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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

State Senate District 12 candidates wait for residency challenge decision



Corey Morgan



Edward Brown

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Both sides in a case involving a legal challenge to residency in a Georgia Senate race are awaiting a judge’s ruling in the matter a month after a hearing in a Dougherty County courtroom.

Corey B. Morgan, a former Camilla City Council member who came in second in the May 19 primary in state Senate District 12 to Albany businessman Edward Brown, filed the challenge in the days following the Democratic primary contest.

Brown’s attorney, Chris Cohillas, filed a motion to dismiss the case and a hearing was held on July 1 in front of a judge who is not a member of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit.

Morgan, who himself was ruled ineligible to seek re-election in Camilla after a judge ruled he

See SENATE 2A

MOVING DAY



Special Photo & Illustration: ASU
Albany State University freshmen began arriving and moving into the dorms at Albany State last week, getting ready for the start of their college careers.

Albany State announces plans for Homecoming 2026

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Albany State University has announced the dates and theme for Homecoming 2026, with the full event schedule and addition-

al information to be released in the coming weeks. Alumni, students, families, friends and supporters are invited to return to campus Oct. 4–11 for a weeklong celebration of Golden Ram pride, tradition and excellence, school officials said in a news release.

This year’s Homecoming theme, “ASU Unleashed: The Power of the Ram,” celebrates the strength, spirit and collective energy of the Albany State community. Throughout the week, the university will host events designed to bring what ASU calls “the RAMily” together

to showcase the traditions that make homecoming one of the most anticipated celebrations of the year.

The Homecoming football game is on Oct. 10 at 2 p.m., when the Golden Rams take on Lane College at the ASU Coliseum.

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable homecoming experience, campus access wristbands will be required to be worn at all times during homecoming activities.

Wristbands are \$75 for individuals ages 11 and older and \$25 for children ages 6–10. Chil-

dren 5 and under may attend for free. Wristbands provide access to the football game, general parking and The Yard, which will feature live music, vendors and other festivities.

Individuals without wristbands will be subject to removal from campus, with no exceptions. Unattended minors will not be permitted. A responsible adult must accompany all youths under age 18. Current ASU students must present a valid ASU ID.

Homecoming also provides opportunities for businesses, organizations and alumni to



participate in the festivities. Vendor spaces are \$300, with each paying vendor receiving three wristbands. Vendors may showcase food, merchandise, services and other offerings to homecoming attendees. Vendor registration will remain open through Oct. 2.

Tailgating spaces are \$250, while RV tailgating spaces are \$300. Each paying tailgating customer will receive two wristbands, and each paying RV tailgating customer will receive

three wristbands. Tailgating spaces are limited.

The Homecoming Parade will take place on Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. on Pine Avenue in downtown Albany. Community organizations are invited to participate. Parade registration will close on Sept. 10. Participants interested in joining the homecoming parade should complete registration online.

Additional information may be found at www.asurams.edu/homecoming.

Helping Hands to serve 1,100 Dougherty families weekly with help from Paula Deen Foundation



Photo Courtesy of Cathy Revell

From left, Catherine Whitfield, Helping Hands Ending Hunger co-administrator; Susan Greene, The Bag Lady Foundation board member; and Cathy Revell, Helping Hands Ending Hunger administrator, show off a donation from the Bag Lady Foundation.

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY— Paula Deen’s Bag Lady Foundation has donated money to Helping Hands Ending Hunger, providing enough funding for about 1,100 cooler bags as the Dougherty County School System program begins another year of getting unused school food into the homes of local families.

The bags are an integral part of the process, with each one corresponding to a family requesting food through the program this school year, Helping Hands Ending Hunger Administrator Cathy Revell said.

And Revell says the demand is growing.

“There’s definitely more than there has been in the past,” she said. “We’ve always had a lot of kids that want the food. But it does seem like there’s more now.”

Some schools have already received more than 100 requests for food, she said, including schools where organizers might not traditionally expect to see the greatest need.

“The need is across the board,” Revell said.

Helping Hands Ending Hunger, known as HHEH, operates in 20 Dougherty County schools, where students can donate unopened, factory-packaged food they do not eat during breakfast or lunch. Instead of being discarded, those items are

See DEEN, 2A



Periodical — Mail Label

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Lee schools celebrate top-tier performance

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

LEESBURG -- The Lee County School System is celebrating another exceptional year of achievement. While maintaining some of the lowest per-pupil spending in the state, Lee County students outperformed the state average in every tested content area on the 2025–2026 Georgia Milestones Assessment. Scores will be released later this school year, due to the implementation of new ELA standards and state assessment during the 2025-2026 school year. Lee County students demonstrated strong academic performance across the board, reflecting the dedication of the system’s schools to achieving excellence. The Georgia Department of Education administers the Georgia Milestones Assessment Sys-

tem to measure student learning and achievement across Georgia’s public schools. Students in grades 3–8 take end-of-grade assessments, while high school students take end-of-course (EOC) assessments in designated courses. Student performance on Georgia Milestones is reported across four achievement levels: beginning learner, developing learner, proficient learner, and distinguished learner. These performance levels provide schools, families, and communities with information about how well students have mastered the knowledge and skills outlined in Georgia’s state standards. Lee County students taking GMAS end-of-grade assessments exceeded the state average in proficient and distinguished scores in all subjects, and by double-digit percent-

age points in many areas. Lee County third-grade math students outpaced the state average in proficient and distinguished scores by 15 percentage points. Fifth-graders outpaced the state average in proficient and distinguished math scores by 17 percentage points, ranking them among the top 8% of all districts in Georgia. Eighth-graders taking high school physical science outpaced the state by 26 percentage points in proficient and distinguished scores, increasing by 22 percentage points from 2025 to 2026. These results are just a snapshot of the overall academic success, reflecting the strong foundation Lee students are building and the dedication of the system’s teachers and schools to preparing every student for success at every grade level. “We are so proud of what our

middle school students accomplished this year. We continue to see growth across our schools, reflecting the hard work of our students and the commitment of teachers who challenge, support, and believe in them every day,” John Savelle, principal of Lee County Middle School West, said. “Their continued success is something that we can all be proud of.” Lee County students taking a GMAS end-of-course assessment also demonstrated outstanding achievement, exceeding the state average in every tested subject, with particularly impressive gains in several areas. Lee County scored in the top 4% of the state for student performance in both U.S. History and Algebra. U.S. History students outpaced the state average by 27 percentage points in proficient and distinguished achievement,



File Photo
Lee County students outperformed the state average in every tested content area on the 2025–2026 Georgia Milestones Assessment.

while students taking Algebra outscored their state peers by 24 percentage points. “Our exceptional Algebra scores reflect the incredible dedication of both our students and our math faculty,” Ginger Lawrence, principal of Lee County High School 9th Grade Campus, said. “Our teachers work tirelessly to ensure every student masters complex concepts, and these GMAS results prove that when high expectations meet great support, remarkable progress happens.” The strong performance across GMAS end-of-course assess-

ments further demonstrates Lee County’s commitment to preparing students for continued success in high school and beyond. “Showing excellence in student performance once is an accomplishment,” Superintendent of Lee County Schools Kathleen Truitt said. “What the Lee County School System has done is demonstrate that high levels of excellence is a tradition. This kind of performance year to year demonstrates incredible investments in the success of the children in our community.”

From 1A DEEN

collected throughout the week and packed on Fridays for students who have signed up to take food home. “If they didn’t want their

cheese stick, they donate that cheese stick at the end of the lunch or breakfast period,” Revell explained. “We collect those and keep them through the week until Friday when we send the filled bags home with kids.” The program does not require families to prove finan-

cial hardship or qualify through federal income guidelines. Every student is given the opportunity to participate. Families simply indicate that they would like to receive the additional food by filling out a paper that is sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. “We don’t want it to be any kind of designation of need,” Revell said. “It’s a choice that you want the bag.” That approach makes the roughly 1,100 requests particularly significant. Rather than representing children identified by the school system through a poverty measure, the number reflects families themselves saying the additional food would help. The need exists within a school system that has historically served some of Georgia’s most economically disadvantaged student populations. State direct-certification data — which identify students automatically eligible for federal meal benefits through participation in programs such as SNAP — have previously documented exceptionally high rates at some

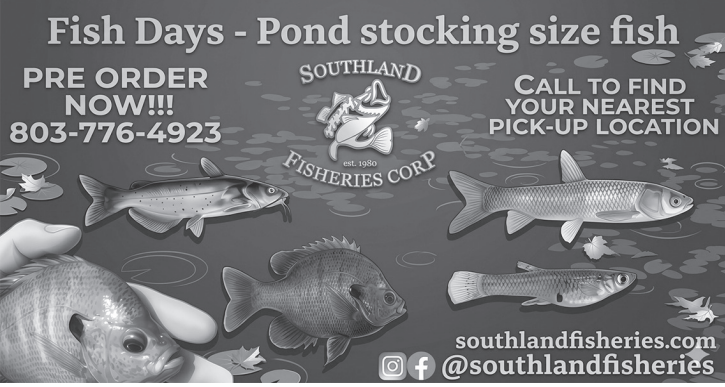
Dougherty County schools. In 2021, for example, 91.7% of students at Alice Coachman Elementary and 90.4% at Morningside Elementary were directly certified, placing both among the 10 highest rates in Georgia outside residential and juvenile facilities. HHEH’s experience this year, however, suggests food insecurity is not confined to the schools traditionally associated with the highest levels of poverty. The food students take home is only part of what the program rescues. During the first weeks of school, before the Friday bags begin going home, volunteers collect perishable items such as milk and distribute them to 18 nonprofit organizations. Excess food continues to go to those organizations throughout the year. Over the program’s history, HHEH has rescued hundreds of tons of food — an amount Revell said becomes particularly striking when considering the size of the individual items being collected. “That’s a lot when you consider it’s juice or a cheese stick,” she said. The program will begin sending this year’s food bags home next Friday. Revell, a retired educator, serves as a volunteer overseeing the Dougherty County program. Each of the 20 participating schools has its own coordinator who manages the program at the school level, while Revell oversees those coordinators. The operation itself is powered by volunteers and community support. “Our entire program has been funded by the community,” Revell said. “We’ve not received any kind of government money.” Volunteers collect food and transport it to nonprofit partners, while others pack the bags sent home with students. Participating schools have dedicated storage areas equipped with refrigerators, freezers, shelving and bins purchased as the program has developed. The Bag Lady Foundation’s involvement also predates this year’s donation. Paula Deen, who is from Albany, established The Bag Lady Foundation in 2012, naming it after her first business. The foundation focuses on nourishment and assistance for women and families. “She gave us money early on to get started,” Revell said. This year, a friend of Revell’s who serves on the foundation board contacted her to ask what HHEH needed. One of the immediate expenses was the cooler bags required at the beginning of the school year. “They funded that,” Revell said. For Revell, the evidence that the program matters is not found only in pounds of rescued food or the number of bags packed. It comes from children. “We’ve gotten notes from students themselves, like second- and third-graders, who are thanking us and glad they get the food,” she said. Sometimes children recognize her when she walks into

one of the schools. “They’ll run up to me and ask ‘Am I going to get my bag this week?’” Revell recalled. “They’re anxious to get it.” Parents have delivered the same message from the other side of the schoolhouse door. “We have a lot of parents that will tell us that without that food that we send home, it would be very difficult for them,” Revell said. For a retired educator who said she has long understood the needs students can carry with them into the classroom, those encounters are enough to demonstrate why the work matters. Helping Hands Ending Hunger will begin its ninth year in Dougherty County schools this year. Over its first eight years, the program reports benefiting more than 71,000 families and rescuing more than 1.18 million pounds — about 563 tons — of food. Superintendent Kenneth Dyer has also supported the program as part of the district’s broader emphasis on services addressing needs beyond academics, Revell said. “He’s got a lot of wraparound services, and this fits right into those services,” she said, “providing for the kids and the families.” This year, about 1,100 of those families will begin taking food home in bags purchased through The Bag Lady Foundation — while food that might otherwise have gone unused continues moving from school cafeterias to children and community organizations that can use it.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Johnthan Yates (Diamond Communications) has submitted zoning action applications to the Albany-Dougherty Planning Commission concerning the property located at 4614 Gillionville Road, Albany, Georgia (Parcel ID# 088-2/00000/010).

The applications are as follows:

- **26-056** – Rezoning: Request to rezone approximately 0.23 acres from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-3c (Commercial District), Conditional, to allow for the construction of a telecommunications (cell) tower.
- **26-057** – Special Approval: Request for Special Approval to permit a telecommunications tower within the proposed C-3c Conditional zoning district.
- **26-058** – Variance: Request for a Variance from the required setback requirements of the Albany-Dougherty Zoning Ordinance, Title III, Section 1.41, to accommodate the proposed telecommunications tower.

The property owner is Gillionville Forest Baptist Church, and the applicant is Johnthan Yates (Diamond Communications). **District 1**

The Albany Dougherty Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on these requests on **Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA. The Planning Commission will forward its recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners based on information presented at the public meeting.

The Dougherty County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, September 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA 31701.

Meetings of the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission and the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners are open to the public. Those wishing to speak or provide comments should contact the Planning & Development Services Department at (229) 438-3901, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., before the meeting for additional information. As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Dougherty County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The Human Resources Department has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided there, is available at the Office of Human Resources. Dougherty County will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (7 working days). Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in an open meeting, program, or activity of the City of Albany, Georgia, should be directed to Paul Forgey, AICP, 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, Georgia, 31701, (229) 438-3901.

From 1A SENATE

was not a resident of the city, contends that Brown was not a resident of the district for the two years required to be eligible to seek office. In his challenge, the former council member alleges that Brown had registered to vote in a Nov. 5 Virginia election. Court filings indicate that Brown cast his ballot in that election by mail in October 2024. Brown obtained a Georgia driver’s license on Sept. 20, 2024, and updated his voter registration to Wexford Drive address in Albany at the same time. “The judge listened to the evidence,” Albany attorney Maurice King, who represented Morgan after Morgan initially filed paperwork himself in the case, said. “It’s clear that Mr. Brown voted in Virginia. If he was a resident of Georgia, he would not have voted in the Commonwealth of Virginia. “Under Georgia law, the clearest indicator of where your domicile is where you vote and where your vote is counted on election day.” Among the defenses that Cohilas gave in a filing related to Brown’s request for a dismissal of Morgan’s case, is that no challenge was made within the legal period allowed after

qualifying in the election. Paperwork was also improperly served, and Brown was never properly served with paperwork in the case. Brown’s acts of securing his Georgia driver’s license and establishing his residency in Georgia in September 2024 also show that he met the legal requirements to run on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot in the state, the response said. Those technicalities on paperwork should not cloud the issue, King said, who blamed the Dougherty County Clerk of Court’s office for some of the issues that occurred during the period that Morgan was representing himself in the legal case. “I think, basically, it was not his (Morgan’s) duty,” he said. “It was the clerk’s duty. The clerk did not recuse a Dougherty County judge. Cohilas and the defense have had notice since it was filed.” Ultimately, the attorney said, the senior judge who was selected to hear the case should rule according to the law. “The gist of the case is that Mr. Brown is basically an ineligible candidate,” King said. “He had not been in Georgia for the required time to qualify for that seat.” Morgan is seeking to either be named as the winner in the election or, barring that, for a new election, the attorney said. As for Brown, Cohilas said that his residency is not a question.

In his response, he said that the Georgia Secretary of State denied Morgan’s petition seeking to challenge Brown’s qualifications and that Morgan did not meet the pre-election qualification challenge. “There’s no defense needed,” he said. “He’s a citizen of the state of Georgia. He was born here, raised here. All this is just noise. He won the election You have somebody who lost by 3,700 votes” challenging the election. Brown won in the three-way contest with 7,881 votes. Morgan finished second with 4,129 votes and Albany firefighter Tracy Taylor was third with 2,636 votes.” The case is a turnaround in that in the Camilla case Cohilas represented a group of residents who were seeking to remove Morgan from the council based on his residency. The Georgia Court of Appeals in December 2023 upheld a judge’s ruling on Morgan’s residency. “It’s ironic now coming from someone who was elected where they did not live,” Cohilas said of Morgan challenging another candidate’s residency. Prior to the May 19 primary, Terrence Fowler Sr., who filed paperwork as a Republican in the District 12 race, was ruled ineligible based on his address and his having voted in a December 2025 election in Fulton County.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let the solution emerge; it's unlikely to be under today's below-zero stars. Thursday or Friday are much better days for new beginnings with better odds. Hold off on any money moves until then.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Home concerns could be blown out of proportion now; the improved stars of later this week could bring a new perspective. Don't act until you have a broader take on things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let yourself get shackled by a belief that limits you about how to make things happen. Wait to verbalize something bothering you, it could be just based on current stars and may resolve on its own.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep fingers off finances and make no major purchases today, no matter how soon the 'great deal' ends. Things bought during underwater stars seldom perform, satisfy, or endure well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The vibe could be very emotional for a couple of days, especially at home. There could be a lot of pressure that could be hard to release constructively now — if you can delay a conversation a few days it could be more productive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If it's troubling you, try to either process and release it, or compartmentalize it for now until better stars bring a better path forward. An impulse statement might not fly today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Support a friend or ask for help if you're the one feeling anxious. Even small purchases could be driven by the wrong reasons now, wait a couple of days until your mind is more pragmatic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Avoid any career moves now, not only are Universal stars well below zero, but your career sector is destabilized for another day or two. Why not wait until your

moves are much more likely to make a positive difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your inner world could be disordered for a day or two, do what you can to stay grounded and make no major decisions. If news or online content is ramping up fears, pull the plug.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial fears coupled with underwater stars could drive extremely poor choices with potentially negative consequences. Thursday or after should bring improved clarity and insight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): While an urgency may have faded slightly, emotions could still drive errored thinking. Remaining neutral and staying on point with what's appropriate should keep you headed in the right direction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you can today and try not to worry about anything. Stars are uncooperative for feeling confident and the below-zero day score means less support from the Universe, but all this should change within a day or two.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: One of the last remaining obstacles for 2026 could clear almost immediately, and it's likely that the worry was larger than the problem to begin with. What remains of the year should be much easier ... The next wave of gifts from the Universe likely drops late September/early October. While pushing can often be counterproductive, in this case your pushing has likely been instrumental. Expect grace, charisma, highest wisdom, and plenty of money flow to make everything easier. Late October could bring a person or situation that glitters — find out if they or it are truly gold before going all in. Mid- to late November could bring reasons for abundant gratitude, not only are you likely to get much of what you need, you may also receive much of what you want. Count your blessings.



1590 - The Governor of the Roanoke Colony, John White returns from a supply trip to England and finds his settlement deserted

1783 - A huge fireball meteor is seen across Great Britain

1868 - Helium is discovered by French astronomer Pierre Janssen

1891 - Martinique suffers a major hurricane strike that kills 700

1903 - German engineer Karl Jatho claims to fly his self-made, motored gliding airplane four months before the first flight made by the Wright brothers

1917 - Thessaloniki, Greece has a fire that destroys 32% of the City leaving 70,000 residents homeless

1920 - Women's suffrage is guaranteed when the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified

1938 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting New York in the United States with Ontario, Canada over the Saint Lawrence River

1971 - Australia and New Zealand decide to withdraw their troops from Vietnam

1983 - Hurricane Alicia hits the Texas coast, killing 21 people and causing over \$1 billion in damages

2005 - One of the largest and most widespread power outages in history hits the Indonesian island of Java affecting over 100 million people

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Bad Poetry Day
 - Birth Control Pills Day
 - Helium Discovery Day
 - Mail Order Catalog Day
 - National Badge Ribbon Day
- National Fajita Day
 - National Ice Cream Pie Day
 - Never Give Up Day
 - Pinot Noir Day
 - Serendipity Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say."

Ralph Waldo Emerson,
poet (1803-1882)

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

I'm sure he gets more complaints than he does compliments (it's the nature of the business he's in), but Sports Editor Joe Whitfield deserves a lot of credit for the excellent previews of high school football that he's written. You get more than sound bites with Joe, and a lot of us appreciate it.

To the Squawker talking about the "out-of-town" kids who came to clean up Albany's messy park, shaming those who live in the neighborhood: Do you even know how to read? Those weren't out-of-town kids giving up their time to shame Albany. They were local Scouts (and some local volunteers) helping a Scout complete his Eagle Scout project. Man, you are obviously one of those who will jump on anything to criticize a certain portion of the community. Shame on you.

Speaking of the Epstein files, some of us haven't forgotten. That Man Without a Family

I love the Atlanta Braves. Here's why: My husband and I watch most of the games together, and this year we started using a "swear jar" in our house. A dollar a swear word. Since we started watching the Braves games together, our jar is getting fuller by the day. I plan on going shopping this weekend ... thanks, dear. And go Braves.

EMC, please come over to Story Road and the River Road Subdivision and trim trees from the power lines. It looks awful over here with these overgrown trees and tree limbs on power lines. What happened to the maintenance you were supposed to be working on?

Mike Collins says he thinks insurrectionists should be compensated for their traitorous actions? This man doesn't deserve to even live in this country, much less represent it in our Senate. He is a racist imbecile and should be run out of the country on a rail.

Why hasn't the Albany City Commission shared with the public anything about the search for the new police chief? Why has there been no disclosure? The good, hard-working people of Albany deserve a tough new law enforcement leader with a fresh, out-of-town perspective. Not yet another passive, lazy insider with creepy church ties, a sour attitude, and friends on their payroll.

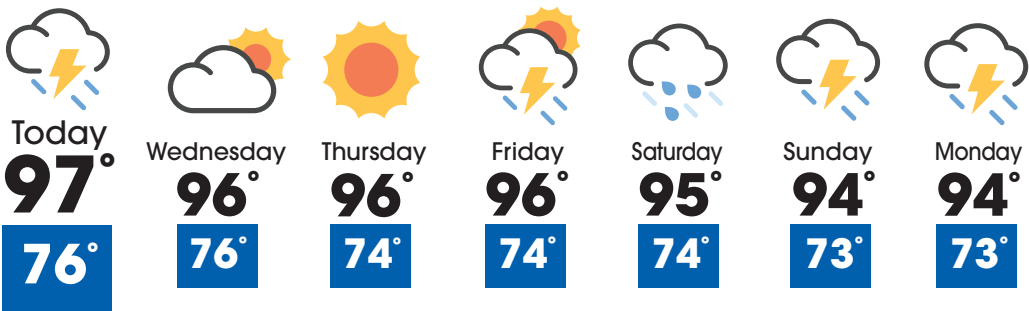
There is a curfew in effect in Albany, it's just that it is ignored by kids who do what they want and law enforcement officials who do nothing.

So United Way and its preacher/CEO got \$350,000 from the city -- your and my money, by the way -- to babysit kids whose parents didn't want the brats hanging around the house, interrupting their "stories?" When will our supposed leaders stop using our money to provide welfare for families too lazy to look after their kids?

I loved the high school football stories in the Herald, and all the stories about the Fantastic Fifteen in the region. Kudos to the Sports editor, and good luck to the local teams.

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

Cy's narrow loss

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic's team had lost a match in my club's knockout teams — by one IMP.

"We led by four with one deal

NORTH ♠ Q J 5 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ Q J 8 3			
WEST ♠ None ♥ A Q J 10 5 3 2 ♦ Q 7 5 4 ♣ 6 4		EAST ♠ 10 8 4 3 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ 6 ♣ A 10 9 7 2	
SOUTH ♠ A K 9 7 6 2 ♥ None ♦ A K J 9 3 ♣ K 5			
South 2 ♣ 4 ♠ Pass	West 3 ♥ Pass	North Pass 5 ♠	East 4 ♥ 5 ♦ All Pass
Opening lead — ♥ A			
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Frank Stewart

left," Cy told me. "At one table, my East-West teammates played at five hearts doubled. North led a trump and beat it one trick."

"What happened with you?" "I played at five spades as South," the Cynic said. "I ruffed West's ace of hearts and led a trump to dummy. When West showed out, I let the ten of diamonds ride. West won and forced with another heart."

BOTH TABLES

"I drew trumps," Cy went on, "and had none left. I ran the diamonds but lost the last two tricks: East had the ace of clubs and a heart. We were minus 100 at both tables and lost five IMPs."

When Cy sees the 4-0 trump break, he must lead a low club

from dummy. If East ducks, Cy takes the king, draws trumps and loses one diamond and one club. If instead East grabs his ace to lead another heart, Cy ruffs and can arrange to pitch two diamonds on the Q-J of clubs. He loses one diamond at the end.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S None H A Q J 10 5 3 2 D Q 7 5 4 C 6 4. Both sides vulnerable. You deal and open four hearts, the next player bids four spades and your partner doubles. What do you say?

ANSWER: Apologies to my readers for posing a non-problem. Pass (without looking at your hand). Your preempt showed your hand, more or less, and partner is in charge. He may have four spades beaten badly. To bid again would betray a lack of partnership trust.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

40-year marriage suddenly sours

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: What should one consider if thinking about divorce? My spouse and I have been married for more than 40 years; the first 41 were very positive. We both worked so were not underfoot, were supportive and loving of each other and had many wonderful experiences.

Now over time in retirement, daily life has become unpleasant. We both had a major health issue and supported each other through it.

However, my spouse is generally negative and critical toward me, which is wearing on me. Couples therapy isn't an option.

Even though we have a wonderful history, I'm not sure I want to live the remainder of my life like this. I know I could get by financially, although the divorce process itself would undoubtedly be fraught.

However, I can't see what the future would look like alone as a currently active senior citizen, so I feel stuck. What can you suggest for me to help work through this decision?

— On the Cusp

Dear Cusp: I'm sorry your marriage has become difficult for you. Changes in life can, of course, change the way marriages work; spouses have to endeavor to meet each other where they are throughout a union. But the negativity and criticalness your spouse is exhibiting makes that hard and it's not fair. This isn't healthy for either of you.

You write that couples counseling isn't an option. Is this because your spouse won't agree to go? That's a huge roadblock for many couples. If your spouse

acknowledges that there is a problem but won't do anything to fix it, it puts you in a bind.

You do have options, however. First, you can explore therapy on your own. Even if you were going to couples counseling, I'd encourage you to also talk with someone one-on-one so that you can process your feelings and make plans for the future with clear eyes.

You might even tell your spouse that you're going to therapy and talk about why. You might explain that part of your motivation is because you want to have a better quality of life. It can become easy to take life, love, and long-term companionship for granted. It's important to recognize that they are gifts and, with therapy, we can continue to appreciate them and navigate changes.

Also consider talking to a divorce attorney. This doesn't commit you to anything. Right now, the future probably looks daunting and hazy. Being able to think through your financial and legal position, as well as your possibilities for social support, will give you more information with which to make a decision.

Dear Eric: I qualify for a home cleaning service through a city program for low-income residents. They have different groups of contractors under one main organization. Seems like I get somebody from a different service every other week.

I assumed they would use the products I have on hand but one of them insisted that I had to give her \$25 to buy the products she liked best, claiming that she didn't think anything I had was effective.

That really set me back. I know that I pay on a sliding scale and I couldn't afford to



Eric Thomas

pay much before this started. But all of the other cleaners that come are willing to use what I already have.

I already hinted to the supervisor that I want the \$25 to go toward my bill but she only agreed it was a big shock to me. I probably can't get a refund, plus she wanted me to drive to the store to buy the stuff. Is this fair? Can I do anything?

— Not "Filthy" Rich

Dear Rich: The cleaner is entitled to her preference regarding products, but it doesn't sit right that she insisted you give her money. I hope, at least, she left the products in your home instead of taking them with her when she left.

However, if she was unwilling to do the cleaning with the products already available, she should have declined the placement or talked to the program supervisor about how to best set herself and the clients up for success.

Your recourse at this point is talking directly to the supervisor rather than hinting about your displeasure. Express your frustration about being charged extra, explain how this differs from what you would expect of this professional relationship, and ask that, in the future, you not be assigned any cleaners who will charge you extra.

It may not be within the program's purview or budget to refund you the money at this point, but it's worth asking what, if anything, they can do to help offset the unexpected cost.

Should this situation ever arise again, it's fine to politely decline and even forgo that week's cleaning before taking out your wallet.

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

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EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

*“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will,
but the will of him that sent me.”*

John 6:38

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Jackson’s policies don’t bode well for Georgians whose lives mirror his early years

By now, anybody who owns a TV set in Georgia knows that Rick Jackson came up the hard way.

He’s proud of his rise out of poverty, and he has every right to be. His story of personal triumph – and the hundreds of millions of dollars that came with that triumph – have been central to his climb out of political obscurity and his victory in the Republican primary for governor.

“When you grow up the way I did, you never forget where you came from,” Jackson told us repeatedly on the campaign trail and in TV ads. “You never forget the families that are working harder than ever but are still falling behind.”

That’s a popular sentiment, but what does it mean? How does that translate into policy, into governance, into actual assistance for those families? I ask, because the policies embraced by Jackson so far would seem to contradict his promise to remember those who are still falling behind. Maybe that will change now that he has won the primary and has more freedom, but based on what we’ve seen so far, I doubt it.

For example, Jackson supports the Georgia Republican Party’s refusal to expand Medicaid coverage, making Georgia one of only a few states to do so. It’s a stance that has denied health insurance to the very families to whom Jackson pledges loyalty and support. Most Georgians who would be covered by expanded Medicaid are working families, families with a breadwinner who is employed but not in a job that offers health insurance. Jackson refuses to help them.

Jackson’s tax proposals also favor those Georgians who are already doing well, at the expense of those struggling as he once did. He proposes to cut the state income tax in half and cap property taxes, which would save a lot of money for the Rick Jackson who is now a billionaire, with a 40,000-square-foot home on a 72-acre estate. But such proposals are usually financed by increases in the sales tax,



BOOKMAN

which disproportionately hit the people who Jackson used to be. It’s a tax shift away from those doing well, and onto those who are still struggling.

As governor, Jackson wouldn’t play a significant role in setting federal policy, but his stance on those issues gives us additional insight into how he sees the world and what policies he might push here in Georgia.

For example, Jackson has lauded the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill,” which significantly cut taxes for the wealthy while drastically undercutting “the families that are working harder than ever but are still falling behind.” As Jackson himself has noted, that legislation cut his federal tax burden by 40%.

Did it cut your taxes by 40%?

To pay for those tax cuts, the bill mandates cuts of \$536 billion in Medicare by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office. It cuts Medicaid by \$1 trillion, including \$155 billion to support rural hospitals. (According to the American Hospital Association, rural hospitals in Georgia will lose \$540 million.)

It also cuts \$186 billion from the food stamps program. It cut Section 8 housing vouchers by \$770 million, stripping housing support from an estimated 230,000 low-income households and putting them in danger of homelessness.

Jackson, who speaks often of his own family’s reliance on public housing while he was growing up, apparently finds such tradeoffs acceptable.

Again, we don’t know for sure whether Jackson will pursue similar policies as governor of Georgia. All we have is conjecture. Conjecture, and Jackson’s own words.

“I know I’m going to be Trump’s favorite governor, I guarantee you,” he said during the campaign. “That’s because I’m going to be doing things just like he would do it — just with a Southern tone.”

Unfortunately, I think we should take his word for it.

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

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The Hebrew Bible’s first successful man

What does success look like? Most people would probably point to achievement, influence, wealth, recognition or freedom. Success is usually measured by where a person has arrived and what a person has accumulated along the way.

The Hebrew Bible offers a surprisingly different answer. The first time Scripture describes someone as an ish matziach — a successful man — it is not speaking about a king, a military hero, or a wealthy merchant. More surprising still, it is not speaking about Joseph after he becomes Pharaoh’s viceroy and one of the most powerful men in the ancient world.

Instead, Joseph first receives this designation while serving as a slave in Potiphar’s house. (Genesis 39:2) Later, the description is effectively repeated while he sits unjustly imprisoned in an Egyptian dungeon. (Genesis 39:23) By every conventional measure, Joseph appears to be failing.

He has been betrayed by his brothers, torn from his family, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and thrown into prison. Yet the text looks at this man and says: This is what success looks like. Why?

Because the Hebrew Bible measures success differently than we often do. Success is not merely where you stand. It is who you remain while standing there.

Many people can remain gracious, attentive, and compassionate when life is unfolding according to plan. Character is easier when circumstances cooperate. The real test comes when disappointment arrives, when hopes are delayed, and when life feels unfair. That is where Joseph’s greatness emerges.

One morning in prison, Joseph notices that two fellow prisoners, the royal butler and baker, appear unusually troubled. The Torah records his simple question: “Why are your faces downcast today?” (Genesis 40:7)

At first glance, it seems like an ordinary moment. But it is anything but ordinary. Joseph himself has every reason to be consumed by his own troubles. If anyone had earned the right to withdraw into bitterness or self-pity, it was him. Yet even in prison,



HAMBOURGER

Joseph remains attentive to the struggles of others. He notices. He asks. He cares.

That moment becomes the turning point of his story. The butler and baker share their dreams. Joseph interprets them. Years later, the butler remembers Joseph when Pharaoh experiences troubling dreams of his own. Joseph is summoned from prison, interprets Pharaoh’s dreams, rises to leadership, and ultimately saves countless lives from famine.

Looking backward, the chain appears obvious. Looking forward, it was invisible.

Joseph could not have known where that simple question would lead. Yet that is often how Providence works.

The Midrash teaches that Joseph viewed the events of his life through the lens of Divine purpose. He understood that encounters are not always accidental and that people are often placed in one another’s paths for reasons we cannot yet see. This belief did not make him passive. It made him attentive. And perhaps that is one of faith’s most overlooked dimensions.

Faith is not merely believing that God guides the world. Faith is living as though the people who cross our path matter.

Most of life unfolds in moments that appear ordinary while they are happening. A conversation. A question. A chance encounter. A decision to pay attention when it would be easier to look away. Rarely do we recognize their significance at the time. Only later do we discover that what seemed insignificant was actually part of a larger story.

Joseph’s life is filled with such moments. A brother’s betrayal. A merchant caravan. A prison cell. A troubled dream. A question asked in compassion. Each appears isolated when it occurs. Together, they reveal a pattern.

Perhaps that is why the Hebrew Bible’s first successful man is found not in a palace, but in a prison. Joseph’s success was not that he escaped hardship. His success was that hardship never prevented him from seeing beyond himself.

COLUMNIST ■ RALPH NADER

Overcoming political amnesia about lying Trump’s record

A major dereliction by the feeble Democratic Party leadership is their unwillingness to address the political amnesia they have allowed corrupt, lying, cruel, out-law tyrant Trump to enjoy with political impunity.

Trump has been more than willing to fill the vacuum created by this abdication. That is his business and political modus operandi. His daily lies, boasts, and fantasies have polluted the political landscape. Moreover, his false claims are rarely rebutted by the haughty Dems who view his diatribes as beneath them to counter.

The Democratic Party leadership needs a compelling platform for their current electoral campaigns that they can pin on the Trump rubber-stamping GOP candidates at the Congressional and state levels. Here is a sample:

1. Trump was a failed gambling czar and a frequent user of bankruptcy as a competitive tactic, as he brazenly described it, to stiff his creditors, employees and consumers. He also used hundreds of undocumented workers for his construction projects, whom he exploited with low wages and bad working conditions.

2. Trump is a serial sexual abuser of women. There are dozens of credible accusations and legal actions against him by his victims. Michael Cohen, Trump’s former personal lawyer, even arranged to pay Stormy Daniels to cover up the story about Trump’s 2006 sexual encounter with her.

3. Trump derided and minimized for weeks in early 2020 the spreading COVID pandemic. A Columbia University report conservatively estimated that between 130,000 and 210,000 deaths were attributable to the failures of the Trump administration’s delays. Have you heard much about his lethal, arrogant incompetence in the Democrats’ campaigns?

4. Trump’s tax cuts for the super-rich and giant corporations mean huge deficits and a lack of these tax dollars for public services, public works and jobs in communities everywhere. Democrats can highlight what specific and recognized needs these communities were denied because of Trump’s tax giveaways to the fat-cats.

5. Trump is the consummate climate denier. Each time there are uncontrollable wildfires, floods, heat domes related to climate disruptions by burning of fossil fuels, Democrats can remind people of his ridiculous assertions that global warming is a “hoax” or a “scam,” and start naming these disasters “Trump hurricanes,” “Trump floods,” “Trump wildfires.” Doesn’t he like things named after him?

6. Dems should remind people how Trump is the extortioner-in-chief. He has discriminatorily cut back on FEMA assistance, mass transit assistance, and other federal outlays for Democratic blue states to punish them for their pro-electoral resistance, including their refusing to give his out-law regime control over state election data and machinery.

7. Trump has never backed down from his outrageous claims that the 2020 election was stolen. The Dems are too sporadic in condemning Trump’s massive drives to steal this November’s elections.

8. Trump is a major league racist against African Americans and Hispanics, among countless other groups with his storm-trooping ICE, his selective mili-

tary firings, his shattering of safety net programs like Medicaid and Food Stamps disproportionately needed by low-income ethnics.

9. Trump has pardoned hundreds of convicted violent criminals and fraudsters, politically on his side, many of whom have since committed crimes. By comparison, in 1988 the GOP used unfairly against presidential candidate Michael Dukakis the Willie Horton case to inflict considerable damage on Dukakis.

10. Trump’s words about “law and order” exclude his corporate crime cronies. He has dismissed well over a hundred pending Justice Department cases against corporate crooks stealing from and harming innocent Americans, virtually closed down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and thrown out SEC cases, especially against his cryptocurrency buddies from whose shenanigans he and his family have personally profited.

11. Trump’s cruelty to children knows no bounds. He supports strip-mining the successful Head Start programs, cutting budgets for children’s services, exposing children to unregulated toxic pesticides, and refusing to put forward an authentic child tax credit. His barbaric actions affect both conservative and liberal families.

12. Trump enabled the criminal enterprise DOGE, led by Elon Musk, to rampage through federal agencies in 2025, closing down some vital lifesaving programs and pushing out the door tens of thousands of civil servants doing their work daily for the public. The DOGE criminals were unleashed gangsters goaded on by the hateful, vengeful, unstable Trump. Never in American history has an administration broken or destroyed a sliver of what Elon Musk’s DOGE did on Trump’s orders.

13. The Dems should remind people of Trump’s crazed hatred of solar and wind energy in favor of goodies for the homicidal oil, gas and coal corporations heating the planet.

14. Finally, voters will be stunned by Trump’s plethora of vote-losing epithets such as “losers and suckers” to describe those who are killed in combat, like those buried World War II GIs in a French cemetery, as this draft dodger related to his chief of staff, retired General John Kelly. Or “I don’t think about Americans’ financial situations.” Or “I like this inflation,” or in 2016, “American workers are overpaid,” and endlessly more. The Dems should demand that Trump’s Republican candidates publicly disavow these and other outlandish lies and defamatory claims during debates.

It is, of course, true that the Democrats have to run on what they are for. It is up to the candidates in the field to offer such authentic compacts or their own cohesive agendas.

Most GOP candidates are running on their unbreakable fealty to Trump. Therefore, they should be held accountable for all the ugly drawbacks of Trump that they have been backing to the hilt, including his cruel and vicious Cabinet secretaries.

Political amnesia by the public is easy to fall prey to because it is so often covered up by the culprits and allowed by incompetent opponents. The Democratic Party knows how to lose. It allowed Trump’s worst GOP in history to win in 2024.



NADER

What to watch TUESDAY

August 18, 2026

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

WNBA Basketball

ESPN, beginning at 7 p.m. Live
ESPN carries a WNBA doubleheader featuring the Indiana Fever at the Toronto Tempo and the Atlanta Dream at the Las Vegas Aces.

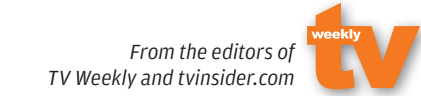
Elvis Icon-A-Thon

MOVIES!, beginning at 8 p.m. ■ Catch a Classic

Tonight is a three-film lineup of some of Elvis Presley's most beloved films, beginning with his 1956 debut **Love Me Tender**, a musical Western set during the Civil War. Originally named The Reno Brothers, then renamed after advanced sales of the single "Love Me Tender" passed 1 million, the historical drama followed Clint Reno, the youngest of four brothers, and the only one to stay home with his mother on the family farm when the others go off to fight in the war. Clint, mysteriously exempt from the draft, ends up marrying his older brother Vance's girlfriend after they're mistakenly informed of his death. When Vance returns home, jealousy and other issues rock the family, and eventually Clint dies in a shootout following a train robbery, which some fans were not pleased with, despite it making quite the memorable ending. Overall, the film came out to mixed reviews. The evening continues with **Flaming Star** (1960) and **Wild in the Country** (1961).

Kitchen Nightmares

FOX, 8 p.m.
After four decades of business, Boodles Restaurant struggles as its aging owner and son clash over the restaurant's future. In this new episode, Gordon Ramsay uncovers the source of the dysfunction and helps give this longtime restaurant a chance.



Beat Shazam

FOX, 9 p.m.
In the new episode, dance instructors, psychics and baton twirlers try to identify some of the biggest hit songs for the chance to win \$1 million. Jamie Foxx hosts with cohost and deejay Corinne Foxx.

Cocktail Wars

E!, 10 p.m. ■ New Series
Hosted by Lance Bass and Joey Fatone, the 10-episode series pits America's buzziest mixologists against each other in a lively, high-stakes showdown for \$10,000 per episode. Each episode features a fast, fiery battle of skill, creativity, humor and flair. The hosts are joined by a series of celebrities and an expert judge, who are looking for flavor combinations and eye-catching technique, but rest assured, the focus is on having a good time, taking risks and serving up drinks with personality.

House Hunters International

HGTV, 10 p.m.
In the new episode "A Bigger Life for Two Little Girls in Haarlem," a family in the Chicagoland suburbs hits the reset button after a death in the family, motivating a move to create lasting memories for their two young daughters in Haarlem, Netherlands.



'Cocktail Wars'

E!

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Robert Redford

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.
TCM marks what would have been Robert Redford's 90th birthday with a Summer Under the Stars tribute to the actor, director and producer whose career helped define American movies from the 1960s through the 1980s. The lineup begins with **War Hunt** (1962), Redford's feature film debut, and continues with **The Chase** (1966), **The Candidate** (1972) and **Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here** (1969), all films that show his early interest in morally complicated stories. The day keeps getting better with **The Great Waldo Pepper** (1975), **The Electric Horseman** (1979), the beloved **The Way We Were** (1973),



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

with Redford opposite Barbra Streisand, and 1985's **Out of Africa (pictured)**, his sweeping romantic drama with Meryl Streep. Celebrating Redford wouldn't be complete without **The Sting** (1973), the Oscar-winning caper with Paul Newman, and **Legal Eagles** (1986), a TCM debut.

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What to watch WEDNESDAY

August 19, 2026

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

MasterChef

FOX, 8 p.m.
Separated by an eight-foot barrier, the home cooks must partner up and rely solely on communication to create identical dishes. Those who make a bad match will face a double elimination in the new episode "The Wall."

Nation's Dumbest

FOX, 9 p.m.
Host Jack Whitehall puts the celebrity contestants in pairs to give them a boost in the new episode "Study Buddy Day."

Lion

Nat Geo, 9 p.m. ■ Limited Series
What does it take to be king in the plains of East Africa? Nat Geo takes viewers on an emotional, awe-inspiring journey following a lion cub named Kio and his pride. Four years in the making, *Lion* is the first natural history series to follow a lion's complete transformation from cub to king.



'Lion'

SIMON BLAKENEY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Booked: First Day In

A&E, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere
Every day in America, about 25,000 people are arrested and booked into jail. Each one-hour episode of this series follows the story of an arrestee (with their permission) as they move through the system and recount what ultimately led them to their time in jail. Two back-to-back episodes open the new season, beginning with "Road Rager," which covers the stories of officers in Mesa responding to



UNIVERSAL PICTURES / PHOTOFEST

China Seas (1935), followed by **Saratoga** (1937), **The Shopworn Angel** (1938), **The Shining Hour** (1938) and others, concluding with 1936's **Show Boat (pictured)** and **Alice Adams** (1935). Seen together, the films offer a look at McDaniel's timing and resilience within an industry that too often limited the roles available to her.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Hattie McDaniel

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.
Hattie McDaniel, the trailblazing performer who became the first Black actor to win an Academy Award, is honored with a full day of TCM programming. The centerpiece is **Gone With the Wind** (1939), with McDaniel as Mammy, the role that earned her the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress. The lineup places that landmark performance alongside a broader sampling of her film work, including the first film in the lineup,

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Thor'

ZADE ROSENTHAL, MARVEL STUDIOS

Nobody Dumps My Daughter (2024, Drama) Ana Ortiz, Jasmine Vega **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Jumanji (1995, Family) Robin Williams, Jonathan Hyde **BBC America, 6:30 p.m.**

The Proposal (2009, Romance-comedy) Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds **FX, 6:30 p.m.**

Armageddon (1998, Science fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Aladdin (1992, Children) Scott Weinger, Robin Williams **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Aussie at Heart (2026, Romance) Rhiannon Fish, Daniel Lissing **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Social Network (2010, Drama) Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Normal (2025, Action) Bob Odenkirk, Henry Winkler **HBO, 8:45 p.m.**

Beast (2026, Action) Daniel MacPherson, Bren Foster **Starz, 9 p.m.**

The Princess Bride (1987, Children) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Thor (2011, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman **FX, 10 p.m.**

Con Air (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage, John Cusack **AMC, 10:45 p.m.**

The Secret Life of Bees (2008, Drama) Queen Latifah, Dakota Fanning **VH1, 11 p.m.**



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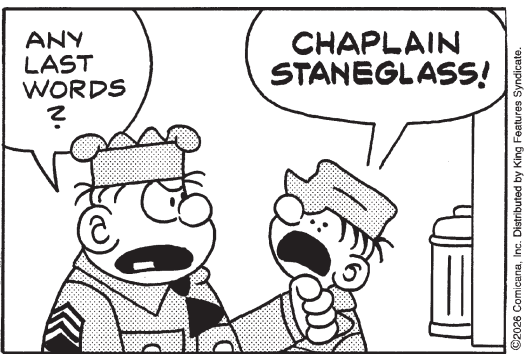
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TV - What to watch

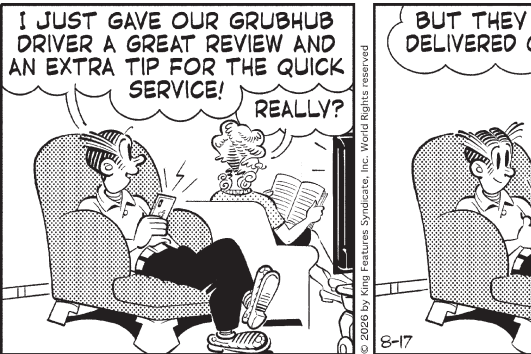
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



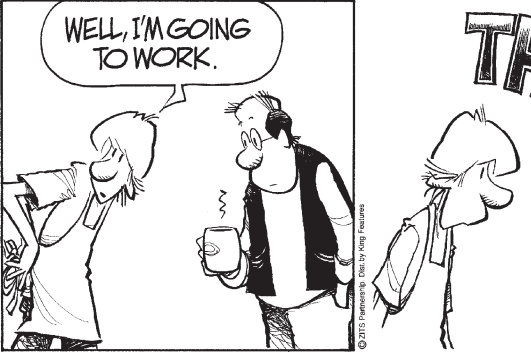
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



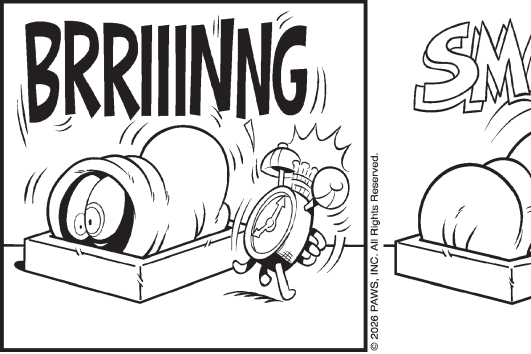
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



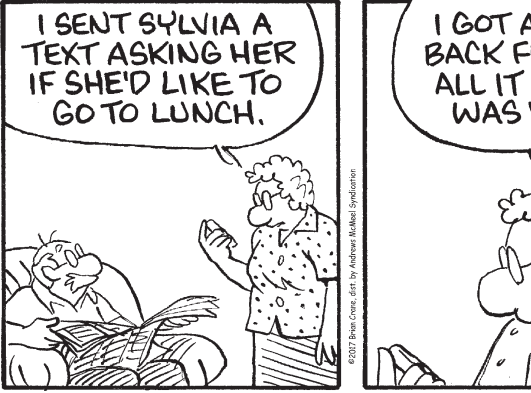
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

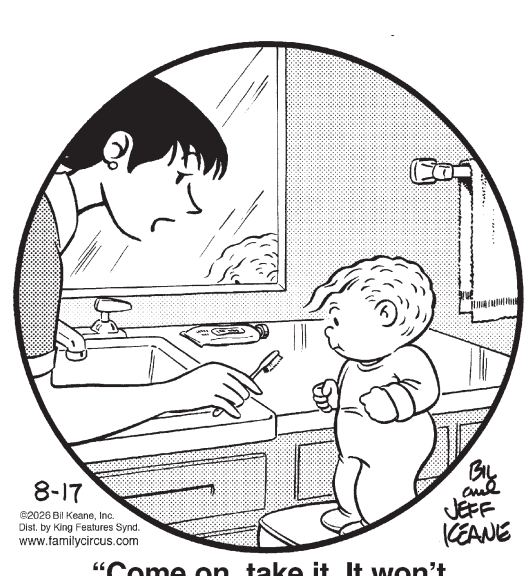


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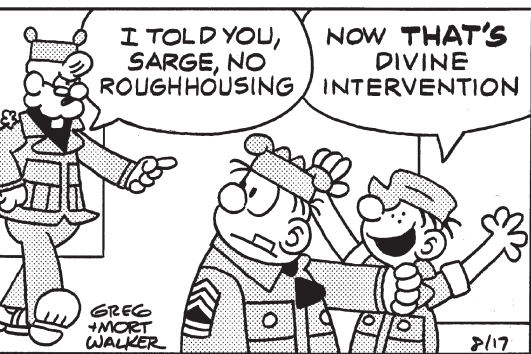
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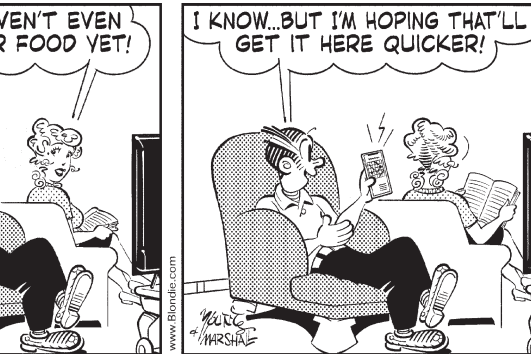
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



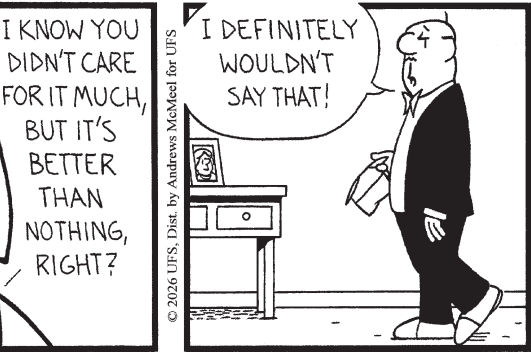
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



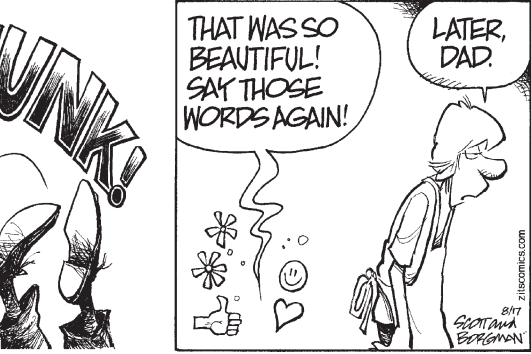
POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



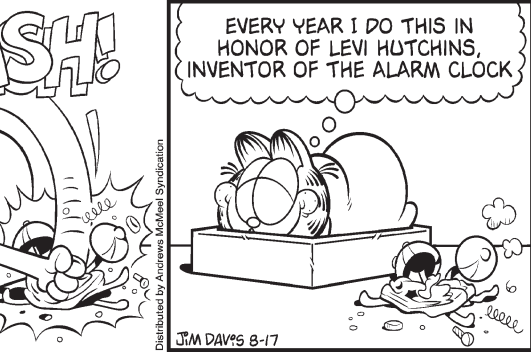
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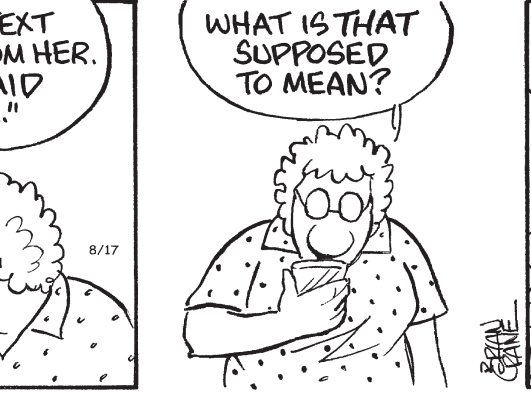
WHATZIT?



WHATZIT?



WHATZIT?



WHATZIT?

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

Late 1 Never 0

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: Better late than never

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Magic: The Gathering fan's collection
 - 6 "You are ___": map message
 - 10 Slugger Sammy
 - 14 Capital of Ghana
 - 15 Yemen neighbor
 - 16 Birds associated with wisdom
 - 17 Attraction in a neighborhood park
 - 19 Skewed view
 - 20 Flow slowly
 - 21 General idea
 - 22 Lobby group for seniors
 - 25 Illuminating item in an emergency kit
 - 29 Word before metal and music
 - 31 Buoyant
 - 32 Kitchen tool needed for some potato dishes
 - 34 Commuter's fee
 - 35 Garden implement
 - 38 Phone history list
 - 40 Fail to show up for
 - 42 Streaming interruptions
 - 43 Argentine author Jorge ___ Borges
 - 45 Italian town with a namesake coast
 - 46 "Go Birds!" NFL team
 - 48 Iron alloy
 - 49 Outing for two couples
 - 53 Literary governess Jane
 - 54 Up to
 - 55 Love, in Spanish
 - 57 Actor Estrada
 - 58 Consecutive, or a hint to what can follow the first parts and precede the second parts of 17-, 25-, 38-, 40-, and 49-Across
 - 64 Country singer Lovett
 - 65 Shrek, for one
 - 66 Nintendo's The Legend of ___
 - 67 Notices
- DOWN**
- 1 Lid
 - 2 Knee surgery
 - 3 target, for short
 - 3 Color TV pioneer
 - 4 Unproductive period
 - 5 Mint family herb
 - 6 Fuss
 - 7 Down Under bird
 - 8 Appeared in print
 - 9 Cease
 - 10 "That's that, then"
 - 11 In debt
 - 12 Cut drastically, as prices
 - 13 Valuable quality
 - 18 Gridiron official
 - 21 Ski races with gates
 - 22 Pet welfare org.
 - 23 On track to win
 - 24 Film spools
 - 26 Away from the bow, on a boat
 - 27 Untidy one
 - 28 Say hi, in slang
 - 30 Dishy memoir
 - 33 Cheek colorer
 - 35 Like moth-eaten clothing
- 68** Some small dogs
- 69** Official order
- 36** Buyer's proposal
- 37** Submit taxes online
- 39** ___ the lily: add unnecessary decor
- 41** Sloshy mattress
- 44** Salty expanse
- 46** Chargeable two-wheelers
- 47** Poles in a tomato garden
- 49** Old-fashioned showdowns
- 50** Sandwich request
- 51** Purposeful
- 52** First responder: Abbr.
- 56** Flow slowly
- 58** Droid
- 59** In the past
- 60** Get weepy
- 61** "___ Baba and the Forty Thieves"
- 62** Public health agcy.
- 63** Dennings of "WandaVision"

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

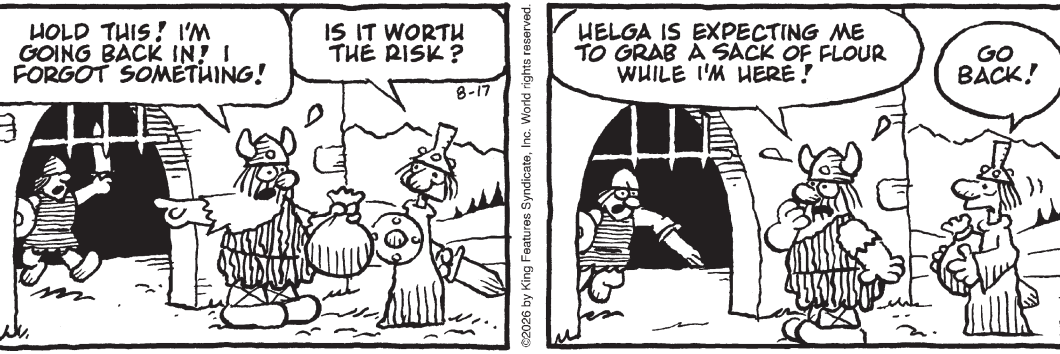
1	Flow slowly	10	"I hat's that, then"	T	L	C	I	D	E	S	A	O	T		S	E	E	
2	General idea	11	In debt															
3	Lobby group for seniors	12	Cut drastically, as prices	V	A	L	D	Z		O	G	R			E	L	A	
4				K	A	C	K		T	O	K		B	A		K	I	
5	Illuminating item in an emergency kit	13	Valuable quality				R	O	A	M					L	I	N	T
6		18	Gridiron official	E	R	E	Y	E	S	E		V	D	E	I	B	O	
7	Word before metal and music	21	Ski races with gates	L	E				S	S	E	L	G	E		E		
8	Buoyant	22	Pet welfare org.	I	L	F	L	A	M	A		U	I			S	A	D
9		23	On track to win	E	F		H	W	O	T	B	L	G	O	L	T	L	C
10	Kitchen tool needed for some potato dishes	24	Film spools	E	O	E		O	L	T	O	T		E	E	E	E	
11		26	Away from the bow, on a boat				A	T		O	L	T	A	F	E	E	H	
12	Commuter's fee			T	H	G	I	L	H	S		F	L	A	S	P	V	
13	Garden implement	27	Untidy one	E	S	N	E	S				E	P	E	E	S		
14		28	Say hi, in slang	S	I	V	B			N	N	O	O		G	R	A	V
15	Phone history list	30	Dishy memoir	S	T	M	O			N	U	O			C	R	A	
16	Fail to show up for	33	Cheek colorer	A	S	O	S			R	E	H	E	S		A	R	D
17		35	Like moth-eaten															

08/17/26

3 Interruptions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3 Argentine author Jorge __ Borges	14						15			16			
5 Italian town with a namesake coast	17					18				19			
5 "Go Birds!" NFL team	20							21					
8 Iron alloy	22	23	24			25		26	27	28			
9 Outing for two couples	29				30		31						
8 Literary governess Jane	32					33		34			35	36	37
4 Up to	38						39		40		41		
5 Love, in Spanish	42					43		44		45			
7 Actor Estrada	46							47		48			
8 Consecutive, or a hint to what can follow the first parts and precede the second parts of 17-, 25-, 38-, 40-, and 49-Across	49	50	51						52		53		
4 Country singer Lovett	54							55		56			
5 Shrek, for one	57					58	59	60			61	62	63
5 Nintendo's The	64					65				66			
	67					68				69			

By Kelly Morenus
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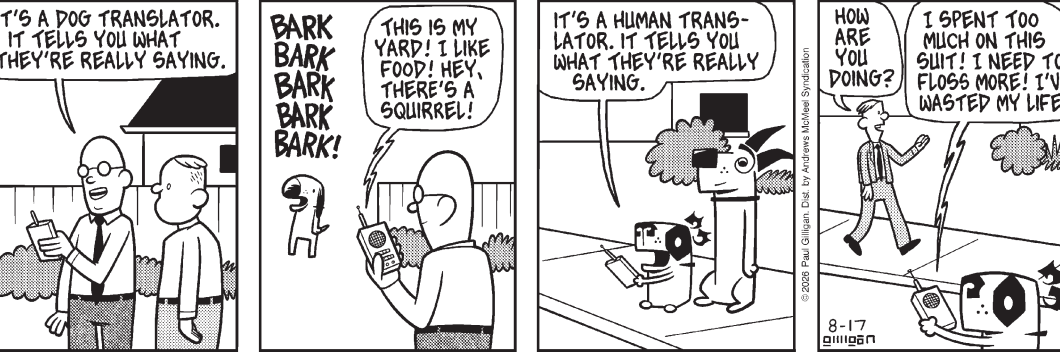
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

PATRICK MULDOON (1968-2026) Solution: 8 letters

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

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Action, Arkansas, Ascent, Austin, Award, Band, Barcalow, Bell, Daughtry, Days of Our Lives, Daytime, Documentary, Episodes, Final, Hallmark, Hart, Japan, Joseph, Karma, Lifetime, Melrose, Miriam, Place, Popular, Primetime, Producer, Reed, Richard, Rock, Romance, Saved, Sci-Fi, Singer, Sitcom, Stage, Starship, Troopers, Wicked, Zander

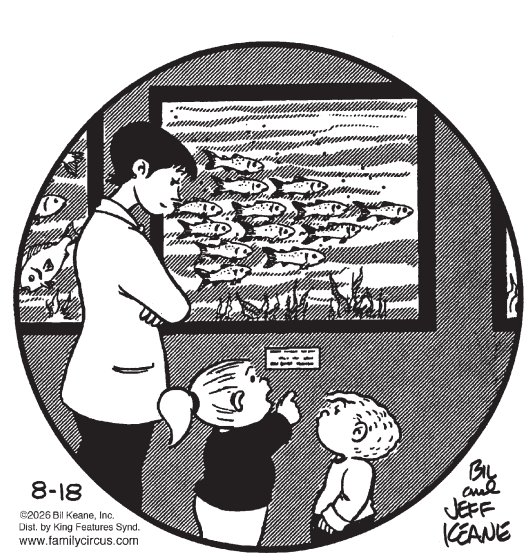
TODAY'S ANSWER: Musician

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



A typical school day for the Flying Wallendas.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



“Is the one at the head of the school the principal?”

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



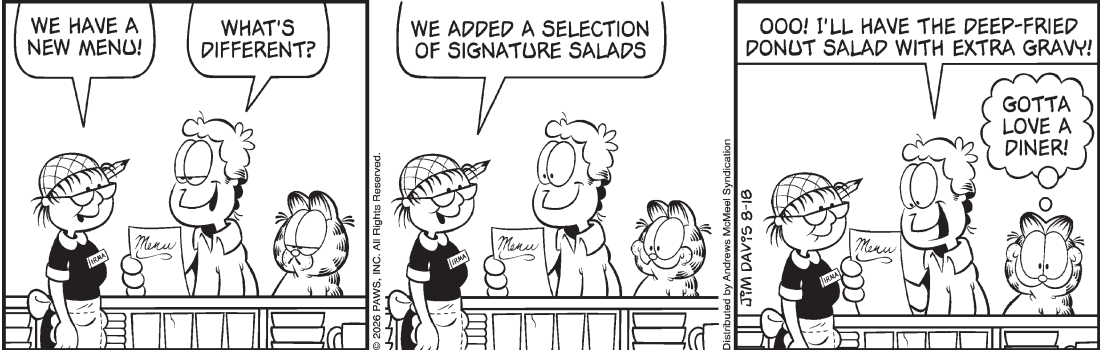
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



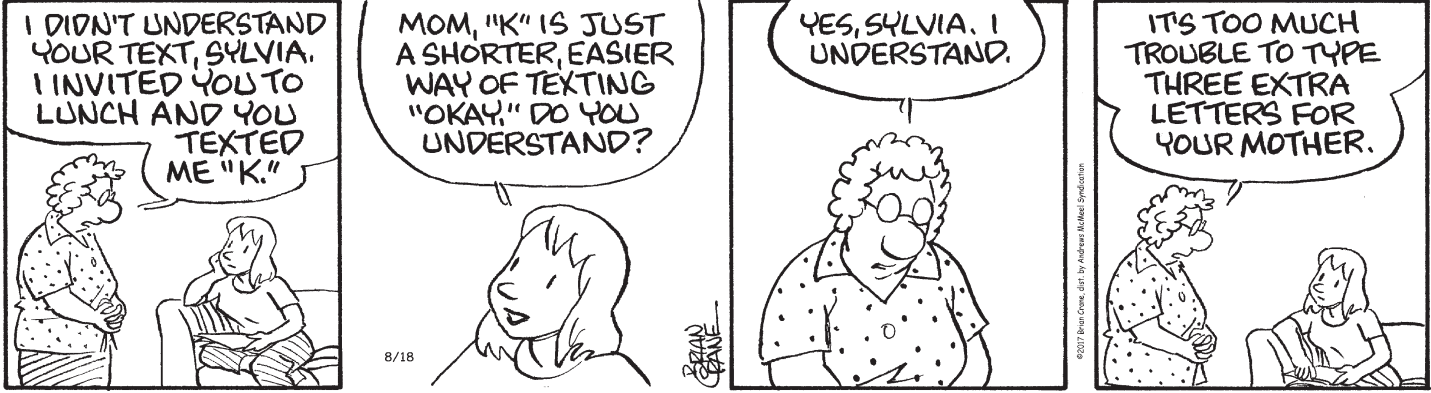
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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:

Law down the law

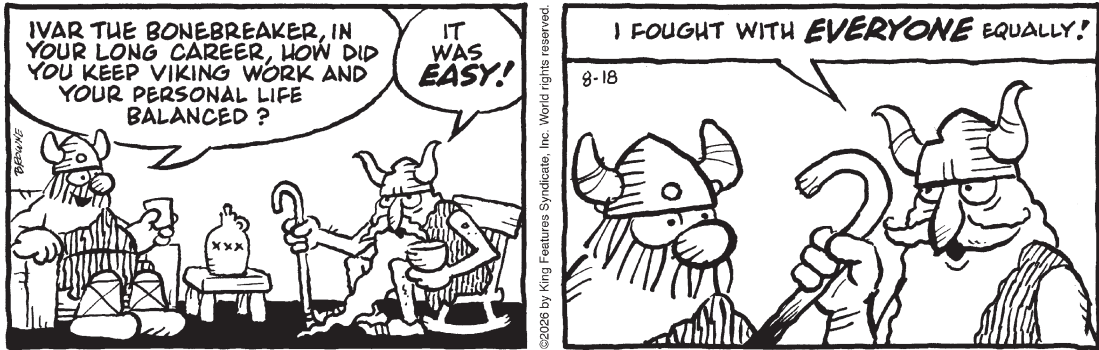
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cheer in a stadium
 - 4 Facts and figures
 - 8 Singer Diana —
 - 12 Numero —
 - 13 Greek god of love
 - 14 Actress — Sedgwick
 - 15 '70s sitcom "— Grant"
 - 16 Role in "La Boheme"
 - 17 Penalty
 - 18 Come after
 - 20 Beverages
 - 22 Baseball stat.
 - 23 Ring out
 - 24 Loosens
 - 27 Plant life of a region
 - 31 Town in New Mexico
 - 32 Sunrise direction
- DOWN**
- 1 Hold sway
 - 2 Soon

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		

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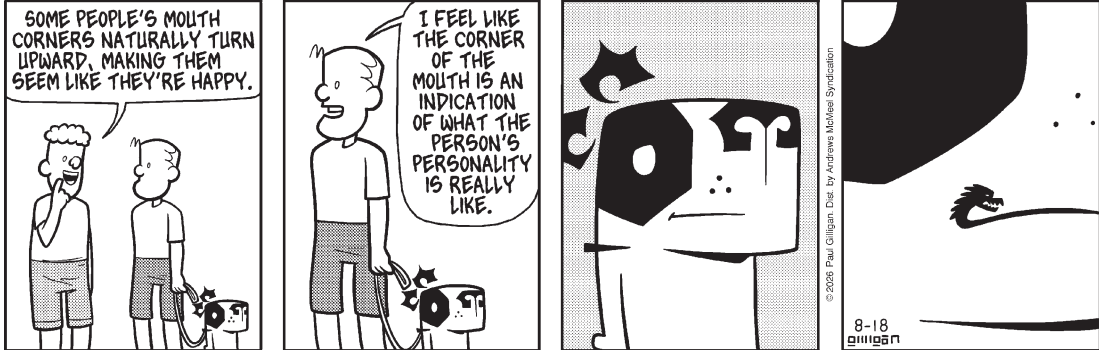
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

CONFERENCES AROUND THE WORLD

Solution: 10 letters

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

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Alert, Annual, Audience, Career, Chat, Connect, Convention, Cover, Data, Energy, Engineering, Event, First, Focus, Forum, Goals, Healthcare, Host, Las Vegas, Laws, Mathematics, Media, Nation, Network, Pharmacy, Plan, Press, Professional, Psychology, Rehabilitation, Security, Seminar, Software, Summit, Talk, Team, Travel, Venue, Webinar

TODAY'S ANSWER: Washington

Dougherty assistant county manager declines top position in Harris County

By Alan Mauldin

alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — After considering taking a job as county manager in another Georgia county, Dougherty County Assistant County Manager Barry Brooks has decided to make his second retirement at his current job in southwest Georgia.

Brooks said that he and officials in Harris County were unable to come to terms on a compensation package after he was of-

fered the position in the county. Brooks recently was named the sole finalist for the position, and the Harris County Commission approved his hiring. Reports that the commission rescinded the offer afterwards are not true, Brooks said.

“We just weren’t able to come to terms,” he said. “They made an offer. We were in final negotiations, but we could not come to terms.”

The job was not one that Brooks formally sought, he said. Over

his time in county government, he had met Harris County officials at various events and they reached out to him to apply.

Brooks was hired for his current position in May 2023 after serving in the newly created position of assistant to the Albany city manager and director of Albany Municipal Court.

Before that, he worked in local and state government in Florida and retired.

“It would have been a beautiful place,” he said of Harris County.

“It is a beautiful community. I was thankful that they thought of me. They offered, but it didn’t come through in the end.”

Brooks’ intentions prior to the offer were to retire in Dougherty County, he said, so the lack of coming to an agreement is not an issue.

“I’m OK,” he said. “Again, this is where I intended to finish out my second career. I’ve got a home here.”



Barry Brooks

Panel set to seek answers for why cost of child welfare services has risen in Georgia

By Ross Williams

Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- Taking care of vulnerable children in Georgia has gotten a lot more expensive, and lawmakers are hoping to figure out why.

“We’re trying to figure out what happened,” state Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, a Marietta Republican, said. “And unfortunately, nobody had a whole lot of notice that we were in a deficit situation with that particular population.”

In late 2025, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, which oversees the state’s foster system, cut services for families and terminated contracts for non-profits as they faced a projected budget deficit of about \$85 million.

“We ended up having to backfill the deficit for the department to the tune of about \$80 million,” Kirkpatrick said. “What we need to do is figure out what the right number is without affecting services for the kids, because they should not be the victim of budgetary issues.”

Kirkpatrick is co-chairing a joint House and Senate committee investigating the cost of foster care, alongside Concord Republican state Rep. Beth Camp. The committee is set to hold three hearings before presenting a report at the beginning of December ahead of next year’s legislative session set to begin in January.

Camp said she plans to enter the process without preconceived notions about where the money is going, but one likely avenue of investigation will be the rising costs of foster services for children. Lawmakers found that those costs were projected to rise 159% since 2022.

“What we’re hoping for and what we’ve requested is to get some actual numbers,” Camp said. “Because we know that the number of children in care has remained static, but from what we’re being told, there are a number of children who are in care who require more services than perhaps children did before in the past.”

Mental health policy advocate Roland Behm said he will testify at a future meeting that private companies that contract with the state to deliver Medicaid benefits increase costs by delaying or denying treatment for mental health.

Children who enter foster care are covered by the Georgia Families 360 program, which is administered by Amerigroup. Amerigroup did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Many children who enter into foster care were also covered by Medicaid before entering, Behm said.

Amerigroup has faced criticism from parents and others for allegedly denying claims for mental healthcare.

The companies that administer Medicaid benefits are supposed to provide all medically necessary care cov-



SpecialPhoto: Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder

State Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, a Marietta Republican, is co-leading a legislative effort to investigate what is driving up the cost of child welfare services in Georgia.

ered under Medicaid, but Behm said that’s often not how things work in practice.

“The care that’s needed is oftentimes something that looks slightly different than medical care,” he said. “It’s not like ‘I need to go to an appointment, I need to go to the doctor.’ It’s actually ‘I need behavioral health aides, perhaps at school or at home. I need education for my foster parents to help them understand what the concerns are.’”

Behm said in many situations, that care is denied

because the companies do not consider those kinds of interventions to be clinical care.

“But we did away with the concept of purely clinical or medical care with the adoption of the Mental Health Parity Act in 2022,” he said, referring to the law passed that year requiring insurers to cover mental health treatments equally to physical healthcare.

When care that should have been provided by the companies isn’t provided, Behm said the state pays twice, first for to the companies as part of their contracts and again when they have to arrange for and provide the care themselves.

John DeGarmo, founder of an advocacy group called the Foster Care Institute and a foster parent to more than 60 kids in Georgia, said it’s becoming harder for foster parents to access mental and behavioral healthcare at the same time the need for it is increasing.

“There’s a rise of teenage suicide attempts in America,” he said. “There is a rise of child anxiety and depression, teen anxiety. All of these are post-COVID mental health issues, and a lot of the foster parents today really aren’t equipped for that.”

Kirkpatrick, who also chairs the Senate’s Children and Families Committee, said she has faith that the committee’s report will inspire legislation when lawmakers return in January with new leadership after November’s election.

“I am very confident because of who the people are, the gubernatorial nominees,” she said.

Georgia’s next governor will be an advocate for foster care and adoption, whether it’s Republican Rick Jackson or Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Jackson often speaks about his own time as a child in the foster care system and his rise to business success, and Bottoms and her husband adopted all four of their children after she previously worked as a court-appointed advocate for children in the system.

“I’m optimistic that that’ll be a priority for the new governor, and we’ll be able to continue our work,” Kirkpatrick said.



Special Photo: EDC

The Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission is partnering with the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce to bring two days of business and workforce engagement to the Albany Civic Center.

Economic Development Commission Expo unites employers with job seekers

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

Chamber Biz Expo
Sept. 23

Albany Civic Center
4-5 p.m. | Business-to-business networking
5-7 p.m.
Open to the public

ALBANY -- The Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission is continuing to expand opportunities for employers and job seekers across southwest Georgia. Organizations that register for the SWGA Career Expo also will gain access to the EDC’s online career platform, where they can post current and upcoming job openings and connect with job seekers before, during, and after the event.

Job seekers can create profiles, search available opportunities, and apply for positions directly through the platform. The platform will remain active year-round, providing employers and job seekers with an ongoing resource to connect beyond the Career Expo.

This year, the EDC is partnering with the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce to bring two days of business and workforce engagement to the Albany Civic Center.

Albany EDC SWGA Career Expo
Sept. 24, Albany Civic Center, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Albany Area

This year, employers can participate in the SWGA Career Expo and take advantage of discounted pricing when they exhibit at both events.

Business + Career Expo Package
Single Booth: \$500;
Double Booth: \$900

Career Expo Only
Single Booth: \$300;
Double Booth: \$575

Electricity is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so interested businesses are encouraged to reserve their booth early if power is needed.

The SWGA Career Expo remains one of the region’s premier workforce development events, connecting employers with job seekers from across southwest Georgia. Organizations and job seekers can build meaningful connections, promote career opportunities, and identify future talent.

Two sentenced in Atlanta-to-Milledgeville meth trafficking case

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

MACON — Two more defendants involved in a drug trafficking ring sourcing methamphetamine from Atlanta for distribution in Milledgeville have been brought to justice resulting from an Operation Take Back America investigation led by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office.

“Our office is committed to working alongside law enforcement to make our communities safer by dismantling armed drug trafficking organizations and holding those who threaten public safety fully accountable,” U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. “We are grateful to our law enforcement partners for their tireless efforts and dedication to protecting our neighborhoods.”

Desmond Glenn, 35, of Milledgeville, was sentenced to serve 260 months in pris-

on to be followed by 10 years of supervised release after he previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Katherine Short-Barcnas, 36, of Milledgeville, was sentenced to serve 48 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release after she previously pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of methamphetamine.

The following codefendants previously pleaded guilty, and some have been sentenced:

-- Cory Wilson, 41, of Milledgeville, pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of methamphetamine and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison up to a maximum of life in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release and a maximum \$10 million fine.

-- Rodney May, 38, of Milled-

geville pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison up to a maximum of life in prison to be followed by 10 years of supervised release and a maximum \$20 million fine.

-- Ruby Fogg, 39, of Austell was sentenced to serve 324 months in prison to be followed by 10 years of supervised release after she previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

-- Robert Matthew Wood, 43, of Marietta was sentenced to serve 262 months in prison to be followed by 10 years of supervised release after he previously pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

-- Tony Baker, 39, of Macon, was sentenced to serve 92 months in prison to be

followed by three years of supervised release after he previously pleaded guilty to one count of convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

U.S. District Judge Marc T. Treadwell is presiding over the case. There is no parole in the federal system.

According to court documents and statements referenced in court, federal agents began investigating a group of individuals distributing methamphetamine in the Baldwin County area beginning in early 2023. Between April 25, 2023, and July 31, 2023, agents conducted four separate controlled purchases from Glenn totaling approximately 162 grams of methamphetamine. Under surveillance, Glenn was recorded selling methamphetamine and other controlled substances to people in Baldwin County as well as obtaining large amounts of methamphetamine from several sources of supply, including

Fogg, who was the leader of the criminal network.

Short-Barcnas and Wilson, members of this drug trafficking ring, sold methamphetamine twice to a confidential source in early March 2023, as part of this investigation.

Fogg was working closely with Wood to obtain and distribute large amounts of methamphetamine. Fogg and Wood often rented hotel rooms in Atlanta where they stored and sold narcotics. On Nov. 14, 2023, Fogg directed Glenn to pick up methamphetamine from Wood at an Atlanta area hotel, at a time she was making a trip to deliver drug proceeds to Jackson. May and Baker traveled with Glenn to the Atlanta hotel; on the return trip, their vehicle was stopped by law enforcement, and nearly one kilo of methamphetamine was found in a bag, along with a smaller amount in the floorboard. Officers also found a firearm tucked between Glenn’s



Special Logo

seat and the center console, and another firearm in the backseat.

Two days later, Fogg and Wood were arrested; the hotel they were renting was searched, and an additional 154.97 grams of methamphetamine was located, plus drug paraphernalia. Fogg has three prior criminal felony methamphetamine distribution convictions in Douglas County Superior Court.

The DEA and the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Howard is prosecuting the case for the government.

Bush powers Trojans

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Jordyn Bush threw for a touchdown. Then he ran for one.

Then Lee County changed quarterbacks, so Bush went into the backfield and caught two more.

And somehow, he wasn't the only Trojan putting on a show Friday night.

Jaden Upshaw returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and made a spectacular leaping catch as Lee County scored on every possession in a 56-21 preseason scrimmage victory over two-time defending state champion Carver-Columbus at Trojan Field.

Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio liked what he saw but wasn't getting carried away.

"Saw a lot of good things, but a lot of things we need to work on, obviously," Fabrizio said. "That's why we play a really good team. Test ourselves and see what things we've got correct and get better at."

There wasn't much to correct offensively.

Lee County's first touchdown came on its third snap when Bush found Amari Weston for a 45-yard touchdown.

Bush later scored on a 7-yard run before transfer Cohen Lawson took over at quarterback. Bush moved into the backfield and caught two touchdown passes from Lawson, giving him four touchdowns in three different ways.

"He made plays at quarterback, made plays at running back, made plays at receiver," Fabrizio said. "Just an excellent player."

Upshaw provided another highlight when the Texas A&M commitment fielded a Carver kickoff at his own 5 and raced 95 yards for a touchdown.

"We were expecting him to play great," Fabrizio said. "He certainly lived up to it."

Upshaw also made a leaping catch for a big first down on Lawson's first possession.

Carver flashed the explosiveness that has helped it win consecutive state championships, breaking several big plays against Lee County's defense. But the Trojans made more stops,



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County's Jordyn Bush runs in for a touchdown during Friday night's scrimmage against Carver in Leesburg. Bush, a Mercer commit, threw one touchdown pass, ran for a touchdown, and caught two touchdown passes as the Trojans scored on every possession Friday night.

and the Tigers couldn't keep pace.

Most impressively, every Lee County possession ended in the end zone.

That's exactly the kind of test Fabrizio wanted before the games started counting. Now they do.

Lee County opens the

regular season Friday night at Trojan Field against Hapeville Charter, last year's Class AAA state runner-up.

The Trojans tested themselves against a defending state champion.

Now they'll open against a team that came one victory away from becoming one.



File Photo

Atlanta Braves pitcher AJ Smith-Shawver is nearing a return to the major leagues after a strong stretch during his rehab assignment with Triple-A Gwinnett.

Smith-Shawver nearing return to Braves

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA — The Braves could soon add another big arm to their starting rotation. Another one they hoped to see this season appears increasingly unlikely to make it back.

Right-hander AJ Smith-Shawver is closing in on a return to Atlanta after another strong outing for Triple-A Gwinnett, while Spencer Schwellenbach continues to experience discomfort in his surgically repaired right elbow.

Braves manager Walt Weiss provided updates on both pitchers before Wednesday's series finale against the New York Mets and also delivered encouraging news on reliever Robert Suarez, who has been cleared to resume throwing.

Smith-Shawver appears closest to making an impact.

The 23-year-old right-hander struck out seven over 5 1/3 scoreless innings for Gwinnett on Tuesday night, continuing an impressive stretch in his recovery from Tommy John surgery. He has allowed just two earned runs over 19 1/3 innings in his past four Triple-A starts.

"I think it's safe to say he's going to be someone here in the near future that's going to help us," Weiss said. "I think he's a guy that can move the needle for us, just with his talent and his arm."

"So we'll just have to decide what that looks like when it happens. But he's certainly on the cusp of coming back to us here sometime soon."

Soon could mean next week.

Weiss did not announce a timetable, but Smith-Shawver could conceivably make his next start for Atlanta when the Braves travel to Minnesota.

Smith-Shawver underwent Tommy John surgery in June 2025 and has spent much of this season working his way back. The Braves got an early glimpse of what he could provide when they summoned him for an emergency start in the first game of a July 29 doubleheader against the Mets.

There was some understandable rust, but there was also plenty to like. His four-seam fastball averaged 97.2 mph, and his splitter gave Atlanta another reminder of the arsenal that made Smith-Shawver one of the organization's most intriguing young pitchers before the elbow injury.

Getting him back into the rotation, however, creates another decision.

Weiss has indicated he doesn't want to use a six-man rotation for more than one turn, meaning somebody eventually would have to move out of the starting five. Grant Holmes would seemingly be a candidate for a bullpen role, but he has made that decision more

difficult by throwing six scoreless innings in each of his two starts this month.

While Smith-Shawver's outlook is increasingly promising, the news surrounding Schwellenbach is moving in the opposite direction.

The right-hander has continued throwing bullpen sessions but is still experiencing discomfort and has not progressed to facing live hitters. With the calendar already in mid-August, the window for him to build up sufficiently to pitch in the majors this season is getting smaller.

"He's still working through some things with his arm," Weiss said. "So it's been an uneven road back."

Schwellenbach hasn't pitched in the majors since suffering a fractured right elbow that cost him the final three months of the 2025 season. His comeback was further complicated in February when he underwent surgery to remove bone spurs from the same elbow.

The Braves have remained hopeful that Schwellenbach could contribute at some point this season, but his inability to advance beyond bullpen work has made that possibility increasingly remote.

There was better news regarding Suarez.

The veteran right-handed reliever has been cleared to begin a throwing program after being sidelined since June 19 with inflammation in his right forearm. Suarez previously had been cleared to throw following the All-Star break before being shut down again.

He is expected to begin playing catch this week, which should give the Braves a better indication of how his forearm and elbow respond.

Still, Weiss cautioned that Suarez remains a significant distance from returning to Atlanta's bullpen.

"It's a big leap from starting a throwing progression to trying to get outs in Major League games," Weiss said. "But this is a good thing. The fact is he's moving forward. He's going to start throwing the baseball, and we'll see how that goes."

For a Braves team trying to position itself for the stretch run, Smith-Shawver represents the most immediate potential reinforcement.

And if his recent work at Gwinnett is any indication, the Braves may not have to wait much longer to find out exactly where he fits.

U.S. sets 4×100-meter mixed medley relay world record

Field Level Media

The U.S. 4×100-meter mixed medley relay team set a world record late Wednesday at the Pan Pacific Championships, breaking the record achieved by an American team two years ago.

At the meet in Irvine, Calif., Will Modglin swam the backstroke, Van Mathias the breaststroke, Gretchen Walsh the butterfly and Kate Douglass the freestyle. They finished in a time of 3 minutes, 36.70 seconds.

Walsh was part of the U.S. team that set the record at the 2024 Paris Olympics in 3:37.43. She was joined by Ryan Murphy, Nicolas Fink and Torri Huske in that quartet.

Australia and Canada won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, on Wednesday.

At the world championships in 2025, the United States did not qualify for the mixed medley final.

Entering the Pan Pacific meet, Walsh and Douglass



Special Photo: Robert Goddin-Imagn Images

Gretchen Walsh swims the butterfly leg of a medley relay. Walsh helped the U.S. 4x100-meter mixed medley relay team set a world record Wednesday at the Pan Pacific Championships in Irvine, Calif.

were both multiple world-record holders. It's the only world record for Modglin and Mathias, neither of whom were on the Olympic team in 2024.

Modglin, in his first go-round in major international

competitions, said after the race that he was "still a little speechless."

"You watch Kate and Gretchen. They've been doing this for a while now. I think just being on a relay with them is such an honor."

It was the second medal of the day for all four swimmers. Mathias (50-meter butterfly) and Modglin (100-meter backstroke) won silver medals. In the 50-meter butterfly, Walsh won gold, and Douglass took the silver medal.

Knights embrace challenge in championship chase

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Jake Clawson could have made the road easier.

Instead, Deerfield-Windsor's cross country coach and his runners chose to make it harder.

They voted to compete in a region that includes larger Class AAAA programs such as Brookstone and Pacelli. And when the Knights open their season next Friday night, they'll travel to Jacksonville, Fla., for the invitation-only Cecil Field 2026 Summer Classic, featuring some of the area's strongest teams and the nation's top cross country recruit in the Class of 2027.

Why? Because Deerfield-Windsor isn't interested in finding the easiest path to a trophy.

"We always want to compete against the best competition," Clawson said. "Winning doesn't mean much if you have no chance of losing."

That philosophy has



Special Photo: Submitted

Four of the Deerfield-Windsor Knights looking to bring another state championship to Albany this year are, from left, Adam Mallow, Mills Cothren, Daniel Roland and Whatley Fountain.

helped produce four state championships during Clawson's 11 years at Deerfield-Windsor.

Now the Knights want No. 5. The boys finished second at state last season, and junior Whatley Fountain gives them one of the state's top runners to build around.

Fountain ran a personal-best 15:38 on Deerfield-Windsor's home course at Albany State West last season and finished

third at the state championship meet in Macon.

This year he wants a faster time, a team championship and an opportunity to run in college.

"I want to drop my time and hopefully get recruited for college," Fountain said. "My goal is for us to win a state championship."

Fountain learned last season that going out too hard can hurt him later in a race.

He also learned he prefers having someone beside him, pushing him to maintain his pace.

He should get plenty of that in Jacksonville.

Senior Mills Cothren represents another side of the program.

He wasn't always one of Deerfield-Windsor's most talented runners. He simply kept showing up and working.

Now he's a team captain with a chance to become an all-state runner.

"He wasn't always the most talented, but he worked hard to get where he is," Clawson said. "He is the stuff that our program is made of. He has shown up for four years and worked hard. Now he has a chance to be all-state."

Cothren wants to break into the 17-minute range, but his biggest goal involves his teammates.

"My goal is to serve as a good team captain and be a good example for our younger team members," he said.

Fountain, Cothren, Adam

Howard, Gray shine as Dream rout Sun

Field Level Media

Rhyne Howard and Allisha Gray each had 29 points as the Atlanta Dream overwhelmed the Connecticut Sun 104-69 Thursday night in Uncasville, Conn.

It's the biggest margin of victory for the Dream this season. Atlanta (21-12) has now won eight of its last 10 games and is now tied with Indiana in fourth place in the WNBA standings. Atlanta hosts Indiana Sunday. Connecticut (8-24) has lost six of its last seven games.

Dream star Angel Reese broke the Dream franchise record for rebounds in a single season (now 384) and finished with eight points and 15 rebounds.

Connecticut was led by Aaliyah Edwards, who had 15 points off the bench. Fellow reserve Gianna Kneepkens added 10.

The Sun kept things close early by going to Brittney Gri-

ner inside. Griner also sank her first 3-pointer of the season to give the Sun an early lead.

But then Howard got hot. She made three long threes in the first quarter, finishing with 15 points in the stanza as the Dream led 28-17 after one.

In the second quarter, the Atlanta lead grew and so did the physicality. Reese was fouled hard from behind by Edwards after grabbing a rebound and Edwards was called for a flagrant-1 foul with 3:05 left in the half.

About two minutes later, Griner was called for a foul away from the ball on Howard, which the Sun bench didn't like. On the ensuing inbound play, Sun guard Leila Lacan ran into a hard screen set by Naz Hillmon and went down. Hillmon then sank an open three.

Griner was whistled for a technical foul as was Sun coach Rachid Meziane, who felt the screen by Hillmon warrant-

ed a foul.

At halftime, the Dream led 51-32 and they poured it on in the third quarter. Howard sank her fifth three to push the lead to 66-36 with 6:10 left and Gray added a nice three-point play after a drive to the basket to make it 75-41.

The lead grew to as many as 37 points in the fourth.

All the news wasn't good for the Dream. Backup forward Brionna Jones played less than five minutes before landing awkwardly from a rebound attempt early in the second quarter. She was ruled out for the rest of the game with a left leg injury. Jones missed a big chunk of the season after tearing the meniscus in her right knee.

It's the eighth time this season the Dream have scored more than 100 points.

Softball Roundup: Worth wins; Westover, Dougherty fall

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — Worth County's perfect start keeps getting better.

One day after rolling past Baconton Charter, Laurie Pritchard delivered the biggest swing of the Lady Rams' young season Thursday.

Pritchard blasted a grand slam in the fifth inning and went the distance in the circle as Worth County knocked off Colquitt County 6-3 in Sylvest-

ter, improving to 7-0.

The victory capped an impressive two-day stretch after the Lady Rams beat Baconton 12-1 in five innings Wednesday.

Worth County entered that game having not allowed a run all season, opening with five consecutive shutouts. Baconton finally ended the streak, but the Lady Rams had already taken control.

After scoring twice in the first, Worth County erupted for nine runs in the second. El-lasyn Gandy had an RBI double as the Lady Rams cruised to their sixth straight victory.

Colquitt provided a much tougher challenge Thursday.

Worth County took a 1-0 lead in the second before Hallie Thompson's RBI single tied it in the third.

The score remained 1-1 until the bottom of the fifth, when Worth County struck for five runs. Pritchard provided the big blow, launching a grand slam to center field for a 6-1 lead.

She took care of the rest in the circle, allowing three runs — only one earned — on seven hits over seven innings while striking out eight and walk-

ing one.

Kayelee Mathews, Pritchard, Ansley Bartley, Isabelle Hancock, Molly Williford and An-zlee Williams each had a hit.

Worth County has outscored



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Worth County lead-off batter Isabelle Hancock lays down a perfect bunt during Wednesday's big second inning in which the Lady Rams scored nine runs in Baconton.

its opponents 57-4 during its 7-0 start and hosts Carver-Columbus on Tuesday.

Westover falls in walk-off thriller

AMERICUS — Westover staged a furious seventh-inning comeback Thursday, only to watch Sumter County answer with one of its own.

The Lady Patriots scored six runs in the top of the seventh to turn a 13-10 deficit into a 16-13 lead. Sumter responded with four in the bottom half, with Tadaisha Aldridge delivering the game-winning RBI single for a 17-16 victory.

Westover collected 17 hits and led 7-1 after three innings. Chamya Astin hit a two-run inside-the-park homer, while Morgan Polite went 4-for-5 with four RBIs.

Savannah Donaldson, Kenndia Miller and Lauren Edwards also had multiple hits for Westover, which stole eight bases.

The Lady Patriots face Bainbridge on Tuesday.

Seminole County tops Dougherty

DONALSONVILLE — Dougherty battled back from a big early deficit but couldn't complete the comeback in a 14-9 loss to Seminole County on Thursday.

Seminole scored three runs in the first, two in the second and six in the third to build an

11-0 advantage.

Deriyah Gibbs led Dougherty at the plate, going 2-for-4 with three RBIs, while Jalexi Thomas struck out 10 in 4 2/3 innings of relief.

Seminole County's K. Causby went 2-for-3 with four RBIs, including an inside-the-park grand slam in the third.

Dougherty returns home Tuesday to face Shaw.

Moving the Chains: Broadening horizons

By Scott Ludwig
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There was a time in college football when the Florida Gators dominated the Miami Hurricanes.

Between 1971 and 1977, the two teams met seven times. Florida won them all handily, outscoring Miami by a cumulative total of 101 points.

Cindy and I were students at the University of Florida in 1974. We witnessed the Gators' final game of the season — which was right in the middle of that seven-game winning streak over Miami — sitting in the stands in a torrential rain that felt like a monsoon.

With a comfortable 28 — 7 lead, Florida kicked a meaningless field goal as time expired, thereby rubbing salt in the Hurricanes' already painful wound.

I have no idea what was in the mind of Gator head coach Galen Hall at the time. But I knew that somewhere down the road, Florida was going to pay for it.

Four years later Miami got their revenge by beating the Gators. Then the Hurricanes went on to win six of the next nine times they met after that.

But the Gators weren't the only ones who paid for it; so did every other team in the country.

During that period of time Miami won a pair of National Championships: in 1983 and again in 1987.

Then suddenly, Florida dropped Miami from their schedule in 1988.

The Gators said it was because since all of the teams in the SEC teams were now required to play seven conference opponents per season instead of six, there was no longer room on their schedule for the Hurricanes.

But according to Galen Hall, Miami was dropped so Florida could — ahem — 'expand their horizons.'

The Gators broadened their horizon by beating Montana State in their 1988

season opener. The Grizzlies were a sorry substitute for Miami: Florida won the game with ease, 69 — 0.

But the Gator fans were happy. And most certainly, the Miami fans had to be amused. As for Montana, they were just glad to get paid for showing up.

After that, Florida and Miami didn't meet again until the 2001 Sugar Bowl. By that time, Miami had two more National Championships (1989 and 1991) to their resume.

And they wanted more. They got off to a fast start when the #2 Hurricanes beat the #7 Gators 37 — 20 in the Sugar Bowl to conclude their 2000 season.

Miami went on to capitalize from the momentum generated by that win and claim yet another National Championship in 2001, their 5th in 20 years.

Clearly someone had broadened their horizons since the end of their in-state rivalry, but it wasn't the Florida Gators.

So what did the Gators do? They resumed their rivalry with Miami in Gainesville in 2002. Miami, the defending National Champions, were ranked #1, and Florida was ranked #7.

The Hurricanes picked up where they left off, easily beating the Gators by a score of 41 — 16.

Miami ended the season with a 12 — 1 record and a #2 ranking, their only loss being to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl for the National Championship.

Meanwhile, Florida finished the season unranked with an 8 — 5 record.

As of last season, Florida and Miami met seven times since then. The Hurricanes have the upper hand with five wins. Ironically, during that period of time the Gators have the upper hand in National Championships, 2 — 0.

That's how you broaden a horizon.

SIAC extends contract for Holloman

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Council of Presidents has unanimously approved a contract extension for Commissioner Anthony Holloman, Ed.D., through 2029, reaffirming its confidence in his leadership and vision for the future of the conference.

The extension was approved during the Council of Presidents' 2026 Summer Board Meeting in Atlanta following its annual review of Holloman's performance. The extension continues his leadership as the conference advances its strategic priorities centered on championship excellence, student-athlete success, programmatic growth and increased national visibility.

Under Holloman's leadership, the SIAC has experienced a period of significant growth and achievement, including unprecedented progress in media and broadcasting, historic NCAA postseason success, expanded national relationships and increased representation within collegiate athletics leadership.

Among the conference's most significant accomplishments has been the formation and growth of the SIAC Network, creating a conference-wide platform to expand the visibility of SIAC athletics, member institutions and student-athletes. The network has strengthened the conference's ability to distribute content, tell the stories of its institutions, engage fans and create additional opportunities for continued growth.

The SIAC also experienced historic competitive success during the 2025 football season, when three conference programs advanced to the NCAA Division II Football Playoffs. The achievement marked an important milestone for the conference and further demonstrated the growing national competitiveness of SIAC football.

The conference has also strengthened its national relationships through its ACC Football Officiating Alliance affiliation, making the SIAC the only HBCU conference that is a member of the alliance. The affiliation provides an important platform for officiating development and professional advancement while further connecting the SIAC to the broader landscape of collegiate athletics.

Holloman's leadership has extended to the national level as well. He became the first person from an HBCU to chair the NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee, providing important representation for HBCU athletics within the NCAA governance structure and further establishing the SIAC as a leader in the continued growth of men's volleyball.

These accomplishments are part of the conference's broader effort to strengthen the SIAC brand, enhance the student-athlete experience, deepen relationships with sponsors and strategic partners, elevate the fan experience and position the conference for sustainable long-term success.

"I am deeply appreciative of the Council of Presidents' continued confidence in our leadership and the direction of the SIAC," said Commissioner Anthony Holloman. "Our conference stands on a tremendous legacy created by a cadre of institutional leaders, student-athletes, coaches and administrators. We have made meaningful strides in elevating the SIAC brand, strengthening the student-athlete experience, expanding relationships with strategic partners and creating greater engagement for our fans. I look forward to continuing that momentum as we build upon our foundation, pursue new opportunities and further position the SIAC as the preeminent conference in all of NCAA Division II."

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS ADVANCES ADDITIONAL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In addition to extending the commissioner's contract, the Council of Presidents approved several key initiatives and actions that will help shape the future direction of the conference.

Among the most significant actions was the approval to eliminate divisions in all sports, mirroring the football format implemented in 2022. The change is intended to enhance postseason opportunities for student-athletes while increasing competition, excitement and engagement surrounding SIAC championships.

Looking toward future sport sponsorship opportunities, the Council also authorized the conference office to add women's flag football as a varsity sport beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, expanding participation opportunities and supporting the conference's continued commitment to the growth of women's athletics.

Collectively, these actions build upon the conference's recent momentum and position the SIAC for continued growth and long-term sustainability.



Special Photo: Submitted

The SIAC has announced that Anthony Holloman will continue as commissioner for the SIAC through 2029.

From 9A

KNIGHTS

Mallow, Daniel Roland and Caughey "Coy" Culpepper are leading candidates to make up the Knights' scoring five, with several younger runners pushing them. That group includes Bryson Newsome, younger brother of former Deerfield-Windsor standout Ethan Newsome, who now runs at Troy University.

The Lady Knights face a different challenge after winning their region but finishing ninth at state last season.

Clawson has added former Deerfield-Windsor and Westover runner Henry Plowden, who competed at the Division I level, to his staff. Plowden is working primarily with the girls and designing much of their training.

"Hopefully with two coaches who ran D1, we will have good ideas," Clawson said.

Maggie Collins and Emily Rutledge have emerged as leaders for the girls, helping keep teammates focused and ready for workouts.

"We've been getting more attention now that there are two coaches," Rutledge said.

Collins, who began running in sixth grade, wants the younger runners to see her as someone they can follow.

"Our team is quiet, and I want the younger girls to look at me as another runner, like them," Collins said. "I love running because I want to stay in shape. Plus it just helps me prove that I can do it."

The Lady Knights' path won't be easy. Clawson believes at least three teams could contend for the championship in their new region.

That's exactly what Deerfield-Windsor wanted.

There are easier races to schedule and easier competition to chase.

The Knights chose something else.

Next Friday night in Jacksonville, they'll line up against some of the best runners they'll see all season.

Because Deerfield-Windsor isn't trying to find out how easily it can win.

The Knights want to find out how good they can become.



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

The Dawson City Council met at City Hall Thursday to consider a proposed fire service assessment, wastewater infrastructure spending and other city business.

Dawson City Council addresses budget, fire fee, wastewater spending

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

DAWSON — Dawson will enter its new fiscal year without an adopted budget as city officials work toward a September public hearing, while residents could also face a new monthly charge to help fund the fire department.

The Dawson City Council on Thursday approved temporary spending authority beyond the Aug. 31 end of the current fiscal year and discussed a proposed fire service assessment on approximately 1,800 utility customers inside the city limits.

Council also approved more than \$140,000 in wastewater treatment plant equipment and project work, restarted the police department's K-9 program and heard from a local business owner disputing thousands of dollars in utility charges stemming from a water meter the city acknowledged had not been properly read.

The council discussed creating a fire service district and imposing a special assessment on utility customers inside the city limits to help fund the Dawson Fire Department. City administration initially proposed a charge of \$10 to \$15 per month. Officials said the department's annual budget is slightly more than \$1 million and that approximately 1,800 utility customers would be subject to the assessment.

At \$10 per month, the charge would generate approximately \$216,000 annually. At \$15, it would generate about \$324,000.

Council members leaned toward a lower amount during the discussion, with \$8 per month emerging as the preferred starting point. Officials said the money would be maintained separately and used specifically for fire services. No final assessment was approved Thursday. City officials told the council the amount could be discussed this month and brought back for a vote next month.

Dawson's fiscal year begins Sept. 1, but city officials said the 2026-27 budget will not be adopted before the fiscal year begins. The council approved Ordinance 2026-12, allowing city expenditures to continue beyond the Aug. 31 end of the current fiscal year while officials complete the new budget.

The meeting agenda specifically described the ordinance as temporary spending authority, allowing continued city operations if the Fiscal 2027 budget was not adopted by Aug. 31.

A proposed budget was presented in connection with Ordinance 2026-13 but was not adopted Thursday. The council instead scheduled a public hearing for Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m., with the budget expected to return for adoption after the hearing. Residents who want to review the proposed spending plan before the hearing should request a copy from the city if it is not otherwise made pub-

licly available.

Council approved a series of expenditures associated with Dawson's wastewater treatment system, including replacement pumps and additional work on the larger treatment plant project.

A \$16,416.60 sludge pump was approved to replace equipment that officials said is no longer functioning properly. Council also approved a \$15,000 bypass pump associated with the Tyson Foods wastewater system. Both pump purchases are to be funded through SPLOST revenue.

Council additionally approved a \$109,886 change order for two additional aerators and a new control panel, funded through the wastewater project's supplemental work allowance. Together, the three items total \$141,302.60.

Officials said much of the equipment at the treatment plant is aging and either needs replacement or significant work.

The city also reported progress on the broader wastewater project. Rebuilt clarifiers are back online, while reconstruction of the influent pump station is approximately one-third complete.

Local resident and business owner Robert Albritton appeared before the council to dispute a utility bill that had climbed to roughly \$6,000 after the city discovered his property still had an older water meter that was not being read electronically. City staff acknowledged the meter had not been replaced when other meters in the system were upgraded. Because the old meter was not being captured by the city's electronic reading system, Albritton had continued receiving minimum water charges even as he continued paying the utility bills sent to him.

The city's meeting agenda identifies Albritton's utility bill as one of two scheduled public comments Thursday. City staff said they reviewed his historical usage and calculated a \$4,335.33 credit, which would leave a balance of \$1,720.61, including other utility charges.

Albritton disputed the remaining amount, repeatedly emphasizing that he had paid the bills presented to him and questioning why his meter had not been replaced when others across the city were upgraded. City officials acknowledged the failure to identify the old meter was an error on the city's part. Albritton was directed to meet again with city staff to review his individual bills, payments and the calculations used to determine the proposed credit.

The council approved an agreement to restart the Dawson Police Department's K-9 program. Police officials said grants and other outside assistance are covering much of the startup expense, including the dog, training, food and veterinary care, leaving the city primarily responsible for the assigned

officer and certain equipment.

The five-year canine-officer service agreement addresses compensation, city-paid care and equipment, and assignment requirements. Police officials told council the officer selected for the program intends to move his family into the area and described the longer-term agreement as a way to protect the city's investment in the program.

Council also approved an amendment to the city's retirement plan intended to reconcile the plan with terms contained in a previous city manager's employment contract. Officials explained that the employment agreement provided for immediate vesting in the city's retirement plan, while the retirement plan itself required a one-year waiting period.

The amendment was presented as necessary to correct that conflict and honor the terms of the employment agreement.

Council moved forward with Ordinance 2026-11, adopting Chapter 8 of the Dawson city code governing finance and taxation. The provisions cover more than general budgeting and taxation and include rules involving hotel-motel taxes, purchasing cards and blighted property.

City officials also discussed the long-running effort to complete Dawson's new website. The city has already paid approximately \$6,000 for development, and staff said the site is about 95% complete. The remaining issue involves control of the city's domain and the fact that its email accounts and new website would otherwise be hosted on separate servers.

Officials said maintaining the arrangement could leave the city paying two companies for hosting services. Staff recommended obtaining the rights to the website the city has already paid for and moving it to the server that currently hosts the city's email accounts. The proposed change also would reduce monthly website maintenance costs from \$150 to \$99.

Council also considered a conditional-use request involving property at 1051 Flint Street NE. The matter was scheduled for a public hearing and involved replacing an older manufactured home with a newer one. The address is confirmed in the council's meeting materials.

The Dawson City Council's next regular meeting is scheduled for Sept. 10.

The public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 city budget is provisionally scheduled for Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will give residents an opportunity to weigh in before the council considers final adoption of the spending plan.

The proposed fire service assessment also is expected to return to the council for further consideration, potentially adding a new recurring charge to utility bills for customers within Dawson's city limits.

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Calhoun Co. Legals
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION (SWG RC) proposes to apply for a grant from USDA Rural Housing Service for the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant of up to \$300,000.00 to provide home rehabilitation services for elderly, handicapped and those with disabilities that are low-income homeowners in the following counties & cities: **Baker**, Newton, **Calhoun**, Arlington, Edison, Leary, Morgan, Berlin, Doerun, Ellenton, Funston, Norman Park, Attapulgus, Brinson, Climax, Blakely, Damascus, Jakin, Whigham, Leesburg, Smithville, **Miller**, Colquitt GA, Baconton, Camilla, Pelham, Sale City, **Seminole**, Donaldsonville, Iron City, **Terrell**, Bronwood, Dawson, Parrott, Sasser, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, Poulan, Sumner, Sylvester, Warwick and Cordele.
A statement of activities is available for review and comment at the central office at 181 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia 31730. The deadline for public comment is September 4, 2026.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 dandelion color (6)	_____
2 sucked up like a sponge (8)	_____
3 bad manners (8)	_____
4 gymnast's asset (11)	_____
5 what are on store shelves (8)	_____
6 Grammy winner Patty (7)	_____
7 land like a bird (6)	_____

LOW	YEL	SOR	ESS	RU
BED	FL	TS	FF	ITY
ALI	IN	AB	EXI	PRO
GHT	DUC	GRI	BIL	DEN

Saturday's Answers: 1. LILO 2. FEARLESS 3. CONTAINER 4. CHARLIE 5. DERIVATIVE 6. MANDELBROT 7. GILLS 8/17

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 the Seven Dwarfs, e.g. (6)	_____
2 relax awkwardly (5)	_____
3 the "H" in WHO (6)	_____
4 writer Nathaniel (9)	_____
5 extremely fat cat (11)	_____
6 Timothée acting sister (7)	_____
7 vortex (9)	_____

LI	HEA	MIN	WT	SLU
MP	RE	LTH	RNE	NAI
HA	NE	ZIL	ERS	LST
MAE	ROM	PAU	LIO	HO

Monday's Answers: 1. YELLOW 2. ABSORBED 3. RUDENESS 4. FLEXIBILITY 5. PRODUCTS 6. GRIFFIN 7. ALIGHT 8/18

Release Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 Ed of "Lou Grant"
6 Flower holder
10 Baseball officials
14 Stir up
15 Bar mitzvah dance
16 Bean fermented to make miso
17 "Be a little nosy"
19 ___ a living
20 Yale student
21 Song for two
22 Apple Music predecessor
24 Whys and wherefores
26 Invitation letters
27 Toward the stern
28 Store
29 Acai bowl grain
32 "Music, dance, drama, and the like"
36 Penne ___ vodka
37 + or - atomic particle
38 Self-referential
39 "Squeeze-box instrument with a keyboard"
44 "___-Hur"
45 Move like a spooked horse, maybe
46 McKellen of "X-Men"
47 Alien-hunting subj.
48 Royalties, e.g.
52 Deli order
55 Ultrasoft mineral
56 More, on a music score
57 "Growing Pains" actor Thicke
58 "Public relations manager"
61 Suppressed, with "up"
62 Toward sunrise
63 Ore finder
64 On a trawler, say
65 Gains after taxes
66 Bamboo-loving bear, or, when parsed in three parts, a feature of the answers to the starred clues

DOWN
1 According to
2 Took without asking
3 Big name in brick phones
4 ___ out a living
5 List, as names during roll call
6 Footwear
7 Sell aggressively
8 Directional suffix
9 Wisconsin's capital
10 Drain completely
11 Kvetch
12 Funeral pile
13 Comic ___ informal typeface
18 Reach a cost of
23 Rating for many shows aired at 8 p.m.
25 Plastic wrap brand
26 Big horned animal
28 Recommended garment when using glitter glue
29 Double Stuf cookie
30 Env. directive
31 Bag-screening org.
32 Part of a glissade, in ballet
33 Dynamism
34 Christina who played Wednesday
49 Philly Ivy League sch.
50 Like a fork
51 "Kama ___"
52 West Coast wine region
53 Fútbol cheers
54 Locks on a Mustang
55 Exam
59 "Insecure" star Issa
60 Supermodel Carangi

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

08/18/26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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64					65				66			

By Seth Bisen-Hersh
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Music of a generation part of ‘Magic of Motown’

Staff Reports

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ALBANY -- The music that defined a generation is coming to Albany.

“The Magic of Motown” arrives at the Albany Municipal Auditorium on Sept. 18 for one unforgettable night of nonstop hits, energy and soul.

This critically acclaimed production has wowed audiences across the country, earning its reputation as “the No. 1 Motown show in the

nation.” From the first note to the final encore, music fans will be swept into more than two hours of pure Detroit magic.

Fans can sing along to the timeless sounds of The Temptations, The Jackson Five, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson and more, brought to life with stunning vocals, dazzling choreography and authentic costumes that capture the spirit of Motown

at its peak.

Whether dancing in your seat or up on your feet, this is a feel-good, high-energy experience that will have fans smiling, singing along and wanting more.

One night. Countless hits. Memories that last forever. The Magic of Motown offers a chance to relive the soundtrack of a generation.

Tickets for the show go on sale Monday at 10 a.m.



Special Illustration

Collins: U.S. should pay ‘wronged’ insurrectionists

By Ross Williams

Georgia Recorder

SAVANNAH -- A Savannah man who received a pardon for his actions on Jan. 6 and who is a self-described provocateur is at the heart of the latest stir in Georgia’s closely watched U.S. Senate race.

During the question-and-answer portion of a breakfast event at a Savannah golf club, Dominic Box introduced himself as a “non-violent Jan. 6-er from here in Savannah” and asked Collins about his thoughts on a controversial plan to compensate victims of the “weaponization” of the justice system.

“With Todd Blanche being confirmed as the new attorney general, and the victims of political weaponization fund being such a controversial issue that’s important to me – I lost everything, I’m a business owner now in Savannah, by the grace of God,” Box said. “I lost my home, my car, my entire life’s savings. To put it clearly, would you support either the victims of political weaponization compensation fund or some form of compensatory relief, not just to Jan. 6-ers like myself but all Americans, left, right and center, who have become victims of a weaponized political system?”

Collins responded in the affirmative.

“A lot of things have been politicized and weaponized. And when the federal government harms you, then yes, they have a liability to you. That’s easy, yes sir,” Collins said.

His campaign attempted to clarify Collins’ remarks, saying Collins does not support “a blank-check fund or automatic taxpayer-funded payouts” to Jan. 6 defendants.

The weaponization fund was a nearly \$1.8 billion proposal to compensate people the administration of President Trump believed had been wronged by the Biden Justice Department.

It met bipartisan resistance in the U.S. Senate, where opponents referred to it as a “slush fund” designed to make payouts to Trump allies. Those against the measure also objected to the way it was created,

via a settlement in a lawsuit between Trump and the IRS.

Senators agreed to approve Blanche’s nomination only after Blanche formally rescinded the plan last week. Speaking to reporters in Washington, Blanche stressed that the fund was, in his words, “dead,” but added that he and the president would support passing a similar measure through Congress.

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, who is a Democrat, flipped the seat in early 2021 and is currently trying to win another full term in office. But as the only incumbent Democratic senator running for re-election in a state Trump won in 2024, he is seen as a top target for national Republicans. He quickly responded to Collins’ comments.

“Yesterday, we heard Congressman Mike Collins unacceptably and disgustingly call for taxpayer-funded payouts to the violent thugs who ransacked the United States Capitol to try to overturn the 2020 election,” Ossoff said. “Congressman Collins needs to immediately come out and publicly retract his support for these taxpayer-funded payouts to violent insurrectionists.”

Collins’ campaign rejected Ossoff’s framing that his answer signified a commitment to pay off violent protesters.

“Mike Collins fully supports holding the government accountable when federal agencies abuse their power and believes Americans who’ve been wronged by their government ought to have a path to seek justice,” said spokesperson Meyer Siegfried in a statement.

Box was convicted on two felony counts of civil disorder and four misdemeanors. According to court documents, he entered the Capitol multiple times on Jan. 6, 2021, shouted expletives at police officers and was part of a group that pushed through officers at the entryway to the Capitol Crypt, a large room at the Capitol featuring historic exhibits.

Box said he spent 18 months in prison before being pardoned by Trump, who issued a sweeping pardon of Jan. 6 defendants on his first day



Mike Collins

back in office in 2025.

“My goal is not to hurt Mike Collins,” he said. “I am supporting Mike Collins in the race for Senate over Jon Ossoff. But at the end of the day,

I don’t care if Mike Collins is elected to anything. I care about whether my brothers and sisters are compensated for the harm that we have endured.



Special Photo: PCOM South Georgia

Selena Meza became the inaugural recipient of the PCOM South Georgia Dr. Savita Arya Memorial Scholarship, established in honor of the late professor of pathology.

First-generation student recipient of initial PCOM South Georgia Dr. Savita Arya Memorial Scholarship

Staff Reports

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MOULTRIE -- When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Colquitt County, Selena Meza watched her rural community struggle as some residents lost their lives.

“I wanted to understand why this was happening instead of just hearing, ‘Here’s your medicine,’” Meza said. “Watching people depend on a diagnosis and treatment

plan strengthened my desire to become a pathologist and give back to rural communities like the one I grew up in.”

But for Meza, the journey to medical school felt like a distant dream as a first generation college student and the daughter of immigrants.

Meza enrolled in PCOM South Georgia’s Certificate of Graduate Studies in Biomedical Sciences program, where she attended lectures alongside Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine students, providing an early introduction to medical school.

“It was very special that this school is in my backyard, and I didn’t have to adjust to a new town,” she said. “People at PCOM South Georgia know me and know my family. It makes me emotional to know how close we all are.”

During her graduate studies, Meza collaborated with Thomas J. Last, a professor of biochemistry, cell biology, and genetics, on an award-winning research study examining emergency department utilization and mortality rates among Hispanic residents in rural, suburban and urban communities across Georgia.

In June, Meza began medical school at PCOM South Georgia, where she became the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Savita Arya Memorial Scholarship, established in honor of the late professor of pathology, who was Dhiman’s wife.



Special Photo: ABAC

ABAC online students will have opportunities to collaborate remotely on The Stallion student newspaper, Pegasus Literary Magazine and other hands-on experiences.

ABAC now offers fully online Writing and Communications degree

Staff Reports

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TIFTON — Students can now earn a bachelor of science degree in Writing and Communication from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College completely online, expanding access to a degree designed to prepare graduates for success in a wide range of communication-focused careers.

The fully online program provides the same curriculum and faculty expertise as the on-campus degree while offering the flexibility needed by working professionals, transfer students and others seeking to complete their education from anywhere.

Students in the Writing and Communication program begin with the same strong general education core as all ABAC students, building a foundation alongside classmates from every academic discipline.

As they progress through the major, students develop critical and creative problem-solving skills while gaining practical experience through internships and hands-on learning opportunities, school officials said.

“The launch of our fully online Writing and Communication degree opens the door for more students to earn a versatile, career-focused education,” Matthew Anderson, dean of ABAC’s School of Social Sciences, Education and Arts, said. “We are excited to expand access to a program that prepares graduates so well for today’s workforce. Strong communication skills are valuable in every industry, and this degree equips students with the knowledge, experience and confidence to succeed.”

Students also have access

to extensive experiential learning opportunities through ABAC’s student media organizations, including the award-winning student newspaper, The Stallion; student television broadcast, Stallion TV; literary magazines, Pegasus and Adroit; student-run publishing operation, Horseman Press; and campus radio station, WPLH.

Graduates are prepared for careers in journalism, public relations, publishing, broadcasting, digital media, and technical communication, among many other fields. Career opportunities include print, film and video editing, social media management, public relations, publishing, writing and authorship, reporting, news analysis, technical writing, content creation, and radio and television broadcasting. The degree also provides a strong foundation for graduate studies in journalism, law, creative communication, and related disciplines.

“Offering this program online reflects ABAC’s commitment to meeting students where they are and providing high-quality educational opportunities in multiple formats,” ABAC President Tracy Brundage said. “This is another example of how ABAC is engaging students while ensuring they have access to the academic programs and experiences that prepare them for meaningful careers.”

Applications are now being accepted for upcoming semesters. For more information about the bachelor of science in Writing and Communication degree, visit apply.abac.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Aman Kaur (26-053) has submitted an application to the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission requesting rezoning of an 11.13-acre parcel from C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District) to C-3 (Commercial District) for a Maintenance Shop serving the adjoining Truck Stop. The parcel is located on Don Cutler Sr. Dr. (0000N/00019/045). The owners of the property are Oxford Construction Company and Janet Gardner Kemp. The applicant is Aman Kaur (BYD Builders, LLC). **Ward 2**

Lamar Advertising, LLC (26-055) has submitted an application to the Albany-Dougherty Planning Commission requesting a variance to the Albany Sign Ordinance pursuant to Section 4-80, Variances. The request seeks relief from the ordinance requirement that billboard faces maintain a minimum separation distance of 3,000 feet from one another, to allow the proposed billboard at a location that does not meet the required spacing. The subject property is located at 2400 Dawson Road (Parcel No. 00301/00007/003) and is zoned C-2C (Mixed-Use Planned Development District – Conditional). The property owner is Pujan Enterprises, Inc. (Brij Patel), and the applicant is Lamar Advertising (Bart Holt). **Ward 5**

The Albany Dougherty Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on this request on **Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA. Based on the information presented at the public meeting, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation and forward it to the Board of City Commissioners.

The City of Albany Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** in the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA 31701.

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

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