



Perspectives
Marc Hyden
• Page 4A



Rams opener
ASU vs. FAMU
• Page 9A



\$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIII, No. 101

ALBANYHERALD.COM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

Foreclosures jump 52.9% across the region as buyers regain negotiating power

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — On opposite sides of the Dougherty-Lee county line, two seemingly contradictory housing trends are unfolding at the same time. In Dougherty County, the number of residential proper-

ties advertised for foreclosure has nearly doubled this year. In neighboring Lee County, developers are preparing to add hundreds of new houses and apartments, including homes aimed at buyers who have struggled to find newer housing at an attainable price. The trends, however, are not

as contradictory as they may initially appear. Across southwest Georgia, the housing market is adjusting after the buying frenzy that followed the COVID-19 pandemic, while elevated mortgage rates, household costs and the condition of the region's existing housing stock are complicat-

ing what "affordable" means. And foreclosure activity is rising sharply. An Albany Herald analysis of foreclosure-sale advertisements across 39 southwest Georgia counties identified 604 advertisements from January through June 2026, compared with 395 during the same six

months of 2025 — an increase of 52.9%. That increase almost exactly mirrors a statewide trend independently identified by ATTOM, a national real estate data company. ATTOM reported 8,433 Georgia properties with foreclosure filings during the first half of

2026, up 52.4% from the same period last year. That was the third-largest year-over-year percentage increase among states with at least 500 filings. Georgia also had the nation's 11th-highest foreclosure rate during the first half of the year, See **FORECLOSURES** 2A

Albany Commission will revisit downtown park project at October retreat

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — A concept for a bit of greenery in the heart of downtown Albany is going back to the drawing board as it received a less-than-unanimous reception at a first hearing. After the idea was raised during an August Albany City Commission work session, the commission decided to delay action and put the proposal on the agenda of its October retreat. Part of the city's downtown revitalization master plan, the so-called Central Commons park would sit in the parking lot west of the Flint River Resource Center at the corner of North Washington Street and Pine Avenue. It would include greenspace, a coffee shop and stage area, according to drawings presented to the city. "I believe Central Commons is a very important project, and I think it's going to take a variety of funding," Commissioner Chad Warbington said. The price tag for the park is about \$4 million, commissioners noted. The city could draw from a variety of funds, including a special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPOST) initiative, utilities and downtown redevelopment funds, Warbington said. The October retreat will give commissioners time to



Special Illustration

See **REVISIT**, 2A

An artist's rendering shows the proposed Central Commons in downtown Albany.



DEREK HEARD

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

Despite confusion over vaccines, Phoebe says recommendations haven't changed

cines and the effectiveness of vaccines hasn't changed, so we haven't changed what we're doing," Dr. Derek Heard, the medical director for Primary Care for Phoebe Physicians, said.

Despite shifting guidance from the federal government regarding the number of vaccinations needed, organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics have

See **PHOEBE**, 2A



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Putney Health System reminds parents that immunization schedules for children, teens and adults — recommended by trusted local physicians — remain unchanged and strongly supported by decades of medical evidence.

"The science behind vac-

Darton Health Professions Foundation awards more than \$62,000 in fall scholarships

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Darton Health Professions Foundation has announced the awarding of more than \$62,000 in scholarships to 36 students for the fall 2026 semester, continuing its mission to expand educational access and strengthen the future professional workforce across southwest Georgia.

The scholarship recipients represent a broad geographic and academic cross-section of the region served by the foundation, including students from Dougherty, Lee, Mitchell, Thomas, Crisp, Sumter, Decatur, Worth and Terrell counties and surrounding communities.

Students awarded scholarships are pursuing degrees in education, music, nursing, psychology, biology, computer science, and other fields, reflecting both the diversity of the applicant pool and the workforce needs of the region.

The Foundation's scholarship review process includes a comprehensive and impartial evaluation of each application, with awards based on merit, financial need, donor

intent and student potential. "It is a grueling and competitive process," Randae Davis, the executive director of the foundation, said. "We had more than 850 applications this semester,

See **AWARDS**, 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

TWO LOCATIONS.
ONE COMMITMENT TO YOUR MENTAL WELLNESS.

Denise Robinson, LCSW

Schedule an appointment today at a location near you.

Lee Health Center

118 Robert B Lee Drive, Leesburg
229-759-6508

AAPHC Renaissance Center

2403-B Osler Court, Albany
229-639-3135



AAPHC
Albany Area
Primary Health Care

aaphc.org

From 1A

FORECLOSURES

with 0.19% of the state’s housing units — about one in every 539 — receiving a foreclosure filing.

The two datasets measure different things. ATTOM counts properties receiving default notices, scheduled-auction notices or bank reposessions and attempts to count each property once. The Herald analysis tracks residential notices advertising properties for foreclosure sale under Georgia’s nonjudicial foreclosure process.

But the nearly identical year-over-year increases provide independent evidence that what is happening in southwest Georgia is part of a broader statewide shift.

ATTOM reported 4,549 Georgia properties with some type of foreclosure filing during the first quarter, up 77.8% from the first quarter of 2025. Foreclosure proceedings were started

on 4,356 properties.

By June, 1,328 Georgia properties received foreclosure filings, equivalent to one in every 3,420 housing units.

The most dramatic increase among the Albany area’s two largest housing markets was in Dougherty County.

The Herald analysis identified 94 unique residential properties advertised for foreclosure from January through August, compared with 50 during the same period last year and 44 in 2024.

When repeat advertisements are included — generally because a scheduled sale was postponed and the property was advertised again — Dougherty recorded 129 advertisements through August this year, compared to 61 during the same period in 2025 and 62 in 2024.

ATTOM CEO Rob Barber has described rising foreclosure activity nationally as a continued normalization following years of unusually low levels, while cautioning that the trend also could indicate growing pressure on homeowners.

“While volumes remain below historical peaks,” Barber said in ATTOM’s first-quarter report, continued increases suggest “financial pressure may be building for some homeowners.”

Jon Smith, a Realtor and appraiser with Virtual Realty Team, who marks 30 years in the real estate business this year, said the current southwest Georgia market also has to be viewed against the extraordinary conditions that followed the pandemic.

“I think we saw a bit of a spike in values after COVID, which created a bit of a buying frenzy,” Smith said. “Homes would be listed slightly above market value, and they’d be under contract within a day.”

In some cases, he said, sellers were receiving \$10,000, \$15,000 or even \$20,000 more than their asking price.

“It was hard to believe,” Smith said.

That is not the market buyers and sellers are navigating today.

“What we’re seeing now might



Photo Credit: Jakub Zerdzicki
A set of house keys represents homeownership at a time when southwest Georgia’s housing market is shifting, with buyers gaining leverage even as affordability pressures and foreclosure activity rise across the region.

From 1A

REVISIT

discuss options for the project.

“I think it was a smart idea to get funding clear before we move much further,” he said.

A nearby apartment complex a block to the south on North Washington Street is expected to bring dozens of new tenants downtown when it is completed, and Warbington said Central Commons would be a draw for people looking to touch grass, walk their dogs or hang out.

The stage would allow for outdoor concerts as well.

“Right now, it’s a sea of asphalt there,” he said. “It doesn’t encourage gathering. Parks and greenspaces encourage gathering. If you put a green-space there, it gives a destination for people to go. It gives opportunities for downtown events. I think when the project comes to fruition, it’s going to be a great project.”

Some criticism has included the loss of parking that the site would mean and questions of the necessity of another park in close proximity to nearby Riverfront Park on North Front Street.

“Behind the (Flint) RiverQuarium, there are hundreds of (parking) spaces,” Warbington said. “There are two parking decks. There’s plenty of other parking downtown.”

Mayor Bo Dorough said he is hoping that the retreat discussion Oct. 3-5 will be a chance to convince a majority of commissioners the importance of Central Commons.

It would be a “catalytic project” that “brings it all together,” the mayor said, pointing to other projects that have been completed, like the St. Nicholas Hotel on North Washington Street, or are in the works like

the apartments at the former Davis Exchange Bank building and the Albany Museum of Art’s renovation of the former Belk Building.

“It’s one of the pivotal projects,” Dorough said. “It’s instrumental to the ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown, and indeed it’s a foundation for future projects. We’re going to talk about it at the retreat.”

The site is currently used as parking and for food truck events that Downtown Albany hosts during the spring and fall.

One objection that Commissioner Diana Brown mentioned is using refunds that the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia has paid to Albany Utilities to fund the park. She also questioned the need for two parks in the downtown area.

“We need to be frugal with taxpayers’ money,” she said. “They didn’t allow the utility board to discuss where that money should have gone. It should have gone to these senior citizens.”

Brown’s preference is for a rebate to ratepayers who have paid their utility bills, some of them for decades.

“Our seniors are on a fixed income, and their money only goes so far,” Brown said. “Some of them can’t get food on the table, yet they can say we’re going to put \$4 million into Central Commons. We don’t need two parks down there.”

“At the end of the day we’ve got to be better stewards of the taxpayers’ money and the rebates we get back from MEAG.”

Commissioner Jon Howard said he would like to learn more about how the park could potentially increase foot traffic downtown.

“That would be needed to decide what we’re going to do,” he said.

From 1A

PHOEBE

continued to recommend the fuller, longstanding schedule. Heard said Phoebe’s guidance to patients remains the same as well.

The standard childhood immunization schedule, covering birth through age 18, continues to include:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)
- Pneumococcal vaccine
- Polio
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Meningococcal vaccine
- Meningococcal BRSV
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Heard noted that polio remains on the schedule, despite being eradicated in the United States, because it still circulates elsewhere in the world.

“Just because we vaccinate for polio in the United States doesn’t mean that all countries do,” he said. “The virus still exists in other parts of the world, but because we have vaccinated so well, we don’t see it here.”

For adults, Heard recommends:

- Annual flu vaccine
- Tdap (the adult formulation

of DTaP)

HPV, for adults who did not receive it as children

Pneumococcal vaccine, for those 65 and older or with conditions that compromise the immune system, such as diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, sickle cell disease, COPD

Shingles vaccine, for adults 50 and older

COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for those at higher risk

RSV vaccine, for adults 65 and older

Catch-up on any childhood vaccines that may have been missed

Heard said skipping recommended immunizations carries real risks, pointing to recent measles cases in Georgia as an example. Measles, he said, can lead to encephalitis, or swelling of the brain that can cause lasting brain damage, as well as pneumonia severe enough to be fatal.

“We are spoiled in the sense that we’ve forgotten what measles can do,” Heard said. “It’s easy for us to say, ‘Well, only a small percentage of kids who get measles will die from it.’ But tell the parent whose child gets encephalitis and has brain damage for the rest of their life, or gets pneumonia and has to stay in the hospital for weeks, or the parent whose child dies, that getting a simple immunization was not worth it.”

Heard also framed immunization as a shared community responsibility.

“We’ve signed a social con-

tract with each other as American citizens, that I’m not going to do anything to hurt you if you don’t do anything to hurt me,” he said. “Yes, we are individuals, but we’re in this community together. I may not be the person who gets sick, but my neighbor may have a baby who is immunocompromised. Why would I want to make them sick because I’m bringing something to them that can be deadly and dangerous?”

Heard emphasized that the recommendations are not based on any single organization or country, but on evidence gathered from medical institutions and health agencies around the world.

“We stand by the science, and we stand by the data,” he said. “We have hundreds of years of data saying that vaccines work, and we don’t have any significant, credible data saying that they don’t work or that they are causing illness.”

Heard also pointed to guidance from the World Health Organization, which he said describes immunization as a fundamental cornerstone of global health, an indisputable human right, and one of the most effective public health investments available.

Heard urged southwest Georgians to use National Immunization Awareness Month as a time to contact their primary care providers to make sure they and their families are current on immunizations that help prevent serious illnesses.

actually be a good thing,” Smith said. “We’re seeing values stabilize a little, depending on the location.”

Buyers also have regained some negotiating power.

“Buyers have a little more advantage in the current market than they did in recent years,” Smith said. “Homes can be listed at value or even slightly below, and they may sit for a while right now.”

That shift is particularly visible when compared with a market where buyers once had to make rapid decisions and compete with multiple offers.

But a less competitive market does not necessarily mean an affordable one.

Brandon Barnes, a southwest Georgia independent contractor who is currently renovating a house he plans to sell for about \$359,000, said he sees the affordability problem from both sides — as someone working on the housing stock and as a consumer looking at what today’s prices and interest rates mean for an ordinary household.

“Who really can afford \$2,000 to \$3,000 monthly payments for 20 or 30 years?” Barnes said.

He estimated financing about \$300,000 of the property he is renovating would produce a payment of roughly \$2,300 per month with escrow. Then, he noted, buyers have to consider everything else in a household budget.

“The average home has two car loans, plus mortgage or rent,” Barnes said.

For Barnes, the affordability question is less about whether houses are technically available than what buyers are getting for the price.

“Realistically, go look at the

homes for sale,” he said. “They need updating, or something’s wrong with the homes, and they are still priced at \$200,000-plus.”

That observation is particularly relevant in Dougherty

From 1A

AWARDS

and the committee ultimately had to narrow that pool to fewer than 40 recipients that we collectively agreed upon.

“Behind so many of those applications are extremely compelling stories of perseverance, determination, and genuine financial need.”

Frances Carr, a member of the foundation’s Board of Directors, praised the integrity and care of the review process and its impact on students.

“We trust the committee to review the scholarship applications thoroughly, and I was told that most of the recipients’ essays are read no fewer than six times before the process is complete,” Carr said. “That gives me a great appreciation for the depth and thoroughness of the foundation’s review process.”

“It is evident that a tremendous amount of time and care goes into ensuring every applicant receives a fair and thoughtful evaluation. These scholarships have a meaningful impact on our students and their ability to achieve their educational goals.”

Carr added that the Foundation’s support continues to have a lasting influence on student success and persistence in higher education. Many previous scholarship recipients are now working throughout the region and remain committed to giving back through their professions and community involvement.

Some of this year’s recipients have overcome significant per-

sonal, financial, and educational obstacles. Their stories underscore the transformative role scholarships can play in helping students remain enrolled, complete their degrees, and ultimately contribute to the communities they call home.

Sarah Brinson, a foundation board member and dean of the Darton College of Health Professions, highlighted the diversity of applicants and the real-life impact of the scholarships.

“The pool of applicants is amazing and a true testament to what we are all about,” Brinson said. “I hear stories from students in Ochlocknee, Pelham, Sylvester, Cordele, Shellman, Cuthbert, Climax, Blackshear, Atlanta, Americus, Douglasville and Griffin, with majors in computer science, music, nursing, psychology and more.

“Hearing their stories, I realized just how much these scholarships change lives and help students and their families overcome real struggles.”

Brinson also noted the personal connections found throughout the applications, including a students known through local programs and educators whose dedication to their students stood out.

“Every scholarship represents far more than financial assistance; it represents hope, opportunity and an investment in the future of our communities,” Davis said. “This semester’s recipients remind us that talent and determination exist in every corner of southwest Georgia.

“We are not only supporting students financially and academically; we are helping shape the next generation of professionals and communi-

County, where Albany has a large stock of older housing.

The city’s Build Albany Housing Initiative is intended to connect potential homeowners

See **FORECLOSURES** 3A

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

Flint RiverQuarium



STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK



Flint RiverQuarium

101 Pine Ave
Albany, Ga 31701

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

Located in the heart of downtown Albany, the Flint RiverQuarium offers an exciting opportunity to explore the incredible aquatic life and ecosystems of the Flint River and beyond. Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and hands-on experiences, the RiverQuarium inspires visitors of all ages to learn more about our environment and the importance of protecting our natural resources.

From school field trips and educational programs to family outings and special events, the Flint RiverQuarium continues to be an important educational and recreational resource for our community. Its unique exhibits and engaging experiences provide visitors with a chance to discover the beauty and biodiversity of Southwest Georgia.

We are grateful for the Flint RiverQuarium's continued commitment to education, conservation, and community engagement and the role it plays in making Albany a great place to live, work, and visit.

The Star Business of the Week is presented by WALB News 10 and Fleming & Riles Insurance with treats provided by Ellianos Coffee Albany.



ALBANY AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

225 W. Broad Ave.
Albany, GA 31701

229.434.8700

albanyga.com



Fleming & Riles INSURANCE



WALB NEWS 10



The Albany HERALD



clearchannel



The Radio Station



ALBANY CEO



ellianos coffee



FOX 31



WSWG

From 2A FORECLOSURES

ers with lenders, financial assistance and counseling while encouraging workforce housing development.

City Manager Terrell Jacobs told commissioners that employers need housing for the workers they are trying to recruit and retain.

“We need housing for teachers,” Jacobs said. “We need to create a pipeline for folks to get their situation together so they can buy a house.”

Other projects are adding or attempting to preserve rental housing. The redevelopment of the historic Davis Exchange Building downtown is expected to create 56 apartments, including 41 income-restricted units. City officials also have been working through problems surrounding a stalled 32-unit apartment development on South Carroll Street.

Lee County faces a different version of the affordability problem.

Foreclosure activity there has been considerably more stable. Thirty-one unique residential properties were advertised for foreclosure from January through August this year, compared with 29 during the same period in 2025. Because Lee County has a much smaller housing stock, however, its foreclosure-advertisement rate is actually slightly higher than Dougherty County’s — about 2.38 properties per 1,000 housing units compared with 2.31.

The difference between the counties is not so much their current foreclosure rate as their trajectory. Lee’s count has changed little. Dougherty’s has almost doubled.

At the same time, developers in Lee County are betting that demand exists for hundreds of additional housing units.

The 32 Crossing subdivision is planned for roughly 300 homes. Its first houses are expected to start at around \$255,000 for a three-bedroom, two-bath home with a garage, while a larger floor plan is expected to start around \$279,000.

Infrastructure for the development has been supported by a \$2.5 million Rural Workforce Housing Initiative grant through the OneGeorgia Authority.

Nearby, the planned Wooten Station development is expected to add 125 apartments and retail space.

Those projects represent a substantial bet that Lee County has households looking for housing that its existing inventory has not provided.

Barnes said the difference between Albany and other markets is noticeable even to an individual seller. His sister-in-law recently sold a house in Valdosta without difficulty, he said, while houses in Albany appear to be taking longer to move.

Smith said location remains critical to how quickly properties sell, making broad predictions about the market difficult. And, despite the uncertainty, he cautioned buyers and sellers against trying to perfectly time it.

“People always are going to speculate, but in reality the best time to do something is always now,” Smith said. “There’s less urgency in the process, but still, now is always the best time to buy or sell because no one really knows what the future will bring.”

National conditions help explain why the current market feels so different from the frenzy Smith described.

Existing-home sales fell 1.7% in July, according to the Na-

tional Association of Realtors, as elevated mortgage rates continued to restrain buyers. The national median existing-home price reached \$434,100, 2% higher than a year earlier.

First-time buyers accounted for only 29% of July purchases, while sales of houses priced below \$250,000 remained particularly weak.

Those national prices bear little resemblance to much of southwest Georgia, where \$250,000 can still buy a house. But purchase price is only part of affordability.

A \$200,000 mortgage at 3.5% carries principal and interest of about \$898 per month on a 30-year loan. At 6.5%, the same mortgage costs about \$1,264 — roughly \$366 more every month before property taxes, homeowners insurance or mortgage insurance are added.

Higher rates also discourage existing homeowners from moving. A homeowner who financed a house at 3% or 4% during the years of historically low rates must give up that loan to purchase another property at today’s rates. Economists have described the resulting reluctance to sell as the mortgage “lock-in” effect.

Builders face their own pressures. Single-family housing starts nationally fell 9.9% in July to their lowest level since November 2022 as builders contended with borrowing costs, construction expenses and uncertainty about demand.

Those costs make producing lower-priced new housing difficult because land, infrastructure, labor and materials establish a floor beneath what builders can charge.

The result is a housing market in which several seemingly conflicting things can be true at once.

Homes can take longer to sell while monthly payments remain unaffordable for many potential buyers. A community can have older or distressed houses available while lacking move-in-ready housing people want. Developers can build hundreds of new units while homeowners elsewhere in the same market enter foreclosure.

The differences become even more pronounced across southwest Georgia.

Lowndes County, home to Valdosta and one of the region’s largest housing markets, recorded 118 unique residential properties advertised for foreclosure through August, compared with 70 during the same period last year. Crisp County’s count increased by about 82%, Brooks County’s by 80% and Colquitt County’s by about 52%. Other counties showed little change or declines.

Those differences are a reminder that southwest Georgia is not one housing market.

Foreclosure advertisements across the 39 counties analyzed by the Herald increased 52.9% during the first half of 2026, almost exactly matching the 52.4% statewide increase independently reported by ATTOM.

Meanwhile, Smith’s description of a market shifting away from the post-pandemic buying frenzy is visible in houses sitting longer and buyers regaining some negotiating power. That may eventually produce a healthier balance between buyers and sellers.

For now, however, southwest Georgia’s housing challenge is increasingly about more than how much a house costs.

It is whether the houses already here are in the condition and locations buyers want, whether new homes can be built at prices local incomes can support and whether the people who already own homes can continue to afford them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I never dared to be radical when young for fear it would make me conservative when old.”

Robert Frost,
poet (1874-1963)

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

Wars, crises of leadership and economy, personal despair ... bring us now to a point likened to Gauguin’s crisis; broken, broke and on the brink of suicide at which time the appended to his Tahitian painting the fundamental question of human existence: “D’où venons-nous? Que sommes-nous? Où allons-nous? (Where do we come from? (origin) What are we?(identity and meaning) Where are we going? (destiny). The world is pell-mell to hell due to humanity’s failure to ask these questions.

In today’s world, you should consider yourself a fraud victim, not a “taxpayer.”

I really enjoyed the concept of looking at various sections of Albany, offering a bit of history and plans for the future. Reading the article, I had a flashback to the days when Albany’s downtown was thriving. Ahhh, reminiscing.

A Code Enforcement (officer) came through my neighborhood, and I asked her about the trailers on Hill Road. Her response was “not her job” and “call 311.” So who’s job is it? Dougherty County and Albany (employees) just being lazy.

Joe Whitfield: I went to a couple of high school football games this weekend, and I carried your high school football preview with me. It was very beneficial. Excellent job.

Here is a question!? Are you concerned about taxes in Dougherty County? If so, you should be outraged enough to need deep therapy care now that the U.S. debt is \$40 trillion and the income from GDP to finance that debt is \$32 trillion. Or, the US owes \$1.59 for every \$1 it makes. The effect on you? Try getting a loan. Oh, you have, maxing out your credit cards paying for gas, food and school supplies. You did this to yourself.

Fletcher, while I agree with you that the state needs to step in and investigate the illegal use of taxpayer funds by local school boards and government agencies, I’m afraid these nobodies are going to keep getting away with it because, as you stated, the state government isn’t aware of anything happening south of Macon unless it impacts them directly.

Gee, Clinton Johnson is being given all these statewide positions. I wonder how many of them come with a credit card so that he can charge liquor and pay five times the going rate for hotels ... all at taxpayer expense.

If you are a substitute for DCSS looking for work, please come to Lake Park Elementary School.

Let’s enforce term limits with our votes.

I had to remind y’all yesterday about wrong dates. Now, Saturday’s Herald is loaded down with crazy dates. Today in History: Bill Clinton did not sign anything into law in 1966, he was probably in high school or first year of college in 66. And then Mauldin has Mr. Tift founding Albany in 1936 and building his new bridge and bridge house in 1958. Hell, that is not but eight years before Clinton signed that bill. Come on, man, these children are already confused and do not score well on state standard tests. Don’t confuse them more.

Weather Forecast



Today
88°
73°



Friday
85°
73°



Saturday
86°
73°



Sunday
90°
73°



Monday
91°
72°



Tuesday
93°
72°



Wednesday
94°
73°

Daily Bridge Club

Tooth and Nail

By Frank Stewart

Tribune Content Agency

When I watched today’s deal in a duplicate game, East-West were a dentist and manicurist we call “Tooth and Nail” because

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

Frank Stewart

that’s how they argue. How their partnership survives the rancor is a mystery.

Against four hearts, Nail led the queen of spades, winning, and continued with the deuce. Declarer, who happened to be Ed, my club’s expert, played the king(!) from dummy. Tooth took the ace and led a club, and Nail won and led the high jack of spades.

Tooth discarded a diamond. Ed ruffed, picked up the king of trumps with a finesse and claimed 10 tricks.

POSTMORTEM

Tooth and Nail then conducted the usual high-decibel postmortem.

Nail: “Ruff the third spade with your six of trumps, you numbskull. You promote a trick for my K-9-8.”

Tooth: “You led me astray. If you want me to ruff, lead a low spade, not the jack.”

Ed did well to play the king of spades. The defense would have been easier if dummy retained that card. And that’s the whole tooth and nothing but.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S 10 3 H J 10 5 2 D A J 9 C K 10 6 3. Your partner opens one spade, you respond 1NT and he bids two diamonds. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: A return to two spades would be defensible. Still, you have a maximum for a 1NT response, including three tens and a nine. Bid 2NT, giving yourself a good chance to reach game if partner has some extra strength. It’s not as if two spades would be a delicious contract.

West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Adult child of friends ruins parties

By Eric Thomas

Tribune Content Agency

– Not Enjoying the Party

Dear Eric: We are an empty-nester couple in our 50s. We entertain often, and in one group is a couple who have an adult child, W, who lives with them. This couple frequently asks if W is invited too. We always say yes. The problem is that W tends to put a significant damper on gatherings. They never engage in conversation, literally zero other than to answer direct questions.

It might not be so obvious they weren’t engaging if it weren’t for the fact they always seem to choose a seat in the middle of things — middle of the table or the room or the couch, whatever — which makes it awkward, sometimes painfully so, to hold a conversation around them.

When I’m cooking in my too-small-for-more-than-one kitchen, W will absolutely reliably take the stool at the kitchen pass-through and turn their back to me to listen to those standing around outside the kitchen, which makes it difficult for others to easily engage with me.

I don’t think W intends any rudeness. I think they’re just taking whatever looks to them like the most appealing seat without thinking much about it.

I don’t know what to do. I want to be kind, but this has been going on for years and I find it draining and anticipate the request to include W with something increasingly approaching dread every time we entertain this group. I think it’s possible W is neurodivergent, although no one has ever told me that, which of course would call for even more kindness. Is there any kind way to solve this? What possible way can you ask someone to sit somewhere less central without being unkind?

Dear Party: Try bringing this up with W’s parents and ask if they can think of a way that W might be better integrated into gatherings. They’re likely used to W’s social habits and are, hopefully, adept at helping their child to move through the world.

You can also try putting out name cards at place settings the next time you entertain. This would allow you to mix and match people in whatever way you want. Not only could this enhance W’s experience at the dinners, but it could give the rest of the guests a chance to engage with folks they otherwise might not.

Dear Eric: Forty-five years ago, I married a widow with two sons. They are now grown with children of their own. My wife and I have been supportive of them and their families. When one son was depressed over early hair loss, we got him counseling and a hair transplant. When he got colon cancer, I called often, giving him emotional support.

I have been encouraging and offered guidance to his sons while they attended college. Upon their graduations, I sent them congratulatory cards with a substantial monetary gift. I have provided my other son with thousands of dollars without expecting repayment when the IRS came calling because he hadn’t filed taxes for eight years.

When his wife suffered an early death from brain cancer, over the months she was hospitalized, I called him frequently providing emotional support and took him out for lunch or dinner.

After my wife, their mother, suffered a stroke, she was confined to bed for nine years

Eric Thomas

while I was her caretaker. The sons and grandchildren visited only on “obligatory” holidays like Mother’s Day or Christmas. They rarely offered me emotional support.

Since my wife passed, I’ve heard crickets from them. None of them calling, coming by again or inviting me to dinner to get out of my now lonely empty house. I am considering moving across the country, not even telling them and as they are not my blood, ceasing any relationship with them.

What do you think?

– No Calls

Dear No Calls: Your family has gone through so much; I’m very sorry. Your expectations of your stepsons aren’t unreasonable at all. When loved ones are ailing or in need, you show up, you call, you support.

It’s not clear from your letter whether you’ve ever had a conversation with them about your expectations or asked them to be more present. But even if you haven’t, there’s obviously a disconnect on your stepsons’ parts that’s not your responsibility to fix.

It may make the most sense to release this expectation and get support elsewhere. If you do so, however, consider closing this chapter with acceptance. This will help you move forward with less resentment. Acknowledge that this is who your stepsons are, the relationships you have with them are not the relationships you want, you wish it was different, but you accept that it’s not. You might even choose to tell them this in a letter. But mostly this is a practice for yourself and your peace.

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

DELIVERY QUESTIONS:

If your paper hasn’t been delivered call our Circulation Department at 229-888-9300. Hours are 8:30 am-5 pm weekdays, closed on holidays. A customer service representative will assist you. (All papers are by mail only and delivered by U.S. Postal Service.)

POSTAL SERVICE COMPLAINTS: If you are dissatisfied with delivery, ask your postmaster for a Consumer Service Card and record

The Albany Herald

MAIN OFFICE: 229-888-9300

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 229-888-9300

your complaint. If this does not bring improvement, contact us at 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or TTY: 711., or write your complaint to USPS’s Consumer Advocate office at: United States Postal Service Office of the Consumer Ad-

vocate, 475 L’ Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260

TO REPORT NEWS ITEMS: Email the editor at carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300.

CLASSIFIED, DISPLAY OR ONLINE

ADS: Advertising can be placed by phone, email and/or in person Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am - 5 pm or call 229-888-9300. For classifieds and display/public notices/online ads email Phil Cody at phil.cody@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300.

Our office is at 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31701.

BILLING: Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, contact number: 229-888-9300.

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

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

Matthew 12:30

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Government helps housing market reach new lows

The housing market keeps shattering records. Unfortunately, none of them portend anything positive. They are just signs of an increasingly dysfunctional and frozen market that confounds homebuyers and sellers, and the government’s dirty fingerprints are all over this quagmire.

Consider some of the recent housing news: “There were an estimated 46.3% more home sellers than buyers in the U.S. housing market in February (or 629,808 more, in numerical terms). That’s the largest gap in records dating back to 2013 and is up from 29.8% (or 449,409) a year earlier,” Redfin noted in March.

In normal times, that would suggest that this is a buyers’ market – a great opportunity to snatch a house. Buyers should enjoy the leverage, and homes should be selling at an impressive clip and at discounted rates. That’s not necessarily the case.

“The number of homebuyers in the market fell to its lowest level on record in July,” Redfin reported earlier this month. “Nationwide, there were an estimated 966,752 buyers in the market, down 2.5% from the month before.”

This is consistent with what is happening in Georgia, too. Supply has gradually been trickling upward. Today, the state has about 5 months’ worth of housing inventory. That’s up from 3 months’ worth not long ago, although 6 months is considered a healthy and balanced market, which we do not have.

A real estate agent I know recently told me, “I have been [in this industry] for over 30 years, and I have never seen it this bad. This is worse than 2008 and 2009.”

He was referring to homes simply not selling anymore. One of his listings remained on the market for 13 months before finally going under contract.

That’s an anecdote to be sure rather than the rule, but housing data reveals a sour market. The median house in Georgia stays on the market about two months before selling. Compare that with 22 days in the summer of 2021. Yet the median sales price has largely stayed unchanged over the past couple years. It has remained inflated – sitting at around \$374,000 – up from \$235,000 in January 2020.

The high cost of homeownership and an imbalance between supply and demand has sidelined many aspiring homeowners, and yes, federal, state and local governments are partially to blame.

“Permits and fees now eat up 26.4% of a new home’s price – a \$132K hit that jumped 40% in just five years,” Yahoo! Finance found in June.

New home construction has not kept up with demand since the 2008 financial crisis, and some local governments have been imposing moratoriums on new housing development. The Georgia Legislature tried and failed to curtail this kind of activity to the disappointment of buyers. Increasing supply would drive prices downward and open homeownership to many more Georgians.

Meanwhile, to tackle persistent inflation, the Federal Reserve has been fiddling with interest rates, which mortgage rates track. Today, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate is 6.67%. In January 2021, it sat at a low 2.65%. For a \$400,000 loan, that can increase payments by around \$1,000 a month – something many can scarcely afford. At the same time, those who want to sell their homes are locked into low rates and cannot afford to surrender them.

The government has effectively helped wreck the housing market as demand has evaporated in a host of locations, but too few sellers have accepted this, which can be seen in some recent data.

“As far back as modern records go, newly built homes have almost always cost more than previously owned homes, [...] but in recent months, that trend has been upended to an extent that has never been seen, with the typical new home selling at a sharp discount to existing homes,” according to Realtor.com. “The main reason behind the trend may be that homeowners are more reluctant than builders to wake up to the reality of softer demand and weaker home prices.”

This finding aligns with what a real estate professional told me: “People still think it is 2022. They remember their neighbor getting 20 offers in one day and their house selling above asking. They expect that for their home.”

I can sympathize with home sellers. They want to get as much as they possibly can, but many of them are in disbelief. Times have fundamentally changed. There are a number of factors contributing to our unhealthy housing market, but much of it boils down to limited supply and lack of affordability – problems the government continues to exacerbate with no end in sight.



HYDEN

Marc Hyden is the senior director of state government affairs at the R Street Institute. Follow him on X at @marc_hyden.

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

A close-up view of the ‘valley of the shadow’

I realized I was in the “valley of the shadow of death” as the Psalmist puts it. An earthquake and its consequences are harsh reminders to survivors, responders, and observers about the awful reality that physical life comes to an end, sometimes without warning. But there is hope even as we walk toward that inevitability.

A man came to receive help from my team. As he stepped into the shade, he could not withhold the tears.

“I just need to tell someone what happened to me,” he said.

He lost both parents, his wife, two children, and his home. A young woman was chatting hopefully with us until she received a call that the bodies of her aunt and niece were discovered in the rubble.

As painful as these stories are, one incident became iconic to me. It gripped me with grief and stirred my empathy. I stood facing a beach, near the epicenter of destruction. The mountains rose steeply behind me. I heard the alarming noise of heavy rubble falling. I turned to see a severely damaged, multi-story residential building high on the mountain. A lone figure, silhouetted against the late afternoon sun, stood atop the structure’s remains. He was digging desperately and pushing debris overboard. No one would take such a dangerous job for hire.

He was searching for loved ones -- four weeks after the earthquake.

We Christians live with a paradox. We prioritize the hope of life beyond the grave by God’s grace

through faith in the One who forgives sin. But we don’t just preach that good news. We also engage the struggle in this life to alleviate suffering and promote human flourishing.

But to do only that would make us no different than any well-meaning humanitarian group. We care about both now and eternity because Jesus did. Jesus wept with Mary and Martha over the death of their brother, Lazarus. Perhaps he grieved over the horrid existence of death itself.

He wept over the temporal human condition, even as He promised eternity.

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” (John 11:25)

C.S. Lewis spoke of the “unnaturalness” of death. “We know that we were not made for it,” he wrote. “We know how it crept into our destiny as an intruder; and we know Who has defeated it.”

Surely that is how the Psalmist could offer courage in the face of evil, comfort in the presence of death, and the protection of the divine, guiding Presence.

May the God of hope comfort you when you suffer your own earthquake.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psa. 23:4)

Wayne Fowler has been a pastor and columnist in Georgia since 1996. Email mountainchristian@brmemc.net.



FOWLER

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Stars and Stripes ... perhaps not forever

In late 1861, Union soldiers in Bloomfield, Mo., found the local newspaper’s office empty and decided to put it to good use. Stars and Stripes covered the activities of the three Illinois regiments. Their commander in chief, of course, was U.S. president Abraham Lincoln.

Over time, the paper gained direct funding from the military, but with supposed “editorial independence,” and a mission “to provide first-hand reporting from bases around the world and unbiased, credible news to America’s military.” Those who worked in uniform abroad through two world wars and after, often not in a position to visit a newspaper stand or receive news via TV or radio, could read Stars and Stripes. (I read it in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm).

On Aug. 21, U.S. defense secretary Pete Hegseth fired the paper’s publisher, editor-in-chief, and a top reporter after they publicly commented on Department of Defense “interference” with the newspaper’s “independence.”

Once again, Abraham Lincoln – or at least the aircraft carrier named for him – played a central role as Hegseth whined over the paper’s coverage of complaints from deployed sailors’ families concerning the material and mental health situation aboard that vessel.

The firings aren’t really as sudden as they might seem to those not following closely over time.

The first Trump administration floated a plan to shutter Stars and Stripes, but backed down after a “bipartisan” backlash. With Hegseth at the helm in Trump’s second time around, DoD rages frequently against

“woke distractions” in its reportage, firing its ombudsman in May for noticing that attempts to change it into a “morale booster” instead of a news outlet are “contrary to the news organization’s mission.”

So here’s the thing: Who pays the piper, calls the tune.

Stars and Stripes is largely funded by, and its operations and distribution are almost completely enabled by, the U.S. government. “Editorial independence” may sound like a wonderful idea, but there’s always been a leash. We’re just watching the leash get shorter.

Thankfully, the collar at the end of that leash only strangles Stars and Stripes.

These days, even troops aboard ships at sea and at remote firebases in hostile territory have far greater contact with the outside world, most of the time, than even civilians at home enjoyed 50, let alone 150, years ago.

Cellphones. Email. Web access. Zoom. It’s not 100% there, 100% of the time, but neither was Stars and Stripes.

Hegseth can cry if he wants to. He can throw himself on the floor and threaten to hold his breath until he turns blue. The troops will still get their news, whether he likes it or not. They’ll get the kind of coverage they want to get, not just the kind he wants them to get.

And because all that technology runs two-way, they can also report the news they want covered without consulting him first as he obviously expects Stars and Stripes to.

The military news coverage, and consumption, of the future will look a lot more like WikiLeaks than like Stars and Stripes.

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



KNAPP

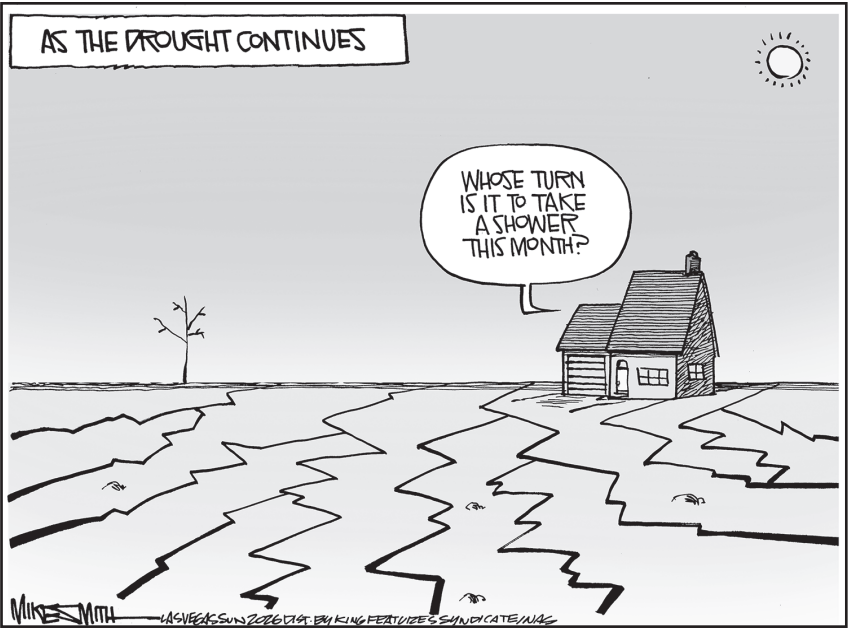
The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

EMAIL: carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

MAIL: Albany Herald News

306 W. Broad Avenue, Albany GA, 31701



What to watch THURSDAY

August 27, 2026

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

MLB Baseball: L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta

FS1, 7 p.m. Live

Shohei Ohtani and the L.A. Dodgers are at Atlanta's Truist Park to face Matt Olson and the Braves in the finale of a three-game series.

NFL Preseason Football

NFL Network & Prime Video, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

Catch the Pittsburgh Steelers at the Buffalo Bills (NFL Network), the New England Patriots at the Cleveland Browns (Prime Video) and the L.A. Rams at the L.A. Chargers (NFL Network) in Week 3 preseason matchups.

Miss USA 75th Diamond Celebration

The CW, 8 p.m. Live

The Miss USA competition celebrates its 75th year as it takes place at Ziff Ballet Opera House at the renowned Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami. Young women representing every U.S. state and the District of Columbia highlight their achievement, ambition and leadership in the hope of earning the Miss USA crown. The winner participates in the Miss Universe competition held in November in Puerto Rico.

Big Brother

CBS, 8 p.m. Live

The reality competition series celebrates its 1,000th episode with a look back at memorable moments from the show's historic 26-year run. Then, it's back to business with a live vote and an eviction. Julie Chen Moonves hosts.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



PARI DUKOVIC, FX

Adults

FXX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The comedy about young people trying to establish themselves in New York City returns for an eight-episode Season 2. In "The Scrub," the housemates uncover Paul Baker's (Jack Inman) long-kept secret. In "Fake ID," Billie (Lucy Fryer) discovers the 20-year-old who inherited her fake ID is cooler than she ever was and younger than she'll ever be again.

Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service

Food Network, 9 p.m.

For the past 40 years, the family-run restaurant Dahlak has been a mainstay of Philadelphia's community. While the food is the shining light of the restaurant, unfortunate evidence of cockroaches and dust-covered surfaces calls for Gordon's intervention.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Bette Davis

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Bette Davis, one of classic Hollywood's most formidable stars, takes over TCM for a Summer Under the Stars day built around her intensity. The lineup includes **Of Human Bondage** (1934), the film that helped prove Davis could handle raw, unsympathetic roles, and **Jezebel** (pictured), the 1938 Southern drama that brought her second Academy Award. The



WARNER BROS.

day continues with **The Old Maid** (1939), **Now, Voyager** (1942) and **Watch on the Rhine** (1943), followed by the evening's centerpiece, **All About Eve** (1950), with Davis as Margo Channing, the aging stage star facing a younger rival (Anne Baxter).

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



EVERETT COLLECTION

Sex and the City (2008, Romance-comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall **EI, 6 p.m.**

The Parent Trap (1998, Children) Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid **Freeform, 6:55 p.m.**

Sing 2 (2021, Children) Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Normal (2025, Action) Bob Odenkirk, Henry Winkler **HBO, 7:25 p.m.**

Fast X (2023, Action) Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez **USA, 8 p.m.**

Three Housewives and a Body (2026, Suspense) Rachel Hendrix, Christie Osterhus **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Anaconda (1997, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, Ice Cube **BET, 9 p.m.**

Major League II (1994, Comedy) Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger **BBC America, 9:30 p.m.**

The Secret Lives of Suburban Housewives (2026, Suspense) Analisa Wall, Ian Reier Michaels **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Venom (2018, Action) Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams **FX, 10 p.m.**

The Matrix Resurrections (2021, Science fiction) Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss **TNT, 11 p.m.**

The Rock (1996, Action) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage **AMC, 11 p.m.**

The Friend (2024, Drama) Naomi Watts, Bill Murray **SHO, 11:35 p.m.**

StayTuned | 500+ MOVIES

What2Watch All Month Long!

IN EVERY ISSUE!
\$3.99/Month
CALL: 888-899-9992
Mention code: tune1

What to watch FRIDAY

August 28, 2026

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

NFL Preseason Football

CBS & NFL Network, beginning at 6 p.m. Live

Week 3 of the NFL preseason includes the Washington Commanders at the Baltimore Ravens (NFL Network), the Cincinnati Bengals at the Philadelphia Eagles (CBS) and the Minnesota Vikings at the Denver Broncos (NFL Network).

NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Winn-Dixie 250

The CW, 7:30 p.m. Live

Justin Allgaier, Jesse Love, Corey Day, Sheldon Creed, Austin Hill and other top contenders in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series compete at Daytona International Speedway for the final regular-season race.

Great Performances: 'Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert 2026'

PBS, 9 p.m.

The beloved annual concert performed at Schönbrunn Palace Park by the Vienna Philharmonic is conducted by Lorenzo Viotti and features renowned bass-baritone Bryn Terfel as guest artist.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



'Great Performances'

JULIA WESELY

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Brock Peters

TCM, beginning at 6 a.m.

Brock Peters makes his Summer Under the Stars debut with a lineup that highlights his strong screen presence across dramas, thrillers, science fiction and socially charged films. The day begins with **Carmen Jones** (1954), Otto Preminger's 1954 adaptation of the Broadway musical, and includes **The L-Shaped Room** (1962), **Major Dundee** (1965), **The Incident** (1967), 1973's **Soylent Green** (pictured), **Framed**



MGM

(1975) and **Two-Minute Warning** (1976). The evening's major title is **To Kill a Mockingbird** (1962), with Peters as Tom Robinson, the Black man falsely accused of rape in the film adaptation of Harper Lee's novel.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



MGM

Training Day (2001, Crime drama) Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke **BET, 6 p.m.**

Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill, Amy Adams **TNT, 6:15 p.m.**

Overboard (1987, Comedy) Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell **WE, 6:15 p.m.**

Coyote Ugly (2000, Romance-comedy) Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia **EI, 7 p.m.**

Venom: The Last Dance (2024, Action) Tom Hardy, Chiwetel Ejiofor **FX, 7 p.m.**

The Drama (2026, Drama) Robert Pattinson **HBO, 7:10 p.m.**

Three Amigos! (1986, Western) Chevy Chase, Steve Martin **Sundance, 7:30 p.m.**

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (2011, Children) Jason Lee, David Cross **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Casino (1995, Crime drama) Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone **AMC, 8 p.m.**

The Wrong Housemaid (2026, Suspense) Vivica A. Fox, April Hale **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Wonder Woman (2017, Action) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine **TNT, 9 p.m.**

Selena (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez, Edward James Olmos **VH1, 10 p.m.**

Trading Places (1983, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy **IFC, 10:30 p.m.**

Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly **Comedy Central, 11 p.m.**

Michael (2026, Biography) Jaafar Jackson, Colman Domingo **Starz, 11:40 p.m.**



StayTuned

What2Watch All Month Long!

The Ultimate Guide for What to Watch Now!

Subscribe Today! 1-888-899-9995 | subscribe.staytunedmag.com/tune3

Mention code: tune1

\$3.99/Month

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



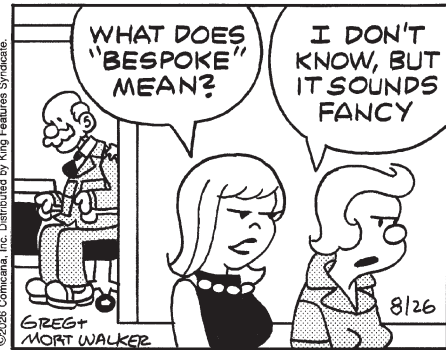
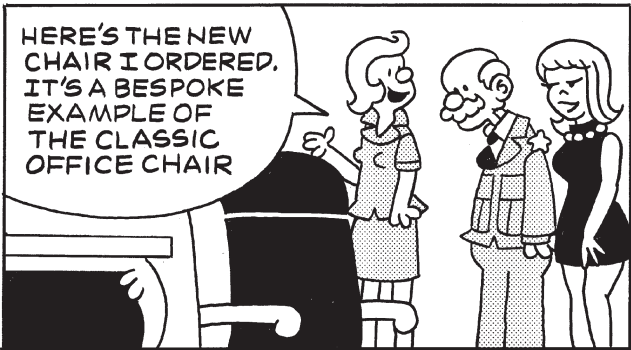
“Check it out. Bodkins bet me \$100 that I can't do Mr. Thormborg's bypass surgery using nothing but a Swiss Army knife!”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

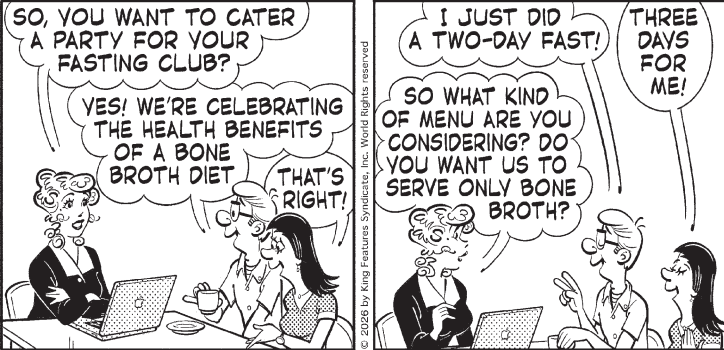


“Your plant in the bottle looked thirsty, Mommy, so I gave it a good drink.”

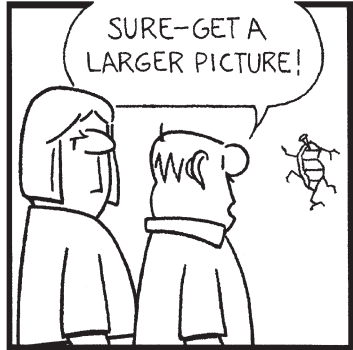
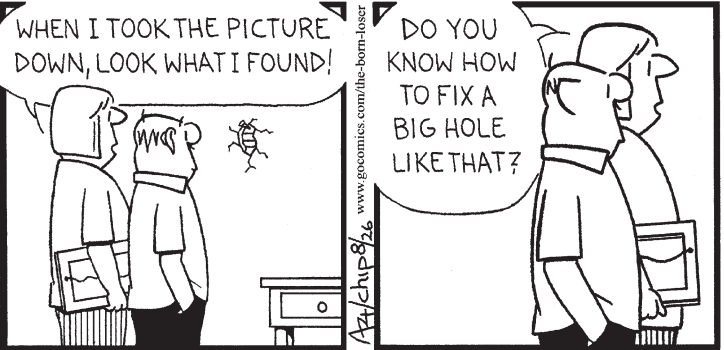
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



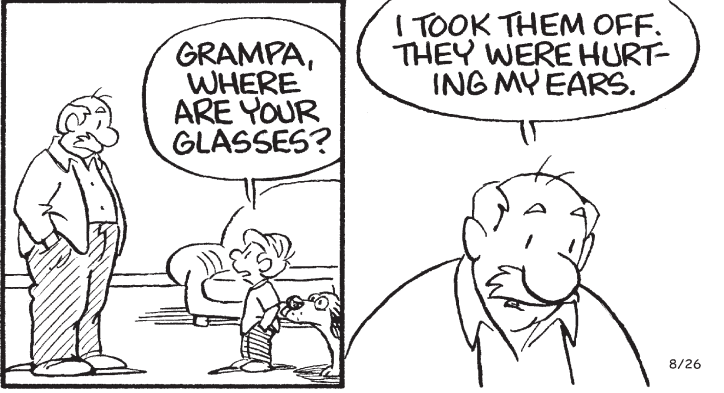
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆								
	9		6	8	3			
6		1	5		7			
		7	1			5		6
1	5				4	6		
7				5				2
		9	3				5	8
3		5			2	4		
			4		5	8		7
			9	1	8		6	

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: Read between the lines

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Emerged
 - 6 Korean-American grocery store
 - 11 Dim sum brew
 - 14 Little solo break
 - 15 Camel's watering hole
 - 16 "That'll leave a mark!"
 - 17 Programming problem
 - 19 Scand. country
 - 20 Proboscis
 - 21 Feature of Canada's flag
 - 22 Nove minus uno
 - 23 Suspicious
 - 25 Enclosed rhyme scheme in Petrarchan sonnets
 - 27 Turkish peak
 - 30 Clinton secretary of state
 - 34 Olympic gymnast with five moves named for her
 - 35 2025 Best Picture Oscar winner
 - 36 Letters of liability?
 - 37 Dongle, e.g.
 - 39 Synagogue singers
 - 41 "Exactly right!"
 - 42 ___ Sports Bureau: stats giant
 - 44 "Punch-___ Love": Paul Thomas Anderson film
 - 45 Bible Belt state
 - 47 Shelters
 - 48 Altar site
 - 49 Change
 - 51 Prometheus's gift
 - 53 "See ..."
 - 54 Yellow brick road terrier
 - 58 Aussie hopper
 - 59 "Everyone in the water!," or when parsed differently, what can be found in each set of circled words
 - 62 Nocturnal bird of prey
 - 63 ___ Gras
 - 64 Unlike the rest
 - 65 Young lady
 - 66 Clique
 - 67 Vociferous
- DOWN**

 - 1 "Exactly right!"
 - 2 City north of Carson City
 - 3 Probabilities
 - 4 Service promoter
 - 5 Cyclone center
 - 6 Swindled
 - 7 ___ bear: Southeast Asian forest dweller
 - 8 Since
 - 9 Animated film about Spix's macaws
 - 10 Baker's shortening?
 - 11 Like laughter, sometimes
 - 12 62-Across call
 - 13 Curly hairstyle
 - 18 Bed frame board
 - 22 Japanese sash
 - 24 Picks up the pace
 - 25 Pokémon that ultimately evolves into Alakazam
 - 26 Jason's "Beverly Hills, 90210" role
 - 27 Modest Muslim robe
 - 28 Bus passenger
 - 29 Sushi bite topped with salmon
 - 31 Hairstyle that may begin with comb coils
 - 32 "Stormy Weather" singer
 - 33 Elephant pair
 - 35 Operatic solo
 - 38 If-then-___ statement
 - 40 Leaves in the care of
 - 43 Climbs
 - 46 Big galoot
 - 47 Big Island county seat
 - 50 Throwback hit
 - 51 Amphibious hopper
 - 52 Corn Belt state
 - 53 Major conflicts
 - 55 "Didn't see you there!"
 - 56 Knots
 - 57 The Grand Ole ___
 - 59 Metal box?
 - 60 Dim sum bun
 - 61 Persona ___ grata

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

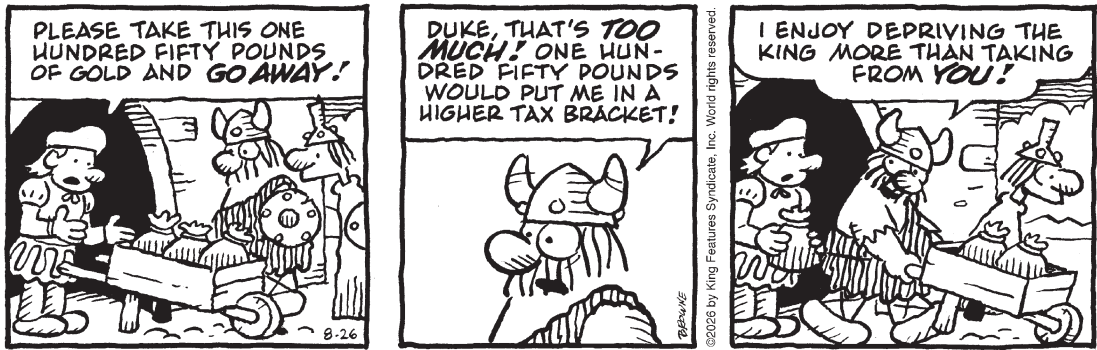
08/26/26

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15							16	
17						18							19	
20						21						22		
				23	24					25	26			
27	28	29				30	31					32	33	
34						35						36		
37						38			39			40		
41						42			43			44		
45						46				47				
				48					49	50				
51	52					53						54	55	56
57														
58						59	60					61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

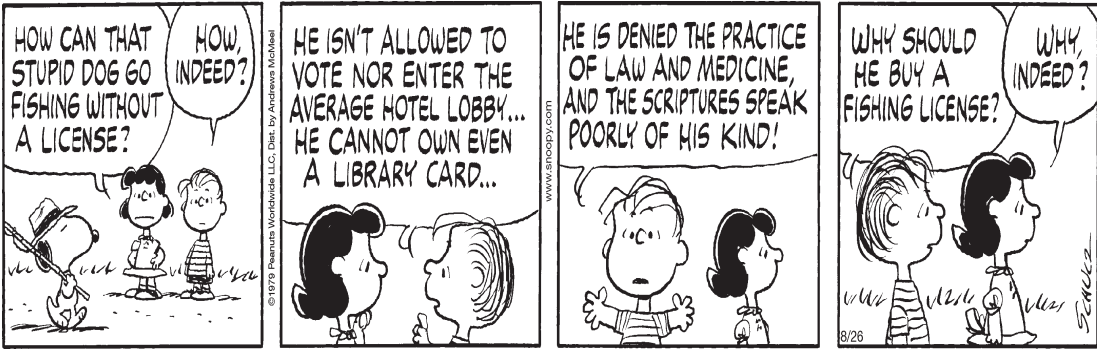
By Zachary Gallardo
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

08/26/26

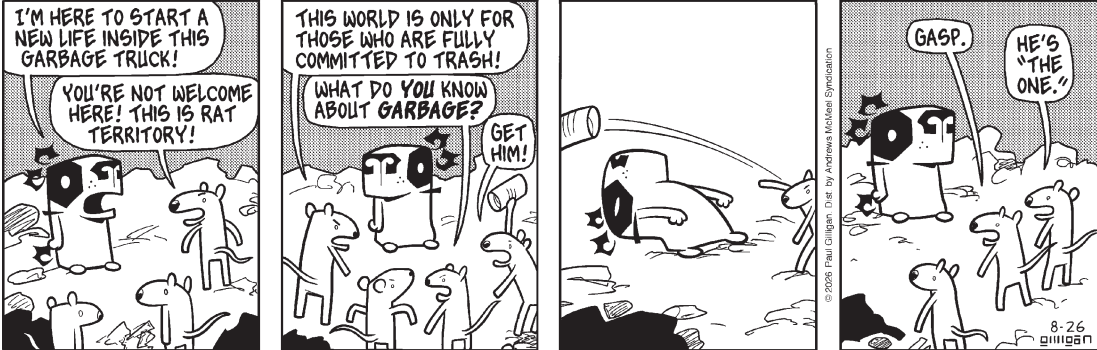
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

SMALL-TOWN FAIRS Solution: 10 letters

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

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

8/26

Bales, Barn, BBQ, Cider, Clowns, Contest, Cool, Corn, Cotton Candy, Crafts, Donuts, Ferris Wheel, Fireworks, Float, Food Trucks, Fudge, Funnel Cake, Games, Goat, Grounds, Hayride, Horse, Lemonade, Livestock, Locals, Loop, Mascot, Midway, Music, Pie Eating, Raffle, Signs, Singer, Snacks, Snow Cones, Stage, Stands, Sweet, Tent, Tickets, Toss, Tractor, Vendor

TODAY'S ANSWER: Petting Zoo

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



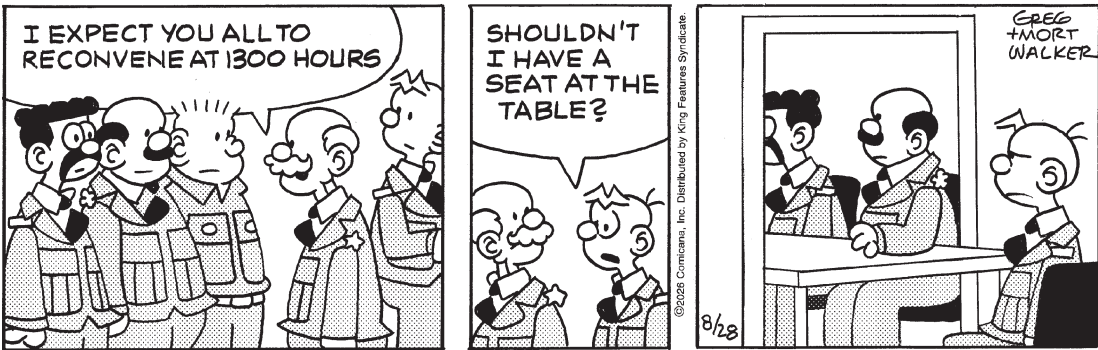
The agony of going to karaoke night when your name is Caroline.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



My dad's into recycling. When he hears a joke, he likes to tell it over and over.

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



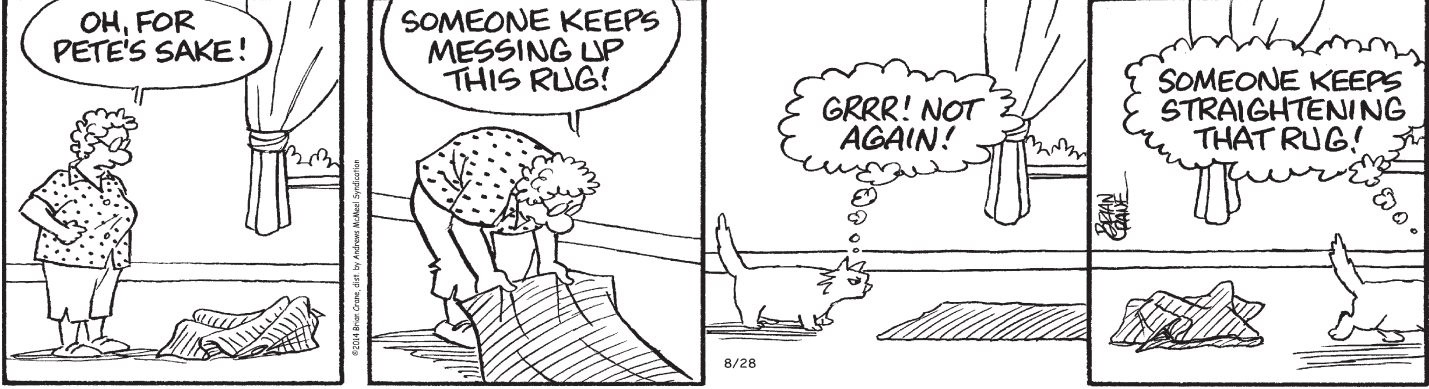
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

bitten shy shy

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:

Once bitten, twice shy

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- Thurman of "Red, White & Royal Blue"
 - Most unexpected
 - Axe handle
 - Bath rug
 - Subtlety
 - Important stretches
 - Go where one shouldn't
 - Be time-consuming?
 - AirDrop tablet
 - Female pig
 - cuisine
 - Drummer in the Electric Mayhem
 - "Lessons in Chemistry" actress — Naomi King
 - TV writers — and Marty Krofft
 - Instruction from a lazy track coach?
 - Russian news acronym until 2014
 - Minute
 - Pseudonym letters
 - Lunch spot
 - "A Complete Unknown" subject
 - Video file format
 - Corp. leader
 - Feel icky
 - Washed-out
 - "42nd Street," e.g.?
 - Ceiling spinner
 - and outs
 - Show of affection
 - That is, in Latin
 - Chance, quaintly
 - Dissenting body
 - Create a state of anarchy?
 - Lend a hand
 - Toy brand with Creator 3-in-1 sets
 - Title for Marie Curie
 - Type of A/V connector
 - Put pen to paper
 - So-so grade, or an apt title for this puzzle
- DOWN**
- Official who works close to home?
 - Stew
 - Unexpected
 - At some point
 - "Dance the Night" singer Lipa
 - Who —: New Orleans Saints fans
 - Opposite of exo-
 - Unstressed vowel sounds
 - Top pick?
 - Goddess of death played by Cate Blanchett
 - Stimulate
 - "In all honesty ..."
 - Clucked in disapproval
 - Hopscotch player's supply
 - "Sweet land of liberty," in song
 - Very dry
 - Dirt
 - Patrick's "Star Trek: Picard" role
- 30 Short turnaround?**
- 31 Pass along**
- 32 Many a "What We Do in the Shadows" character**
- 38 Objective**
- 40 Indy 500 leaders**
- 41 Rubber bands**
- 42 Salon array**
- 44 Novelist Wharton**
- 47 "SNL" Emmy winner Gilda**
- 48 Jumpy**
- 49 Meditation retreat**
- 50 Mouths off to**
- 51 Area of study**
- 55 Stash securely**
- 57 Bavaria-based automaker**
- 58 Map out**
- 61 Diplomatic HQ**
- 62 Bird in the bush**
- 64 Karate level**

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

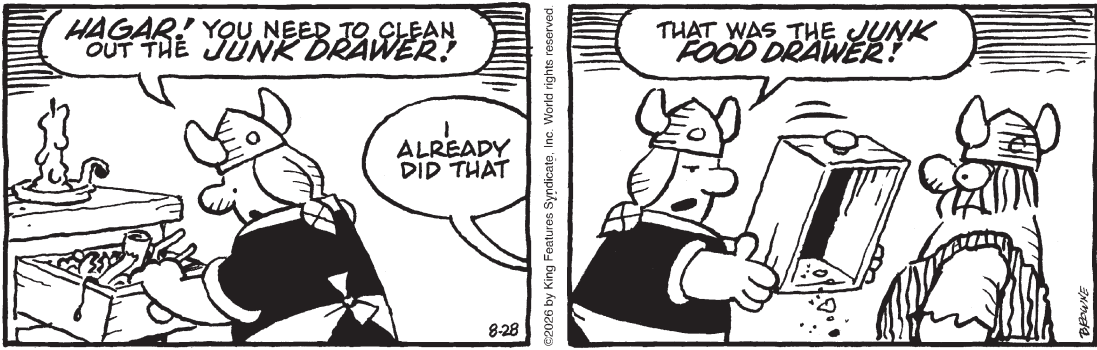
08/28/26

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
	20		21			22				23				
24					25			26	27			28		
29						30	31				32			
33								34		35				
36					37			38			39	40	41	42
				43	44			45			46			
	47	48				49				50				
51				52				53						
54			55			56	57	58		59				
60						61			62			63		64
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

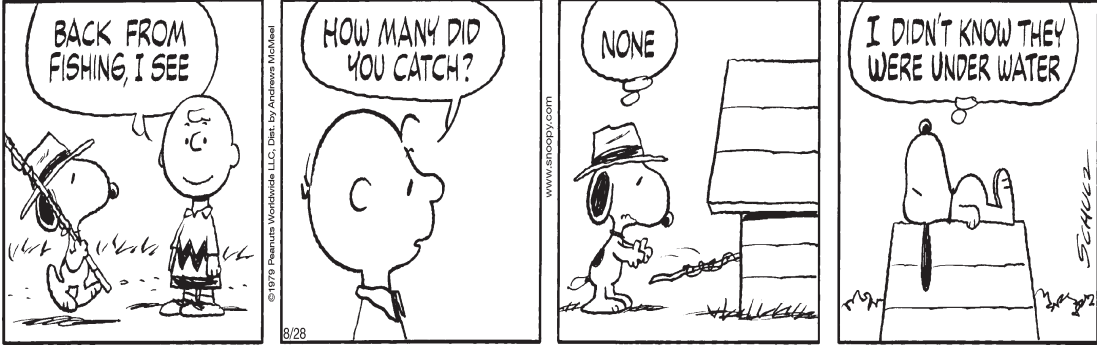
By Patti Varol
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

08/28/26

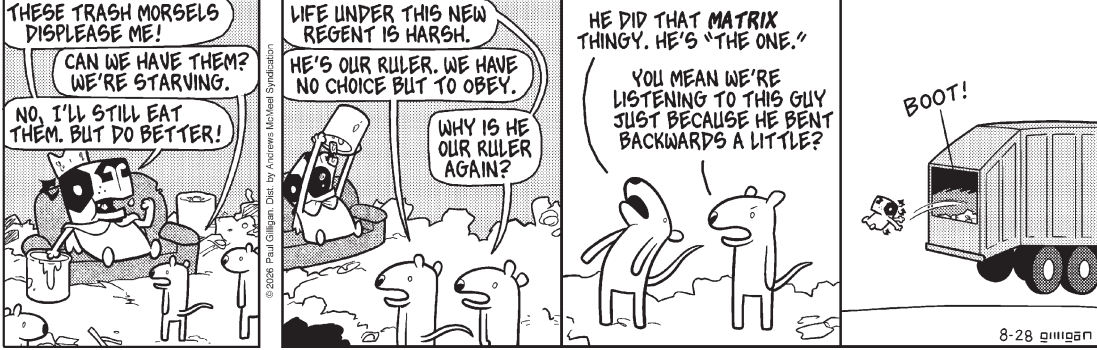
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

MICROWAVE IT!

Solution: 4 letters

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

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

8/28

Bacon, Beans, Beef, Beep, Boil, Bread, Burger, Chicken, Cook, Cover, Cups, Defrost, Dinner, Eggs, Fast, Flavor, Food, Frozen, Gravy, Heat, Instructions, Leftovers, Lights, Melt, Minutes, Mix, Party, Pasta, Pizza, Plate, Popcorn, Pork, Potatoes, Power, Recipes, Rice, Roast, Safe, Sauces, Sausage, Soup, Spill, Start, Stews, Taco, Taste, Timer, Tray, Usages, Veal, Vegetables, Warm, Water

TODAY'S ANSWER: Meal

Seven new fire engines now in service in Albany, Dougherty County

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Dougherty County marked a significant investment in public safety Friday as three new county-funded fire engines joined four additional engines in being officially placed into service to protect residents throughout Albany and Dougherty County.

The seven new Pierce pumper trucks were presented during a dedication ceremony attended by Dougherty County and city officials, public safety leaders, firefighters and Fleet Management personnel. The addition of seven new engines at one time represents a major milestone for the community and is the result of years of planning, coordination and investment in fire protection, emergency response and firefighter safety, officials said. Albany Fire Chief Cedric Scott

officially placed all seven engines into service Friday, making them available to respond to emergencies throughout Albany and Dougherty County. Of the seven new engines, three were purchased with Dougherty County funding and will serve residents from:

- Station 8 on Newton Road;
- Station 10 on Gillionville Road;
- Station 11 on Hill Road.

The strategic placement of the county-funded engines strengthens fire protection throughout Dougherty County and helps ensure modern, reliable equipment is positioned to respond when every second counts.

“This is what responsible investment in public safety looks like — replacing aging equipment, strengthening our emergency response capabilities and ensuring that our firefighters have the re-

sources they need when our citizens need them most,” Dougherty County Chairman Lorenzo Heard said.

“No matter how advanced the equipment, the greatest asset we have is the person behind the wheel and the firefighters inside that truck.”

Scott said an investment of this magnitude required the collective support of elected officials, appointed leadership, Fleet Management and the community.

“A fleet investment of this magnitude and scale does not happen by accident,” he said. “It takes vision, collaboration and a steadfast dedication to public safety from our entire community.”

Scott also reminded residents that the new equipment represents their investment in the community’s public safety system.

“Those fire trucks parked

outside belong to you,” he said. “Every time one of those fire trucks rolls out of the station doors, it represents your trust and your investment in public safety.”

Each new engine is equipped with a 1,000-gallon water tank and modern electrical, plumbing and hydraulic systems. The trucks also incorporate enhanced safety features, including crash and rollover protection, airbags, advanced traction control and independent front suspension.

Fleet Director Peter Bednar said acquiring the new engines underscores the importance of long-range planning, particularly as the fire apparatus industry continues to experience extended manufacturing timelines.

“The goal is to replace the vehicles on time so that you’re not impacted,” Bednar said. “Nothing is worse than hav-



Special Photo: Albany Fire Department

Three new county-funded fire engines joined four additional engines in being officially placed into service Friday to protect residents throughout Albany and Dougherty County.

ing a fire and an engine goes to respond and breaks down halfway down the road. Every minute is absolutely critical.”

The seven new engines are part of a broader effort to maintain and modernize fire and rescue equipment serving Dougherty County and the city of Albany. Additional equipment is in various stages of planning or acquisition

to support airport fire rescue operations, county water-supply needs and brush-fire response.

Friday’s dedication also recognized the firefighters who will operate the new engines and the Fleet Management personnel responsible for keeping them ready to respond.

Lawmakers call for closure of ICE detention center in Lumpkin

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

LUMPKIN — Democratic members of Congress are calling for an immigration detention center in southwest Georgia to be shut down after conducting an oversight visit this week, describing conditions that included overcrowded cells and lack of adequate medical care.

Stewart Detention Center, a facility run by the private prison company CoreCivic, is one of the largest detention centers in the country. At least two people have died after being detained at the facility this year, including a man with leukemia whose family said he waited eight days for medical treatment after he began coughing up blood. He was later transferred to a hospital, where he went into a coma and died.

Georgia Reps. Hank Johnson and Nikema Williams toured the facility for roughly four hours recently alongside Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington and North Carolina Reps. Valerie Foushee and Deborah Ross, and spoke with three people detained in the center. U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock also toured the facility in a separate visit.

Jayapal, who serves as ranking member of an immigration enforcement subcommittee, called the facility “one of the worst in the country,” citing a 2023 government report detailing substandard conditions within the detention center after an unannounced inspection. She added that lawmakers were initially obstructed from conducting oversight by the prison staff during the recent visit.

“We had to fight for access and for answers to be here,” she said while standing outside the facility talking to reporters. “We are horrified by the situation here at Stewart, and we believe this detention center should be shut down.”

Staff also was unwilling or unable to provide responses to many of the lawmakers’ questions, Jayapal said, such as the facility’s capacity or how many people were being detained without any criminal convictions on their record.

Johnson, who represents a metro Atlanta House district, also criticized the practice of having private, for-profit corporations running immigration detention centers.

“This whole racket is taking money directly from the taxpayers, the people, the wage earners of this country — those who don’t have the tax breaks that the wealthy have — and putting it directly into the hands and pockets and pocketbooks of these ultra wealthy people,” Johnson said. “They are profiting off of human misery.”

In a separate statement following his visit, Warnock echoed many of the lawmaker’s concerns about the conditions in Stewart Detention Center, citing a recent investigation into increases in 911 calls made from the facility to treat detainees suffering from medical emergencies such as head injuries, suicide attempts and pregnancy complications.

“Regardless of your politics, we should all be able to agree on this, that everyone deserves to be treated with basic human dignity and respect,” Warnock said in a



Maya Homan/Georgia Recorder

Democratic members of Congress, including, from left, Rep. Nikema Williams of Georgia, Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington, Rep. Hank Johnson of Georgia and Rep. Deborah Ross of North Carolina, speak with reporters outside Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin.

statement. “As a member of Congress, I thought it was important for me, as a voice for Georgia, to spend time speaking directly to those in the facility.”

Ryan Gustin, CoreCivic’s senior director of public affairs, disputed lawmakers’ description of the facility, arguing the facility is maintained to the standards set forth by the federal government. He added that medical providers onsite provide the “highest standards of care,” which he said is available to detainees 24/7.

“The safety, health and well-being of the individuals entrusted to our care and our dedicated staff at all our facilities, including Stewart Detention Center, is our top priority,” Gustin said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Alexandra Smolyar, an immigration attorney with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta, said the lawmakers’ concerns mirror what she’s

heard from clients who were detained at Stewart. Recent changes to immigration enforcement under the Trump administration, including the practice of detaining people during routine immigration check-ins, may also contribute to a rise in immigration-related arrests and detentions.

“People who had periodic check-in requirements, who may well have been living peacefully in the community without incident for many, many years, for decades even, are just being indiscriminately detained at their ICE check-ins,” she said. “That is, to my understanding, unprecedented.”

She added that the detention center’s location in Lumpkin — a town of about 900 people that sits about 45 minutes south of Columbus — might play a role in limiting public awareness about what conditions are like for detainees.

“These are places that are out of public scrutiny, where many, many people are detained,” she said. “And I think that that allows conditions, in some ways, to fester.”

Birth Announcements

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Unless otherwise noted, the following births all took place at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany between July 7 and Aug. 19, 2026:

Warren, Javian Amir, son, was born July 7 to Janai Warren of Albany.

Quimiro, Christopher Javier, son, was born July 8 to Tamara and Javier Quimiro of Leesburg.

Matthews, Cannon Neil, son, was born July 8 to Allyson Webb and Tyler Matthews of Albany.

Ishoy, Andrew Watson, son, was born July 9 to Flannery and Andrew Ishoy of Leesburg.

Montgerard, Lindy James, daughter, was born July 12 to Troy and Garrett Montgerard of Leesburg.

Etheridge, Louis Preston, son, was born July 13 to Mary and Christopher Etheridge of Albany.

Crutchfield, Kensley Kiarri, daughter, was born July 14 to Keniya Walker and Ke’derius Crutchfield of Sylvester.

Chan, Bria Alexis Paragayo, daughter, was born July 15 to Rengie and Brian Chan of Albany.

Carroll, Hendrix Levi, and Hayden Levi, twin sons, were born July 15 to Bryonna Alford and Quantavious Carroll Sr. of Sylvester.

Paone, Sadie Jane, daughter, was born July 16 to Madi-lynn abd Anthony Paone of Leesburg.

Emmanuel, Lamyr Deyon, son, was born July 17 to Shacristal Shine and Lauphael Emanuel of Camilla.

Williams, Cannon Maxwell, son, was born July 20 to Raeanne and Dalton Williams of Leesburg.

Graham, Trenton James, son, was born July 23 to Jessica and Eric Graham of Albany.

Smith, Colson Jack, son, was born July 24 to Bethanie Kiger and Robert Smith of Leesburg.

Strum, Sezyn Sinscere, son, was born July 25 to Dashiyah Roberts and Artavious Strum of Albany.

Ealey, Silas Eugene, son, was born July 27 to Amanda Casteel and Trevor Ealey of Albany.

McCray, Khloi Ka’Zari, daughter, was born July 27 to Tamia Coney and Zavven McCray of Albany.

Bailey, Karsyn Juwan,

son, was born July 27 to Lashawnda Bailey of Albany.

Fisher, Cashton Armani Maurice, son, was born July 27 to Raven Brittan and Cartarius Fisher of Albany.

Dyal, Lillian Blythe, daughter, was born July 28 to Claire and Jonathan Dyal of Albany.

Stubbs, Ke’Olin Giomani Khrome, son, was born July 30 to Shaolin Cooper and Ke’mani Stubbs of Albany.

Hunter, Lucy Elizabeth, daughter, was born July 31 to Caralyn and Jonathan Hunter of Albany.

Paros, Cleo Louise, daughter, was born Aug. 3 to Kyle and Dylan Paros of Leesburg.

Williamson, Hudson Zane, son, was born Aug. 4 to Jordan Wiggins and Gabriel Williamson of Leesburg.

Hall, Addison Elizabeth, daughter, was born Aug. 4 to Brittany and Kevin Hall of Leesburg.

Howard, Jett Morgan, son, was born Aug. 5 to Jenna and Tayton Howard of El-laville.

Colson, Jayce Pierce, son, was born Aug. 5 to Shaquitha and Jermaine Colson Jr. of Camilla.

Floyd, Marjorie Bell, daughter, was born Aug. 5 to Katelyn and Jaxon Floyd of Leesburg.

Lynn, Sean Andrew, son, was born Aug. 6 to Brittany Lynn of Leesburg.

Olson, Levi Oliver, son, was born Aug. 6 to Sara and Conrad Olson of Leesburg.

Green, Tyleigh Armani, daughter, was born Aug. 6 to Precious Arlen and Jared Green of Leesburg.

Marable, Faith Malani, daughter, was born Aug. 11 to Kendrea Marable of Thomasville.

Adam, Atticus Harlan, son, was born Aug. 14 to Rachel and James Adam of Leesburg.

Sapp, Orianna Malasiya, daughter, was born Aug. 12 to Candace Jones and Daniel Sapp of Albany.

Martin, Bryaire Tru, son, was born Aug. 15 to Dan-ashius Jones and Bryson Martin of Albany.

Luke, My’Ayla Cherie Amour, daughter, was born Aug. 18 to Antonique and Mason Luke of Albany.

Johnson, Cyrus Calvin, son, was born Aug. 18 to Ja’queria Glass and Calvin Johnson III of Albany.

Lanier, Marjorie Ellis, daughter, was born Aug. 19 to Sarah and Charles Lanier of Albany.

Tift Regional Medical Center earns platinum safety award

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — Tift Regional Medical Center has received the 2025 Platinum Safety Award from the Georgia Hospital Association Workers’ Compensation Self-Insurance Fund. The award recognizes TRMC’s strong workplace safety performance and superior accident experience during calendar year 2025.

TRMC recorded a loss ratio of 8.5% of its premium for 2025, as evaluated March 31. The Georgia Hospital Association also recognized the hospital for achieving low accident frequency and severity and for handling claims in a timely and efficient manner.

“This award reflects the commitment of our team members to maintaining a safe environment for one another, our patients and everyone who enters our facility,” Lori Folsom, assistant vice president of Human Resources with Southwell, said. “Workplace



Special Photo: TRMC

Participating in the presentation of a safety award for Tift Regional Medical Center are, from left, Lori Folsom, assistant vice president of Human Resources; Susie Giddens, director of benefits and Human Resources Operations; Alan R. DiGlandomenico, senior risk control consultant with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services LLC; and Tonia Garrett, vice president and chief nursing officer.

safety requires the participation of every department, and we are proud of our employees for making it a priority each day.”

The Platinum Safety Award highlights TRMC’s continued focus on accident prevention, prompt incident response and responsible claims manage-

ment, hospital officials said. These efforts help protect employees while supporting a safe, reliable environment for patient care.

Familiar faces await Golden Rams

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Jeffrey “JD” Davis won Albany State’s quarterback job Saturday.

His first assignment? Try to beat the quarterback who used to have it.

Davis, a former Grayson High School standout who played at Alabama A&M last season, will start for the Golden Rams when they open the season Saturday night against Florida A&M in Tallahassee.

And if David Bowser’s first game as Albany State’s head coach needed another storyline, there are plenty waiting on the other sideline.

Former Golden Rams coach Quinn Gray now leads FAMU. His starting quarterback will be Isaiah Knowles, who followed Gray to Tallahassee after leading Albany State to a 12-2 season and a deep NCAA Division II playoff run last fall.

So Albany State begins a new era against two of the most important figures from its old one.

Bowser settled his quarterback competition following Saturday’s second scrimmage, choosing Davis after watching the quarterbacks battle throughout preseason camp.

“He showed the most poise and consistency during the last two scrimmages,” Bowser said.

Bowser said the other quarterbacks performed well and could see playing time as the season progresses. For Saturday, though, the job belongs to Davis, who played at Western Michigan before transferring to Alabama A&M last season.

FAMU had a quarterback decision to make, too.

Bowser wasn’t surprised that one went to Knowles.

“I believe Knowles earned that spot because of the chemistry between Knowles and

Gray,” Bowser said. “He has been with Coach Gray for three years and knows that offense really, really well. I’ve watched film and there are really talented quarterbacks on that team, but I think Knowles knows the offense better, and that was the difference.”

Albany State certainly knows what Knowles can do. Now the Golden Rams have to stop him.

But Bowser’s focus throughout the preseason has been less about Albany State’s past and more about building its future.

With approximately 140 players on the roster, Bowser had another difficult decision this week: choosing the 75 who will travel to Tallahassee.

“It’s not about saying you’re not good,” Bowser said. “It’s about who we felt gave us the best chance to win. Next

See **RAMS**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany State tight end Omarion Dupree battles a pair of defenders to make a catch during the Golden Rams’ scrimmage Saturday night at Albany State Coliseum. Dupree and the Golden Rams open the season Saturday night against Florida A&M in Tallahassee, Fla..



File Photo

Deerfield-Windsor head football coach Jake McCrae is recovering at Crisp Regional Hospital after being diagnosed with viral meningitis over the weekend.

Deerfield-Windsor coach Jake McCrae hospitalized

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Jake McCrae learned something over the weekend that probably isn’t covered in many coaching manuals.

“Apparently you’re not supposed to coach football games in the rain with viral meningitis,” the Deerfield-Windsor head football coach joked.

Especially when you’ve already been sick for 10 days.

McCrae is recovering at Crisp Regional Hospital after doctors discovered Saturday that what initially appeared to be a stubborn flu-like illness was actually viral meningitis.

By then, McCrae had coached through two football games without knowing what was wrong.

It started the Thursday before Deerfield-Windsor’s game against Valwood when McCrae suddenly began suffering from chills and other flu-like symptoms.

He went to the doctor and was tested for influenza and COVID-19. Both tests were negative.

Doctors treated his symptoms, and McCrae improved enough to make it through the next several days.

He wasn’t completely himself, but he wasn’t sick enough to stay home, either. “I felt better, got me through the next few days feeling better, but not quite all there,” McCrae said.

For nearly a week, that was the pattern.

Then last Thursday, it changed.

McCrae left work with essentially the same symptoms he had experienced a week earlier. He was back at the doctor’s office at 8:30 Friday morning, received medication and felt well enough to coach Deerfield-Windsor’s game against First Presby-

terian Day Friday night. So he coached.

The Knights battled FPD in a defensive struggle before falling 13-0.

By Saturday morning, McCrae knew something wasn’t right.

He wasn’t the only one. “My doctor and my boss, who is my wife, suggested we go to the ER,” McCrae said. This time, there would be no returning to work or heading to another football game.

McCrae said his condition steadily worsened while he was in the emergency room. Doctors performed additional testing and finally found the cause of an illness that had been dogging him for more than a week.

Viral meningitis. “This is basically me having a fever for 10 days and it being low enough at some point to make it feel like it was going away and then peaking at the time it did, which there was no coming back from,” McCrae said.

Meningitis is inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Viral meningitis is generally less severe than bacterial meningitis, and most people with normal immune systems recover completely, although fatigue and other symptoms can persist during recovery.

For McCrae, simply knowing what he was fighting finally allowed doctors to address his symptoms while allowing him to stop trying to push through them.

He credited the staff at Crisp Regional with quickly taking control of the situation.

McCrae posted an update from the hospital saying he felt “10 times better” after his first 24 hours and thanked

See **MCCRAE**, 10A

Friday night five

PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Bryse Peachey | QB | **Terrell Academy**

417 total yards
316 rushing yards
101 passing yards
4 rushing TDs

THE WOW NUMBER:
15.0
Peachey averaged 15 yards every time he carried the football.

ARM RACE — Passing leaders

- Lyndon Worthy, Worth County — 182 yards, TD
- Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian — 153 yards, 3 TDs
- Cohen Lawson, Lee County — 150 yards, 2 TDs

- Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 101 yards
- Gabriel Hopper, Westover — 99 yards

GROUND FORCE — Rushing leaders

- Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 316 yards, 4 TDs
- Quin’traevion Huckaby, Terrell County — 132 yards
- Malik Young, Westover — 122 yards, TD
- Jordyn Bush, Lee County — 113 yards, 2 TDs
- Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian — 113 yards, TD

BIG TARGETS — Receiving leaders

- Jaden Upshaw, Lee County — 118 yards, 2 TDs
- Dyson Harris, Sherwood Christian — 113 yards, TD



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Terrell Academy quarterback Bryse Peachey is the Albany Herald Player of the Week. He scored four touchdowns, ran for 316 yards and threw for 101 more in Terrell Academy’s season-opening loss to SGA.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. Jaquaveon Nelson, Worth County — 99 yards, TD | Academy — 97 yards |
| 4. Alex Klughart, Terrell | 5. Keaton Tucker, Worth County — 77 yards |

Softball roundup: Terrell Academy falls; Worth Co., Deerfield-Windsor claim wins

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Terrell Academy coach Ashley Walker believes his Lady Eagles are getting closer to becoming the team he thinks they can be.

Monday’s 7-3 loss to defending state champion Southwest Georgia Academy showed both the progress they’ve made and the work that remains.

SGA scored four runs in the first inning in Dawson, putting Terrell in an early hole it could never completely overcome.

“We had a slow start and got down early, and you just can’t do that against good teams with a good arm in the circle,” Walker said.

Terrell tried to answer when Kacy Sheffield led off the bottom of the first with a single, but SGA turned a double play to erase the threat.

The Lady Eagles continued putting runners on base throughout the afternoon and finished with seven hits, but they couldn’t produce the big inning needed to erase the early deficit.

“I felt like we had baserunners on all game, but we could never get that one big hit to get us rolling offensively,” Walker said. “I thought both teams did a good job of working out of jams. They were just able to push a few more runs across than us.”

Lily Addison and Jacey Lane each drove in a run for Terrell.

Michaela Zingarelli pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing six runs — five earned — on nine hits. SGA collected 12 hits, with



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Southwest Georgia Academy shortstop Addison Mock throws to complete a first-inning double play as Terrell Academy’s Kacy Sheffield races toward second base Monday in Dawson.

Ava Rathel going 3-for-5 and also earning the win in the circle. Rathel allowed three unearned runs over seven innings.

Despite the loss, Walker remains encouraged as the Lady Eagles move closer to region play.

“I like where we are, but I still believe we haven’t hit our stride yet collectively as a group,” Walker said. “Being more consistent in all phases is going to be the key as we move closer to the midpoint of the season and region play.”

“All in all, I’m proud of our improvements. We just need to start fine-tuning some things so we can be better across the board.”

Terrell hosts Westwood Thursday in Dawson.

Worth County rolls

past Baconton SYLVESTER — Worth County’s torrid start continued Monday as the Lady Rams powered past Baconton Charter 11-5 to improve to 12-1.

After Baconton scored in the top of the first, Laurie Pritchard quickly changed the game with one swing.

Pritchard blasted a three-run homer to center in the bottom of the inning to give Worth a 3-1 lead, and the Lady Rams kept adding to it.

Karlee Mathews singled home a run in the second and Ellasyn Gandy brought home two more with a groundout. Mathews added a two-run double in the third before Gandy belted a two-run homer in the fifth.

Mathews and Gandy each

finished with three RBIs. Mathews, Austyn Kate Rucker, Pritchard and Gandy collected two hits apiece as Worth finished with 10.

The Lady Rams also created problems on the bases, drawing eight walks and stealing seven bases.

Rucker earned the win after working 4 1/3 innings, while Pritchard recorded the save.

Worth County now turns its attention back to region play. The Lady Rams host Crisp County Thursday in Sylvester.

Deerfield-Windsor gets first win under Suggs

Deerfield-Windsor broke through Monday.

The Lady Knights collected 13 hits and stole 10 bases in

See **SOFTBALL**, 10A

17 schools answer YMCA's call

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Tony Duckworth went for a run last spring and apparently came back with a cross-country meet.

The Albany Area YMCA CEO was among the runners participating in the organization's Healthy Kids Day 5K when he began looking at the trail winding through the YMCA Sports Park on Gillionville Road a little differently.

There were already runners. There was already a trail.

Why not bring high school cross country here?

A few months later, Duckworth's idea has become the inaugural Albany Area YMCA Invitational, which will bring runners from 17 schools to Albany on Saturday morning. "We are excited to host the event," Duckworth said. "I ran in our Healthy Kids Day 5K last spring and thought we should host a high school event here to maximize our assets."

There was just one problem. Duckworth knew the YMCA. He needed someone who knew cross country.

So he called Deerfield-Windsor coach Jake Clawson.

"I reached out to Coach Jake Clawson at Deerfield-Windsor to discuss using our Sports Park trail," Duckworth said. "He endorsed the idea and he introduced me to area

coaches."

Then they put the meet on MileSplit.

That's when Duckworth discovered they weren't the only ones interested.

"Once the race was uploaded to MileSplit, it took off," he said. "We have 17 high schools coming from the Albany area, middle Georgia and Valdosta."

The first race begins at 8 a.m. Saturday with the high school boys, followed by the high school girls. Middle school races will complete the inaugural event.

Clawson's Deerfield-Windsor teams will be among those competing, although he hasn't decided whether all of his runners will race.

That's because the Knights are coming off a demanding season opener at the Cecil Field Summer Classic in Jacksonville.

"We'll run the whole girls team, but I'm still deciding if I'll run my top group of boys or if they need a full week of training instead," Clawson said. "We picked up some good data after Friday night's race and I don't want to over-race them."

There was plenty for Clawson to digest.

Junior Whatley Fountain led the Deerfield boys in Jacksonville with a 15-minute, 51-second 5K, finishing 11th

applying pressure throughout the game.

Mitchell, hitting seventh in the lineup, went 3-for-4 to lead Deerfield-Windsor's 13-hit attack. Mary Ruth Courtney, Reynolds Bryson and Mitchell each drove in two runs, while Emily Phillips, Brady and Marin Anthony also had multiple hits.

Deerfield-Windsor was just as aggressive on the bases, piling up 10 steals.

Courtney earned the win in the circle, allowing three earned runs over five innings while striking out six.

The Lady Knights, now 1-5, will host Southwest Georgia STEM next Monday.

head coach will be back on the sideline.

For now, after spending 10 days trying to coach his way through an illness nobody could quite identify, McCrae is finally doing something football coaches aren't particularly good at doing.

Resting.

And, he says, getting better. "The doctors here at Crisp Regional jumped on it very quickly," McCrae said, "and I have been feeling better every minute since I put my head down on the pillow after my first night here."

bany's Fun Park.

Saturday night, they'll find out how well everything has come together.

"I'm excited," Bowser said. "I believe we have got everything covered in all three phases of the game. I don't want anything to catch us by surprise. Now we just have to play hard, play smart and play physical."

There will be plenty familiar about what Albany State sees across the field.

Gray knows the Golden Rams. Knowles knows them, too.

But Saturday represents something new — Bowser's first game, Davis' first start and the first chance for a rebuilt roster to establish its own identity.

Bowser knows exactly how he wants it to begin.

"There is only one good outcome," he said. "And that is to win."

"It will be good to get this first game under our belt and know what we have to do to move this team and our program forward."

in a deep field and coming within 13 seconds of his personal best.

Junior Daniel Roland delivered one of the Knights' more encouraging performances, running 17:47 for the fastest season-opening time of his career.

Adam Mallow broke 19 minutes with an 18:59, while Mills Cothren finished in 19:39.

The Lady Knights provided Clawson with something different.

They provided a pack.

Junior Sophie Logan and freshman Alli Roland crossed together in 24:07. Sydney Daniel followed in 25:30, Emily Rutledge ran 25:35 and freshman Reagan Church finished in 25:56.

Only 1 minute, 49 seconds separated Deerfield's first five finishers.

Clawson liked what he saw, particularly considering the quality of the field and the August heat. Now he must decide whether another race eight days later is the best thing



Special Photo: Submitted

Deerfield-Windsor runners, from left, Mills Cothren, Whatley Fountain, Adam Mallow, Caughey Culpepper and Daniel Roland gather after competing in the Cecil Field Summer Classic in Jacksonville, Fla..

for his top boys or whether a week of uninterrupted training would be more valuable.

The girls, however, will race. For Deerfield-Windsor and the other schools arriving Saturday, the meet offers another early-season measuring stick.

For the YMCA, it represents

something bigger.

The Sports Park already had the trail. Albany already had high school and middle school runners looking for places to compete.

Duckworth simply connected the two.

What began as an idea during a community 5K will be-

come a 17-school cross country meet Saturday morning.

And if the inaugural Albany Area YMCA Invitational takes hold, that run last spring may have started something that lasts considerably longer than 3.1 miles.

Tiger Woods set for court appearance on DUI charge

Field Level Media

After several postponements, Tiger Woods is scheduled to appear before a judge in person for the first time since his car accident on March 27.

Woods will appear in court at 8:30 a.m. ET on Tuesday, Sept. 8, in Martin County, Fla., according to multiple reports that cited county records.

He faces two misdemeanor charges of DUI with property damage and refusal to submit to a lawful test. Woods, 50, has pleaded not guilty.

Police who responded to the crash in Jupiter Island, Fla., found two hydrocodone pills

in Woods' pocket and observed signs of impairment. A breathalyzer test found he did not have alcohol in his system, but he refused a urine test.

Prosecutors have extended the investigative process as they sought and eventually were granted access to Woods' hospital records the day of the crash. Woods' court date was postponed multiple times amid the process.

He also spent time in Zurich, Switzerland, seeking specialized treatment after the two-car accident.

Douglas Duncan, Woods' attorney, seeks a jury trial.



Special Photo: GREG LOVETT/PALM BEACH POST

Tiger Woods is scheduled to appear in a Florida courtroom Sept. 8 to face misdemeanor charges stemming from a March 27 car accident.

Reese cleans glass, Dream rolls

Field Level Media

Angel Reese grabbed a WNBA-record 26 rebounds and the Atlanta Dream completed a perfect West Coast road trip with a 78-71 victory over the Los Angeles Sparks on Monday.

Earlier in the game, Reese broke the WNBA single-season rebound mark with her 452nd board of the campaign. She finished the night with 458 rebounds on the season. Las Vegas' A'ja Wilson set the previous mark in 2024.

Reese broke Chamique Holdscaw's record of 24 rebounds set in 2003 and added 11 points for her 27th double-double of the season as Atlanta won at Los Angeles for the second time in five days.

Allisha Gray scored 20 points, Rhyne Howard added 18 and Naz Hillmon had 12 for the Dream (25-13), who went 4-0 on their road trip and moved within a half-game of third place in the league with six regular-sea-



Special Photo: Kirby Lee-Imagn Images

Atlanta Dream forward Angel Reese battles for the ball against the Los Angeles Sparks on Monday. Reese grabbed a WNBA-record 26 rebounds as the Dream completed a perfect West Coast road trip with a 78-71 victory.

son games remaining.

Nneka Ogwumike scored a season-high 27 points and pulled down 16 rebounds and Cameron Brink had 15 points with five blocks off the bench as the Sparks (13-25) lost for the seventh time

(illness).

Los Angeles picked up its defensive intensity in its second game against Atlanta during a four-game homestand. The Dream scored a franchise-high 124 points against the Sparks last week but were nowhere near that total Monday while shooting 40.0% from the floor.

The Dream led 20-15 after one quarter before the Sparks went up by as many as six points in the second quarter and took a 37-36 lead into halftime. Ogwumike led all scorers in the first half with 12 points.

Atlanta grabbed control in the third quarter behind nine points from Gray and took a 62-55 lead into the final period.

The Dream took their first double-digit lead at 66-55 with 9:05 remaining on a layup from Jordin Canada and were never threatened over the final 10 minutes.

The victory gave Atlanta a perfect 3-0 record against Los Angeles this season.

Former Mercer standout Braden Atkinson wins Oregon State QB job

Field Level Media

Former FCS star Braden Atkinson beat out incumbent Maalik Murphy and fellow transfer Brady Jones to earn the Oregon State starting quarterback gig.

The Beavers named Atkinson the starter on Monday after a lengthy, spirited competition between the three players.

Atkinson played last season at Mercer and won the Jerry Rice Award as the top freshman player in FCS. He completed 66% of his passes and set single-season school records of 3,596 yards and 34 touchdown passes.

Atkinson, who tossed 11 interceptions, also set a Mercer single-game record with 533 passing yards against VMI on Oct. 25. He finished fifth in bal-

loting for the Walter Payton Award, the honor that goes to the top FCS offensive player.

Murphy completed 58.1% of his throws for 1,805 yards, nine touchdowns and eight interceptions last season for Oregon State, which went 2-8 in his 10 appearances.

Murphy played at Texas and Duke before relocating to the Pacific Northwest. In 2024, he passed for 2,933 yards and 26 touchdowns and was picked off 12 times as the Blue Devils' starter.

He redshirted at Texas in 2022 and started two of seven games played in 2023 when he passed for 477 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Overall, he has passed for 5,215 yards and 38 touch-



Special Photo: Kevin Neri/Statesman Journal

Oregon State quarterback Braden Atkinson, right, throws during practice. The former Mercer standout and reigning Jerry Rice Award winner has won the Beavers' starting quarterback job.

downs against 23 interceptions as a collegian.

Jones, a Murrieta, Calif., native, was 19-of-40 passing for 136 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions in limited action as a junior for Western Michigan last season.

Former Alabama co-offensive coordinator JaMarcus Shephard is the new head coach at Oregon State, which is part of a reconfigured Pac-12.

The Beavers open the season Sept. 5 with a nonconference game at No. 23 Houston.

From 9A

SOFTBALL

an 18-10 victory over Southwest Georgia STEM Charter, giving first-year head coach Dwayne Suggs his first victory at Deerfield-Windsor.

The win also snapped an 0-5 start for the Lady Knights. Deerfield-Windsor wasted little time offensively, scoring five runs in the first inning. An error brought home two before Anna Beth Brady and Kyndall Mitchell delivered RBI singles, and another run scored on a wild pitch.

The Lady Knights continued

From 9A

MCCRAE

the players, students, parents, family and friends who had reached out to him.

He also thanked his coaching staff, saying knowing the Knights were in good hands allowed him to focus on getting well.

"This is just another bump in the road and I'm gonna come out on the other side better than ever," McCrae wrote.

There is no timetable yet for when Deerfield-Windsor's

From 9A

RAMS

week the ball may bounce a different way, so things could change, but we had to select those who we think would help us win."

Six freshmen on defense earned spots on the travel roster.

Preseason All-American defensive end Derrick Drayton, one of only two returning defensive starters, "had a great camp," Bowser said. He also singled out safety Evan Wynn, former Dougherty standout Chauncie Brown and Thomasville product Jimmie Dawson at linebacker.

Offensively, Bowser pointed to starting center Ty Orice Brown, running back Rod McCrary and tight end Omari-on Dupree, a transfer from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

With so many new faces, building chemistry has been another priority. The Golden Rams continued that process Tuesday when the entire team went bowling together at Al-

Piano instructor charged with child molestation

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Dougherty County Police Department has charged Harry Martinez, 85, with one count of child molestation following an investigation into allegations involving a 10-year-old

male juvenile. Martinez is a piano instructor who has provided private piano lessons to students in the Albany-Dougherty County and Leesburg-Lee County areas, including lessons taught in students' homes. The investigation began after investigators received

a report alleging inappropriate contact involving a child. Investigators subsequently interviewed individuals connected with the case and conducted additional investigative follow-up. Because the investigation involves a minor, authorities will not release information that could

identify the child. Martinez was arrested Aug. 24 after being interviewed by investigators he was charged with one count of child molestation and is currently in the Dougherty County Jail. The investigation remains active. Investigators are asking anyone who may have had

an issue or concern involving Martinez, including current or former students and their families, to come forward and contact the Dougherty County Police Department Detective Division at (229) 430-6600. Information also may be provided to Crime Stoppers at (229) 436-TIPS.



Special Logo

ABAC economic impact increases

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College continues to increase its economic impact in south Georgia, according to the University System of Georgia's latest report. For Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025), ABAC contributed \$137 million to the region's economy, an increase of 7.6% from the previous year. The annual report was prepared by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia. The report included statistics from Tift, Worth, Cook, Colquitt, Irwin, Turner, Decatur, Seminole, Miller, Grady, Early, Thomas, Mitchell and Baker counties when calculating ABAC's impact. "ABAC's impact goes far beyond our campus, and these numbers demonstrate the important role we play in driving economic growth throughout south Georgia," ABAC President Tracy Brundage said. "We are proud to prepare highly qualified graduates who go on to work in and contribute to our region, while also making a measurable economic impact through the process." The economic impact combines spending by the institution and its students. With a



Special Photo: ABAC

For Fiscal Year 2025, ABAC contributed \$137 million to the region's economy, an increase of 7.6% from the previous year.

multiplier value of 1.54, every dollar of initial spending generates an additional 54 cents for the economy in the region. The report showed that ABAC had a labor income impact of \$57.1 million, an increase from

\$56.1 million in the previous fiscal year. Also, ABAC supported a total of 1,199 jobs, including 333 on-campus and 866 off-campus. Off-campus jobs increased by eight over the prior year. ABAC graduates approxi-

mately 400 students each spring. With 55% of graduates leaving ABAC without student or parent loan debt, the increased lifetime earnings represent an even stronger return on investment for ABAC graduates.

Georgia Southwestern powers \$127 million economic impact in region

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University generated \$127.2 million in economic output across southwest Georgia in Fiscal Year 2025, a 10.2% increase from the previous year, according to a new report from the University System of Georgia. The report also found that GSW supported 1,180 full- and part-time jobs across its seven-county regional economy, which includes Sumter, Schley, Lee, Macon, Crisp, Webster and Marion counties. Of those jobs, 358 were on-campus and 822 were off-campus in the private and public sectors. GSW's \$127.2 million economic impact was generated by nearly \$117.8 million in initial institutional and student spending. This included personnel services, university operating expenses and nearly \$60 million in student spending throughout the region. GSW's activity also generated \$85.7 million in value added and \$50.9 million in labor income. GSW's economic impact grew from \$115.4 million in FY 2024 to \$127.2 million in FY 2025, outpacing the USG systemwide growth rate of 8.9%. The increase comes as GSW has experienced record-breaking enrollment in recent years. Higher enrollment influences all three major factors that shape the university's economic impact, including personnel growth, operational expenses and student spending. As more students choose GSW, the university invests



Special Photo: GSW

Georgia Southwestern State University generated \$127.2 million in economic output across southwest Georgia in FY 2025.

in additional employees and resources to serve them, while students contribute directly to the regional economy through spending on housing, food, transportation, retail, and other goods and services. "Over the past five years, Georgia Southwestern's economic impact has exceeded \$540 million," GSW President Kerry Palmer said. "That impact is a reflection of the people who make this university special: our students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the communities and partners who support us. "About 80% of our graduates remain in Georgia, putting their knowledge and skills to work and strengthening communities across our state. At GSW, we are proud to prepare students for successful careers while contribut-

ing to the economic vitality of southwest Georgia. When the university and our community work together, everyone benefits, and that shared commitment will continue to move our region forward." The annual study, conducted by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, found that USG and its institutions collectively generated \$25.1 billion in economic output and supported more than 170,000 jobs statewide in FY 2025. The statewide economic impact represents an 8.9% increase over the previous year. A related study demonstrates that the economic value of public higher education extends well beyond the immediate impact of university spending. USG estimates

that members of the Class of 2025 who earn a bachelor's degree will earn approximately \$1.4 million more over their lifetimes than individuals with only a high school diploma. "A USG degree isn't just a diploma. It's a game-changer for our students and a major win for Georgia's economy," USG Chancellor Sonny Perdue said. "Adding \$25 billion to the state and giving our graduates a \$1.4 million lifetime boost shows the real power of public higher education. When our students succeed, they put strong skills, a great work ethic and real value right back into Georgia communities." The full economic impact report and lifetime earnings report are available on the USG's website.



Stan Wise

Wise named to serve on Public Service Commission

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp announced he will appoint Stan Wise to the District 5 seat of the Georgia Public Service Commission following the resignation of Commissioner Tricia Pridemore, effective Sept. 4. Wise previously served on the Commission for 24 years, from 1995 to 2018, and chaired the regulatory body multiple times. Pridemore succeeded him as the District 5 representative. "During (Pridemore's) tenure, Georgia has expanded its means of energy production and reinforced our grid while protecting the pockets of hard-working Georgians, and we are thankful for her contributions," Kemp said. Wise will serve out the remainder of Pridemore's term on the Georgia Public Service Commission, which expires on Dec. 31 of this year. Upon being sworn in, he will step down from the Pendleton Group, where he is currently an associate. "We are also grateful for Stan's willingness to return to the PSC, bringing decades of direct experience and wisdom with him," the governor added. "Thanks in part to his fortitude and far-reaching vision, Georgia has an incredible economic asset in the form of the first nuclear reactors built in the United States in over 30 years. That kind

of courage and foresight is what is needed to keep our state the best place for opportunity." Wise is an associate with the Pendleton Group, an Atlanta-based economic development consulting firm. He previously served as a commissioner on the Georgia Public Service Commission from 1995 to 2018, having been elected statewide four consecutive times. He also served as chairman numerous times throughout his tenure on the commission. U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz appointed him to the National Petroleum Council in 2016, and in 2003, his regulatory peers elected him president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Before being elected to the PSC, Wise served on the Cobb County Commission, the Cobb County Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. In addition to many other local, state and federal boards, he was a member of the 10-county Atlanta Regional Commission from 1992 to 1994. Wise owned and operated an insurance business in Cobb County for 20 years and served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve for six years. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Management from Charleston Southern University.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:
EMAIL:
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com
MAIL:
Albany Herald News
306 W. Broad Avenue
Albany GA, 31701