

Perspectives
Ralph Nader
• **Page 4A**



State appointment
County commissioner
picked
• **Page 8A**



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

Albany animal trainer seeking to fulfill dream of establishing a pet food pantry

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – With utility, grocery and gas prices spiking, many families are stretched these days. And while there is assistance available at area food banks for people looking to get through lean times, there is not much in the way of help for feline and canine friends who also need a bag



KELLY SMITH

of kibble or a can of food. That's a need that Albany animal trainer Kelly Smith is trying to address with a planned pet food bank. The idea has been on his mind for at least a decade, started in part by a dog owner who took her pet through beginner and intermediate dog training classes while he was working at PetSmart. The dog owner was ecstatic after her ini-

tially less-than-enthusiastic dog learned the basics. "When we went out for the walks, it had done so well the woman was in tears," Smith said. "She said 'This is my dream. I just wanted him to walk with me.'" When he tried to contact the owner about the next course, he couldn't get in touch with her. "I found out through a third party – this family was middle-class and they lived in a good neighborhood – the husband lost his job and they were just

not able to keep their dog anymore," he said. "The whole idea I've been wanting to do for the past 10 years now is to set up a pet food bank. So maybe you don't have to surrender your pet to the Humane Society." The trainer, who is licensed for obedience training and for service dogs, is a former Albany Humane Society employee. He said he is completing paperwork to set up the 501(c)(3) organization for the effort and

See **PANTRY**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Site work is underway at 32 Crossing in Leesburg, where developers plan to begin construction with an initial 10 homes. The development could eventually include about 300 homes by the end of all development phases.

Developers bet on demand for smaller homes, apartments in Lee County

By Kathryn Crockett
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LEESBURG — Two residential developments moving forward in Leesburg will add hundreds of new housing options in Lee County over the next few years, with developers saying they are targeting a market they believe has been underserved: young professionals and small families looking for newer housing they can afford. Developers presented updates Wednesday night at the Downtown Development Authority of the city of Leesburg board meeting on Wooten Station, a 125-unit apartment and retail development planned just off Walnut Street, and 32 Crossing, a residential community expected to eventually include about 300 homes. Both projects are being designed in part around attracting younger professionals to Lee County, though they approach that market from different directions: Wooten Station through higher-end apartment-style living and 32 Crossing through smaller, relatively lower-priced modern homes designed around community connection. Wooten Station developer Matthew Davis said the apartment complex will include 108 two-bedroom, two-bath units and 17 one-bedroom, one-bath units. Plans also include a separate retail building, gated access, a pool, grilling area, fire pit and dog-washing station. "There's a need in our community for good living for young professionals," Davis said.

See **HOMES**, 2A

William G. Anderson: A lifetime of testing the waters

By Kathryn Crockett
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"Sometimes you have to test the waters, and you'll find the waters are not as cold as perhaps you thought they would be." – **Dr. William G. Anderson**

ALBANY— Dr. William G. Anderson, the pioneering surgeon and civil rights leader who helped found the Albany Movement, died Aug. 16 at age 98, closing a remarkable chapter for the communities, movements and institutions he spent nearly a century helping shape. In Albany, where efforts were already underway to preserve the deteriorating home from which Anderson helped make history, his death brings renewed significance to the question of what his generation leaves behind.

See **ANDERSON**, 2A



New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection (Library of Congress)

Dr. William G. Anderson appears on NBC's "Meet the Press" in 1962 during the Albany Movement. Anderson, who led the civil rights coalition, died last week at the age of 98.

Albany State student Nia Blunt selected for MIT Summer Research Program

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – Albany State University senior Nia Blunt, a Forensic Science major and Velma Fudge Grant Honors Program scholar, was among the students selected to participate in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Program, one of the nation's premier undergraduate research opportunities. The Irmo, S.C., native spent the summer conducting biomedical research at MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, gaining hands-on experience in

cancer research and immunotherapy. She worked in MIT's Biological Engineering Department, where she conducted research focused on "Harnessing Targeted Immunopeptidomics to Expand Treatment-Induced Antigen Detection in NRAS-Mutant Melanoma." Using a dual mass spectrometer workflow, Blunt worked to identify treatment-induced antigens in NRAS-mutant melanoma that could potentially serve as candidates for T-cell-

directed immunotherapy. Her research identified 95 treatment-induced peptides that were not detected through the standard workflow, with several showing potential as previously uncharacterized antigens. The experience gave Blunt the opportunity to apply advanced research techniques while working alongside members of the MIT research community. For Blunt, however, the experience was about more than the research itself. It

was an opportunity to grow as a scientist, expand her professional network, and gain confidence in her ability to contribute to a highly competitive research environment. "One of my biggest takeaways from the program was to always ask questions and not be afraid to speak up when I don't understand something," she said. "Being at MIT initially felt intimidating because I was surrounded by people who were so intelligent, but over time I realized that I am, too, and I am here for a reason." That realization represents an important part of Blunt's

journey at Albany State, where she has built an impressive record of academic achievement, leadership, research and



NIA BLUNT

See **BLUNT**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

Classifieds 11A
Comics..... 6A-7A
Crosswords..... 6A-7A, 11A
Horoscopes 3A
Obituaries 11A
Perspectives 4A
Sports 9A-10A
Squawkbox..... 3A
TV - What to Watch..... 5A
Weather 3A

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From 1A ANDERSON

But Anderson’s legacy extends far beyond the places that can be preserved and the historic firsts that can be counted.

Perhaps the most enduring part of his legacy is also the simplest: what his life can teach us about moving forward when the way ahead is uncertain.

William G. Anderson spent much of his life becoming the first black man to do things no black man had done before. Curiously, he rarely described his life as though that had ever been the plan.

He became Detroit’s first black surgical resident. He became the first African American president of the American Osteopathic Association. He led the Albany Movement and helped bring Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Aberna-

thy to southwest Georgia. Told that way, Anderson’s story can sound like a succession of barriers deliberately sought and triumphantly broken — a man who set out to make history and, in fact, did. But that isn’t quite what the record shows.

Again and again, Anderson seems to have found himself in moments where someone had to go first. Sometimes he volunteered. Sometimes he was asked. Once, remarkably, he drew the short straw.

Still, he went. “Sometimes you have to test the waters,” Anderson once said, “and you’ll find the waters are not as cold as perhaps you thought they would be.”

And that just may be the simplest way to understand his profound life. When Albany’s black-led organizations coalesced into the Albany Movement in November 1961, Anderson was elected president ... not because he

had spent years positioning himself to lead a civil rights campaign, but primarily because he was new in town.

His outsider status was in fact the strength other men may have lacked; Anderson had no long-standing business relationships white Albany could use as leverage against other black leaders. His private medical practice also gave him some insulation from the economic retaliation that could devastate others. In a very literal sense, Anderson had less to lose. He accepted the presidency knowing that was part of the reason he had been asked.

Anderson never seemed particularly interested in turning that circumstance into a legend about himself. And in that same pattern later described portions of his path into medicine and movement leadership as work he “hadn’t exactly chosen,” but that circumstances thrust upon him anyway.

He did not need history to remember him a certain way in order to know who he was or what he was there to do. There was work to do. He was in a position to do it. So he did.

Perhaps no moment captures that pattern better than one of the strangest episodes of the Albany campaign. In the summer of 1962, Anderson was jailed alongside King and Abernathy as demonstrations continued. King was determined to remain behind bars until the demonstrators were released. But the movement had been offered something it badly needed: a national television audience on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” Someone had to leave jail and defend the Albany campaign before the country, facing a

panel that included defenders of segregation.

So the three men drew straws. King held them in his closed fist. Anderson lost. He left jail, prepared for the appearance in a single night and went on national television. It is an almost absurd way for a defining public moment in a national civil rights campaign to have been assigned. Anderson did not campaign for the opportunity. He did not declare himself the obvious spokesman. History pointed at him with a short straw. He accepted.

What makes that moment more than a colorful civil rights anecdote is that the same pattern followed Anderson long after the cameras left Albany. Two years later, there were no mass demonstrations, jail cells or television studios. There was an operating room.

In 1964, Anderson became Detroit’s first black surgical resident, breaking another barrier with a scalpel instead of a picket sign. He spent the next 20 years in surgical practice, and more than two decades doing the largely unseen institutional work that preceded another historic first: becoming the American Osteopathic Association’s first African American president in 1994.

Even Anderson’s account of how he entered osteopathic medicine in the first place carried the same undertone. He did not describe it as a carefully plotted career strategy. A close friend of his father’s — one of the only black osteopathic physicians in the South — suggested that he apply. Anderson went, took the test and was accepted the same day.

Decades later, speaking to fellow physicians, Anderson

described the challenge before him without grandeur. “There was no such thing as a black physician in my town, certainly not a black osteopathic physician,” he said. “So I had some work to do.”

Not a destiny to fulfill. Work to do. Anderson did it. None of this means Anderson mistook danger for discomfort. Sometimes the water was every bit as cold as it looked.

In 1963, the federal government indicted Anderson on conspiracy charges carrying the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence. He later described the prospect of spending decades in prison as something that felt like death — and the eventual lifting of that threat as something approaching resurrection.

He also encountered discrimination inside the institutions supposedly preparing him for a career in medicine, including a hospital that would not assign him white patients until Anderson directly challenged the practice. The dangers he confronted were not imaginary. Neither were the consequences, and that distinction is significant.

Anderson’s lesson was never that fear was foolish, or that every intimidating barrier disappears once someone finds the courage to approach it. His own life supplied too much evidence to the contrary. His lesson was that fear could not tell you, by itself, what was possible. The only way to know was to move forward.

That may be the more useful inheritance Anderson leaves behind now that the final chapter has closed.

His legacy can easily be measured in titles and firsts: civil rights leader, surgeon, educator, national medical leader,

Albany Movement president, first black surgical resident, American Osteopathic Association’s first black president. But reducing Anderson to those achievements risks missing the quieter pattern underneath them that is as relevant and needed today as it ever was.

He was not the son of a physician preparing to inherit a profession. He was not a preacher preparing to lead a movement. He did not appear to spend his life preoccupied with becoming the best, the fastest or even the first. Again and again, he simply found himself standing at a threshold where something needed to be done.

A medical school. A segregated hospital. A civil rights movement. A jail cell. A television studio. An operating room. The presidency of a national medical organization.

Sometimes Anderson volunteered and sometimes somebody else pushed him toward the threshold. Once, King held the choice in his fist and chance decided for them both. But the pattern remained consistent. Anderson kept stepping through.

Fifty-eight years after the federal government indicted him, the U.S. Attorney’s Office formally apologized to Anderson, calling him simply “this great man.” By then, he had spent most of a lifetime without waiting for history to justify the choices he had made. Perhaps that is why his old advice about testing the waters feels less like a motivational phrase than a description of the way he lived.

Anderson never said the water was warm. He simply refused to let its temperature decide whether he stepped in.

From 1A BLUNT

service. She is the 2026 Highest Ranking Senior and was also recognized as a Highest Ranking Student in 2025 and 2026. Her honors include the Strada Scholar Award, Dean’s Award, Devcon Scholar recognition, and Honors Program Scholar distinction.

Blunt is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Velma Fudge Grant Honors Program, and Women in Pre-Med. She has also contributed to the community through Feed the Valley, campus cleanup initiatives, and blood drives. In spring 2025, she presented research at Albany State’s 13th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Blunt’s experience at MIT builds on research she began at ASU under the mentorship of Seong Seo in the Department of Natural Sciences’ chemistry program. During a semester-long research project, she investigated the electrochemical behavior and reversibility of sodium permanganate (NaMnO4) as a potential magnesium-based alternative to vanadium materials used in redox flow batteries for large-scale energy storage.

The experience strengthened Blunt’s technical research skills and helped shape her interest in interdisciplinary scientific research. It also provided an important foundation for her work at MIT, where she applied her growing research skills to a different area of study: cancer biology and immunotherapy. Through these experiences, Blunt has continued to explore how scientific discovery can address complex challenges and improve quality of life.

“Nia’s accomplishments reflect the kind of scholar Albany State is committed to developing,” Florence Lyons, director of the Grant Honors Program, said. “Her ability

to excel academically, engage in meaningful research, and represent Albany State in a highly competitive national research environment demonstrates both her individual determination and the strength of the opportunities available to our students.”

Blunt credits her ASU professors and academic experiences with helping her develop the confidence and professional skills necessary to make the most of her MIT opportunity.

“Albany State prepared me for this experience through my professors and the programs I have been involved in,” she said. “They taught me how to conduct myself professionally, network, communicate with others, and present myself confidently. ASU has also given me opportunities to step outside of my comfort zone, which has helped me become more confident in who I am as a student and as a future professional.”

Blunt said she plans to pursue a medical degree and become a physician, combining clinical medicine with biomedical research. Her long-term goal is to contribute to research that improves health outcomes, particularly for underserved communities.

As Blunt prepares for her final year at ASU, her experience at MIT has given her more than another accomplishment for her resume. It has strengthened her confidence, expanded her research experience, and reinforced her belief that she has a place among the nation’s leading scientists and researchers.

“ASU has put me in rooms and situations where I have been able to practice my professional skills and become more comfortable communicating with different people,” she said. “Through my classes, professors, internships, research opportunities, and involvement on campus, I have learned to work with others, present myself professionally, and advocate for myself.”

From 1A HOMES

The intended market became clearer — and drew some humor — when a board member asked whether developers envisioned couples with children or young professionals occupying the units.

“Young professional,” Davis responded, adding that he did not anticipate the complex attracting many families with children.

When someone jokingly

From 1A PANTRY

has set up a GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-kellys-pet-soup-kitchen-dream>. He said he hopes to be up and running in September.

The donations are to go toward a building to house the food bank. In addition, Smith said he will apply for grants from animal organizations and pet food companies to help pay for food.

If successful, he may extend the effort to work with veterinarians to help find a way for struggling pet owners to get care for their four-legged family members at a more affordable price.

The tough economic conditions, including inflation, have made his dream a priority at this time.

“You’ve got people struggling with food bills, utility bills,” he said. “A pet food bank would be something that benefits everyone. (If) you lose a job, you have a healthcare crisis, what do you do with the cat? What do you do with the dog? Now you will at least have someone who can help you with the food.”

asked whether children were banned, Davis quickly clarified.

“I don’t think we can ban [them]. Fair housing laws. I’m not an attorney,” he said, before returning to the more serious point behind the design. “You build, though, to fit — to attract certain residents, which is what we attempted to do here.”

The amenities reflect that strategy. Rather than water slides or other features typically associated with family-oriented apartment complexes, developers described an outdoor area built around a pool with tanning shelves, grilling stations, a fire pit and gathering spaces.

Rental rates have not yet been finalized. Davis told the group the project has been expensive to develop and said final pricing will depend in part on the market as the complex approaches leasing.

The development also incorporates Leesburg’s recently adopted architectural standards. City Manager Bob Alexander recalled telling Davis that the project would have to meet the city’s new requirements after seeing an earlier version of the plans.

“He said, ‘Well, if that’s the case, I’m going to do more than what I anticipated to do,’” Alexander said.

Davis said developers studied other apartment communities and the local market before settling on the final design.

The project still has permitting work ahead. Davis said developers have received state fire approval but had not yet received building permits at the time of Wednesday’s presentation.

Just a few miles away, another development is targeting young professionals and families who want to buy rather than rent.

Andy Wood, a real estate agent with the Virtual Realty Team representing the new 32 Crossing subdivision, presented the update. Wood told the board the development’s first homes are expected to

start at about \$255,000 for a three-bedroom, two-bath house with a garage. Homes will range from approximately 1,336 to 1,570 square feet, with the larger floor plan expected to start around \$279,000.

“Our anticipation is that a lot of young professionals and couples will be interested,” Wood said. “Honestly, that was one of the attractions — trying to find homes that these young families or young professionals coming back to the county can afford.”

Wood said developers also expect the community could attract professionals from elsewhere in the region, including nurses from Americus, as well as older residents interested in downsizing to homes requiring less maintenance.

He said the development is entering a price range that has become increasingly difficult to find in local new construction.

“We’re actually in a unique market here, starting at the 250s,” Wood said. “We haven’t seen that a long time, really ... for new construction.”

Wood contrasted the planned homes with another area development where he said new homes begin at about 1,800 square feet and range from roughly \$369,000 to \$399,000.

The design of 32 Crossing also takes an approach uncommon among newer subdivisions in the area. Homes will face shared green spaces and sidewalks rather than streets, with vehicle access and parking located behind or alongside the homes.

The concept prompted some skepticism during the presentation.

“I believe the whole idea is just odd to me,” Board Chairman Jim Quinn said of having the fronts of homes oriented toward pedestrian areas instead of a traditional residential street.

Common green space will be maintained through a homeowners association, and plans include pickleball courts and a playground.



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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today kicks off the two most helpful days remaining in August to launch something or make any kind of major move. Since the first week of September is mostly underwater, do it in August or wait a bit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Creatives could be in for an excellent month or so, with plenty of focus and artistic or musical inspiration flowing. You should also have a more pragmatic approach, too. Avoid workplace power plays.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): While today is a powerful day in the Universal sky, your sector of shared resources and finances could include deception or just not getting all the facts. Use doubled caution today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Something could be untrue or feel unreliable today, even with someone who's proven themselves. If it's a glitch, let it pass on by. If it's part of a larger pattern, see the pattern and act accordingly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Relationships need a balance of power to be sustainable. When control is imbalanced over time, resentments can build and ultimately undermine the good things. Decide something for yourself, advisors could miss the mark now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might feel stronger today if you stick with established routines that feel familiar and have proven themselves. Think through something; consider if it's now ready to be talked through.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The power of your mind can understand what's deep within you but staying solely in your mind isn't an ultimate answer. The goal is to feel safe and comfortable occupying your body, without distraction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you can combine sensitivity with force today, that could be an ultimate flex. You might need to push something on the home front but use empa-

thy too. Talk something over with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Apply your mind to your career or other involvements in the world — new thinking could pave a new way. Read the room you're in before you speak out, it could be easy to be tone deaf for a few hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As long as a) you feel clear and not over-emotional, b) your fears aren't running your mind, and c) your personal transits are strong, this could be an excellent day for a financial move for future benefit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Are you intimidating or are they intimidated? It could be either, or both. Assess if you're putting yourself out there the way you want to. Trying to make progress in a shared situation could still be frustrating.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It could be an excellent day to track the ways you give away your power. You can stop doing it and take back power in every situation you gave it up. Talk something through with a partner.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You could roll into your new personal year with a sense of relief, 2026 so far could have been challenging and may have stirred up some real anxiety and concern. A nice reboot could happen through about the end of September; you might have less thrown at you during this period. Rest up so you'll be ready for a nice opportunity which could roll in during October. Whether you worked hard to tee this up or whether it lands out of the blue, don't push the situation past what's moderate. Later someone could try to convince you to surrender a belief — be sure it's authentic for you and that you're not just going along to get along. A windfall could land in November, later in the month some big dreams could come true as the most important resources arrive to make it all come together.



1609 - Galileo Galilei demonstrates his first telescope to Venetian lawmakers

1814 - British troops torch the Library of Congress, United States Treasury, Department of War and other public buildings in Washington

1916 - The United States National Park Service is created

1933 - The Diexi earthquake strikes Mao County in Sichuan, China and kills 9,000 people

1944 - During World War II, Paris is liberated by the Allies

1950 - In order to avoid a railroad strike, U.S. President Harry Truman orders the U.S. Army to seize control of the nation's railroads

1980 - Zimbabwe joins the United Nations

2012 - Voyager 1 spacecraft enters interstellar space as the first man made object

2017 - Category 4 hurricane, Harvey makes landfall in Texas and causes catastrophic flooding through much of eastern Texas, killing 106 and causing \$125 billion in damage

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When our government is spoken of as some menacing, threatening, foreign entity, it ignores the fact that in our democracy, government is us."
Barack Obama,
U.S. president (1961-)

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 am outraged by the callous disregard for rape and assault victims by Albany law enforcement until Mary Martinez forced their hand. Just imagine if the daughters or wives of those responsible had been among the victims. It would have been a different story.

"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross" -- Sinclair Lewis

Like 99% of American cities, Albany is not designed for foot and bike commutes. The failure here is with our elected leaders, not the absence of sidewalks. Commissioners are tasked to attract jobs with living wages and to make sure streets are safe from crime. Both huge failures by Albany and Dougherty commissioners. Foks can't afford car payments. Our elected leaders can't scam taxpayers into paying millions to their friends to build sidewalks just because they failed.

Well-reported story by Alan Mauldin on the history of downtown Albany and where it's heading in the future. If this is part of a series, I'm looking forward to learning about more of our specific districts in the community, especially the west side.

I can think of a lot of projects that should be a lot more important for tax dollars than more sidewalks. Common sense, which Albany leaders seem to lack, and a simple look around would tell you that the city has almost zero walkers these days. Take a ride from Slappey to 8-Mile Road and tell me how many walkers you see on those sidewalks. From Slappey down Pine or Broad, just take a look at any time during the day or night. Zero! More sidewalks are ridiculous.

My name is Carlton. I am the editor. To save time, let's assume I am right.

It's hard to believe state officials finally took action against a failing school system. I agree, this action should be a wake-up call to local governments about what can happen when enough complaints are issued about their theft and misuse of taxpayer funds. Here's hoping more announcements follow.

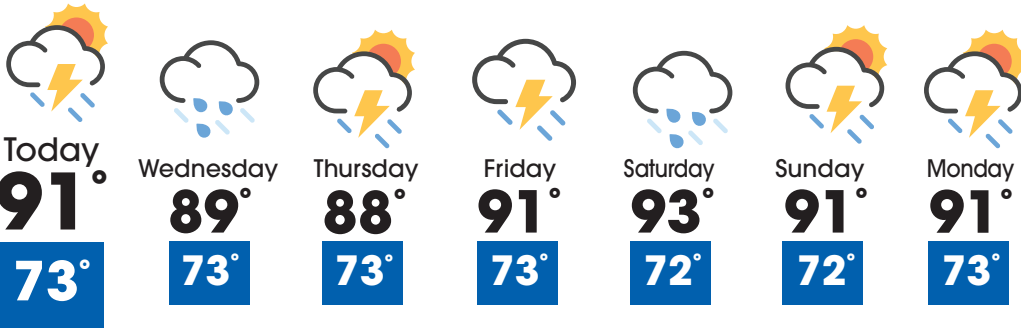
The federal government (in a \$40T deficit) was not established, taxpayers are not obligated nor a falsely construed sense of entitlement supports an expectation of federal funding. \$3.9M so your kiddies can have a water park? Only a politician's payment for votes would explain such idiocy. You pay for it or get yourself a water hose and sprinkler from Home Depot ... 100 bucks and a towel, done deal.

I won't be eating any Waffle House until they rehire the "King of the Waffly" back.

Warbington, Jenkins, Brown, Gaines. All completely out of touch with the needy. If working people in your wards can't afford \$800 a month in rent, more hand-out affordable housing isn't the answer. That is already the cheapest rent in Georgia. How much more affordable can it be? People need better paying jobs, not free apartments on the backs of the struggling Albany taxpayer. Stop arguing with each other and get to work on what's important: wiping out crime and attracting better jobs.

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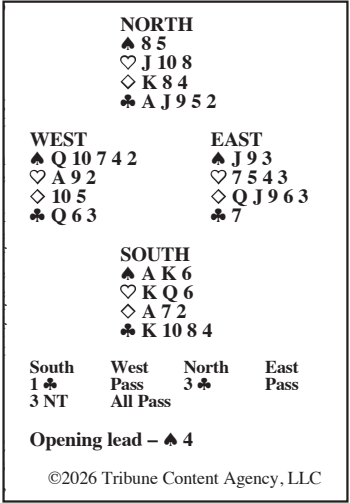
Daily Bridge Club

The wrong way

By Frank Stewart

Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic says that statements starting with "Please don't take this the wrong way" have a zero-percent success rate.



Frank Stewart

When Cy was North in my club's penny game, he watched South go down at 3NT. West led a spade: five, jack, king. South then took the A-K of clubs. When East threw a diamond, declarer lost a club to West's queen. He ducked West's return of the queen of spades and won the third spade but had only eight tricks. West got in with his ace of hearts to cash two spades.

WRONG PLAY

"Please don't take this the wrong way," Cy said to his partner, "but your play was wrong." "What do you mean?" South growled. "I would usually make overtricks."

South should lead a heart at Trick Two; if dummy's jack wins, he shifts to clubs for nine sure

tricks. If West grabs the first heart to continue spades, South ducks and wins the third spade. Then he takes the king of clubs and leads to dummy's jack. If East could win, South would lose at most two spades, a heart and a club.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S Q 10 7 4 2 H A 9 2 D 10 5 C Q 6 3. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one spade, he bids two clubs and you return to two diamonds. Partner then bids two spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your two diamonds showed at most nine points, and partner would have passed if he saw no chance of game. With a minimum such as KJ3,3,AQ742,K752, he would have raised your one spade to two. Bid four spades. Partner may hold KJ5,3,AK763,AJ52.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

After tragedy, daughter says mother's love is only skin-deep

By Eric Thomas

Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My husband died by his own hand more than 20 years ago. We had three kids younger than 15. I was devastated but I had to keep going to maintain some normalcy for them. I went back to school, got a job, sent kids to college, et cetera.

Then came a bombshell a few years ago. My youngest said I have never been there for her, that I only communicate with her with small talk and that emails are just a place for me to tell her what I've been doing. (Isn't that what emails are for?)

She said I didn't tell her I loved her, didn't help enough with her wedding, used her kids for Facebook posts, that I favored one child over her and that I don't visit her and her family enough. (I live more than 1,200 miles away). She says she's so happy that her mother-in-law is there for her since I'm not.

She says our relationship is only skin-deep and that's not what she wants. She's happy with her little bubble of friends.

No matter what I say or do, it's wrong and she tears into me again. I think a lot of this is coming from her "therapist." I'm at wit's end of what to do. I think maybe we should just be estranged. It would save us both some grief and angst every time an email arrives. I wouldn't even feel welcome right now if I should go to visit. Any advice?

– Unwelcome Mother

Dear Mother: I'm sorry for the terrible loss you experienced and I'm sorry you're navigating this traumatic period with your daughter. It's

possible that some of this is a result of unresolved grief with which she's struggling, but it's hard to tell since she won't engage with you and only lobs criticism.

It's clear this relationship needs a reset. To your point, it may be helpful for you to give yourself some space for a time, as what you've heard from her has been hurtful.

She told you that the relationship you have is not what she wants. Although she's listed ways that she feels you've wronged her in the past, I'm curious if she is able to identify things that you both could do differently moving forward. You might say something like, "I'm sorry for my part in what went wrong in the past. I'd like to work through it, eventually, but it will be easier to do that if we set a different course for the future. What are one or two actionable changes that we can commit to?"

The past can be overwhelming and it's clear that you have different perspectives on it. The advice isn't to ignore the past, but the past can't be solved in a day. Tomorrow can only be different, however, if you and she can agree to work toward it together.

Dear Eric: I would like to add something to your response to "Property Brothers", the parents who must move closer to medical providers. Both of their sons want them to build a home on their property. Your answer addressing the emotional aspect is fine.

I'm a financial adviser. The following must be addressed to avoid a potential falling out between their sons and to protect their own estate.

They must have a written, legal document that states if



Eric Thomas

the son on whose property they build their dwelling divorces, dies or sells his property, there is language that addresses how the parents are compensated.

When they die and if they have substantial assets, the other son will be compensated for assets that are equivalent to the amount of the home. If there are no assets other than the home, how will the son with the dwelling on his property compensate his brother?

– Property Protection

Dear Property: Thank you for this addendum. That's a very helpful insight that will, hopefully, save the family from future strife.

Dear Eric: Boy, can I relate to Time After Time", whose spouse was always late. I'm the late one in my marriage.

Yes, it drives my husband nuts, and he does see it as an insult. After years of this conflict, I figured out a solution that has worked for us: instead of focusing on what time the event starts, I ask, "What time do you want to leave?"

That way my husband sets the time, and I make sure I am ready to go in time to leave when he wants to. It has worked very well for us.

– Time Challenged

Dear Time: Thanks for writing in. I like this reframing because it prioritizes communication and, in asking the question, you indicate to your husband that though you may be late, you're trying to be considerate of his time as well.

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 rerictomas.com.

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10

COLUMNIST ■ RALPH NADER

Democrats should tout Trump's
\$1.1 million an hour personal gain

To House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer:

Your responses on July 1 on the reporting of the \$2.2 billion profit personally reaped by President Trump, while allegedly a public servant in 2025, was not specific enough. Jeffries wrote on his social media account: "Donald Trump made more than \$2 billion during his first year as president. Republicans are enriching themselves while making your life more expensive. We must crush the culture of corruption." Schumer wrote on his: "\$2.2 billion for the Trump family. Higher costs for the American people." You should have described his huge loot as \$1.1 million an hour. That's right, \$1.1 million an hour based on a 40-hour work week over one year. (And remember, Trump spends a lot of his time on his vengeance missions, his golf game, and napping, so a 40-hour work week is a generous estimate.) You should have then compared that enormous sum per



RALPH NADER

hour with the Trump/GOP-supported federal minimum wage, frozen at \$7.25 per hour. This would have given you the perfect occasion to highlight the case for a much higher federal minimum wage, helping tens of millions of American workers. You also omitted his unlawful agreement with the IRS to give him a free ride on tax abuses. Such profiteering from his public office at \$1.1 million an hour is staggering, especially when you detail where it came from. This would have resonated with a huge portion of the voting public, including Republicans. Instead, Democrats lost the opportunity to make that stunningly understandable communication. But it is not too late to revive and make more concrete his boastful misuse of the office of the presidency. You can compare it with past presidents' sense of self restraint. You can ask for widespread feedback from the American people and make it part of his widely discernible profiteering persona of greed and lawless power. One further response to this mountain of greed by Trump should be joint shadow hearings

between the House and Senate Democrats during this August recess. This would bring this appalling engagement by Trump in his various investment arrangements to a wider audience and highlight recommendations of reforms to prevent such massive and dubious self-enrichment by a President of the United States. There will be many competent legal and other experts to testify at your hearings, which no doubt will reveal more information and reach a large audience during the August recess. These hearings would provide the Capitol press corps with much-needed information to fulfill their professional responsibility to provide the people with their right to know the fuller details of what has yet not been reported. Another way to put it is, you don't make \$1.1 million an hour by pushing a button. There is a lot of personal hidden back-and-forths by many people and many conflicts of interest to make that rich haul a reality. Contact your Democratic members of Congress and demand shadow hearings. Ask for their written response. Do your part to help make it happen. The Congressional switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.

Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, and author.

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The limits of starting over

There is a certain kind of hope people hold onto after things fall apart. The belief that once the damage is done, once the past is wiped clean, it will be possible to begin again, this time better, wiser, more careful. A fresh start feels like a kind of moral reset. Remove the mistakes, clear the ground, and perhaps the next version of the world will finally get it right. It is a powerful idea. It is also, at least on its own, incomplete. History suggests that starting over does not automatically produce better outcomes. Revolutions promise renewal yet often reproduce the very patterns they sought to escape. Individuals vow to change after failure, only to find themselves pulled back into familiar habits. Even when circumstances are transformed, human nature tends to remain remarkably consistent. The question is not whether people can begin again. The question is what actually changes when they do. This tension lies at the heart of the story of Noah. (Genesis 8–9) After the flood, the world is, in a literal sense, reset. The corruption and violence that filled the earth have been washed away. Noah emerges from the ark into a silent, empty landscape, a world stripped of its past and waiting to be rebuilt. If starting over were enough, this would be the moment when everything finally goes right. But the Torah introduces something else. "I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the

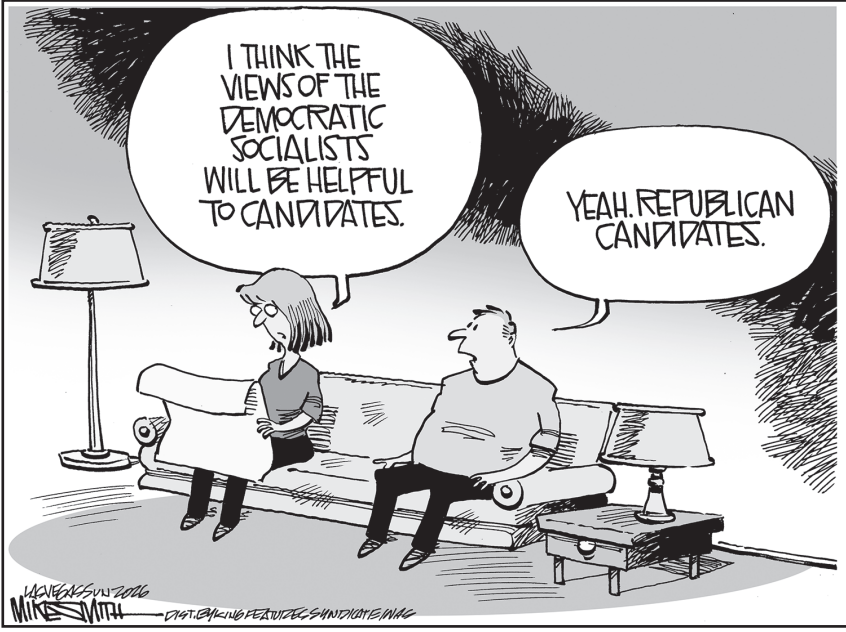
covenant between Me and the earth." (Genesis 9:13) The rainbow is often understood as a promise that the destruction of the flood will never happen again. But its deeper meaning is more demanding. A covenant is not only a guarantee. It is a boundary. Before the flood, the problem was not ignorance. Human beings were not incapable of recognizing right from wrong. The failure was more subtle and more dangerous: the absence of restraint. Desire was not limited. Power was not checked. The ability to act was mistaken for the right to act. The result was a world that could no longer sustain itself. After the flood, the world does not become morally simpler. It becomes morally accountable. The rainbow reflects that complexity. Unlike a single beam of light, a rainbow is composed of many colors, distinct, yet part of the same whole. It suggests that human life will always contain competing impulses, different perspectives, and varied expressions of goodness. Moral clarity will not come from reducing everything to one tone, but from holding those differences within a larger framework of responsibility. The danger is not diversity. The danger is the absence of limits. This is not only a theological idea. It appears in ordinary life wher-



YONATAN HAMBOURGER

ever freedom is mistaken for permission. A conversation collapses when the need to speak overrides the discipline to listen. A relationship weakens when impulse replaces commitment. A moment of anger feels justified until its consequences cannot be undone. In each case, the problem is not a lack of awareness but a lack of restraint. The capacity to act outruns the willingness to hold back. That is the pattern the Torah addresses. The covenant after the flood does not remove human freedom. It defines its boundaries. It establishes that the future will not be secured by wiping the slate clean but by living within limits that preserve dignity, trust and responsibility. This is where the story becomes unexpectedly personal. Every life contains moments that feel like standing outside the ark: after failure, after loss, after recognizing that something must change. The instinct is to focus on the opportunity to begin again. The Torah asks a harder question: What will be different this time? The answer is not found in new circumstances alone. It is found in the willingness to accept limits — to act with restraint, to recognize that not everything one can do should be done. The rainbow does not erase the storm. It reframes it.

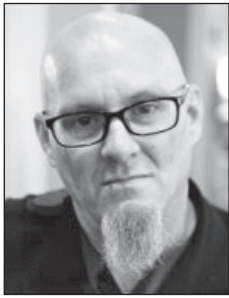
Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi and teacher. He welcomes questions and comments at y@TasteofTorah.org.



COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Korean Peninsula:
One small step in the right direction

President Trump's decision to scale back joint military exercises with South Korea," Matthew Lee and Ben Finley wrote for the Associated Press, "does not just slight a longtime ally but raises broader concerns about the security interests of the United States in Asia and elsewhere." Trump's reason for supposedly, and in unspecified ways, downsizing the annual "Ulchi Freedom Shield" exercise is that South Korea has been insufficiently supportive of his war against Iran. That doesn't seem like a very good reason ... but there are good reasons, and it's a tiny move in the correct direction of drawing down U.S. military entanglement on the Korean Peninsula. The history, in brief: After World War II, Korea — which had been occupied by the Japanese — was split into two states. In the north, a Soviet/Chinese-backed communist regime under Kim Il Sung held power, while the south was ruled by a U.S.-backed fascist regime under Syngman Rhee. Each side wanted to invade, conquer, annex and absorb the other's territory, but the U.S. held Rhee back from doing so and Kim beat him to the punch. The resulting war technically goes on to this very day, although it's been in a tense state of ceasefire since 1953. More than 35,000 American troops, hundreds of thousands of South Korean, North Korean, Chinese, and Soviet soldiers, and millions of civilians died to reach that stalemate. North Korea remains "communist" in name and pageantry while actually embodying absolute, quasi-religious monarchy under the Kim dynasty's third generation. South Korea is theoretically a "democracy," but mostly just a big state capitalist enterprise operating under military protection from, and advantageous trade deals with, the U.S. The U.S. spends \$5 billion-\$6 billion per year to support 80 military bases and 27,000 deployed American troops, and has now



THOMAS KNAPP

been doing that much or more for 80 years. Interestingly, the AP story quotes Dan Fried, an official in George W. Bush's administration, to the effect that "there is no American interest I can see" in reducing U.S. military commitments to South Korea. But in 2004, Bush himself proposed a much bolder plan than small cuts to joint military exercises. He wanted, he announced, to completely withdraw U.S. forces from the Korean peninsula over the course of 10 years. Granted, Bush made that proposal under duress after rushing to New Mexico when his campaign learned that Libertarian Michael Badnarik was polling at 5% in the state, that Democrat John Kerry had scheduled a speech of his own there, and that New Mexico's electoral votes might hang in the balance. He needed an olive branch to the growing anti-war movement, and quickly dropped the plan once he was re-elected. But it was a good idea then, and it's a great idea now. American taxpayers have been throwing blood and treasure at South Korea for most of a century, even as it has become an economic powerhouse that competes with U.S. producers, and that commitment also feeds into U.S. entanglement in every regional argument involving not just the Koreans, but China, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, etc. It's a raw deal for America. South Korea possesses abundant means to provide for its own defense, especially since Kim Jong-Un certainly understands that even success at military conquest of a population twice the size of the one he already rules would eventually bring his own regime down. I hope that Trump will continue on, and accelerate ambitiously along, this course. The U.S. armed forces should stand down in South Korea. Whether the South Korean regime stands up in their place, and if so in what ways, isn't a matter for the U.S. regime to decide. Bring the troops home.

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

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What to watch

TUESDAY

August 25, 2026

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

‘Food Network’s Top 10’ Marathon

Food Network, 8 a.m.

Enjoy a three-episode marathon of this countdown series beginning with “Burgers,” where a roster of Food Network chefs, including Jeff Mauro, Amanda Freitag and Michael Voltaggio, count down 10 of America’s most iconic patties, from a no-frills classic served up in a New York City tavern to a Latin-inspired smash burger in Miami. Following is “Sweets,” where chefs like Duff Goldman, Yolanda Gampp and Amanda Freitag bring serious pastry firepower and zero apologies for their sugar-fueled passion as they count down the 10 most indulgent, jaw-dropping, sinfully delicious sweets in America. The morning marathon concludes with “Pizza.” In this episode, chefs like Antonia Lofaso and Andrew Zimmern rank 10 of America’s most crave-worthy pies. Expect hot takes, expert insight and passionate opinions on what makes a truly great pizza, from wood-fired classics to a square Detroit-style pie.



Jeopardy! Masters

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The fourth annual *Jeopardy! Masters* tournament has elite players Yogesh Raut, Juveria Zaheer, Victoria Groce, Paolo Pasco, Andrew He and Long Nguyen facing off for the \$500,000 grand prize. Ken Jennings hosts.

Kitchen Nightmares

FOX, 8 p.m.

Gordon Ramsay finds Italian restaurant Café Notte on the verge of collapse. Ramsay steps in to help with unresolved tension between the head chef and his stepson before it destroys both the business and their family.

Beat Shazam

FOX, 9 p.m.

Yoga besties and forensic scientists challenge a team of *Beat Shazam* superfans who have auditioned every season in the new episode “8th Time’s a Charm!” Jamie Foxx hosts with cohost and deejay Corinne Foxx.

American Masters

PBS, 9 p.m.

Shaped by a solitary childhood and rising literary fame, Mary Oliver published more than 30 collections of poetry and essays on nature, beauty and the journey toward love. In “Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World,” notable voices like Stephen Colbert, Oprah Winfrey, Steve Buscemi, Lucy Dacus and others share how Oliver’s work resonates today.

1,000-Lb. Roomies

TLC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The new season finds best friends and roommates Jaz and Nesha navigating life’s highs and lows while continuing their health journeys. As Jaz focuses on regaining her independence and taking important steps forward in her recovery, an exciting new romantic connection has her wondering whether love may finally be on the horizon. Meanwhile, Nesha pursues new opportunities, including launching her event planning business, hosting a speed-dating event and confronting the lasting impact of growing up in a religious cult.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

Troy (2004, Adventure) Brad Pitt, Eric Bana **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

Goodfellas (1990, Crime drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta **AMC, 7 p.m.**

A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Bad Boys: Ride or Die (2024, Action) Will Smith, Martin Lawrence **FX, 8 p.m.**

Poetic Justice (1993, Romance-comedy) Janet Jackson, Tupac Shakur **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Inside Out (2015, Children) Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith **Freeform, 9 p.m.**

Jurassic World (2015, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **TNT, 9 p.m.**

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

Switched Before Birth (2021, Drama) Skyler Samuels, Bo Yekely **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Baby Boy (2001, Drama) Tyrese Gibson, Omar Gooding **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

The Housemaid (2025, Suspense) Sydney Sweeney, Amanda Seyfried **Starz, 10:55 p.m.**

Kong: Skull Island (2017, Adventure) Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson **TNT, 11:30 p.m.**

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

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Bonita Granville

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Bonita Granville makes her Summer Under the Stars debut with a day that looks back at her years as one of Hollywood’s busiest young actresses. Granville appeared on-stage as a young child before making her movie debut at age 9 in 1932’s *Westward Passage*. Early on, she tended to get roles as a troublesome child, as evidenced in **The Beloved Brat** (1938), which is part of the evening lineup, as well as **These Three** (1936), William Wyler’s drama based on Lillian Hellman’s play **The Children’s Hour**,



WARNER BROS.

with Granville as the schoolgirl whose lie causes devastating consequences. The day also features several entries from her best-known role in the Nancy Drew franchise, including 1938’s **Nancy Drew... Detective (pictured)**, **Nancy Drew... Reporter** (1939), **Nancy Drew... Trouble Shooter** (1939) and **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (1939).

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What to watch

WEDNESDAY

August 26, 2026

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

The Simpsons

Disney+

In “Yellow Mirror,” the Simpsons struggle to find the light through two dark tales of the curious and bizarre in this Disney+ exclusive episode. A defective lamp reveals a heartbreaking truth about what Homer (voice of Dan Castellaneta) believes is reality, and an AI-powered tablet befriends and controls Maggie.

Miss Teen USA

The CW, 8 p.m. Live

The Ziff Ballet Opera House at the renowned Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami brings 51 of America’s most accomplished young women — representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia — to compete for the title of Miss Teen USA. The winner will represent the USA in the international Miss Teen Universe competition in Cambodia in late October.

MasterChef

FOX, 8 p.m.

The top six home cooks are split into teams to put their skills to the ultimate test and take over Cluny Bistro for a packed dinner service in the new episode “Restaurant Take-over.”



JESSICA KOURKOUNIS, HGTV

Nation’s Dumbest

FOX, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “The Science Fair,” bonds are tested as the remaining five celebrities battle science — and each other — with explosive results. Jack Whitehall hosts.

Totally ’90s House

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

This six-episode renovation competition series is hosted by Jaleel White (*Family Matters*), and will pit Brian Austin Green (*Beverly Hills, 90210*), Beverley Mitchell (*7th Heaven*) and Jodie Sweetin (*Full House*) against Melissa Joan Hart (*Sabrina the Teenage Witch*), Matthew Lawrence (*Boy Meets World*) and Keshia Knight Pulliam (*The Cosby Show*), with help from Matthew’s brother Joey Lawrence (*Blossom*). Their challenge is to work with HGTV

designers to modernize houses stuck in the 1990s while preserving their nostalgic charm. In addition to bragging rights, the winners will also receive \$25,000 for their chosen charity.

Resolve to Solve With Miles O’Brien

PBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode “Weathering Change Through Wind and Heat,” journalist Miles O’Brien shares how researchers are developing new ways to protect people from increasingly dangerous extreme heat in places like Australia and Arizona. O’Brien then travels to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where a former whaling port is reinventing itself as an offshore wind hub in the face of political opposition, regulatory headwinds and tension with the fishing community.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

laborations, including **Vertigo** (1958), 1954’s **Rear Window (pictured)** and **Rope** (1948), films that pushed his screen persona into obsession and psychological unease.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



WARNER BROS.

Thor: Ragnarok (2017, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston **FX, 6 p.m.**

Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Musical comedy) Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson **Freeform, 7:30 p.m.**

Deadly Debutante (2021, Suspense) Angelina Boris, Natalia De Mendoza **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Love Finds You (2026, Romance) Aimee Teegarden, Chris McNally **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Outbreak (1995, Suspense) Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Risky Business (1983, Comedy) Tom Cruise, Rebecca De Mornay **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Miss Congeniality (2000, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine **Paramount, 8:30 p.m.**

Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis **SHO, 9:40 p.m.**

Pretty Hurts (2025, Drama) Haylie Duff, Sarah Borne **LMN, 10 p.m.**

The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009, Action) Denzel Washington, John Travolta **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

I, Robot (2004, Science fiction) Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan **AMC, 11 p.m.**

Knock at the Cabin (2023, Suspense) Dave Bautista, Jonathan Groff **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

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

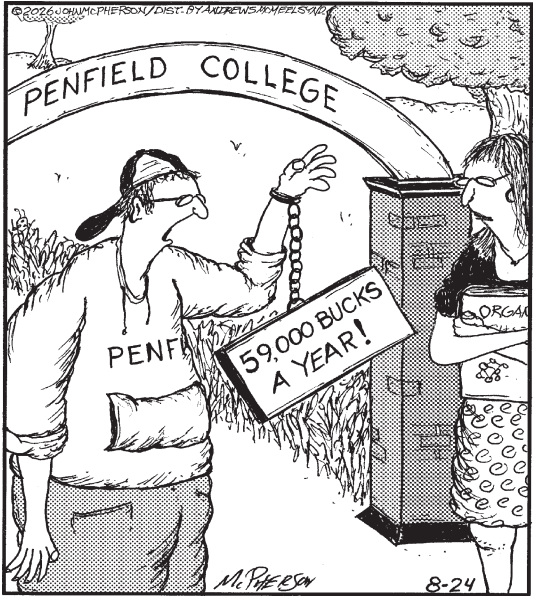
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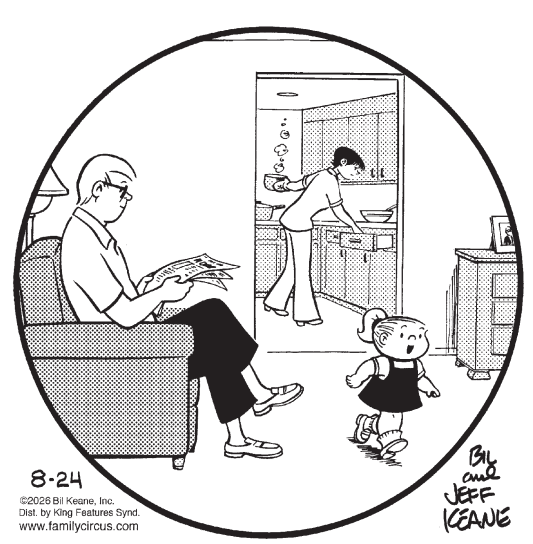
TV - What to watch

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



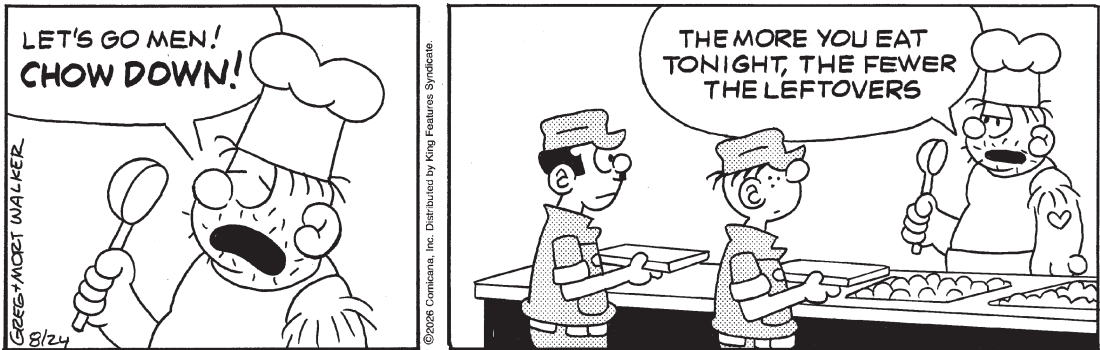
“My dad is making me wear this until I get my GPA above 2.5.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



“Mommy says dinner will be ready in 20 minutes if I help her, 10 minutes if I don’t.”

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



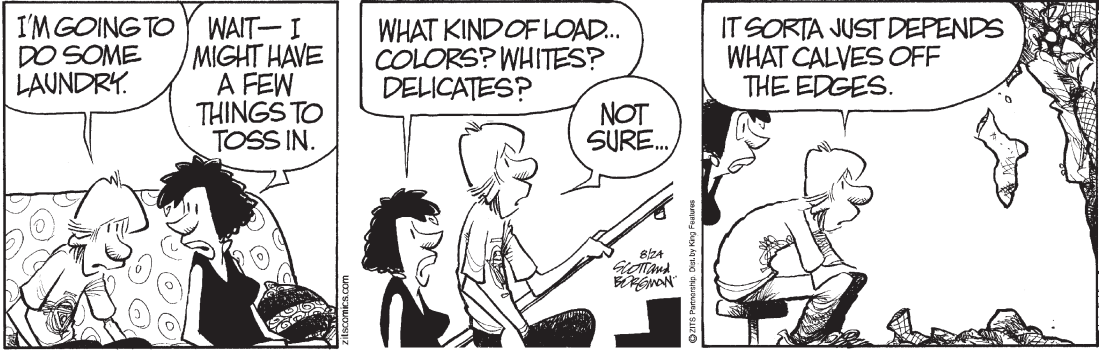
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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: Man-about-town

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 “Dancing Queen” pop group
 - 5 “Wish I was there!” anxiety, for short
 - 9 Department store chain headquartered in New York’s Herald Square
 - 14 Crystal ball gazer
 - 15 Not of the clergy
 - 16 Anticipate
 - 17 Fix for torn jeans, perhaps
 - 19 Dried beef snack
 - 20 Small brawl
 - 21 “Copperhead Road” singer Steve
 - 23 Near-failing grade
 - 24 Foil-wrapped chocolate drop
 - 27 Election season event
 - 30 Driver’s approx.
 - 31 Mined find
 - 32 Cartoon explorer with a talking backpack
 - 36 “No big deal”
 - 40 Gets a single, double, triple, and home run in one game
 - 44 Hay fever sound
 - 45 Unwelcome campground visitor
 - 46 Do some sums
 - 47 Angeles Sparks
 - 49 Loves a bunch
 - 52 Accept unintended consequences
 - 58 Abbreviation on a toothpaste box
 - 59 Mexican coins
 - 60 Many a Chopin piano piece
 - 64 Phi Beta
 - 66 Ideal partners, and what can be found at the ends of 17-, 24-, 40-, and 52-Across?
 - 68 Everglades wader
 - 69 Jai ___: fast-moving court game
 - 70 Competes (for)
 - 71 Get to, as a destination
 - 72 Ivy League school in New Haven
 - 73 Baby-voiced red Muppet
- DOWN**
- 1 Inquires
 - 2 “Molto ___”: “Very good,” in Italian
 - 3 Red root vegetable
 - 4 “Respect” singer Franklin
 - 5 St. Pete’s st.
 - 6 Hall’s Rock & Roll Hall of Fame partner
 - 7 Old Testament book after Jonah
 - 8 Autumn colour
 - 9 Magnificent
 - 10 Bowl over
 - 11 Rapper ___ B
 - 12 “Yowza!”
 - 13 Eyelid sores
 - 18 Ode writer
 - 22 Caustic chemical
 - 25 Upgrade, as decor
 - 26 “Teenage Dream” singer Perry
 - 27 Capital of Qatar
 - 28 “The Little Mermaid” prince
 - 29 “Little Women” sister of Meg, Jo, and Amy
 - 33 Poetic sphere
 - 34 Numbered hwy.
 - 35 “Eureka!”
 - 37 Injury reminder
 - 38 Merrie ___ England
 - 39 Sneaker brand since 1916
 - 41 One and only
 - 42 Walking trail
 - 43 Timeline units
 - 48 That lady
 - 50 Day, in Latin
 - 51 Eight-note interval
 - 52 Fraud
 - 53 Pithy bit of wisdom
 - 54 “It’s a Wonderful Life” director Frank
 - 55 Writing class assignment
 - 56 Simoleons
 - 57 Typical
 - 61 Gas or elec.
 - 62 Consider to be
 - 63 Gas brand in Canada
 - 65 Chest muscle, for short
 - 67 Fib

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

O	W	T	E		E	T	V	A		H	O	V	E	R
S	E	I	A		I	V	T	V		L	E	R	G	E
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E	D	N	L	E		S	O	S	E	d		v	d	v
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O	D	V				H	V	E	B		O	O	H	O
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S	A	O	V	M		O	W	O	F		V	E	B	V

08/24/26

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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27	28	29							30					
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58					59					60		61	62	63
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68								69			70			
71						72					73			

By Janice Luttrell
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08/24/26

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

‘F1’ (2025 FILM) Solution: 7 letters

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

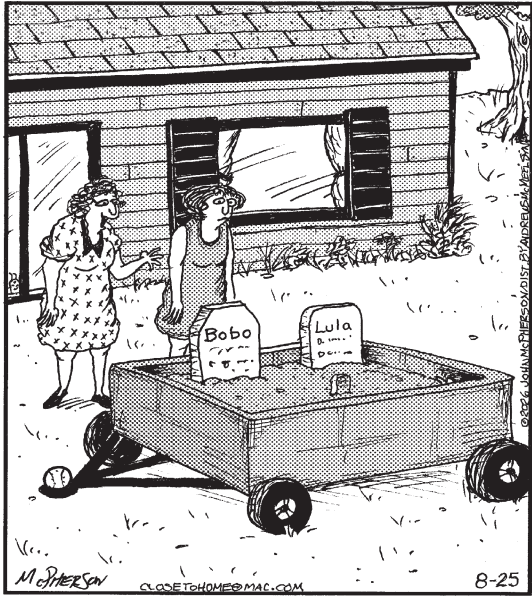
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8/24

Action, APXGP, Bardem, Bernadette, Best, Brad, Bruckheimer, Cash, Condon, Crash, Crew, Damson, Dodge, Ehren, Fazio, Film, Formula One, Great, Hart, Hayes, Idris, IMAX, Javier, Jerry, Joseph, Joshua, Kaspar, Kate, Kayo, Kerry, Kosinski, Kruger, Lotus, Luca, Movie, Niles, Perez, Peter, Pitt, Press, Racing, Rico, Rock, Rose, Ruben, Salis, Sarah, Show, Sonny, Speed, Team, Tobias

TODAY'S ANSWER: Driving

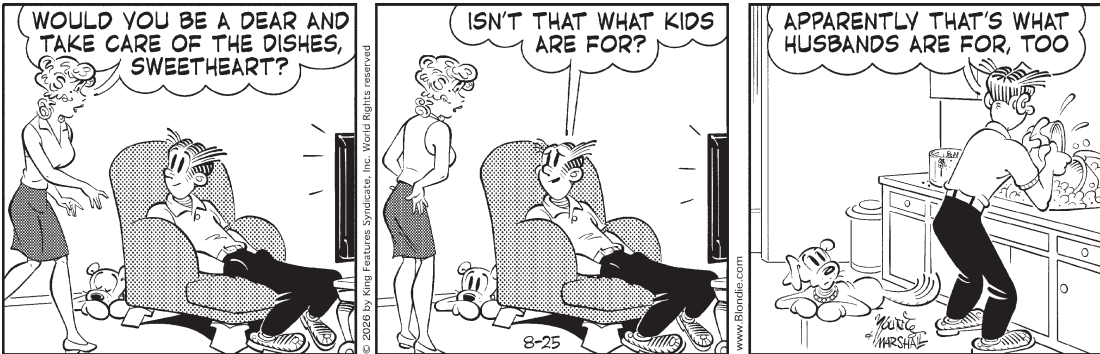
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



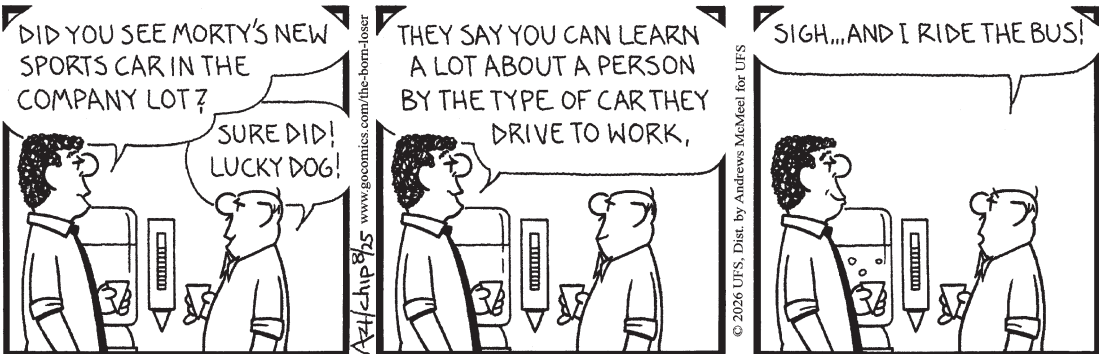
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



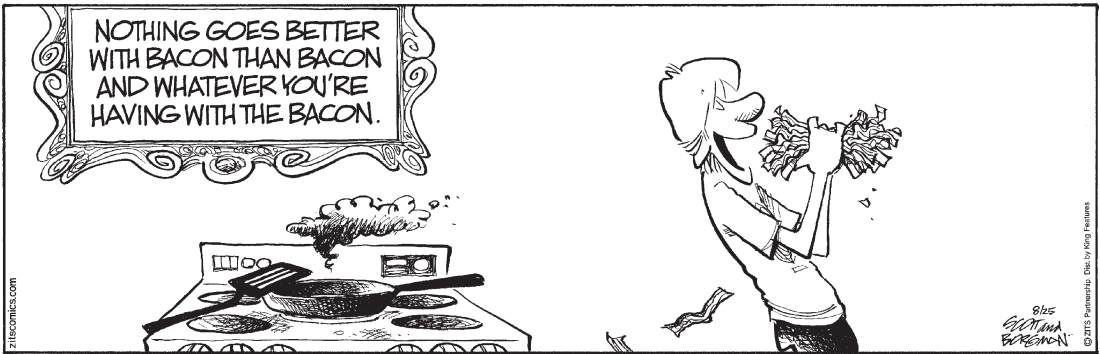
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

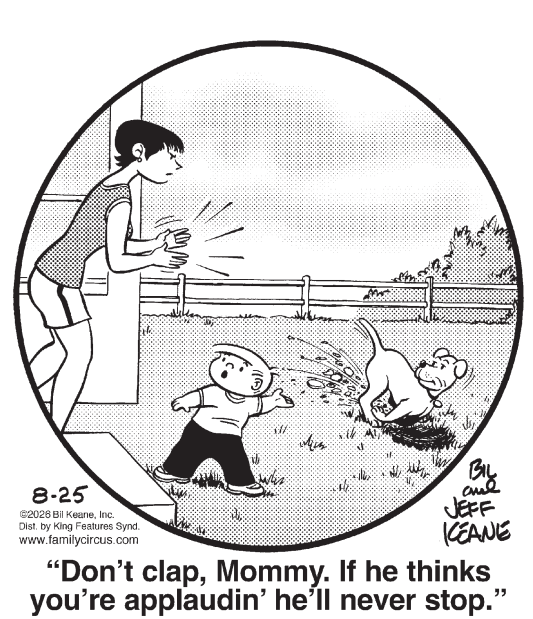


SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

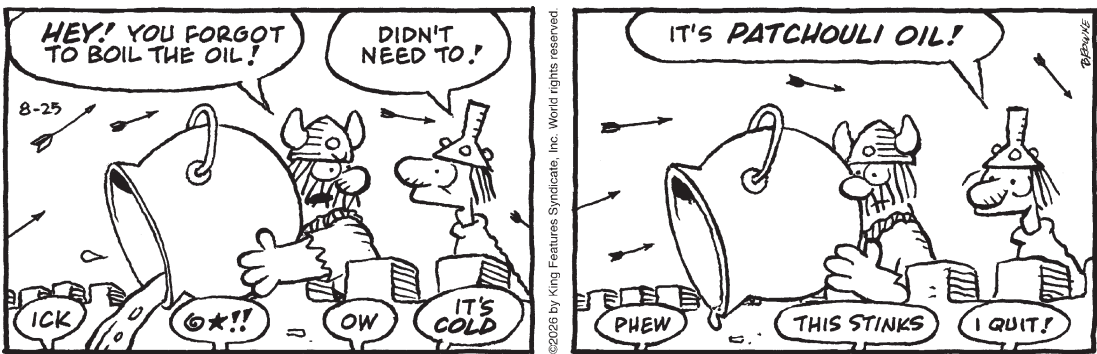
- ACROSS**
- 1 Speedometer stat
4 Museum contents
7 Huck's transport
11 Writer — Levin
12 Reveal
14 Diva's song
15 Felt hat with a tassel
16 Fly alone
17 Formal dance
18 Eat and eat
20 Measure of loudness
22 Gun grp.
23 Craze
24 Short swim
26 Bakery item
27 Sewing aid
30 Crystal-filled rock
32 Ancient
33 Expert
34 Flightless bird
- DOWN**
- 1 Offend
2 Primp
3 Involving risk
4 Helper (Abbr.)
5 Letter before sigma
6 Spilled the beans
7 Fanatical
- 35 B'way marquee notice
37 Performing group
39 Snaky shape
40 Sunbather's goal
41 Furrow
42 Sawbuck
43 "So long!"
45 Branch off
49 Truths
51 Death notice
52 Wicked
54 Cry of discovery
55 Venus de —
56 Town in Nevada
57 Barrel
58 "East of —"
59 Compass dir.
60 Before

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

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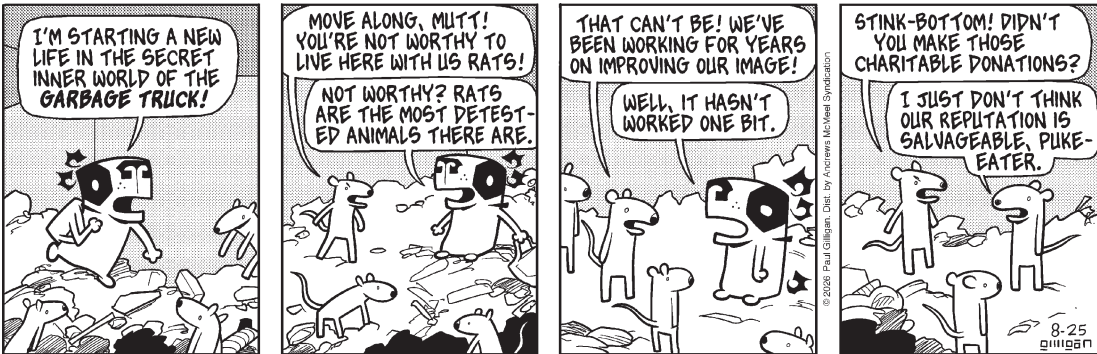
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

SALVER TRAYS

Solution: 7 letters

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

Bowl, Brass, Café, Cake, Card, Carry, Centerpiece, Coffee, Copper, Cups, Design, Dining, Dish, Embroidery, Engraved, Flat, Food, Fruit, Gift, Gold, Handle, Heavy, Heirloom, Hold, Large, Luxury, Metal, Mirror, Nickel, Noble, Oval, Owner, Plate, Platter, Polish, Queen, Reflect, Round, Rustic, Shallow, Shape, Silver, Size, Smooth, Solid, Square, Table, Teapot, Trophy

TODAY'S ANSWER: Antique



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Art

Art campers at the Albany Museum of Art got a chance to meet artist Vitus Shell on June 5 and ask him questions about his work. Shell’s exhibition, “Power of Sight,” is one of the five summer exhibitions that will close on Aug. 29.

Albany Museum of Art summer exhibits enter final days

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The summer exhibitions at the Albany Museum of Art are in their final two weeks. The last day to view the five exhibitions, which include “Vitus Shell: Power of Sight,” is Aug. 29.

Two exhibitions focus on Albany’s history: “Sense of Place: Green Book Sites in Albany, GA,” and the multimedia “Moments in the Good Life City: An Oral History of Albany, GA.” Works by the two winning artists in the AMA’s second annual open call for artists are also on view: “The Middle Way,” photography by Rylan Steele of Columbus, and “The House of Birds,” works by Jessica Ambadipudi of Leesburg.

“Vitus Shell: Power of Sight” in the Haley Gallery is the first solo presentation in Georgia for the Louisiana artist. The “Gold Everything Series” is portraits shrouded in and surrounded by classic golden motifs and filigree, as in historic European portraiture. Shell questions the perception of a subject in portraiture and has historical resonance by bringing black culture and experiences to the forefront.

“Sense of Place” in the East Gallery connects Albany’s history with visual art, highlighting Albany locations listed in “The Negro Motorist Green Book” from 1937 to 1945. Named for its author, Victor Hugo Green, the Green Book aided black travelers by listing safe places, including gas stations, restaurants, rest stops, hotels, and homes, where tourists could stay.

During those years, Aurelia Bentley, Lula Davis, Virginia Ross, and Callie Washington opened their homes to travelers for lodging and refuge. While the homes no longer exist or have the same function, community leader and photographer Adrian Jenkins photographed the Albany locations for the exhibition.

“Moments in the Good Life City” presents an oral history through a partnership between the Albany Museum

of Art and the South Georgia Archives at the Thronateeska Heritage Center. Billye Sands, of BillyAY Films, filmed the interviews with Patricia Chatmon Perryman, Pamela Chatmon Washington, Michael Harper, Angelia Gibson Jones and Adrian Jenkins. Those interviews are presented on-screen in the Hodges Gallery, and the recordings will be permanently housed in the South Georgia Archives.

Exhibitions in the McCormack and West Galleries were selected for their respective solo exhibitions in the AMA’s second annual call for artists.

Ambadipudi’s work in “The Home of Birds” is on view in the West Gallery. A native of India, she began in animation before transitioning into illustration and visual storytelling. Her move to the U.S. to pursue an MFA at the Savannah College of Art and Design led her to address homesickness and what home really is through the symbolism of stars and birds, the latter migratory creatures that create homes wherever they go.

Steele’s work is on view in “The Middle Way” in the McCormack Gallery. A photographer and associate professor of photography at Columbus State University, Steele was inspired after rereading “To Kill a Mockingbird” to tell the story of childhood and the pivotal parts of growing up by photographing his son, Owen, over the past nine years, showing his evolution from a child to a teenager. Steele and Owen are collaborators in this body of work, with the documentation of the series constructed from their conversations.

Last month, the AMA issued its 3rd annual call for artists working in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to submit proposals for a juried solo exhibition at the museum in summer 2027.

AMA is at 311 Meadowlark Drive. Galleries are open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is free for everyone.

Phoebe Foundation seeks annual Lights of Love donations to honor loved ones

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Officials with the Phoebe Putney Health System Foundation remind the public that life has a way of reminding us what truly matters.

It’s not the big things the count most, it’s the quiet, everyday moments: time together, laughter, being present.

This month, the foundation invites southwest Georgians to

reflect on what matters most and give in honor of the moments and the people they hold closest. Support for the annual Lights of Love event helps provide compassionate oncology care at Phoebe for patients and families who need it most.

Supporters are asked to give to the annual program because right now matters more than we think.



Special Illustration: Phoebe

The Phoebe Foundation is asking for support of its Lights of Love event.

Dougherty County Commissioner Clinton Johnson appointed chairman of Georgia DCA Board

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Dougherty County District 3 Commissioner Clinton Johnson has been appointed chairman of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Board for the 2026-27 term.

In this statewide leadership role, Johnson will help guide the board’s work supporting economic development, housing and programs designed to strengthen communities throughout Georgia.

Gov. Brian Kemp appointed Johnson to the DCA Board of Directors in July 2021 to represent Georgia’s 2nd Congressional District. His appointment as chairman reflects his continued service to the board and his extensive leadership experience in county govern-

ment, community development and public policy.

“I am honored and humbled to be entrusted with this responsibility,” Johnson said. “The Department of Community Affairs plays a vital role in helping Georgia’s communities create opportunities, expand access to quality housing and build strong foundations for the future.

“I look forward to working with my fellow board members and DCA leadership to advance practical solutions that serve all Georgians while ensuring the voices and needs of southwest Georgia remain

part of the conversation.”

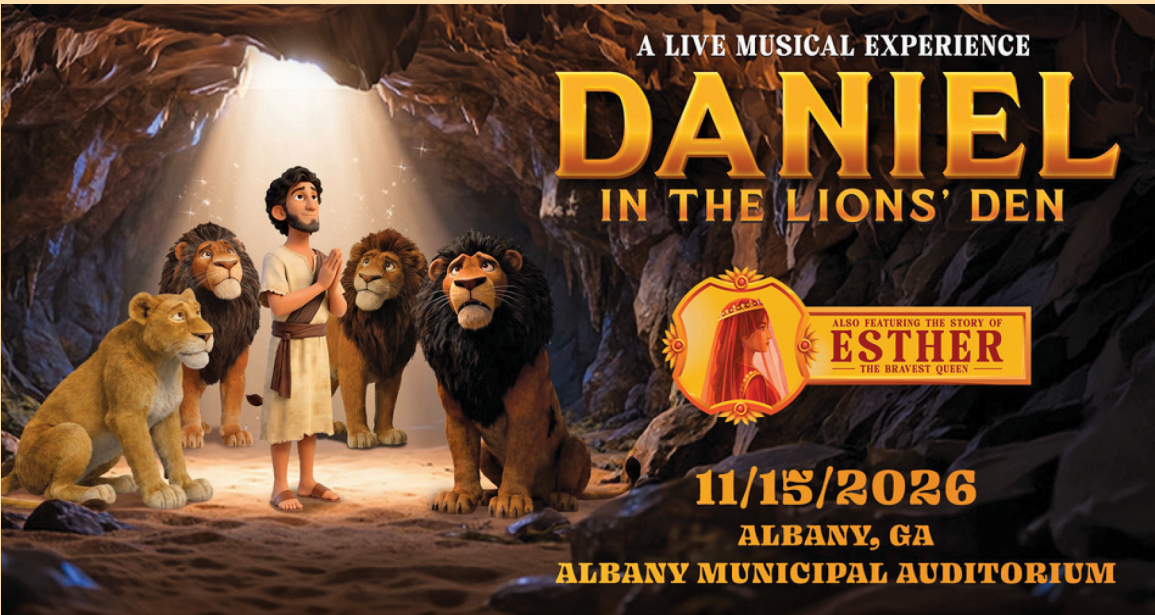
Johnson has represented District 3 on the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners since 2013 and is currently serving his fourth term. He also serves as immediate past president and a member of the Executive Committee of ACCG — Advancing Georgia’s Counties. As ACCG’s 2025-26 president, Johnson provided statewide leadership on issues affecting Georgia’s 159 counties and worked to strengthen collaboration among county officials and governmental partners.

On Aug. 6, National Asso-



CLINTON JOHNSON

Albany performance scheduled for musical ‘Daniel and the Lions’ Den’



Special Illustration

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The live musical production “Daniel and the Lions’ Den” comes to

the Albany Municipal Auditorium on Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. This world-premiere Originals Live production brings two of the Bible’s most daring stories of faith — Daniel and Esther — to life through

immersive theatrical storytelling, an engaging cast and soaring original music.

Designed specifically for families, the high-energy production follows Daniel as he faces a treacherous plot that leads him into the lions’ den, while “Esther: The Bravest Queen in the Kingdom” tells the story of a humble young woman who finds the courage to stand against evil and save her people.

Filled with adventure, humor, heart

and timeless messages of faith and courage, “Daniel and the Lions’ Den” offers an unforgettable live theater experience for audiences of all ages, production officials said.

Tickets are available and can be purchased online through Ticketmaster and in person at the Georgia’s Own Credit Union Box Office at the Albany Civic Center, which is open Monday–Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Georgia DOT awards 31 contracts worth \$100.7 million for July

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded a total of 31 projects valued at approximately \$100.7 million at the monthly State Transportation Board meeting held in July. Contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidders on July 31.

The largest single investment safety project, valued at approximately \$16.1 million, proposes intersection improvements at various locations on U.S. Highway 278/State Route (SR) 6 (Thornton Road) in Douglas County. The project also includes construction of a bridge and approaches over Sweet Water Creek. This

contract and 10 other safety projects total approximately \$37.1 million and represent 37% of the total funds awarded.

The largest single investment resurfacing project, valued at approximately \$4.9 million, proposes 7.05 miles of milling, inlay, and plant mix resurfacing on SR 2 beginning east of SR 515/SR 17 and extending over the Hiawassee River in Towns County. This contract and 12 other resurfacing projects total approximately \$32.3 million and represent 32% of the total funds awarded.

The largest single investment construction project, valued at approximately \$10.2 million, proposes 0.35 mile of construction on McCaysville Bypass beginning at

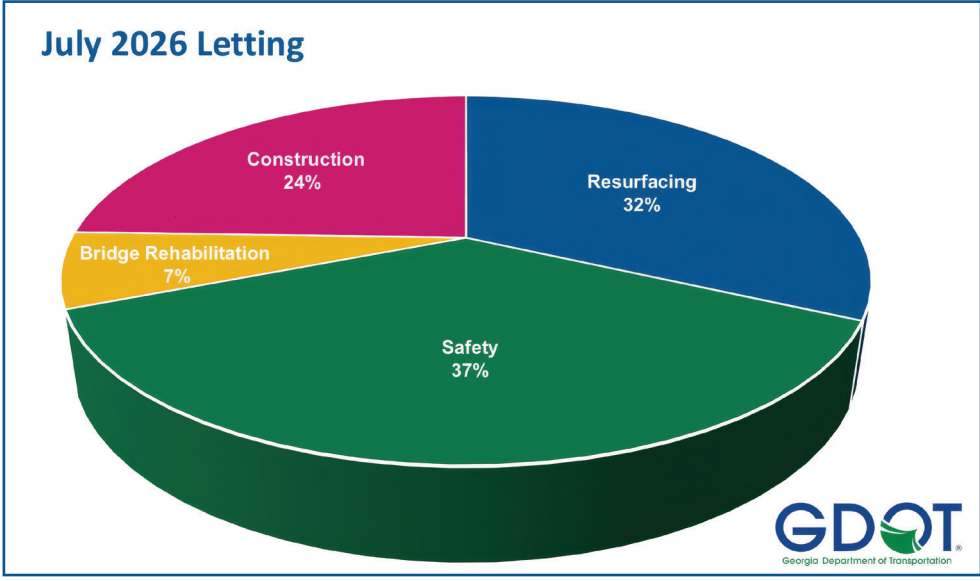
the SR 5 Connector and extending to the Tennessee state line in Fannin County. This contract and four other construction projects total approximately \$24.7 million and represent 24% of the total funds awarded.

The largest single investment bridge rehabilitation contract, valued at approximately \$5.9 million, proposes bridge rehabilitation at various locations in DeKalb County. This contract and one other bridge rehabilitation project total approximately \$6.7 million and represent the remaining 7% of the total funds awarded.

Three Supplemental Award announcements occurred, all from June, one awarded July 22, one awarded July 30, and the final one awarded on July 31. The supplemental agreements include previously deferred projects that have now been awarded. Contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidders.

The July awards bring the total construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2027, which began on July 1, to approximately \$162.2 million. This total includes TIA, Design-Bid-Build, and locally administered projects. Fiscal Year 2027 will conclude in June.

Contractors and consultants, including disadvantaged business enterprises, registered small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses interested in bidding on projects or performing work must prequalify with Georgia DOT. To learn more, visit <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/DBE.aspx>.



The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded a total of 31 projects valued at approximately \$100.7 million in July.

Special Graphic: Georgia DOT



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Lee County's Champ Brown took the opening kickoff inside the Hapeville 20-yard line Saturday night in Leesburg, but his run was called back because of a penalty. It didn't matter much; the Trojans scored four plays later and rolled to a 51-0 win.

Worth the wait: Lee County rolls

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — After waiting more than 24 hours to play football, Lee County needed all of four plays to score. That pretty much told the story of the night. With lightning still flashing across the southern sky beyond Trojan Stadium, the No. 3-ranked Trojans finally kicked off their season Saturday night and promptly dismantled No. 8 Hapeville Charter 51-0. The game was postponed Friday because of severe weather, then delayed another hour by lightning Saturday. Once they finally turned them loose, the Trojans didn't waste any more time. Sophomore Champ Brown

returned the opening kickoff inside the Hapeville 20, but a penalty pushed Lee County back to its own 34. No problem. Transfer quarterback Cohen Lawson connected with Texas A&M commitment Jaden Upshaw for a big gain to the Hapeville 37. Two running plays went nowhere before Lawson found junior Destin Bell behind the defense for a 41-yard touchdown. Four plays. Sixty-six yards. And Lee County was just getting started. After the defense forced a three-and-out, the Trojans marched 76 yards, with senior Jordyn Bush finishing the drive on a 12-yard touchdown run. Lawson hit Upshaw for the two-point conversion to make it 15-0.

Hapeville then failed on fourth down at its own 36, and Lee County quickly took advantage. Lawson eventually found Upshaw for a 16-yard touchdown before connecting with Amari Weston for the two-point conversion. It was 23-0, and the rout was on. Lawson looked comfortable in his first start, completing 14 of 16 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns. Upshaw was his favorite target, catching nine passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns. But Lee County was hardly dependent on the passing game. Bush rushed 10 times for 113 yards and two touchdowns, while Dominique Ball added 93 yards on 15 carries. The defense took care of the

rest, keeping Hapeville off the scoreboard as a matchup between two ranked teams — Lee County is No. 3 in Class 6A and Hapeville No. 8 in Class 3A — turned into a one-sided affair. Former Lee County quarterback Weston Bryan, now at Georgia Southern, was among those watching from the Trojans' sideline. Lee County won't have long to enjoy the victory. The Trojans return to Trojan Stadium Friday night to host Carol City of Miami. The Chiefs opened their season with a 38-3 victory Friday night. After waiting an extra day to begin the season, Lee County is 1-0. And the Trojans didn't leave much doubt about it.

Ward's pick-six wins wild one for Westwood

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

CAMILLA — First, there were no referees. Then there were too many tempers. And by the end, there was almost no defense. Somehow, Westwood found a way to win it. Ben Ward intercepted a Baker County pass late in a 40-40 game and raced 65 yards for the winning touchdown Thursday night, giving the Wildcats a wild 48-40 victory over their nearby rival. It was a dramatic finish to an eight-man football game between two schools separated by less than 10 miles — and a night that was unusual before the football even started. The opening kickoff was delayed about an hour when the officiating crew failed to arrive. The crew apparently believed the game was scheduled for Friday rather than Thursday. Once the officials arrived and



Staff photo: Joe Whitfield

Westwood quarterback Ben Ward goes toward the end zone during Thursday night's game against Baker County.

the game finally began, things got heated almost immediately. Westwood received the opening kickoff but couldn't move the ball and punted. Baker County took over and quickly broke off a run of 30 yards before a Westwood defender delivered a hard hit along the Bears' sideline. Several Baker County players rushed into the confrontation, and a brief melee followed. After a lengthy discussion, officials assessed penalties against both teams before

play resumed. The emotions hadn't settled. Moments later, Baker County senior quarterback Taylor Sanders found Ronnie Williams along the sideline. Williams broke several tackles and raced into the end zone on what appeared to be a touchdown of more than 50 yards. It didn't count. Another altercation broke out on the opposite sideline, and two Baker County players were ejected. A penalty erased the touchdown.

Baker County then lost another player to an injury on its next possession. For a small eight-man roster, losing three starters in the opening quarter was significant. Neither offense had much success early, but the Bears eventually gave Westwood the opportunity it needed. Baker County went for it on fourth down deep in its own territory, but the pass fell incomplete and gave the

See **WESTWOOD**, 10A

Albany State football: Building bonds off the field

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — On Saturdays this fall, Okevion Suggs will do his work in the trenches. Sunday morning, the Albany State freshman offensive lineman stood somewhere entirely different. Behind a pulpit. Suggs delivered the message at Shiloh Baptist Church, and when he looked into the congregation, some familiar faces were looking back. His new teammates. Several Albany State football players attended the service. Some did more than attend. They joined the choir. There were no blocking assignments to learn, no weights to lift and no opponent to prepare for. But in David Bowser's mind, what was happening inside that church had something to do with football. Albany State's new head coach has spent much of his first summer trying to answer one of the most important questions facing his program. How do you quickly turn a roster filled with transfers, freshmen and players from different backgrounds into a team? Bowser doesn't have long to figure it out. Albany State opens Aug. 29 at Florida A&M against former Golden Rams coach Quinn Gray and former ASU quarterback Isaiah Knowles. A week later, the Golden Rams travel to Canton, Ohio, to face Johnson C. Smith — the program Bowser left to become Albany State's head

coach — in the Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic. "An effort to get closer and get ready for hostile environments," Bowser said. "The first two games are going to be really tough." That's why some of the most important work Bowser believes his team has done this summer hasn't involved a football. About 90 Golden Rams participated in summer workouts, giving a roster with so many newcomers a valuable head start. Instead of transfers and freshmen arriving for preseason camp as strangers, they had already spent weeks sweating together, competing together and learning about one another. The effort hasn't stopped when workouts ended. Westover High School principal William Chunn, an Albany State alumnus, has spent time with the team. Dougherty County Sheriff Terron Hayes has also spoken to the Golden Rams as part of an effort to introduce newcomers to the community they now represent. Bowser has taken that idea beyond the football program. Albany State has adopted nine local elementary schools through the Love Your Community initiative. Players and a coach were assigned to each school, and Golden Rams were there to greet children when they arrived for the beginning of the school year. It wasn't designed as a one-day appearance. Players are expected to return throughout the school year for reading days, field events and



Special Photo: Submitted

Westover principal William Chunn speaks to the Albany State football team as part of the effort to welcome the new team members to the city. Chunn is an ASU alumnus.

See **ASU**, 10A

UGA sets NCAA soccer attendance record

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

THENS — Georgia soccer didn't just make a little history Thursday night. The Bulldogs shattered an NCAA attendance record — and then gave the record crowd plenty to celebrate. An announced crowd of 25,433 packed Sanford Stadium to watch Georgia roll past James Madison 6-0, establishing a new NCAA Division I attendance record for a soccer match. The crowd obliterated the previous Division I women's record of 14,410, set in 1999, and also surpassed the men's record of 22,512 that had stood since 1980.

"This was a major win for the University of Georgia, it was a major win for our program, it was a major win for collegiate soccer," Georgia coach Keidane McAlpine said. It was also the Bulldogs' first victory of the season, and they made sure the historic crowd didn't have to wait long for something to cheer about. Sophomore Mya Townes scored in the eighth minute, slipping a left-footed shot past the James Madison goalkeeper to give Georgia a 1-0 lead. The goal carried some extra meaning for Townes. Both of her parents attended



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia sophomore Hailey Gordon controls the ball during Thursday night's 6-0 victory over James Madison at Sanford Stadium. Gordon recorded an assist as the Bulldogs won in front of an NCAA-record crowd of 25,433.

See **SOCCER**, 10A

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Softball roundup: Terrell Academy rolls; Lee County sweeps region doubleheader

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

CAMILLA — Terrell Academy didn’t take long to put Thursday afternoon’s game out of reach.

The Lady Eagles sent 14 batters to the plate and scored 10 runs in the first inning, then added seven more in the second on the way to a 17-2, three-inning victory over Westwood on a scorching August afternoon.

Lily Addison helped start the offensive avalanche and later added to it, finishing with two hits and three RBIs as Terrell Academy improved to 5-2.

“We did a good job of putting the pressure on them to make plays,” Terrell Academy coach Ashley Walker said. “We did a good job with capitalizing on some mistakes and were able to put up some runs early.”

The Lady Eagles combined four hits with four walks and three Westwood errors during the 10-run first.

Addison singled home the game’s first run before Jaelynn

Oliver and Kacy Sheffield added RBI singles. Caroline Presley drove in two runs with another single, and Addison came to the plate for the second time in the inning and delivered a two-run double to right.

Terrell Academy didn’t slow down in the second.

Sheffield drove in another run before Hadley Webb and Oliver each delivered two-run singles as the Lady Eagles scored seven more.

Addison, Oliver and Sheffield each finished with two hits. Addison and Oliver drove in three runs apiece, while Terrell Academy collected nine hits and drew nine walks.

The big lead also allowed Walker to spread playing time throughout her roster.

“It was a good game to get some different girls time on the field and get some game time and game speed reps,” Walker said.

Presley pitched all three innings, allowing two runs on four hits while striking out seven and walking none.

Terrell Academy hosts hosts Westwood Thursday



Staff Photo: Joe Whiffield

Terrell Academy’s Lily Addison had two hits in the first inning Thursday, knocking in three runs, as the Lady Eagles scored 10 times in the first inning and beat the Lady Cats of Westwood, 17-2.

in Dawson.

Lee County stays hot with sweep

THOMASVILLE — One dramatic victory over Thomas County Central apparently wasn’t enough for Lee County.

A day after Makinley Duke’s two-run, walk-off double gave the Lady Trojans a 5-4 victory over the Yellow Jackets in Leesburg, Lee County traveled to Thomasville on Thursday and beat Central twice.

The Lady Trojans rolled to an 11-3 victory in the opener

before completing the sweep with a 7-2 win.

Lee County has now won eight consecutive games, improving to 8-1 overall and 3-0 in Region 2-6A.

The Lady Trojans took control of the opener early and eventually put it away behind Kennady Patrick and Porter Butler.

Lee County scored in each of the first two innings and built an 8-1 lead before Patrick launched a solo home run to left in the sixth. Butler

From 9A WESTWOOD

Wildcats possession at the Baker County 18.

Westwood took advantage early in the second quarter.

Ward directed the offense, with Lee Williamson and Thomas Williamson helping the Wildcats move the ball on the ground before Westwood punched in the game’s first touchdown. Ward ran in the conversion to give the Wildcats an 8-0 lead.

Baker County responded late in the half.

Sanders led the Bears down the field and scored to cut the deficit to 8-6 heading into halftime.

Then a game that had been dominated by defense and penalties suddenly became a shootout.

After combining for only 14 points in the first half, Westwood and Baker County traded touchdowns throughout

the second half.

With 1:16 remaining, the Wildcats held a 40-34 lead and appeared close to putting the game away.

The Bears had one more answer.

Baker County drove for the tying touchdown, making it 40-40 and putting itself in position to complete the comeback.

Then Ward made the play of the night.

The Westwood quarterback, now lined up in the secondary, stepped in front of a Baker County pass and took the interception the other way, racing approximately 65 yards for the touchdown that finally settled a game that had been unpredictable from the beginning.

Westwood walked away with a 48-40 victory.

The Wildcats travel to Fullington Academy next Friday, while Baker County is scheduled to host Southern Christian of Opelika, Ala., in Newton.

From 9A SOCCER

James Madison, and Townes grew up around the university before choosing to leave home and play at Georgia.

“My dad was like, ‘Who am I going to root for?’” Townes said. “I was like, ‘There’s only one right answer, but I totally understand the confusion there.’”

Townes said scoring in front of the record crowd — and seeing her parents supporting her despite their James Madison ties — made the night even more memorable.

“Just being able to really come out on top and put out a really good performance knowing that I came to the right place for me was something really, really special,” she said.

Townes’ goal was only the beginning.

Honoka Hamano scored off an assist from Emma Pettersen in the 22nd minute, and Ava Stack added another goal in the 34th to send Georgia into halftime with a commanding 3-0 advantage.

The Bulldogs kept attacking after the break.

Hamano scored her second goal of the night off a Grayson Rogers assist to record the first two-goal game of her Georgia career.

Mona Childs made it 5-0 in the 83rd minute, scoring the first goal of her collegiate career off assists from London Crawford and Hailey Gordon. Two minutes later, freshman Leila Avila scored her first collegiate goal to complete the rout.

Georgia had five different players score, with each

recording her first goal of the season. Crawford’s assist was also the first of her college career.

The six goals were Georgia’s most since a 6-0 victory over North Florida on Aug. 28, 2025.

For graduate goalkeeper Jordan Brown, however, the numbers on the scoreboard weren’t the only ones that mattered.

Asked where playing in front of an NCAA-record crowd ranked among the moments of her Georgia career, Brown didn’t hesitate.

“Definitely number one,” she said. “I think it’s so special for us to be able to play in front of our fans and even break the record. We’ve worked so hard in rebuilding the program and also just being ready for the season at this moment.”

Five Bulldogs — Zoe Abegg, Mary Hartofilis, Lola Manuel, Victoria Saah and Kyra Swart — also made their collegiate debuts on a night McAlpine viewed as bigger than one victory.

He credited the university and those behind the scenes for turning the idea of playing at Sanford Stadium into an event that drew more than 25,000 fans.

“This doesn’t happen simply because we had the idea,” McAlpine said. “It happens because everybody involved jumps on two feet and makes it go.”

Georgia returns to its usual home at the Turner Soccer Complex on Sunday to face Milwaukee at noon. The Bulldogs’ nine seniors will be recognized before the Senior Day match, which will be streamed on SEC Network+.

Stockton’s growth stands out in Georgia camp

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Kirby Smart came away from Georgia’s first preseason scrimmage with plenty of things he still wants fixed.

His quarterback wasn’t high on that list.

With the Bulldogs moving closer to their Sept. 5 season opener against Tennessee State, Smart offered perhaps his strongest endorsement yet of fifth-year quarterback Gunner Stockton, praising the veteran’s development while assessing where Georgia stands following its first major scrimmage of fall camp.

Smart said Stockton has “improved immensely,” pointing not only to his ability to throw the football but to the command and confidence he now brings to the position.

The improvement has shown up in Stockton’s ability to process defenses, handle protection responsibilities and operate within the pocket.

It’s the kind of progress Georgia hoped to see from a quarterback who enters the season firmly established as the leader of the Bulldogs’ offense.

While Smart liked what he saw from Stockton, his assessment of the team as a whole was considerably more cautious.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia head coach Kirby Smart bragged about the improvement of quarterback Gunner Stockton during this week’s press conference after Stockton performance in a recent scrimmage.

Georgia conducted its scrimmage in oppressive heat and humidity, conditions Smart believed provided a valuable test of the Bulldogs’ physical and mental toughness.

The conditions became particularly difficult as the scrimmage progressed, making it harder to throw the football effectively. Georgia didn’t

back off, however, and Smart was pleased with the way his players continued to compete.

That didn’t mean he was satisfied.

“We’re not near where we need to be yet,” Smart said.

One of the questions remaining on offense is who will emerge around Stockton.

Georgia has talent at wide receiver, but Smart said no one has separated himself as a dominant option. Several of the Bulldogs’ younger receivers have made progress, and Smart has been pleased with the group’s work ethic, but the competition remains open.

There is a similar situation in the backfield.

Georgia is searching for a running back capable of replacing Cash Jones’ role on third down, where understanding pass protections and routes and being a reliable receiver can be just as important as carrying the football.

So far, Smart said nobody has clearly seized the job.

The Bulldogs also continue to develop depth on the offensive line.

Center Drew Bobo practiced fully Tuesday after suffering a finger injury in the scrimmage, easing concerns about his availability. Behind Bobo, Cortez Smith and Malachi Toliver remain in a close competition, with Smith’s ability to also play guard giving Georgia additional flexibility.

Smart also singled out offensive tackle Juan Gaston as a player with considerable athletic ability but one who needs to improve his stamina.

Deerfield-Windsor falls to Crisp Academy

CORDELE — Deerfield-Windsor outthit Crisp Academy Thursday but couldn’t turn those hits into its elusive first victory.

The Lady Knights collected 10 hits in a 9-5 loss to Crisp Academy, remaining winless despite another competitive performance.

Deerfield-Windsor took a 2-0 lead in the first inning and carried that advantage into the fourth before the game changed quickly.

Crisp Academy scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the fourth to take a 5-2 lead, with Cobb’s two-run single delivering the biggest blow.

Gravitt added a two-run homer in the fifth as Crisp Academy stretched the advantage.

Deerfield-Windsor continued to produce offensively, with Jennings Currington and Emily Phillips collecting two hits apiece. Phillips went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs.

Mary Ruth Courtney pitched all six innings for the Lady Knights, allowing nine runs, eight earned, on nine hits.

Deerfield-Windsor will host Westwood Tuesday in Albany.

From 9A

ASU

other activities.

The children get college athletes showing up at their schools, encouraging them and becoming familiar faces.

The Golden Rams get something in return.

They become part of Albany. For a team filled with newcomers, Bowser believes those relationships matter.

Football will eventually provide adversity. There will be turnovers, missed assignments and long drives. There will be moments on the road when the crowd is roaring and things aren’t going well.

Bowser wants his players to know and trust the person standing beside them when those moments arrive.

They’ll get an opportunity to find out quickly.

Gray coached Albany State for three seasons before leaving for FAMU, and Knowles was the Golden Rams’ quarterback before following him to Tallahassee.

Then comes Johnson C. Smith.

Bowser spent the past three

seasons on the Golden Bulls’ coaching staff before Albany State hired him.

The first two Saturdays will test more than Albany State’s ability to block and tackle. They’ll test how quickly a roster filled with new faces has come together.

That’s why the work of building this team has extended beyond the practice field.

It started with about 90 players sweating through summer workouts.

It continued with community leaders welcoming them to Albany and Golden Rams greeting children on the first day of school.

And on a Sunday morning at Shiloh Baptist Church, it included a freshman offensive lineman behind a pulpit while some of his teammates sat in the congregation and others sang in the choir.

Albany State has spent the summer learning plays and competing for jobs.

The Golden Rams have also spent it learning each other.

On Aug. 29 in Tallahassee, Bowser will begin finding out whether a roster filled with newcomers has become a team.

Albany State University hosts President’s Speaking Series with nationally recognized entrepreneur

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Albany State University will host the second installment of its 2026 President’s Speaking Series on Thursday, featuring nationally recognized entrepreneur and community leader Devon M. Henry, CEO of Team Henry Enterprises and TH Logistics.

The event, focused on business and entrepreneurial success, will begin at 6 p.m. in the Billy C. Black Auditorium on ASU’s East Campus and is open to the public.

The President’s Speaking Series brings accomplished leaders and influential voices to Albany State to engage students and the broader community in conversations that connect leadership, professional development, and real-world experiences.

Henry is a nationally recognized entrepreneur, community leader, and accomplished orator based in Richmond, Va. With more than 20 years of business leadership experience, he is the founder and CEO of Team Henry Enterprises, an award-winning contracting firm, and TH Logistics, a global packaging and supply-chain company.

Henry gained national recognition for overseeing the safe removal and relocation of more than two dozen 19th-century bronze statues throughout the southeastern United States. His work has demonstrated how entrepreneurship can intersect with community development, social impact and inclusive communities.

A graduate of Norfolk State University, Henry has re-

ceived numerous honors for his business and humanitarian leadership. In 2025, Norfolk State University named its iconic communications tower the Devon M. Henry Communications Tower and later awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. He also established an endowment that has supported more than 50 Team Henry Scholars.

to demonstrate how purposeful leadership and entrepreneurship can create lasting economic and community impact.

The President’s Speaking Series serves as a platform for meaningful dialogue, leadership development, and career preparation, reinforcing Albany State University’s dedication to student success, community engagement, and preparing



**PRESIDENT'S
SPEAKING
Series**



FEATURED SPEAKER
Devon M. Henry
CEO, Team Henry Enterprises
and CEO, TH Logistics

HOSTED BY
Dr. Robert O. Scott
President, Albany State University

THEME: Business and Entrepreneurial Success

Thursday | August 27, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Billy C. Black Building Auditorium
East Campus

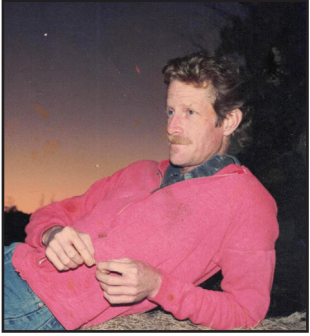
Special Illustration: ASU

Albany State University will host the second installment of its 2026 President’s Speaking Series on Thursday, featuring nationally recognized entrepreneur and community leader Devon M. Henry.

Through his business ventures, philanthropy, and public service, Henry continues

graduates to lead and create impact in an evolving world, university officials said.

≡ OBITUARY ≡



Joel Stephen “Steve” Brown

Mr. Joel Stephen “Steve” Brown, 74, of Leesburg, peacefully passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Willson Hospice House in Albany. A memorial service honoring Steve’s life will be

held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, 2026, in the chapel of Joseph W. Jones Funeral Home. The family will visit with friends, one hour prior to the service, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Born January 11, 1952, in Atlanta, GA, he was the son of the late Joel Stokes Brown and Eleanor Dunn Brown. Steve spent many dedicated years working for Stewart’s Organ & Piano Company in Albany, GA, where he was known for his strong work ethic and friendly nature. He also spent several years at the state of Georgia working for the Georgia

Archives. Outside of work, he found joy in life’s simple treasures. He had a passion for antiquing and loved buying and selling on eBay, always on the lookout for a unique find. Yard sales were one of his favorite pastimes, and he especially enjoyed traveling to community sales across the state, including the annual Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale. An avid golf fan, Steve enjoyed watching tournaments on television, and he could often be found relaxing at his computer playing his favorite card game, Spider Solitaire.

Steve will be remembered for his kind and generous heart, his warm smile, and his gentle spirit. A natural peacemaker, he always sought to bring happiness to those around him. His infectious laugh, playful sense of humor, and ability to make others smile left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Above all, Steve treasured the time he shared with his life partner, Michael. Together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and countless cherished memories. Steve’s legacy of kindness, compassion, and joy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved fur baby, Scooter. Those left to cherish his memory include his life partner, Michael Grimsley of Albany; and a host of friends that loved him deeply.

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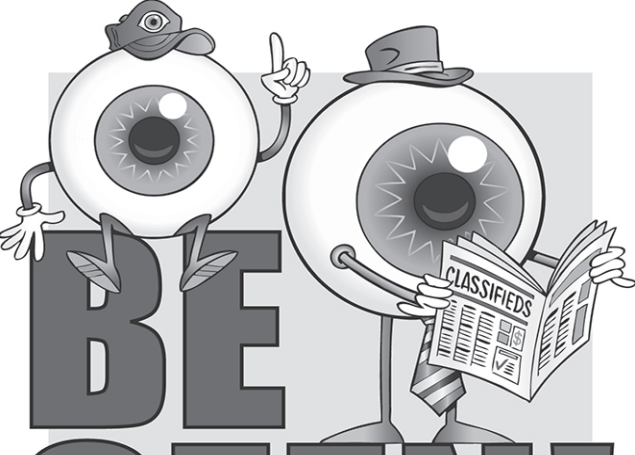


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SEEN!**

In the Classifieds!

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 weather worry (5)	_____
2 move slightly (5)	_____
3 vandalize (6)	_____
4 novelist's craft (7)	_____
5 Greek salad topper (4)	_____
6 on the wane (9)	_____
7 encourages (8)	_____

ORM	ST	DGE	WRI	FA
DE	TI	NI	HE	TA
TE	AR	BU	NG	DEC
NS	LI	NG	FE	CE

Saturday's Answers: 1. ABUNDANT 2. HARRY 3. PIGMAN
4. PINKNESS 5. RIZZ 6. ABIDJAN 7. PALATINATE

8/24

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 show how it works (11)	_____
2 inquiries (9)	_____
3 dusk (9)	_____
4 organizational essential (8)	_____
5 Ti, to a chemist (8)	_____
6 forbidding (4)	_____
7 shallow showiness (5)	_____

IUM	QUE	DEM	NIG	TR
ATE	TI	STI	ALL	RK
ONS	GR	TEA	ONS	GLI
IM	TZ	TAN	MWO	HTF

Monday's Answers: 1. STORM 2. BUDGE 3. DEFACE
4. WRITING 5. FETA 6. DECLINING 7. HEARTENS

8/25

Release Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Cherry centers

5 Eco-friendly commuting option

9 Big blowout

14 2026's "The Odyssey," for one

15 Workplace inspection org.

16 Pry bar, e.g.

17 "Broad-brimmed topper made of straw

19 New Zealand native

20 Olympic swimmer Torres

21 Mauna ____: Hawaiian volcano slightly taller than Mauna Loa

23 Soapy tub gunk

24 "Dry-cured meats from Smithfield

28 Bartending tool

30 Chatted privately online, for short

31 Greek god of war

32 Owl's home

35 Smells

38 Steeped beverage

39 "Seattle NFL player

41 French "yes"

42 Coffeehouse flavor

44 Use a keyboard

45 Torso bones

46 Will beneficiary

48 Art studio stands

50 "Joe Biden's vice president

54 Grew older

55 Grumpy pal

56 Respiratory organ

59 Lost color

61 Puzzle solver's breakthrough, or what the answers to the starred clues have in common

65 Maker of soccer and rugby gear

66 Part in a film

67 Big birds of Australia

68 Fluff, as hair

69 Raggedy Ann, e.g.

70 Nothing to write home about

DOWN

1 ____ talk:

2 Apple tablet since 2010

3 Writer/actress Fey

4 Woolen wraps

5 Feathery wrap

6 Sorta

7 Tan kin

8 Gobbled up

9 Racial justice movement letters

10 Like a dog who's ready for a walk

11 Healthy fat with a high smoke point

12 Skin care product

13 Cuts back a bit

18 Major water pipe

22 Provide support

25 Russo of "Major League"

26 "Awesome!"

27 Totally wild

28 Creme-filled sandwich

29 French dessert with fruit and ice cream

31 Drive-thru device

33 Timid

34 Slender candle

36 Massages

37 Bro kin

39 Catamaran feature

40 ____ and tear

43 Web page banners

45 Job applicants' submissions

47 "Awesome!"

49 Rural storage tower

50 Broken beyond repair

51 Athlete's best effort

52 Accumulate excessively

53 "Bless you" preceder

57 Reef-dwelling Pixar character

58 African antelopes

60 Female deer

62 ____purpose flour

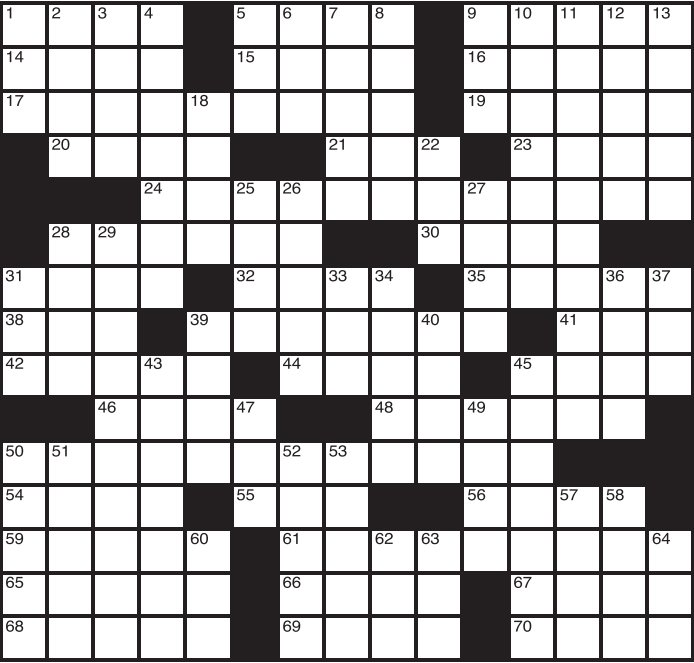
63 Blanc who voiced Bugs

64 Chinese menu general

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

08/25/26



By Victor Fleming
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08/25/26

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

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

Previous Solution: "My aunt Martha would take me to children's plays, and I remember those very vividly, mostly because I adored her." — Tony Kushner

TODAY'S CLUE: A sjenbe M

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CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

“ S U X M V I F V S U U N K S X B X H W S B V D L
L B Z S U S Q V I F V K T V W I L W U V X H
W S B V D L , O F S W F S I F S B Q S K O F L I
D X M S V K L E V K N T T X K V Z I X Z X . ”
— E X C V E I P V D V W Q S K

Previous Solution: "There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves." — Jane Austen

TODAY'S CLUE: O sjenbe M

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Tift Regional caregivers honored with BEE, DAISY awards

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON -- Tift Regional Medical Center recently honored two team members for their exceptional care and compassion.

Patient Care Technician Gloria Peoples-Bacon received the BEE Award, and RN Kari Hathcock received the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

The BEE Award, which stands for Being Exceptional Every Day, recognizes caregivers in non-licensed nursing roles who go above and beyond to provide exceptional care to patients.

Peoples-Bacon was nominated by a patient's family member, who said that her care continued even after the patient was no longer assigned to her.

"Gloria still made a point to stop by and check on my sister," the family member wrote. "On one of her visits, she noticed my sister's bed was messy while my sister sat in the chair. Without being asked, she took the time

to make the bed.

"Her presence meant a lot to my sister, and I could tell by how she would light up whenever Gloria entered the room. That continued kindness, attentiveness and genuine care made such an im-

pact. We are grateful for her."

Hathcock, who serves as a nurse in TRMC Obstetrics, was recognized with the DAISY Award for the compassionate support she provided to a patient and her partner during the loss of their un-

born baby.

The patient described arriving at the hospital feeling heartbroken, frightened and uncertain about what she and her partner would experience.

"Kari visited me frequently and checked on my physical and mental pain," the patient wrote. "She made my partner and me feel as comfortable and normal as possible. Kari made us laugh and was available to answer questions and explain things."

The patient said Hathcock stayed beyond the end of her shift to provide support during the delivery.

"Kari held my hand and encouraged me," the patient wrote. "The fact that she was willing to so selflessly spare the time meant so much to me, and I don't think there are enough words to truly

express how thankful I am for that act of service."

"TRMC is truly lucky to have Kari as an employee and as a leader who sets an example of compassion and selflessness," the patient continued. "I was lucky she was there on such a heartbreaking day for me."

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses is part of the DAISY Foundation's international program recognizing the exceptional, compassionate care nurses provide every day.

"Gloria and Kari demonstrate how meaningful acts of kindness and compassion can make a lasting difference for patients and their families," Tonia Garrett, chief nursing officer for Southwell, said. "They reflect the values we uphold at Southwell, and we are grateful for their dedication to those we serve."



Tift Regional Medical Center caregivers Gloria Peoples-Bacon, left, and Kari Hathcock received the BEE and DAISY awards, respectively.

Special Photo: TRMC

Like flowers, grass is beneficial to pollinators, too



Special Photo: Andrew Davis Tucker/UGA

A honeybee collects pollen from the bloom of centipedegrass.

By Savannah Peat

University of Georgia

ATHENS -- Bees may be relying on your lawn for their next meal, according to a new study from the University of Georgia.

Researchers found that centipedegrass, a common turfgrass found in the Southeast, actually functions as a food source for bees.

Although bees typically pollinate more with flowers in the springtime, growing urbanization, pesticide use and other habitat loss have limited their food options.

"Pollination is one aspect of what bees do, but their role in biodiversity and ecology has so much value," Shimat Joseph, corresponding author of the study and an associate professor in the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, said. "Urbanization is reducing both nesting habitat and food resources for them, so anything we can provide in addition helps."

The researchers gathered more than 150 foraging bees of 28 different species (including bumblebees, honeybees and sweat bees) from yards across Georgia to evaluate the insects' pollination man-

nerisms. They found that adult bees not only collect grass pollen to supply food for themselves but also to bring back to the hive for their offspring.

The researchers found similar numbers of bee larvae developed thanks to centipedegrass pollen as they did in more traditional bee nursery sources like butterfly bushes. This suggests that centipedegrass could sustain at least the beginnings of a new colony, the researchers said.

"What we know is that bees are foraging on these grasses," Joseph said. "The question now is what that means for bee colonies over the long term. For social bees like bumblebees, having a continuous supply of pollen throughout

the spring and summer seasons is very important for our world."

Although they foraged extensively on centipedegrass pollen, the bees also kept an eye on nearby flowers, often seeking out grass with nearby flowering plants.

Bumblebees were among the most flexible when it came to sourcing their pollen. They foraged in ivy, crape myrtles and vegetable gardens, among other places.

"Bees are dependent on all kinds of flower or plant types — pollen for protein and nectar for sugar to help them keep flying," Joseph said. "Grass is already an integral part of our landscape. Our job is to find ways to make those landscapes more helpful for pollinators."

Pollen collection was highest for bees 10 to 12 days post lawn mowing. Centipedegrass had the chance to flower and become properly accessible and nutritious for bees at that point.

By delaying mowing slightly and keeping a schedule of 10 to 14 days between mows, people can balance lawn care and bee conservation, the researchers said.

"If you skip just one mowing, you create an opportunity for the grass to flower, and bees can use that resource," Joseph said. "The goal isn't to stop mowing. It's to manage lawns in a way that gives bees an extra food source."

This alternative food source is key because of how much longer it lasts than traditional flowers, the researchers said. Bees have access to centipedegrass pollen well into September, a late-season period where other floral meals are scarce.

"By July and August, many trees have stopped flowering," Joseph said. "That's when these grass flowers may become another opportunity for bees. They may not be showy, but we know that bees are definitely using them."

Pro rodeo, Lawrence concert highlight weekend of entertainment at ABAC

Staff Reports

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TIFTON — 3R Rodeo Company returns to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for the PCA Pro Rodeo Nov. 13-14 at the ABAC Rodeo Arena.

The rodeo is part of "Stage Lights and Rodeo Nights," a weekend of entertainment at ABAC that kicks off with country music star Tracy Lawrence at the John Hunt Auditorium on Nov. 12. For more information on the weekend-long event, visit link.abac.edu/events.

Rodeo tickets are available at www.abac.edu/rodeo.

Tickets start at just \$20 for general admission, with children under 6 admitted free. An enhanced VIP experience ticket is \$30 each for adults and \$10 for children under 6. Quantities of VIP tickets are limited.

From bull riding and calf roping to other classic ro-

deo events, fans can expect plenty of thrills under the lights at ABAC. Gates open at 5 p.m., Mutton Bustin' begins at 6 p.m., and the rodeo action kicks off at 7:30 p.m. each night. Mutton Bustin' participation is available for an additional fee.

The evening's entertainment also will feature Western Way Entertainment, a Sevierville, Tenn.-based performance company founded by married couple Shelby LeAnne and Chance Danison. The duo combines professional rodeo skills with music and western performance.

"Last year's rodeo was an incredible success, and we knew then that we had something special," ABAC President Tracy Brundage said. "We are excited to bring the PCA Pro Rodeo back to ABAC and build on that momentum with two nights of unforgettable action, entertainment and excitement."



Special Photo: ABAC

A pro rodeo event is part of "Stage Lights and Rodeo Nights," a weekend of entertainment at ABAC that kicks off with country music star Tracy Lawrence at the John Hunt Auditorium on Nov. 12.

In addition to the rodeo and specialty entertainment, vendors will be available throughout the evening. ABAC Din-

ing and Catering will provide concessions, while the Stallion Shop will offer ABAC and rodeo apparel.

GHA Board Chair Vicki Lewis elected to American Hospital Association Board

Staff Reports

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ATLANTA — Georgia Hospital Association Board Chair Vicki Lewis, the president and CEO of Coffee Regional Medical Center, has been elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the American Hospital Association and as the chair of the AHA's Region 4 Policy Board.

Lewis was elected to a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2027. Her election strengthens the voice of Georgia hospitals and health systems in national healthcare policy discussions and advances GHA's mission to shape a health-

ier Georgia.

Lewis has served on the GHA Board of Trustees since 2019 and has been board chair since July 2026.

"Congratulations to Vicki on her election to the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees," GHA President and CEO Caylee Noggle said. "Vicki's dual service as both GHA board chair and an AHA trustee will be a tremendous asset to Georgia's hospitals and communities. Her extensive experience leading both small and large health systems and her deep understanding of Georgia's healthcare landscape

will bring valuable perspective to both state and national conversations as we continue pursuing improvements across the healthcare delivery continuum."

Lewis has served as president and CEO of Coffee Regional Medical Center since 2014. Prior to joining Coffee Regional, she held executive leadership positions with Aurora Health Care in Wisconsin and OhioHealth. She previously served on AHA Regional Policy Board 4 from 2022 to 2025 and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"I am deeply honored by the opportunity to serve in these leader-

ship roles and am proud to represent and advocate for all Georgia hospitals and the communities we collectively serve," Lewis said. "Strengthening Georgia's healthcare system and improving the health of all Georgians has and will continue to be the focus of my leadership for both the GHA and AHA boards."

Founded in 1929, GHA serves more than 150 Georgia hospitals and works to shape a healthier Georgia by serving as the leading advocate and supporter for all Georgia hospitals and health systems. For more information, call (770) 249-4500 or visit gha.org.



VICKI LEWIS

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