairo, 7:30 PM

Sept. 25 – vs. Hardaway, 7:30 PM

Oct. 2 – vs. Sumter County, 7:30 PM

Oct. 9 – vs. Bainbridge, 7:30 PM

Oct. 15 – vs. Columbus, 7:00 PM

Oct. 23 – vs. Westover, 7:30 PM

Oct. 29 – vs. Spencer, 7:00 PM

Nov. 5 – vs. Shaw, 7:00 PM



# Battle-tested Patriots eye bigger goals in 2026

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — When Westover kicks off its 2026 football season Aug. 21 against Kings Ridge Christian Academy at Hugh Mills Stadium, the Patriots won't look anything like the team that limped through much of last fall.

They're older. They're faster. And perhaps most importantly, they're battle-tested. The adversity that threatened to derail Westover's 2025 season has become the foundation of the Patriots' optimism entering Year 3 under head coach Corey Joyner.

"I think we are going to be better for the next two years because all of these young guys got a lot of playing time," Joyner said. "All of the injuries and transfers might have actually been a blessing in disguise."

That's not something Joyner would have said a year ago. Transfers claimed quarterbacks Keyon Thomas and Jordyn Shorter and running

back Dominique Ball before the season even settled in. Then came injuries to running back Saylor Edwards, quarterback Jayshun Bobbs and Louisville commitment Kyson Mallard, one of Southwest Georgia's premier offensive linemen.

By midseason, Gabriel Hopper — Westover's fourth-string junior varsity quarterback only months earlier — found himself leading the Patriots' offense.

Instead of collapsing, Westover fought its way to a 6-4 record and a second consecutive state playoff appearance. Now those emergency replacements have become experienced veterans.

Hopper returns after starting seven games, while running back Malik Young gained experience in 10 contests after being thrust into a featured role. Young receivers Ahmad Mitchell and Jaden Thomas were only freshmen when they were called upon last season. Today, they enter the fall as proven contributors instead

of promising prospects. "He has improved so much," Joyner said of Hopper. "That game time last season plus the work he has put in ... he is much better."

Westover's offense should also be considerably more explosive.

Young provides speed in the backfield, while Mikhail Simmons has developed into one of the Patriots' most dangerous deep threats. Jordan Joyner gives Westover another game-changing athlete in the return game, and 6-foot-5 tight end Josiah Daniels has emerged as one of the area's most intriguing college prospects.

But Joyner believes the biggest difference may not be at any one position.

It could be team speed. After talking with former Westover coach and athletic director Octavia Jones about improving overall athleticism, Joyner revamped the Patriots' offseason conditioning program with speed as its central focus.

"We are going to be a very

fast team," he said.

The Patriots expect to be just as physical on defense.

Mercer commitment William Owens and versatile defender Matthew Martin headline a veteran front that should set the tone each Friday night. K.J. Weaver and Dan Wallace also return after gaining valuable varsity experience during last season's injury-plagued campaign, while Joyner believes the secondary has made tremendous strides.

"I think we're a whole lot better back there," he said.

Westover's coaching staff also features a unique family connection.

Defensive coordinator Cle-tus Hopkins coaches alongside his son, Kameron Hopkins, a former quarterback at both Westover and Albany State who now serves as the Patriots' junior varsity offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

The Patriots will need every bit of that experience in a loaded Region 1-3A.

Defending region champi-



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Westover seniors William Owens, Kyson Mallard and Williams are three reasons why the Patriots are expected to be among Class 4A's best this season.

on Cairo again figures to be one of the state's best teams, while Monroe, Bainbridge, Spencer, Shaw, Dougherty and Columbus ensure there will be few easy Friday nights.

Joyner believes Monroe has improved significantly, says Spencer annually produces outstanding athletes and expects Shaw's young roster to mature quickly.

But after watching his own team grow up under difficult circumstances, he isn't shying away from the challenge. "If we do what we're capa-

ble of," Joyner said, "I think we can play with anybody."

For much of last season, Westover simply fought to stay afloat.

This fall, the Patriots believe they're ready to do much more than survive.

They believe they're ready to contend.

# Fantastic Fifteen: Mallard returns with unfinished business

By Joe Whitfield  
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The season ended before it ever began.

One routine practice. One awkward step. One torn ACL. In an instant, Westover's biggest college football prospect traded Friday night lights for surgery, rehabilitation and the long, uncertain road back.

For Kyson Mallard, it wasn't just a devastating injury.

It was the loss of the season he had spent years preparing to play.

Now, nearly a year later, the 6-foot-5, 320-pound senior is finally preparing for the moment he wondered if he'd ever experience again.

"I'm getting better every day," Mallard said. "I'm still working to get used to the brace on my knee."

Those words have defined the past year.

Every workout. Every therapy session.

Every step toward returning to the football field.

Long before he became one of Georgia's premier offensive line prospects, football represented something much bigger than touchdowns and scholarship offers.

Mallard started playing football when he was 5 years old, although his size often created some entertaining moments.

"We always had to take my

birth certificate to prove my age," he said with a laugh.

Football became serious after sixth grade, when he realized the game might someday change his family's future.

"I realized I might be able to help my family get into a better position if I became really good at football," he said.

That realization fueled years of hard work that eventually turned Mallard into one of the nation's top offensive linemen.

More than 20 Division I programs extended scholarship offers.

Georgia landed his commitment for a time.

Today, his future belongs to Louisville.

After reopening his recruitment, Mallard committed to the Cardinals and says his decision is final.

Now 100 percent committed, he plans to study business management while continuing his football career.

But before Louisville comes one last opportunity at Westover.

Many athletes spend their senior season thinking about Saturdays in college.

Mallard has spent his thinking about Friday nights.

"I'm focused on this season," he said. "I think it will be a big year for us. We've got a lot of talent and I believe we can win the region."

He believes the Patriots have everything necessary to com-

pete for a championship.

"Everything is in place," he said. "We've just got to work through it. We're going to practice hard and follow our coaches. We've got a really good group of coaches, and I really don't think anybody can beat us if we keep working."

Off the field, Mallard enjoys history—especially if it's taught by Westover head coach Corey Joyner, he joked.

The son of Kayla and Bennie Lofton has already accomplished something few high school players ever do by earning the opportunity to play Power Four football.

But that isn't what has driven him over the past year.

His motivation has been much simpler.

Getting back. When Westover opens the 2026 season, most fans will notice Mallard because of his imposing 6-foot-5 frame.

Few will notice the brace supporting his knee beneath the uniform.

For Mallard, that's perfectly fine.

Because after spending nearly a year watching football from the sideline, he isn't thinking about the injury anymore.

He's thinking about the first snap.

The first block. The first Friday night.

And the final season he worked so hard to get back.



Staff Photo: Sonja Stroyls

Louisville commit Kyson Mallard is back and ready to help Westover win this year. The 6'5", 320 offensive lineman is one of Georgia's top recruits and recently earned preseason All-State honors from the AJC.



2026

## Westover Patriots Football Schedule

Aug. 21 – vs. XX King's Ridge Christian, 7:30 PM  
Aug. 28 – vs. Seminole County, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 4 – vs. Columbus, 7:00 PM  
Sept. 10 – vs. Cairo, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 18 – vs. Shaw, 7:30 PM  
Sept. 25 – vs. Bainbridge, 7:30 PM  
Oct 9 – vs. Spencer, 7:00 PM  
Oct. 15 – vs. Hardaway, 7:00 PM  
Oct. 23 – vs. Monroe, 7:30 PM  
Oct. 30 – vs. Dougherty, 7:00 PM

## From 9C SHORTER

before sports helped transform him into the athlete he is today.

His first opportunity to play quarterback came almost by accident when his junior varsity team suddenly needed someone to take the snaps.

He answered the call.

At first, he wasn't convinced quarterback was where he belonged.

"My heart really wasn't at quarterback at that moment," Shorter said. "I just wanted to help the team."

That team-first mentality has followed him throughout his career.

Before his junior season, Shorter made one of the biggest decisions of his football career when he transferred from Westover to Monroe, believing the Tornadoes offered him the best opportunity to continue growing as both a player and a leader.

The move wasn't easy.

But it proved to be the right one.

"When I got to Monroe, I knew I could help this team," Shorter said. "Everything took off from there."

A year later, Monroe hired Bo

Daniels as its new head coach. Daniels already knew Shorter from their time together at Westover, and that familiarity helped make the transition into a new coaching staff seamless.

Now entering his first full season as Monroe's starting quarterback, Daniels has complete confidence in the player leading the Tornadoes' offense.

"I think Jordyn possesses everything he needs to be successful," Daniels said. "I know how hard he works, and I believe in him. I'm very comfortable having him back there. He can run or throw—whatever the play requires."

For Shorter, the biggest challenge hasn't been making throws.

It's been making decisions. "Quarterback is a challenge mentally more than anything," he said. "You've got to know what the defense is doing before the snap. There's a lot of responsibility."

Every practice has made those responsibilities feel more natural.

Returning to an offense built on discipline also accelerated the learning process.

"It came easier because everybody was disciplined," Shorter said. "The new plays came easy."

After graduation, the son of Lakota and Phillip Robinson plans to continue his football

career at Judson University in Chicago, where he'll likely play wide receiver or tight end.

Before then, however, his focus remains firmly on Monroe.

"My goal is to win more games, make the playoffs and help my teammates get college offers," he said.

Those words reveal as much about Shorter as any statistic ever could.

Even as the starting quarterback, his greatest goal isn't personal recognition.

It's helping those around him achieve their own dreams.

That journey begins with Friday night's preseason scrimmage against Mitchell County at Hugh Mills Stadium before Monroe opens the regular season Aug. 28 on the road against Class 7A powerhouse Colquitt County.

"I'm excited to play Colquitt," Shorter said. "That's another team in our way."

For a player who once measured football by how hard he could hit somebody, success now looks much different.

It's found in reading a defense. Leading a huddle.

Making the right decision.

And helping an entire team believe it can accomplish something special.



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