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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Dougherty tax assessor charged in criminal case will remain in position



LORENZO HEARD

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – A member of the Dougherty County Board of Assessors who faces felony criminal charges will continue to serve in the county position while those charges are being adjudicated.

The Dougherty County Com-

mission sent an email earlier this week stating that Le’Nita Lane would stay on the board despite her arrest in July on charges that included theft by deception, forgery, computer theft and identity fraud. In the statement, the commission said that the charges are allegations and “do not constitute a finding of guilt” and that she

is “presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.” That assessment was shared by Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard, who spoke to an Albany Herald reporter after the commission’s Monday meeting. “I don’t know her story,” Heard said. “I do know everybody is innocent until proven guilty.

If our attorney says that’s the way we need to handle it, then I support that.” A decision on whether to retain or remove Lane from the tax board is up to commissioners, County Attorney Alex Shalishali said. While he did not make a recommendation on that decision, he did not find any legal requirement for her

removal. “I’m not aware of any rule that requires them to take action,” Shalishali said. “It’s up to their discretion.” The tax assessor’s board consists of five members appointed by the County Commission. The board’s duties include ap-

See **CASE**, 11A

Trio wages epic battle with 12-foot-plus gator

By Tom Seegmueller
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ALBANY – Three Lee County natives will have indelible memories of their Aug. 20 gator hunt. As Colton Mathis recalls, “We had one goal in mind: catch a big alligator that had been spotted in the river.” When Mathis, Griffin Carder, and Skyler Presley launched their boat around 5 p.m., they had no clue how epic their evening would be. Talking to the trio of young outdoorsmen, it doesn’t take long to pick up on the fact that they have spent a good deal of time together. Although they are now in their mid-20s, it turns out that Mathis had been applying for a gator permit since the trio was in their teens. Needless to say, after more than a decade of waiting, the Three Amigos were ready to hit the water. “Skyler had seen this gator last year on that part of the river, but Griffin finally laid eyes

See **GATOR**, 2A



Special Photo: Chris Leuke

From left, Skyler Presley, Colton Mathis and Griffin Carder show off the 12-foot-plus gator they caught and killed.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Assistant Dougherty County Administrator Barry Brooks, wearing tie, speaks with residents about property tax valuation notices that arrived in mailboxes last week prior to the Monday meeting of the Dougherty County Commission.

Jail HVAC work divides Dougherty County Commission

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – The discussion of a contract for a consultant on a Dougherty County Jail project turned into a debate of conflicting opinions on whether to replace aging air conditioning equipment with new units or to rebuild the existing chillers at the facility. The question on the Monday Dougherty County Commission agenda was an amendment to the contract of Macon-based Andrew, Hammock & Powell in the amount of \$43,050. Commissioners had earlier approved a contract in 2024 not to exceed \$500,000, of which the firm has spent \$250,000. The additional fees sought

are related to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) as well as plumbing equipment in the main mechanical room at the jail facility. Using the plans provided by Andrew, Hammock & Powell, the county can order equipment and perform the work itself, Commissioner Clinton Johnson said. The \$4.27 million HVAC and boiler project was recommended in July by the commission’s Public Works Committee. That came after there was no appetite among the full commission to tackle an estimated \$41 million project for a full renovation

See **HVAC**, 11A

As Georgia weighs ag education funding, Miller County students show what’s at stake for the region

By Kathryn Crockett
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COLQUITT – As Georgia lawmakers and state leaders reconsider how parts of agricultural education and FFA should be funded, Miller County students had a message for the people making those decisions: In rural Georgia, separating agriculture education from the programs surrounding it is not as simple as separating a classroom from an extracurricular activity.

The students did not deliver that message through a policy presentation. They told their own stories. That was the intent behind the Miller County FFA chapter’s Blue and Gold Social on Monday at Cotton Hall, according to Amanda Little Long, a middle school agricultural education teacher and FFA adviser who organized the event. “It’s important that our regional and state representatives understand that in com-

munities like Miller County and across southwest Georgia, FFA is not simply about preserving a school tradition,” Long said. “It’s about preserving part of the pipeline that prepares young people to sustain the region’s agricultural economy and the communities built around it.” Middle and high school students spoke about livestock and tractors, agricultural mechanics and family farms. But they also spoke about grandparents

See **MILLER**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Miller County FFA Sentinel Fletcher Long speaks during the chapter’s Blue and Gold Social Monday at Cotton Hall in Colquitt. Students shared how agricultural education and FFA have shaped their lives, leadership skills and future plans.

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From 1A

MILLER

and friendships, overcoming fears, learning to speak publicly and discovering careers they had never considered. “FFA teaches us more than just agriculture,” MCHS FFA President Mason Horace said. “It teaches us leadership, responsibility, teamwork and the importance of giving back to our community.”

Those experiences carry particular weight as Georgia leaders reconsider how agricultural education is funded.

The state’s agricultural education budget has been the subject of an unusual back-and-forth between Gov. Brian Kemp and the General Assembly over where taxpayer support for agricultural education ends and private funding for FFA begins.

Last year, lawmakers included \$268,157 in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for camp-affiliated staff within agricultural education. Kemp directed the Georgia Department of Education not to spend it, arguing the money would pay expenses for existing administrative staff within the private Georgia FFA Foundation rather than expand services for students.

The governor’s FY ‘27 budget proposal then called for eliminating that \$268,157 altogether. Lawmakers responded during the 2026 session with a substantially broader investment.

The final budget passed by the General Assembly included \$498,206 for support staff with language specifying that doing so would allow private funds to be prioritized for direct student services. Lawmakers also included \$706,885 connected to extended-day and extended-year agricultural education programs, \$591,965 for storm repairs at FFA camps and \$325,051 for annual major repairs and rehabilitation at youth camps.

The final FY ‘27 agricultural education appropriation totaled about \$18.1 million in state funds.

Kemp signed the FY ‘27 budget May 12 while directing state agencies to withhold more than \$300 million in proposed new spending governmentwide because of declining revenue projections. He emphasized that those actions involved proposed new spending rather than reductions to existing programs.

The disagreement in no way undermines the state’s support for agricultural education or FFA. But it does raise a broader question at a time when rural school systems, farmers and families across Georgia are all facing increasing financial pressure: Where does state-funded agricultural education end and privately supported FFA begin?

In southwest Georgia, where the classroom, FFA chapter and agricultural community often function as one system, that line can be difficult to draw.

FFA may be described as

a student organization, but Georgia’s agricultural education model extends beyond the classroom. The state’s Extended Day Grant Program funds agriculture teachers for work outside normal school hours, including supervising projects, preparing students for competitions, working with chapter officers, and providing FFA leadership and career-development opportunities.

For a student growing up in metro Atlanta, agricultural education may introduce an industry he or she has never encountered, but in much of southwest Georgia, students already live inside it.

Their parents grow peanuts and cotton, raise cattle or work for agricultural businesses. Their grandparents farmed. Their neighbors operate equipment dealerships, processing facilities, feed stores and agricultural service businesses.

That was evident as Miller County students took to the microphone Monday.

“Our community is built on agriculture and continues to be mostly agriculture to this day,” Jacob Smith told the audience.

Smith described learning to drive a tractor at about 4 years old, working with his father and showing livestock through FFA and 4-H. He said he hopes to continue studying agriculture and is considering becoming an agricultural attorney.

Neftali Caro said hearing her father’s stories about FFA convinced her to join. She said

the organization gave her some of her closest friends while helping her develop public-speaking and environmental-resource skills.

Brantley Barefield told the audience he joined FFA partly to follow in the path of an uncle who had participated in the organization before his death.

Taken together, the students’ stories illustrated a cultural role that is difficult to capture on a state budget spreadsheet. In small agricultural communities, FFA can serve at once as career preparation, leadership training, community service, a social network and a bridge between generations.

The organization’s roots run deep in Georgia. From its founding in 1928, during the expansion of vocational agricultural education across the United States, Georgia established its FFA association the following year. Its infrastructure has also long involved both public and private responsibilities.

A 2025 state audit noted that the state and Georgia Association of Future Farmers of America have partnered in operating FFA camps since 1948. The audit found unresolved questions about whether the camps should be considered state entities and therefore subject to state financial-management requirements — another example of the sometimes complicated boundary between the public agricultural education system and the organizations supporting it.

But the distinction can look very different from a school agriculture shop or livestock barn than it does from the Capitol.

Millie Odom, a Miller County junior, described entering FFA without knowing what to expect. Participation in an agricultural career development event led her toward agricultural mechanics and eventually to an interest in engineering.

That progression — from classroom instruction to competition, hands-on experience, leadership development and eventually a possible career — illustrates why agricultural educators such as Long resist treating those pieces as separate programs.

“Agricultural education is made up of a three-ring model: FFA, classroom and lab instruction, and supervised agricultural experience,” Long said. “All of those parts carry equal weight. It makes FFA an intracurricular part of the learning process. One part can’t be done without the others. Just like in a community or ecosystem, all parts work and thrive together for the good.”

The General Assembly’s FY ‘27 decision to put another \$706,885 toward extended-day and extended-year agricultural education underscores that lawmakers have not abandoned that model. Instead, the emerging debate is about which pieces taxpayers should fund and which should be supported through private dollars.

For communities heavily dependent on agriculture, that distinction deserves attention because seemingly administrative funding decisions can ultimately determine who is available to organize, supervise and support the experiences students receive beyond regular classroom hours.

That may also explain why Miller County FFA leaders wanted elected officials and policymakers in the room Monday.

Gov. Brian Kemp and first lady Marty Kemp sent a pre-recorded message to the Blue and Gold Social recognizing the chapter and FFA’s role in encouraging students to pursue careers in agriculture. Kemp also noted Georgia’s standing among the nation’s largest FFA organizations and credited schools, teachers and communities that recognize agriculture’s importance.

State Rep. Gerald Greene, congressional candidate Matt Day and Frank Griffin, vice chair of the Georgia State Board of Education and the board’s 2nd Congressional District representative, were among those who attended alongside local government, school and agricultural education officials.

The gathering served a purpose beyond celebrating the chapter. It gave students a chance to show the people who make or influence education policy what FFA looks like in practice.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

Albany Area YMCA



STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

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

The Albany Area YMCA has long been a place where individuals and families can connect, grow, and thrive. Through programs focused on youth development, health and wellness, sports, aquatics, education, and community engagement, the YMCA creates opportunities for people of all ages to learn new skills, stay active, and build lasting relationships.

From youth programs and camps to fitness opportunities and community activities, the YMCA works to create a welcoming environment where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Their commitment extends beyond their facility, as they continue to partner with organizations throughout Albany and Southwest Georgia to make a positive difference in the community.

The Albany Area YMCA is more than a place to work out or participate in a program—it is a place where community happens. We are grateful for the dedicated staff, volunteers, and members who continue to make the YMCA an important part of Albany.

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



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FOX 31



WSWG

From 1A

GATOR

on him,” Mathis said. “Griffin sent Skylar a photo of him, and Skyler sent it to me.”

With a chance of rain coming in, the trio decided to hook up the boat and give their planned hunt a shot. They launched at the Marine Corp Canal and saw the gator at about 6 p.m. When he submerged they started casting a treble hook, trying to locate him below the surface.

Pressley “bumped” him with the treble hook, but with the hard limestone bottom and current, they couldn’t see any other evidence of the gator, so they continued drifting downriver. After dark they started heading back upriver and spotted a large gator near where they had previously seen their targeted prey.

Mathis started casting but soon handed the rod over to Presley.

“Of course, after about two tries, he set the hook on (the gator),” Mathis said. “He started dragging us upriver. So I grabbed another snatch hook and tried to hook him. It got tangled around Skyler’s line. Griffin reached up there and untangled the lines.”

When Griffin dropped the

Special Photo: Chris Leuke

A hooked Croc was part of a local trio’s gator hunt.

heavily weighted treble hook into the bottom of the boat the thud aggravated the ga-

tor again, and he snatched on

See **GATOR**, 11A

NOTICE								
The (City of Edison) Council does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the City's meeting room (19433 Hartford St.) on (September 9th, 2026) at (6:00 p.m.) and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.								
CURRENT PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY								
C i t y w i d e A r e a	CITY WIDE		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	V A L U E	Real & Personal	11,291,254	12,232,944	13,058,597	13,566,088	13,591,366	13,638,297
		Motor Vehicles	254,020	209,870	221,460	174,980	155,250	111,890
		Mobile Homes	234,364	252,933	188,819	196,707	208,984	212,939
		Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	16,364	0
		Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Gross Digest	11,779,638	12,695,747	13,468,876	13,937,775	13,971,964	13,963,126
		Less Exemptions	422,153	452,264	451,169	457,473	513,449	603,837
		NET DIGEST VALUE	11,357,485	12,243,483	13,017,707	13,480,302	13,458,515	13,359,289
	R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	27.9800	26.9000	32.6030	28.5390	28.4420	32.2464
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	8.0700	6.9900	7.0690	3.0570	3.1920	6.8114
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	19.9100	19.9100	25.5340	25.4820	25.2500	25.4350
	TAX	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$226,128	\$243,768	\$332,394	\$343,505	\$339,828	\$339,794
		Net Tax \$ Increase	\$18,494	\$17,640	\$88,626	\$11,111	(\$3,678)	(\$34)
		Net Tax % Increase	8.91%	7.80%	36.36%	3.34%	-1.07%	-0.01%

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PACKAGE OF BEER AND WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **BP 2026 LLC**, doing business as **One Leaf**, located at **1629 Clark Ave., Albany, Georgia 31705**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **off-premises package sell of beer and wine** for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority. This notice shall be published in the Albany Herald on **September 3rd, 5th & 8th**, in compliance with applicable law.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stars are underwater again today; it's an unusually long period of darkness. Weather it by starting nothing new, meeting no one new, signing nothing. When you don't initiate, dark stars can just pass you by.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It could be easy to get at financial cross-purposes now if someone gets reactive and stubborn. It will be much easier to unravel next week — problems caused by the stars can be hard to resolve until the pattern shifts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Scissors or dye could be a danger in your hands for a day or two — an urge for a big change coupled with deeply sunken stars is a recipe for an epically bad outcome. Stick to changes that will be easy to undo.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Better to be misunderstood for your silence than for your thoughts and ideas now. Hold and refine what you're working on under bad stars like today; release projects and offerings when stars support success.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The darkest stars drive the worst outcomes, keep yourself unbothered and on your path by working behind the scenes during these times. Animals know when to hunt and when to rest. Timing is everything!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 'Stay in your center, stay in your frequency' is great advice but in real life this is a practice not a destination. Practice noticing when you're holding what isn't yours and gently bringing yourself back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ego can look a lot like confidence and often presents as authority. Look behind the curtain to see who's really pulling the levers [including inside yourself] and take everything with a massive grain of salt now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Nope. That should be the answer to ads, solicitors, influencers, and salespeople now. Nope. Starting anything, including buying any-

thing, has the worst results when stars are poor and sinking further, like today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep delivering quality regardless of what anyone else is doing. Your efforts are part of your relationship with the Universe, and with yourself. Maintain standards and get both inner and outer benefits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what you know works. Today's stars could drive a random, unhelpful change that then gets defended mindlessly instead of immediately replaced. Weigh all new intel carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your flow could stick intermittently but that's preferable today to blowing through all guardrails. Don't fight what's unfolding now — swim further upstream and get busy creating your next set of realities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Repair of long-term problems happen much more readily when stars are above zero and helping you. Fix what's urgent now but wait to work with what's more entrenched until next week and beyond.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The final piece of 2026 should be less stressful for you than the earlier part of the year. Your birthday month is a month to think and communicate your ideas, to evolve your habits of mind into a higher and more productive mindset. October is a month to note down ideas, they could be particularly elevated then. Your insights can help you step into energies that could bring a new source of income and that could include the fringe benefits of charm and enhanced attractiveness. Believe in yourself. November opens with an unexpected windfall and later should bring many of the building blocks you've been waiting for: Clarity, cash flow, ideas, plans, hands-on help and support. December sets the capstone on the year. While you may do it your own way, you'll likely move mountains, heal deeply, and exemplify your highest potentials.



- 1812** - Twenty-four settlers are killed in the Pigeon Roost Massacre in Indiana
- 1855** - During the American Indian Wars, under U.S. General William S. Harney, 700 soldiers in Nebraska avenge the Grattan massacre by attacking a Sioux village and killing 100 men, women and children
- 1925** - The USS Shenandoah, the United States' first American built rigid airship was destroyed in a squall line over Noble County, Ohio, killing fourteen of the 42 man crew
- 1939** - During World War II, the United Kingdom and France begin a naval blockade of Germany that lasts until the end of the war

- 1944** - Anne Frank (Diary of Anne Frank) and her family are place on the last transport train from the Westerbork transit camp to the Auschwitz concentration camp
- 1971** - Qatar becomes an independent state
- 1994** - Russia and the People's Republic of China agree to de-target their nuclear weapons against each other
- 1997** - Vietnam Airlines Flight 815 crashes on approach into Phnom Penh airport, killing 64
- 2004** - Beslan school siege in Russia ends with over 330 fatalities, including 186 children
- 2017** - North Korea conducts its sixth and most powerful nuclear test

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Birth of Anna, Duchess of Bedford, Creator of Afternoon Tea
- National Day of Prayer for Victims of Hurricane Harvey
- National Skyscraper Day
- National Welsh Rarebit Day
- Penny Press Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

Thomas A. Edison, inventor (1847-1931)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

The increase in property taxes to more than double from last year is totally insane. Everyone needs to appeal.

Fletcher, your story on Cruising Slappie has no doubt rekindled the memories of generations of Albany residents. We started Cruising in the late-'60s on into the early '70s, and I have enough stories from that time to fill the paper. I really enjoyed the article; hope we get more like it.

The crooks in the county government have tried to hide the fact that one of their appointees has been arrested and is facing criminal charges. And that person is still serving on the Tax Assessor Board! I think every person in Dougherty County would be justified in recalling this inept group of commissioners and challenging their homes' tax value.

To the Squawker(s) who think that our bus station is only used as a cooling/warming station, I suggest you get out more often. The city buses do use this station every day and have used it since it opened

So we have a person on the Tax Assessors' Board who is under indictment, but she's being allowed to stay on the board at this crucial time? More evidence that the state needs to take control of these out-of-control, know-nothing commissioners.

I discovered Hip-Hop Chicken when all of the cars started backing up at their drive-thru during COVID. I've remained a customer because the customer service is very good, and the establishment is clean and well-run. I also like to cruise Slappie at night now, although it's nothing like the story portrayed. Sad.

So this woman Jenita Lane, who was appointed by the Dougherty County Commission, is allowed to remain a Tax Assessor even after being caught in criminal acts that forced her to give up her law license? Another win for the Foolish Four on the commission.

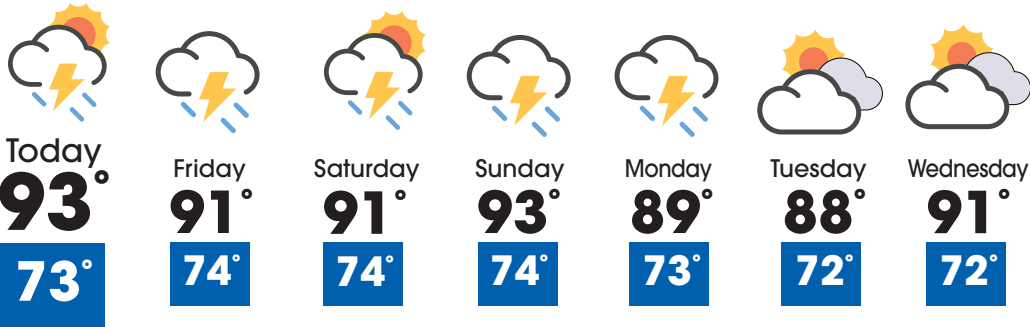
How do we reach out to the state to come in and investigate our out-of-control county and city governments? They are pi-ing away millions of our tax dollars on projects that benefit only themselves or their close allies. We need help down this way.

So Canada is now our enemy, and North Korea is our friend? Someone who supports Trump please explain. I'll wait. That Man Without a Family

I got one of the first of the new-isse Mustang Cobras -- blue with white stripes -- in 1975 and couldn't wait to drive it down Slappie. I felt like the king of cool, riding with the windows down and blasting Foghat as loud as it would go. Yes, those were the days.

What's up with all the burned-out houses in the historic downtown district? The fire department's claim that it's "homeless people building fires" doesn't hold up with the extreme high temps we've had this summer. Something's going on, and someone should investigate.

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Overrated?

By Frank Stewart

Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic's cynicism now extends to the value of aces. "They're overrated," Cy told me. "The ranking cards in the deck?"

NORTH			
♠ K			
♥ A Q			
♦ 9 7 6 4			
♣ 7 6 5 4 3 2			
WEST			
♠ 8 5 4			
♥ 8 4 3			
♦ Q 2			
♣ K Q J 9 8			
EAST			
♠ J 10 9 6 2			
♥ J 9 7 6 5 2			
♦ A J			
♣ None			
SOUTH			
♠ A Q 7 3			
♥ K 10			
♦ K 10 8 5 3			
♣ A 10			
South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		
Opening lead — ♣ K			
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I asked. "So what?" Cy said. "Other cards are almost as high -- and become high once the ace is gone." "What's your point?" I asked, mystified.

As West in a penny game, Cy led the king of clubs against 3NT. (North's three diamonds was invitational.)

"My partner pitched a heart," the Cynic said, "and declarer took the ace, led a spade to dummy and returned a diamond. East played the jack, and declarer put up the king."

NINE TRICKS

"He would've gone down if I'd held the ace; but as it was, the king won. Partner's ace won the next diamond, and South had four diamonds, three spades and



Frank Stewart

two hearts."

I saw what Cy was driving at: East must discard his ace of diamonds at Trick One. South can't set up the diamonds without letting West get in to run the clubs. From the bidding and the look of dummy, West is unlikely to have an entry anywhere else.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: SA Q 7 3 H K 10 D K 10 8 5 3 C A 10. Your partner opens one club, you respond one diamond, he bids one heart and you try one spade. Partner raises to three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has extra high-card strength. He has a singleton or void in diamonds, so that your king is a "wasted" honor, but you still may have a slam. Cue-bid four clubs. If partner holds KJ82, AQ76, 7, KQJ7, six spades will be a good spot.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Others often take advantage of generous giver

By Eric Thomas

Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I am a giver. It has always been ingrained in my personality. I give and help family, friends, neighbors, perfect strangers. I am always volunteering to help in any way I can. This causes people to take advantage of me.

I am always giving and doing more for them than they do for me. When I need something, so-called friends are seldom there. I'm not keeping score. But somehow my compulsion to give and help ends up getting me hurt.

Hurt feelings from friends and family that are not there for me. Financial debts never repaid. Financial gifts taken for granted once the moment passes. Neighbors say they need something, but when I offer to lend it to them, I never see the item again.

How can I stop doing this? I'm tired of getting my feelings hurt and losing my money and possessions. I'll just be talking to someone and if an opportunity to give or help comes up, I'm volunteering myself without hesitation. Afterward, I'm like why do I do that? Don't say therapy. I can't afford that and this isn't a big problem, just a little problem that brings me hurt feelings.

— Giving Too Much

Dear Giving: Think about what you're getting from giving, or what you want to get. Ask yourself if what you really want isn't something that easily comes from being overly generous. Perhaps you're really looking for connection or community; perhaps you're trying to fix things for others. I don't want to pathologize any of this, but from your letter it

sounds like your giving nature is sometimes setting you up for failure.

Now, of course, you should be receiving thanks or repayment. Of course, people shouldn't be taking advantage of you. It's not your fault that the gifts are going unnoticed or being taken for granted. See what happens when you put yourself on a generosity budget. Say someone needs help and you feel the desire to lend a hand. Stop and ask yourself if there's another way that you can be of assistance without giving so much of yourself. Perhaps it's connecting them with another person who can provide what they need instead of providing it yourself.

I'm not saying stop being generous. But try to be mindful about the conditions under which you're lending a hand and see if you notice a pattern.

Dear Eric: A few months ago, my nearest and dearest friend of 50 years ended our friendship by leaving a letter in my bathroom after we had a lovely visit.

We have been through so much together. In her letter she stated that although she was always there for me that I had never been there for her. I was on life support last year and she was at the hospital every day. Approximately one month after my discharge, she was admitted to hospital. I had a lot of health issues as a direct result of the life support and as much as I wanted to be able to visit her, I was unable to. I couldn't walk properly and I don't drive. She mentioned this in the letter.

I am deeply hurt by this.

I have tried to reach out to



Eric Thomas

her by phone and social media, but I have been blocked. She spent several hours at my house the day she left the letter. Everything was fine. A nice lunch and lots of laughs.

In the closing of her letter, she wrote that our friendship was toxic and that she is ending it. I feel lost and lonely. I also feel that she should have talked to me and not been a coward leaving a hidden letter. Any advice you have would be greatly appreciated

— Dazed and Hurt

Dear Dazed and Hurt: I'm so sorry you experienced this. While I often suggest letters as a form of communication for fractured relationships, the way your friend went about it doesn't make sense and clearly leaves you with more questions than answers.

She had every opportunity to have a conversation with you about the issues she had with your friendship. It was unfair and confusing for her to engage as if nothing was wrong, knowing she planned to leave the letter. It denied you both the chance to understand where the other was coming from.

Try to see this as an act by someone who is hurting. Even though that hurt may not all be coming from you and none of it was intentional, it's there. Sometimes, when we are hurt, we act out of self-protection or out of anger. While this action casts a pall over the friendship's end, it doesn't have to define the whole friendship. Hold on to the good parts of your time together, while you let her go with love.

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

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Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY’S
BIBLE
VERSE

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 1:1

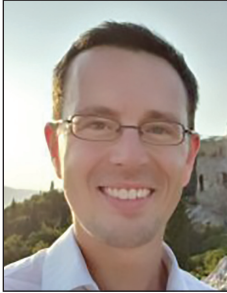
COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

The robots are here. One safely drove me around the block

I am a policy nerd – something most of my readers already know by now – and I acknowledge that you can only learn so much from debating theory and poring over data. Real-world experience provides an entirely new perspective.

Despite writing about autonomous vehicle policy for years, I had not ridden in one until recently. I don’t think I should be faulted for this. They just don’t operate here. The closest city where they do is Atlanta where Waymo and Uber have teamed up, but I managed to finally ride in one recently.

While in Orlando, Fla., for a conference, I saw driverless Waymo vehicles driving across town, and I decided this was a golden opportunity to hail one and learn two things: What was it like riding in an autonomous vehicle and could I get my employer to pay for a trip to nowhere in one?



HYDEN

missed her turn, made an illegal U-turn and nearly collided with another vehicle. Mistakes happen, and I shrugged it off and assured her that I wouldn’t give her a bad rating. I remained true to my word.

On another ride with one of my R Street Institute colleagues, my driver’s car smelled strongly of – erm – a human odor that nobody appreciates. Guess what didn’t reek or nearly careen into another vehicle – my Waymo ride. It also didn’t require awkward small talk. Of course, this is just one anecdote and is too small a sample to make any final determinations about the emerging technology. This is where data is so important.

Since I hailed a Waymo, it seems fair to parse through data about that operator. Waymo cars have traveled more than 200 million miles in cities across the country, including more than 5 million in Atlanta alone – meaning that policy nerds have a massive data set to examine.

The numbers are incredibly promising, too. Waymo vehicles are involved in 94% fewer accidents resulting in serious injury or death, 82% fewer accidents involving airbag deployment and 93% fewer accidents that leave a pedestrian injured compared to human-driven cars. In short, driverless vehicles are far safer.

They are not perfect by any means and will continue improving. And while they have been involved in accidents, police data suggest they are rarely at fault. The reason for this safety record is clear. Autonomous vehicles don’t drive drunk, drive distracted, drive while tired, or text and drive, like humans do. And driverless cars are fitted with an array of sensors, cameras and AI technology that makes them incredibly safe.

This bodes well for future road safety and suggests that other companies will likewise launch autonomous vehicle fleets, and they will also play larger roles in trucking – an industry facing a massive shortage of drivers. In doing so, transportation’s future is poised to be much, much safer.

I am not ready to relinquish all my driving responsibilities to AI, but that is just personal preference. In the end, my experience riding in an autonomous vehicle was incredibly positive and fun, but I have yet to hear whether my employer plans to reimburse me for my ride. Cross your fingers for me.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Data center disputes require factual clarification

To the Editor:

As widely reported, Georgia’s Chamber of Commerce is attempting to discredit popular opposition to data centers. To reduce further confusion and resulting hostilities, please consider several key factors.

Although existing use of data centers by artificial intelligence systems accounts for only about a third of current total activity, forecasted growth in demand for digital processing and storage facilities is dominated by AI. Financial analysts predict that between 65% and 70% of U.S. demand for new data centers built by 2030 will be driven by AI – increasing total capacity and power demands of these disruptive facilities by 50% across the nation.

Georgia’s chamber is also attempting to diminish opposition to data centers by emphasizing that water consumption will be moderated by “closed-loop” cooling systems, using air to remove heat from a modest amount of water used to cool microprocessor

operations. Yet this explanation fails to address the problem of waste-heat itself as a destructive threat to public health and the environment caused by data centers. Data center overheating harm to wildlife and community health is significant.

Experts report that data centers increase surrounding air temperature by up to 4° Fahrenheit, and land-surface temperature by as much as 16°. This thermal pollution intensifies so-called “heat-islands,” unfairly increasing local air-conditioning dependency and costs. Moreover, as widely documented, average temperatures are already increasing due to climate change, increasing risks to public health and the environment. These harms will be worsened by added heat from data centers.

Whatever the alleged economic benefits of data centers, harms caused by these facilities – and AI – justify rigorous controls.

David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:

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COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Off-grid is good for everyone, not just the military

The U.S. Army, Fox Business reports, plans to build nuclear “microreactors” at five of its bases – Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, Fort Hood, Fort Benning and Fort Drum – over the next two years, with at least 15 more to follow later.

Why? To, the report says, “strengthen the military’s energy security and reduce its reliance on potentially vulnerable power grids.”

The idea certainly makes sense for a military base, but it makes sense for everyone, everywhere else, too.

The biggest security and reliability worry with electricity isn’t that an enemy missile or bomb will take out a power plant. It’s that an attack or accident somewhere along the 650,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and 6.3 million miles of distribution lines criss-crossing the US will stop that power from getting delivered.

A drunk driver hits a pole. A defective or damaged transformer explodes. A computer suddenly stops juggling chain-saws to correctly operate some part of the increasingly complex and interconnected “grid” system. And the lights go out, somewhere. Maybe just on your block, maybe in a million households.

Most of the proposed solutions to these problems seem to be about making the “grid” more “robust,” more interconnected, more complex, and more centralized. That’s a move in the wrong direction.

The “grid” is a sprawling Rube Goldberg machine that evolved over the course of the 20th century based on the now false



KNAPP

notion that large numbers of consumers must get their electricity from large, central power plants.

The problem with that is that when something breaks in one place, people in other places suffer. In 2003, a “cascading grid failure,” caused by sagging power lines short-circuiting on tree branches in Ohio, blacked out eight U.S. states and the Canadian province of Ontario.

Technology advances, and it doesn’t have to be “grid” technology. These days, many consumers who lost power in 2003 could, reasonably affordably, get their electricity from their own rooftop solar panels or backyard wind turbines. And for those who don’t, smaller community-level systems make more sense than a central computer pushing watts down many miles of vulnerable line, through multiple switching steps from far-flung plants.

The 20-megawatt nuclear reactors the army’s buying could each, in civilian context, power as many as 20,000 homes – about twice as many as found in the median U.S. county. Combined with wind and solar – at both household and utility scale – there’s no reason why populations can’t become far more self-reliant and secure so a power problem in Akron doesn’t black out Ann Arbor.

If that sounds obvious, it is. So obvious that even the US Army has figured it out (as an old Marine, I naturally believe they’re not terribly bright). The rest of us should get with the decentralization/localization program.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lies, corruption damage presidential office more than criticism

To the Editor:

The anonymous letter writer (Op-Ed page, 8/20) asserts that criticism of Trump is injuring the Office of the President, thus putting our national stature at risk.

I think our mystery writer got it wrong. The lies and corruption of our current president is damaging the Office of the Pres-

ident infinitely more than any criticism of its occupant. Our former allies now keep us at arm’s length.

Besides, criticism of POTUS is speech protected by the First Amendment. It would appear that our president and minions have pretty thin skins.

Daniel Wheeler
Albany

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.



What to watch THURSDAY

September 3, 2026

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

MLB Baseball

FOX, 7 p.m. Live

A Thursday night regional MLB game on FOX has either the Boston Red Sox at the Baltimore Orioles or the Milwaukee Brewers at the Chicago Cubs.

College Football: Colorado at Georgia Tech

ESPN, 8 p.m. Live

A Thursday night college football clash at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta has the Colorado Buffaloes visiting the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

Monsters of God

HBO, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In the documentary's season finale "Head of the Snake," federal agents try to infiltrate the inner circle of Malaysian kingpin Anson Wong, who has emerged as a shadowy force at the center of the global reptile trade.



'Monsters of God'

HBO

CATCH A CLASSIC

Special Theme: Completely Kubrick

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Long before he became the legendary, perfectionist titan of modern cinema, Stanley Kubrick was a teenage prodigy shooting photos for *Look* magazine. His keen eye for composition and human behavior seamlessly translated to the big screen in the early 1950s, with a sampling airing tonight on TCM. First up is Kubrick's second feature film, **Killer's Kiss** (1955), produced on a shoestring budget of \$75,000, which demonstrated his emerging style and technical virtuosity as a filmmaker. Although the

plot is straight out of a pulp fiction novel — a second-rate boxer rescues a dancer from a lecherous nightclub owner with underworld connections — Kubrick cleverly exploits the film noir aspects of the material through his evocative cinematography. Next up is Kubrick's gritty short **Day of the Fight** (1951), which is followed by 1956's **The Killing** (pictured), his first major critical success, a tightly constructed heist thriller that showcased his signature nonlinear storytelling and visual precision. After **Flying Padre** (1951), another documentary short, comes **Paths of Glory** (1957), a searing anti-war film starring Kirk Douglas that established Kubrick as a serious directing talent. The lineup concludes with **Fear and Desire** (1952), Kubrick's self-financed feature film debut, an existential war drama about four soldiers trapped behind enemy lines.



UNITED ARTISTS

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



MELINDA SUE GORDON

Love & Basketball (2000, Romance) Sanaa Lathan, Omar Epps **BET, 6 p.m.**

The Croods: A New Age (2020, Children) Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone **E!, 6 p.m.**

Deadpool (2016, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin **FX, 6:30 p.m.**

Clash Of The Thundermans (2026, Action) Kira Kosarin, Chris Tallman **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Drive Angry 3D (2011, Action) Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Moneyball (2011, Drama) Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (2022, Children) Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek Pinault **E!, 8 p.m.**

Someone's Always Watching (2026, Suspense) Ella Frazee, Mike Markoff **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Borderlands (2024, Science fiction) Cate Blanchett, Kevin Hart **SYFY, 9 p.m.**

Bring It On (2000, Comedy) Kirsten Dunst, Eliza Dushku **BET, 9 p.m.**

The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates **USA, 10 p.m.**

Field of Dreams (1989, Fantasy) Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan **BBC America, 11 p.m.**

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

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MOVIES TV GRIDS BEST BETS

What to watch FRIDAY

September 4, 2026

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

College Football

ESPN, FOX & FS1, beginning at 8 p.m. Live

Catch Toledo at Michigan State (FS1), Miami at Stanford (ESPN) and Fresno State at USC (FOX) in Friday night college football action.

Sex Money Murder

A&E, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

Cameras take viewers deep inside the seductive world of America's strip clubs, where the art of allure and fantasy meets the harsh realities of crime. In this thrilling new true-crime series, the dark underbelly of these alluring sanctuaries is unraveled, revealing the shocking stories of murder, deceit and scandal that often go unnoticed. Two back-to-back episodes air tonight.

Made in the West

PBS, 9 p.m.

Featuring artisans, historians and educators, this film highlights the legacy of American West style in art, clothing, furniture, housewares and more, and the challenges facing today's master craftsmen as they try to inspire a new generation of makers.

Austin City Limits

PBS, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 52 of the music performance series premieres with Colombian singer Carlos Vives and his big band, La Provincia, showcasing songs from *El Último Disco Vol. 1*.



'Made in the West'

PBS

CATCH A CLASSIC

Charles Grodin: Rebel With a Cause

TCM, 8 p.m.

The prolific Charles Grodin (*The Heartbreak Kid*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Beethoven*), one of the "great cranky comedic geniuses" of all time, left his mark on entertainment as well as on society. In the TCM premiere of the documentary **Charles Grodin: Rebel With a Cause**, A-listers like Robert De Niro, Steve Martin and Carol Burnett share their stories about Grodin, painting a picture of a versatile actor who also cared deeply about the injustices of society and spent the last 20 years of his life fighting to get wrongly convicted people out of prison. Known for his dry, deadpan delivery and awkward conversational style, Grodin tore up the late-night TV circuit before hosting his own cable talk show from 1995-98.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

After tonight's documentary, TCM airs a few of Grodin's more memorable films, including 1988's **Midnight Run** (pictured), with Grodin playing straight man Jonathan Mardukas, a mild-mannered accountant who steals \$15 million from the mob, to De Niro's tough, cynical bounty hunter who's trying to chase him down; and **The Woman in Red** (1984), directed by and starring Gene Wilder, with Grodin in a progressive role as Teddy's (Wilder) gay friend Buddy, who's simply portrayed as one of the guys.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



DISNEY

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003, Romance-comedy) Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey **E!, 6 p.m.**

Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993, Comedy) Cary Elwes, Richard Lewis **IFC, 6 p.m.**

Hitch (2005, Romance-comedy) Will Smith, Eva Mendes **WE, 6:25 p.m.**

Jurassic World Dominion (2022, Action) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **FX, 7:30 p.m.**

Police Academy (1984, Comedy) Steve Guttenberg, Kim Cattrall **Sundance, 7:30 p.m.**

Road House (2024, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Daniela Melchior **TBS, 8 p.m.**

Vanished in an Instant (2026, Suspense) Vinessa Antoine, Arista Arhin **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Rocky IV (1985, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire **AMC, 8:30 p.m.**

Zootopia (2016, Children) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman **Freeform, 8:30 p.m.**

Coach Carter (2005, Drama) Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Ri'chard **BET, 9 p.m.**

New Jack City (1991, Crime drama) Wesley Snipes, Ice-T **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005, Romance-comedy) Steve Carell, Catherine Keener **IFC, 10:45 p.m.**

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



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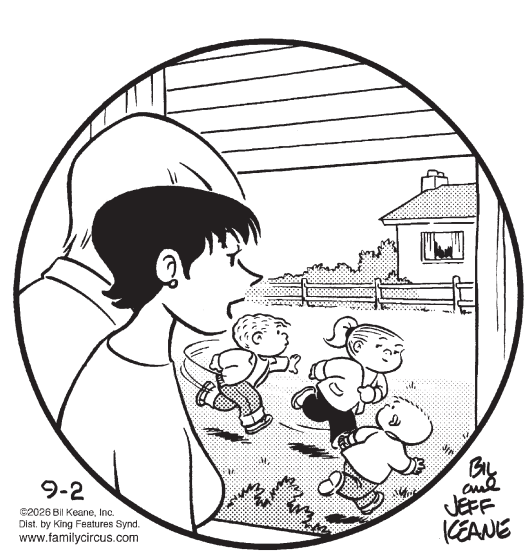
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CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



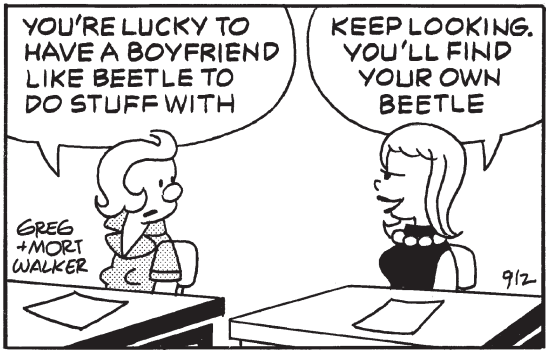
“Um ... uh, everything’s fine, folks. I’m just looking for the twenty bucks that he owes me.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

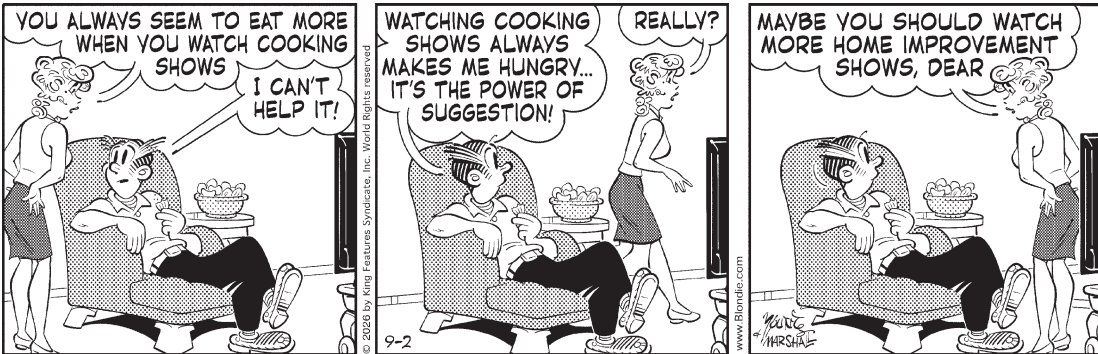


“That’s nice. They’ve reverted to a pre-electronic game of tag.”

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



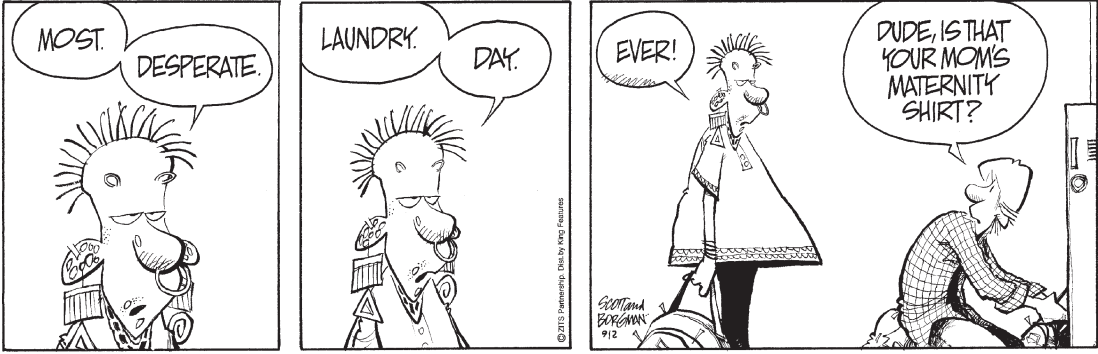
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



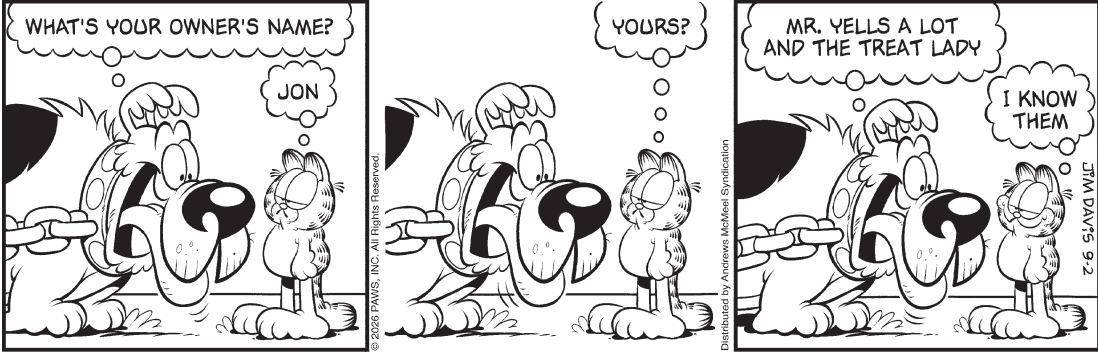
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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



FATHOM

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:

Six feet under

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- Rascal
- With 30-Across, FIFA women’s powerhouse
- Rip-off
- Green growth in a pond
- Rotating shaft
- Salt-N-Pepa, e.g.
- 1990s grunge icon
- Learning tools
- Manatee habitat
- Ray of McDonald’s history
- General locations
- Some street food vendors
- VEX creations
- Make a choice
- See 6-Across
- Azerbaijan neighbor
- Right-hand page
- Only word spoken in “Silent Movie”
- Going the faster way, hopefully
- Former quarterback Manning
- 1/16 of a pound
- 2026 “Legally Blonde” prequel
- Taxpayer ID
- “Sweet!”
- Make a value judgment
- Easy A’s
- Result of haste, in an adage
- Colossal
- Prefix with -tainment
- So much
- Judge’s directive, or a feature of each set of circled letters?
- Junction point
- Hayride seat, say
- All sales are _
- Beloved
- Scrabble board symbol covered in the first play of the game
- Young horses

DOWN

- Fifth Avenue retailer
- Game with secret passages

- Taj Mahal city
- Yoga surface
- Eat like a bird?
- Frowned upon
- Spot-on
- Legend in the ring
- Big boys
- Severely plain
- Throws in the towel
- Verdi opera
- Green growth in a terrarium
- Middle-earth monsters
- Many a Hollywood Walk of Fame honoree
- “Un-Break My Heart” singer Braxton
- Swiss pharmaceutical giant
- As many as
- Ceremonial events
- Spoken exams
- Science fair volcano ingredient
- Spiritual essences
- Pays to play
- Total stranger
- Key near F1

- América del _ : México’s continent
- Green dip, briefly
- Model/activist Holliday
- Helper: Abbr.
- Trigger, as an alarm
- Total
- Throat dangler
- More uncommon
- Steam _ : latte-making gadget
- Sunburn treatment
- “Giant” novelist Ferber
- “Works for me!”
- Web addresses
- “48 Hours” ailer
- Breakfast bit that might soak overnight
- Home of Sugarloaf Mountain

TODAY’S SOLUTION:

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

09/02/26

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By Guilherme Gilioli

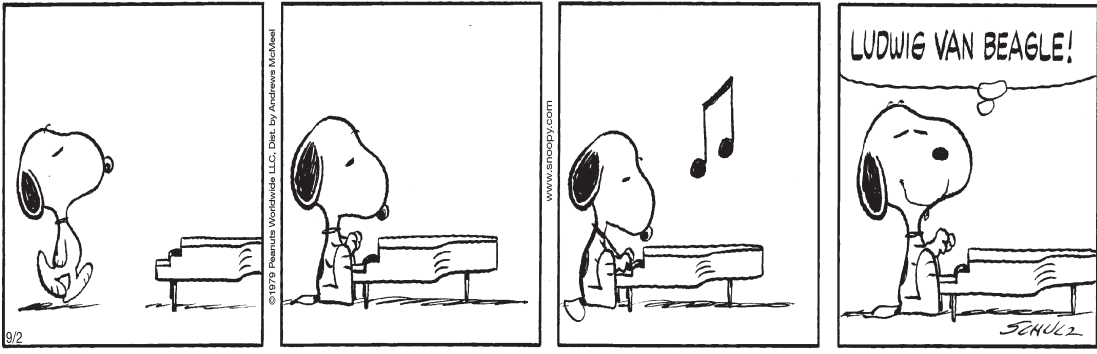
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09/02/26

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.

IT’S AN HOMAGE

Solution: 6 letters

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

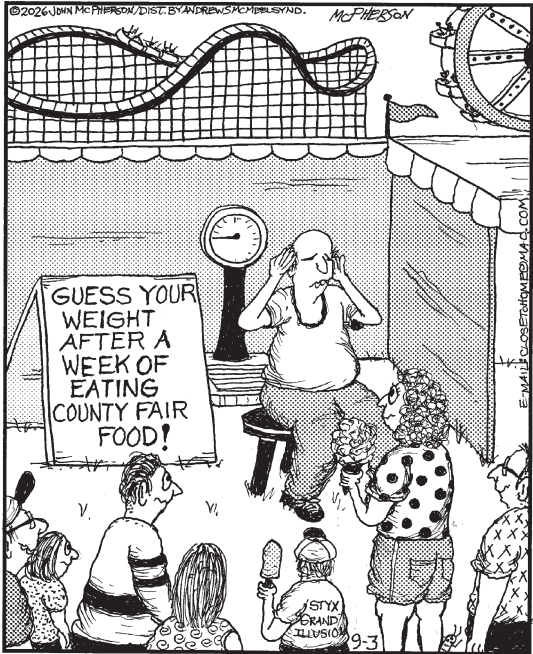
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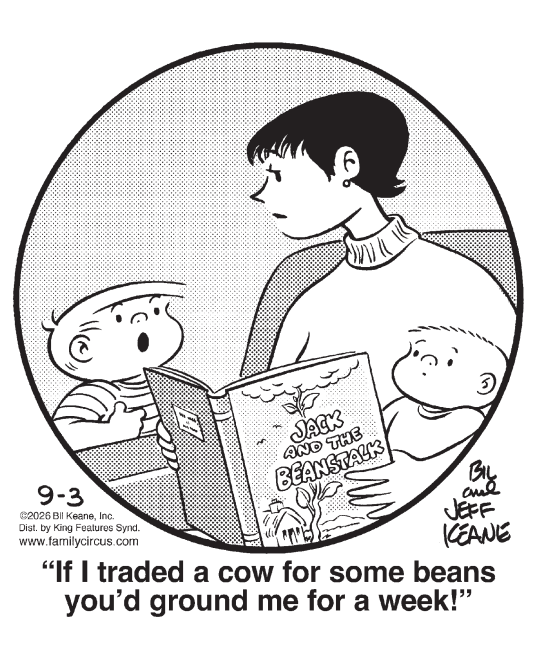
Admire, Appreciate, Ceremony, Concert, Dedication, Esteem, Flowers, Gratitude, Honor, Impact, Inspire, Letter, Medal, Mentor, Monument, Music, Name, Past, Personal, Portrait, Praise, Public, Recognize, Reflect, Respect, Reverence, Salute, Scholarship, Sculpture, Special, Speech, Sports, Symbolic, Title, Tradition, Tribute, Trophy

TODAY’S ANSWER: Statue

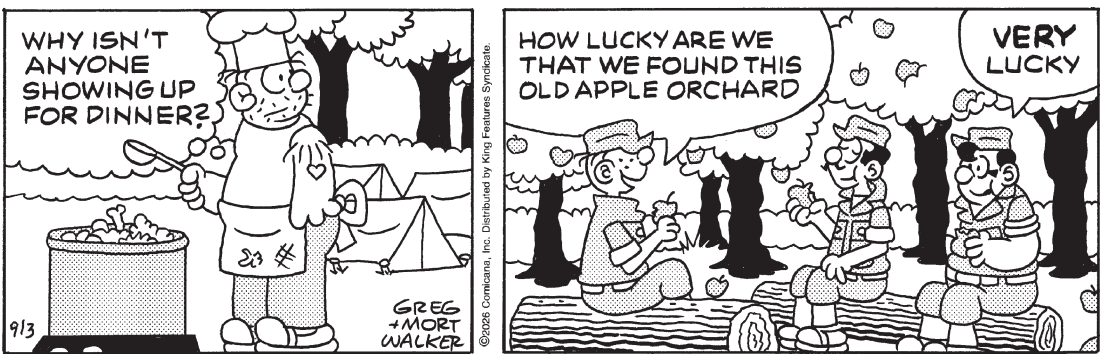
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



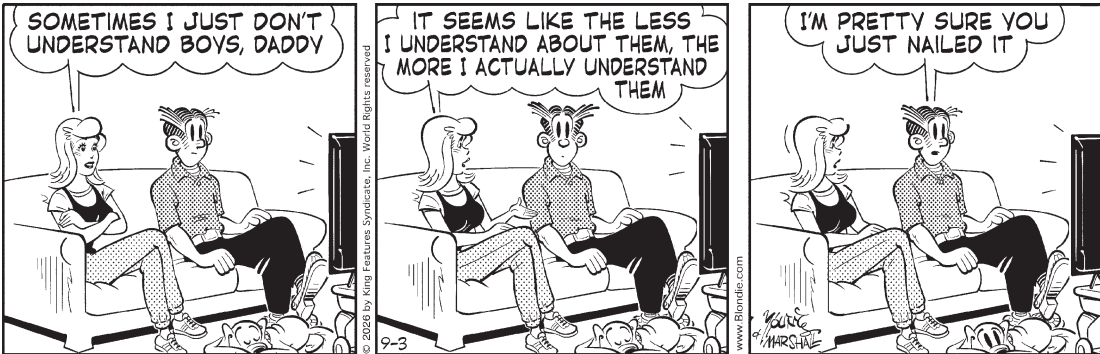
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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

MINISTER

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:

Prime Minister

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Enemy
4 Town north of Vegas
8 Altar's location
12 Approves
13 Golf club
14 Go with the —
15 PC key
16 Express
17 Duffer's cry
18 Blue-haired Simpson
20 Bishop's hat
21 Islet
22 Mark from injury
24 Bit of color
26 Agitation
30 Farm animal
31 Pub missile
33 Alien craft
34 Stopped a fast
35 Fibs
37 Playground game

DOWN

1 Froth
2 State near Ark.
3 Alienated
4 Transfixed

38 Duck-walked
41 Endures
43 Paella ingredient
44 Noah's boat
45 Discard
48 Motionless
51 Arabic letter
52 Winged insect
55 — de Janeiro
56 Talk wildly
57 A Great Lake
58 Blasting material
59 Deep black
60 Not yet up and about
61 Rds.

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

5 Before
6 Oui's opposite
7 Toronto's prov.
8 Say positively
9 Conspire
10 Achy

11 Pitcher
19 Job for a band
20 Impair
22 Walk with long steps
23 Adorable
24 Soften
25 Jot
27 Remote regions
28 "— first you don't succeed ..."
29 Fireplace fuel
32 Actor — Guinness
36 Cut
39 Poorly insulated
40 Sass
42 Museum contents
45 Indian garment
46 Sept
47 Skating venue
49 Dryer fuzz
50 Empty plots
52 — culpa
53 Sphere
54 Dead heat

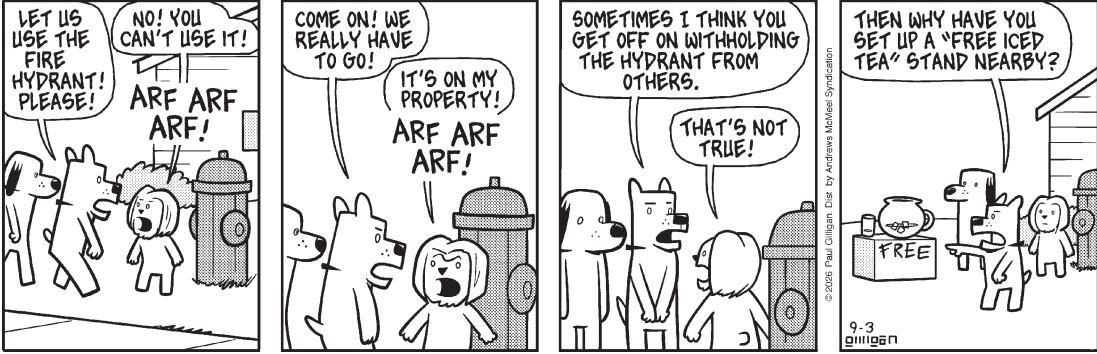
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

RHODES, GREECE

Solution: 10 letters

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

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Aegean, Agios, Ancient, Anthony, Baklava, Butterfly, Colossus, Dodecanese, Dolmades, Epta Piges, Feta, Haraki, Hellas, Castello, Medieval, Mesanagros, Meze, Moat, Orthodox, Ouzo, Pefkos, Port, Prasonisi, Red Sand, Saint Nicholas, Seven Springs, Stadium, St. John, St. Paul's, Symi, Tsambika, Valley, Venetian, Vlycha

TODAY'S ANSWER: Rodini Park

Georgia cattlemen push back on plan to import beef

By Ross Williams
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- A White House plan intended to help ranchers build up the nation's cattle herd is causing consternation among Georgia cattlemen and generating beef in the Georgia governor's race.

A pound of ground beef cost the average Fourth of July grill master about \$6.89 last month, up from \$6.25 in July 2025 and \$4.39 in July 2021, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The U.S. cattle herd, which includes beef and dairy cows, is at its lowest point since the 1950s, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data. Ranchers say a number of factors, including droughts, rising costs for expenses like diesel and machinery, and market risk make expanding their herds an uncertain endeavor.

The administration has signed a proclamation allowing a total of 300,000 tons of lean beef trimmings for ground beef to be imported into the United States over 90 days without tariffs.

Lean beef trimmings are a form of beef made by separating smaller pieces of lean meat from large pieces of fat after larger steaks and roasts are cut.

"We have a commitment that this beef will be sold at 25% below current market prices," the White House said. "This deal will reduce prices for Americans while giving space for our great American beef herd to grow again."

But the plan drew swift criticism from representatives of Georgia's cattle producers, who say it will undercut American ranchers and slow down the process of rebuilding the herd.

"What our producers need is confidence that if they invest

in more cows, better genetics, improved pastures, equipment, and infrastructure today, there will be a fair market for the cattle they produce tomorrow," Kelley Owen, executive vice president of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, said. "The best way to increase America's beef supply is to give American cattle producers the confidence to grow it."

Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper, a Republican, broke ranks with the president over the beef plan.

"Increasing our reliance on imported food is not a long-term solution to Americans' affordability concerns," Harper said in a statement on social media. "We can lower costs for consumers while supporting the farmers and ranchers who produce our food here at home. A strong domestic food supply is essential to our economic and national security."

Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who is Georgia's Democratic candidate for governor, said she hopes to make the issue part of her campaign against businessman Rick Jackson, the Republican nominee for governor.

"Georgia's cattle producers power our agriculture economy and provide food for our state and our country," Bottoms said in a statement. "I stand with Georgia producers against Trump's reckless plan to flood the market with imported beef."

"And while he is selling out our state's top industries, Rick Jackson refuses to stand up to him — even as cattle producers ring the alarm," Bottoms added. "I encourage Rick to join me in a bipartisan stance against this damaging policy for our producers. As governor, I will be focused on growing Georgia's economy, protecting our most important industries, and I will never



Special Photo: Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder

Maggie the cow was previously brought to the state Capitol by representatives of Georgia's cattle industry to greet lawmakers.

be afraid to stand up to anyone on behalf of Georgians."

A spokesman for Jackson's campaign characterized Bottoms' words as empty campaign rhetoric but did not directly address Jackson's position.

"Governors do not set federal policy, but they can help support Georgians impacted by decisions made in Wash-

ington D.C., which is exactly what Rick is focused on," Jackson spokesman Garrison Douglas said.

Douglas said Jackson's platform for Georgia cattlemen will include efforts to increase processing capacity and biosecurity while lowering input costs and reducing property taxes.



Special Photo: Fletcher Smith Georgia DNR

Red knots are among the wildlife whose status could be changed from rare to endangered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Comment period opens for proposed protected species list changes

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

SOCIAL CIRCLE — The public is encouraged to provide comments on proposed changes to Georgia's Protected Species List through Sept. 20, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division announced.

Public input is important and valuable in developing and implementing state regulations. The Protected Species List includes Georgia species considered most in need of conservation. DNR periodically reviews the list and recommends revisions as needed.

The proposed changes include adding and removing species, updating scientific names, and matching the status of species to their federal listing. They also would add an exception that allows for the sale of certain protected plant species grown in captivity.

Documents regarding the proposed amendments to rules 391-4-10-.09 and 391-4-10-.07 of

Subject 391-4-10: Protection of Endangered, Threatened, Rare or Unusual Species are available at <https://georgiawildlife.com/regulations/proposed>. Further resources, including a presentation on the topic and answers to questions regarding the list and the process, can be found at <https://georgiawildlife.com/ProtectedSpeciesList>.

The deadline to provide comments on the proposed amendments is 4:30 p.m. Sept. 20. Interested individuals can submit comments by:

-- Sending an email to wcscomments@dnr.ga.gov with the subject line Protected Species List.

-- Submitting a written statement. Written statements provided by mail should be sent to the attention of Trina Morris at: Georgia Department of Natural Resources; Wildlife Resources Conservation Center; 2065 U.S. Highway 278 SE; Social Circle, GA 30025. Statements sent by mail must be received by 4:30 p.m. Sept. 20.

-- Calling the DNR Wildlife Conservation Section at (706)

557-3213.

-- Attending a public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sept. 8 at the Wildlife Resources Division Headquarters Office, 2067 U.S. Highway. 278 SE, Social Circle.

Any participant at the public hearing may present data, make a statement or comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, either orally or in writing. Statements should be concise to permit everyone an opportunity to comment. Participants are required to register on arrival and notify the registering official of their intent to give a statement. Participants may also bring a written copy of their statement.

The state Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and any comments received during the board's meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Oct. 27 in the DNR Board Room at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA.

For more information, see <https://georgiawildlife.com/regulations/proposed> and <https://georgiawildlife.com/ProtectedSpeciesList>.



Barbara Rivera Holmes

Labor Commissioner Holmes endorsed by state Police Benevolent Association

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Police Benevolent Association of Georgia has endorsed Bárbara Rivera Holmes in her race for Labor Commissioner.

The support from one of Georgia's leading public safety institutions demonstrates the trust and confidence placed in Holmes to lead the Georgia Department of Labor and reflects her steadfast commitment to the men and women of law enforcement, a representative of the candidate's campaign said in a news release.

"The Police Benevolent Association of Georgia is proud to endorse your candidacy," the organization said in a letter to the Holmes campaign. "We will ask our members, their friends and families, and all citizens who respect strong and efficient enforcement of our laws to cast their ballots in the upcoming election in your favor."

The PBA Georgia is a professional organization that advocates for law enforcement officials across the state and represents thousands of public safety professionals.

"I couldn't be prouder to receive the endorsement of the Police Benevolent

Association of Georgia in this campaign," Holmes said. "Georgia families thrive and our state succeeds when we have safe communities. As a mother, wife, economic developer, and your Labor Commissioner, I know that public safety is the foundation on which our state is built."

"I'm proud to stand with the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep Georgia the best place in America to live, work, and raise a family."

Appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp in March 2025, Holmes is a first-generation American and veteran economic developer who previously served as the President & CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

Her campaign is focused on connecting Georgians with mortgage-paying jobs, and driving the Labor Department to unleash economic power by:

- Reforming and transforming state government;
- Creating tomorrow's workforce today;
- Making Georgia the top state for talent.

For more information, visit Barbara-ForGA.com.

Walmart to bring 1,000 jobs, fulfillment center to Carnesville

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

LIMA, PERU — While continuing an economic development mission in South America, Gov. Brian Kemp announced that Walmart, Inc. plans to build a high-tech, next-generation fulfillment center in Carnesville, creating 1,000 new jobs and bringing \$1.3 billion in investment to Franklin County.

"This massive investment from Walmart in a rural part of our state will not only create new, good-paying jobs for hard-working Georgians, it will also allow them to work close to home rather than commuting to a larger city for work," Kemp said. "Every Georgian should have op-

portunity, no matter their zip code, and Walmart is helping us deliver on that promise."

Walmart's presence in Georgia includes 209 Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs, as well as 11 supply chain facilities, employing more than 65,300 associates across the state. The retailer also supports local businesses in Georgia, spending more than \$26.2 billion with Georgia suppliers and supporting more than 167,600 supplier jobs in Fiscal Year 2025, alone.

"As customer expectations continue to evolve, investments like our new fulfillment center in Carnesville help us deliver the speed, convenience, and reliability customers count on," Karisa Sprague, senior vice president

for supply chain for Walmart U.S., said. "We're excited to join the Carnesville community and create meaningful career opportunities where associates can grow and build their future with Walmart."

The new 1.5 million-square-foot automated facility will be located at the Franklin 85 Logistics Center in Carnesville. Walmart's next-generation fulfillment centers are located in strategic markets to expand same-day and next-day shipping capabilities across the United States. Construction is expected to begin in late 2026.

"This investment represents a significant milestone for our community and reflects the confidence that businesses have in our workforce, infra-

structure and quality of life," Franklin Springs Mayor and Chairman of the Franklin County Industrial Authority Lee Moore said. "The jobs and economic opportunities created through this project will benefit local families and strengthen our economy for years to come. We are proud to partner with Walmart and appreciate their commitment to investing in Franklin County."

Assistant Director of Statewide Projects Elizabeth McLean represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the Franklin County Industrial Building Authority, Georgia EMC and Georgia Quick Start.



File Photo

Walmart, Inc. plans to build a high-tech, next-generation fulfillment center in Carnesville, creating 1,000 new jobs and bringing \$1.3 billion in investment to Franklin County.

"An investment and job-creating project of this magnitude will deliver generational opportunity for Franklin County and communities across northeast Georgia," GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "Having grown up in Franklin County, I know what it means to see an investment of this scale come to a rural community. Walmart's decision to build and grow here is a testament to the strength of

this community and the opportunities that exist beyond Georgia's major metropolitan areas.

"This is about more than 1,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion in investment. It is about giving people the opportunity to build a future in the community they call home. We are proud to welcome Walmart to Franklin County and grateful to all of our partners who helped make this possible."

From hunter to hunted: No. 2 Lee County hits road

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Last Friday night, Lee County was trying to make a statement. Consider it made.

The Trojans erased a 12-point halftime deficit and shut down nationally ranked Carol City of Miami in the second half to earn a 23-20 victory before a sellout crowd at Trojan Field.

Then came the recognition.

Lee County jumped from No. 6 to No. 2 in the Class 6A state rankings, while MaxPreps moved the Trojans to No. 25 nationally.

So much for sneaking up on anybody.

Lee County (2-0) heads to the Atlanta area Friday night to face unbeaten Sequoyah with a considerably larger target on its back.

The Chiefs aren't ranked, but they've certainly played like a team worthy of attention.

Sequoyah is 2-0 after victories of 36-7 and 45-7, outscoring its oppo-

nents 81-14.

Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio saw plenty he liked about his team during last week's comeback. Carol City led 20-8 at halftime before the Trojans responded with 15 unanswered points and didn't allow the Chiefs a first down in the second half.

"We have a veteran team with great leadership," Fabrizio said. "They didn't panic, stuck to the plan and made some corrections."

Now comes a different challenge. Sequoyah uses an offense built around misdirection and play action, requiring Lee County's defense to remain disciplined.

"They do a really good job on offense with misdirection plays and play action," Fabrizio said.

The Chiefs can create problems defensively, too.

"On defense they bring a lot of pressure and do a good job mixing up their looks," Fabrizio said.

It's another test for a Lee County team that has already won in two dramatically different ways.

The Trojans overwhelmed Hapeville Charter 51-0 in their opener. Against Carol City, they had to overcome their first significant adversity of the season.

Now they must handle success.

"It may sound like coach speak, but like we do every week, we have to focus on correcting our mistakes and getting better," Fabrizio said. "Simple as that."

Friday won't have the hype of Carol City's visit to Leesburg. Instead, Lee County will travel to North Georgia to face an unbeaten team that has quietly dismantled its first two opponents.

Last week, Lee County showed what it could do while chasing a nationally ranked opponent.

This week, everybody knows about Lee County.



Special Photo: James Griffith
Lee County wide receiver Jaden Upshaw fights off a Carol City defender during Friday night's 23-20 victory in Leesburg. Upshaw caught five passes as the Trojans rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit to knock off the nationally ranked Chiefs.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Deerfield-Windsor's Marin Anthony runs toward third base during Monday's come-from-behind win over South Georgia STEM in Albany. The Lady Knights have now won three straight games.

Softball Roundup:
Deerfield-Windsor wins third straight; Terrell tests itself against national power

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — After a 0-5 start, Deerfield-Windsor has found its stride.

The Lady Knights won their third straight game Monday, rallying from an early deficit and exploding for eight runs in the fifth inning to beat Southwest Georgia STEM Charter 11-6.

Southwest Georgia STEM led 4-1 after three innings before Deerfield-Windsor took control.

The Lady Knights scored eight runs on three hits in the fifth, highlighted by Jennings Curington's two-run triple. Curington finished with three RBIs, while Claire Hockman went 2-for-3.

"We got more selective at the plate, which gave us an opportunity to be more aggressive on the bases," Deerfield-Windsor coach Dwayne Suggs said.

The Lady Knights drew 10 walks and stole 14 bases, with Curington, Marily Phillips and Marin Anthony each stealing multiple bases.

Aubrey Ross earned the complete-game victory, allowing three hits and six runs — only two earned — while striking out 11. After walking four batters in the first two innings, Ross settled down and walked just three the rest of the way.

"Hockman and Curington came through with clutch hits with runners on," Suggs said. "We are just trying to be better than yesterday, one day at a time."

Deerfield-Windsor (3-5) travels to Southland Academy on Thursday.

Terrell Academy hangs tough with national power

DAWSON — Terrell Academy coach Ashley Walker wanted his Lady Eagles tested before region play.

They got exactly that Monday.

Terrell Academy stayed within two runs of Calvary Christian of Columbus through five innings before the nationally ranked Lady Knights scored five times in the sixth to pull away for a 12-4 victory.

Calvary improved to 11-2 and entered the game ranked No. 7 in Georgia and No. 11 nationally. Its only losses have come against Lee County and Tattnall Square Academy.

"I thought we held our own and played really well," Walker said. "They are a very talented team, and I thought we were able to rise to the occasion and show that we can play good softball too."

Terrell Academy led 2-1 after the first inning before Calvary answered with three runs in the second. The Lady Eagles stayed close and trailed only 6-4 entering the sixth.

Caroline Presley pitched five innings and also led Terrell Academy offensively, going 2-for-3.

"Caroline did a really good job of keeping them off balance at the plate, and she missed a lot of barrels," Walker said.

Calvary finished with 16 hits, including five from its leadoff hitter, Davis.

Terrell Academy hosts Brookwood on Thursday in its final non-region game before beginning region competition next week.

Lee County vaults to No. 2; Westover, Mitchell and Miller join rankings

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Beating one of the nation's top high school football teams apparently gets people's attention.

Lee County made the biggest local move in the Georgia High School Football Daily rankings released Monday, vaulting four spots from No. 6 to No. 2 in Class 6A after Friday night's 23-20 victory over nationally ranked Carol City of Miami.

The Trojans weren't alone.

Westover entered the Class 4A rankings at No. 10, Mitchell County climbed into the Class A poll at No. 7 and Miller County is ranked for the first time since 2009.

Lee County's rise followed a remarkable comeback in front of a sellout crowd at Trojan Field.

The Trojans trailed Carol City 20-8 at halftime before shutting down the Chiefs in the second half. Carol City, ranked No. 18 nationally in the consensus rankings, didn't record a first down after halftime.

Jace Murray led Lee's defense with 14 tackles, two sacks and three tackles for loss, while KJ Streeter returned an interception 48 yards for a touchdown.

Only defending state champion Thomas County Central stands ahead of Lee County in Class 6A.

And Region 2-6A is loaded.

Thomas County Central remained No. 1 after blasting Lincoln of Tallahassee 63-14, Coffee jumped to No. 4 after beating Ware County 27-7 and Houston County is No. 9.

That gives Region 2-6A four of the state's top nine teams.

Lee County (2-0) travels to Sequoyah (2-0) Friday.

Westover joined the Class 4A rankings after improving to 2-0 with a 34-0 shut-



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Westover's Jordan Joyner runs after making a catch during Friday night's game against Seminole County at Hugh Mills Stadium. Joyner and the Patriots are now ranked No. 10 in Class 4A after beating Seminole County 34-0.

out of Seminole County. The Patriots have outscored their first two opponents 64-12.

"We just have to keep getting better every week," Westover coach Corey Joyner said.

Cairo remained No. 3 in Class 4A, while Worth County held at No. 2 in Class 3A after Friday's Cairo-Worth County game was postponed because of weather.

Mitchell County made one of the week's biggest jumps into the Class A rankings after beating Hawkinsville 30-26.

Quarterback Jadarian Hudson passed for 221 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 118 yards and another score.

King Grissom caught seven passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns.

The Eagles, now No. 7, have beaten ranked opponents in consecutive games for the first time since their 15-0 state championship season in 1992.

Miller County entered the Class A rankings at No. 10 after beating Atkinson County 51-25. Jamarion Shephard rushed for 150 yards and three touchdowns on only five carries as the Pirates earned their first ranking since 2009.

Early County dropped out of the Class A Top 10.

Friday Night Five:
Albany area's best from Friday night

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY HERALD

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Jadarian Hudson
Mitchell County

Hudson did it with both his arm and his legs, accounting for 339 yards of total offense and three touchdowns. He completed 11 of 17 passes for 221 yards and two touchdowns while rushing 13 times for 118 yards and another score.

DEFENSIVE SPOTLIGHT:

Jace Murray, Lee County — The senior linebacker was the driving force behind one of the most impressive defensive halves in Lee County history. Murray finished with 14 tackles, three tackles for loss, two sacks and two quarterback pressures as the Trojans rallied from a 20-8 halftime deficit to stun nationally ranked Carol City 23-20. Carol City didn't record a first down or cross midfield in the second half. Murray's performance earned him AJC Varsity/GHSF Daily

Player of the Week honors for the entire state.

FRIDAY NIGHT FIVE RUSHING

Jadarian Hudson, Mitchell County — 13 carries, 118 yards, TD

Turner Simmons, Deerfield-Windsor — 18 carries, 103 yards

Malik Young, Westover — 11 carries, 92 yards

David Burgess, Dougherty — 3 carries, 91 yards, TD

Jordyn Bush, Lee County — 18 carries, 54 yards

Mason Jones, Baconton Charter — 17 carries, 54 yards

Bush and Jones tied for fifth in rushing yards.

PASSING

Jadarian Hudson, Mitchell County — 11-of-17, 221 yards, 2 TDs

Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian — 9-of-22, 199 yards, 2 TDs

Micah Joyner, Dougherty — 10-of-17, 163 yards, 3 TDs

Jacorey Williams, Terrell County — 9-of-16, 163 yards



Special Photo: Submitted
Mitchell County quarterback Jadarian Hudson earned Player of the Week honors after throwing for 221 yards and running for 118 yards in the Eagles' win over Hawkinsville Friday night.

Cohen Lawson, Lee County — 9-of-15, 145 yards, TD

RECEIVING

King Grissom, Mitchell County — 7 catches, 200 yards, 2 TDs

Jherel Gibson, Dougherty — 4 catches, 105 yards, 2 TDs

Dyson Harris, Sherwood Christian — 4 catches, 98 yards

Jaden Upshaw, Lee County — 5 catches, 58 yards

Kamarian Thomas, Terrell County — 3 catches, 48 yards

Dougherty faces tough test against Spencer in home opener

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Dougherty head coach Uyl Joyner learned plenty about his football team in its season opener. The Trojans can score. Their offensive line can protect the quarterback. And when things begin going the wrong way, they have players willing to do something about it. Dougherty will try to build on those lessons Friday night when the Trojans host Spencer of Columbus in their home opener at Hugh Mills Stadium. Dougherty enters the game 1-0 after holding off Sumter County 32-29. Spencer is 1-1 after coming within a two-point conversion of knocking off defending Class AA state champion Carver last week. “We jumped out on Sumter and got a lead early,” Joyner said. “I was really proud of the way our guys kept fighting when Sumter came

back. Sumter has a really good team that is well-coached, and we knew they weren’t just going to lay down and let us win.” What pleased Joyner most wasn’t simply that Dougherty survived the comeback. It was watching some of his players take ownership of the situation. “What I saw was some of our leaders stepping up and actually being that leader, challenging the other guys to play better,” he said. “I was really happy to see that.” Quarterback Micah Joyner provided much of the offensive firepower, throwing three touchdown passes in the victory. But when the head coach reviewed the performance, his attention kept returning to the five players in front of his quarterback. Dougherty didn’t allow a sack against Sumter County, and the offensive line also created enough running room to give the Trojans balance. “Our offensive line did a really good job,” Joyner said. “We didn’t have any quarterback

sacks, and they opened up some chances for our run game. Those guys are the ones that make everything else happen.” That group includes right tackle Kyle Jackson, right guard K’Nyron Holliday, center Jayden Walker, left guard Amaree Jones and left tackle Richard Washington. They’ll face another challenge Friday. Spencer opened its season with a 28-11 victory over Brookstone before taking Carver to the wire in Columbus last week. The Greenwave scored late to pull within two points of the defending state champions, but Carver stopped the ensuing two-point conversion attempt to escape with a 21-19 victory in the Heritage Bowl. Joyner doesn’t need that result to convince him of Spencer’s capabilities. He knows the program firsthand from his time coaching in Columbus. “From coaching in Columbus, I know that Spencer is full of athletes,” Joyner said. “Coach Kegler does a really good job over there, so I

know they will be ready to play.” There will also be a familiar face on the opposite sideline. Spencer defensive coordinator Coach Brian Edwards was at Albany State during the same period Joyner played for the Golden Rams, giving Friday’s matchup a personal connection between the two coaching staffs. Edwards played tight end for the Golden Rams and then became a graduate assistant while Joyner played at Albany State. “We’ve already talked and had some good laughs,” Joyner said. “I know he is a good coach, and he will bring his best.” The same will be expected from Dougherty. The Trojans passed their first test by building a lead, losing it and responding when Sumter County threatened to spoil their opener. Now comes a Spencer team that has already demonstrated it can stand toe-to-toe with a defending state champion. And this time, Dougherty gets the test at home.

Falcons keep four QBs on 53-man roster

Field Level Media
F L O W E R Y BRANCH, Ga. — Michael Penix Jr. didn’t take a preseason snap for the Atlanta Falcons. He nevertheless has a place on their 53-man roster — along with three other quarterbacks. Penix, recently cleared after an injury that had sidelined him since last season, headlines an unusual four-man quarterback room as Atlanta completed its cut to the NFL-mandated 53-player roster.

The Falcons kept Penix, veteran Cooper Rush, Jack Strand and Tua Tagovailoa, leaving one of the most important questions surrounding the team unanswered as the regular season approaches: Who will take the first snap?

Penix’s health complicated that decision throughout the offseason and preseason. He did not play during the preseason while recovering from the injury that ended his 2025 season, although his recent clearance puts him back in the picture as Atlanta prepares for its opener.

The decision to keep four quarterbacks was one of the biggest surprises on the initial roster, particularly because every additional quarterback occupies a spot that otherwise could have been used to provide depth elsewhere.

Atlanta kept only five wide receivers and two running backs.

The Falcons also made a significant move on defense while finalizing the roster, acquiring defensive lineman Gervon Dexter Sr. from the Chicago Bears in exchange for defensive back Clark Phillips III and a 2027 fifth-round draft pick. The trade is pending physicals.

Dexter, a former Florida standout, was selected by Chicago in the second round with the 53rd overall pick of the 2023 NFL Draft.

Giants snap Braves’ 7-game streak

Field Level Media

Rafael Devers hit his 30th home run, Osleivis Basabe ignited a four-run sixth inning with a solo shot of his own and the San Francisco Giants made the most of a one-day visit to Georgia with a 7-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night in the makeup game for a rainout. Former Braves right-hander Anthony Molina (2-0) won for the second time in as many appearances for the Giants as he limited his old mates to three runs in five innings to help end Atlanta’s seven-game winning streak. Coming off a homestand in which the Giants won four of seven, Devers got a seven-day, three-city trip rolling in a positive direction when he launched Bryce Elder’s eighth pitch for a one-out homer in the first. The bomb to right field gave Devers 30 homers for the fifth time since 2019. He totaled 35 last season while splitting



Special Photo: Dale Zanine-Imagn Images
San Francisco Giants right-hander Anthony Molina allowed three runs over five innings Monday as the Giants snapped Atlanta’s seven-game winning streak with a 7-3 victory.

time between the Giants and the Boston Red Sox. Atlanta countered with single runs in the first, second and fifth innings off Molina. The Braves took a 3-2 lead in the fifth on an RBI single by Drake Baldwin.

After Basabe drew the Giants even with a leadoff homer in the sixth, Turner Hill put the visitors in front for good with a pinch-hit, two-run double. Hill scored the inning’s fourth run on a two-out single by Bryce Eldridge.

Elder (8-8) was pulled one out into the uprising. He was charged with five runs on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings, walking three and striking out three. Molina (2-0) struck out six, allowed six hits and didn’t walk anyone in his first start since

being traded by the Braves to San Francisco for Tyler Mahle on Aug. 2. Giants relievers Jason Foley, Reiver Sanmartin and Dylan Smith brought the team home with four innings of three-hit shutout relief. Jonah Cox gave the bullpen an extra run of comfort with a solo home run, his fourth, in the top of the ninth. Cox, Eldridge, Andrew Knizner and Nate Furman had two hits apiece for the Giants, who won all three games they played in Atlanta this season. San Francisco took the season series 5-1. Michael Harris II hit his 23rd homer of the season for the Braves to highlight a two-hit night. Baldwin and Austin Riley also had a pair of hits apiece for Atlanta, which completed a homestand in which it had gone 3-0 against both the Los Angeles Dodgers and Colorado Rockies.

Georgia Bulldogs: 2026 march to national championship

By Michael Lawson
lawson.wm@gmail.com

One of the more common traits among extraordinary achievers is that they didn’t just succeed once. They were able to reinvent themselves after already reaching a pinnacle. Winston Churchill was a British hero of World War One, then an utterly failed politician in the 1920s, but is now remembered globally for his leadership during World War Two. Dolly Parton garnered fame as a 15-year-old country music auteur but then reinvented herself into one of the most recognizable entertainment, business, and philanthropic leaders in our nation, becoming as well known today for literacy and charity as for her music. Abraham Lincoln, Arnold Schwarzenegger, JeU Bezos, Teddy Roosevelt all went through a metamorphosis, of sorts. Robert Downey Jr. went from weirdo drugged out 80s actor to Iron Man! And just like these folks, as the Georgia Bulldogs begin their 2026 march to a championship, we’ll watch Coach Kirby Smart begin his reinvention as head coach, recruiter, and CEO of Dawg Nation.

Coach Smart’s approach to football probably has not changed. The landscape, terrain, and world in which he coaches college football has irrevocably changed. In short, college football now has unlimited free agency for players,

allowing them to transfer year to year. College football now has no salary cap for players, with some schools paying close to 7 million dollars a year to players. There are also no tampering rules in place, effectively allowing agents to negotiate future contracts, on behalf of the players, with other teams during the season. The NFL doesn’t even operate like that. If we were comparing this to the wild west, this would be west Texas in the 1840s. No rules. And no one to enforce the rules if there were rules. This is important because Coach Smart is an “old-school” coach who has always focused on development first as a means to success. It is true that he has been an elite recruiter in his 11-year stint in Athens, and has always had talent, but his “process” has always been primary. The “Saban Way” with a Smart flare and flavor. The Dawgs didn’t go out and spend \$40 million on transfer QBs, OL, and WRs like Texas, Miami, Indiana, and LSU in order to win. Instead, they paid to retain current players and continue continuity, consistency, and development. Recognizing this is important. Coach Smart is trying to win the old way in a new world. Enter these 2026 Georgia Bulldogs. They return 17 starters. They are consistently placed Top 5 in pre-season polls and look to win the school’s third straight SEC Championship. This team is going to be really

good. But can they get back to the national championship pinnacle they found in 2021 and 2022? And can they go out and win a national championship without buying a dozen championship transfers in the offseason? In a word? Yes. The Dawgs are loaded. This 2026 defense, while probably not as good as that historic 2021 group, looks to echo the production of that 2022 championship defense. The offense returns Quarterback Gunner Stockton, a cadre of NFL calibre RBs, a Tight End room that most NFL teams would envy, and an Offensive Line that looks to have that nasty physical persona of the Sam Pittman years thanks to new OL Coach Phil Rauscher. Even Special Teams looks to continue to be elite. So, what questions are there going into the season? If you are a Georgia football fan, you probably already know what those are and have contemplated them with your cousins over coffee or a frosted beverage, or two, since July. The Wide Receiver room is talented, but unaccomplished. They need to grow up. Gunner Stockton has to grow up a bit, too, and be more consistent in his 2nd full year as starter at Quarterback. Offensive Coordinator Mike Bobo? His tendencies and ineffectiveness have been the same for 20 years now and it does no good to keep harping about those things.



Michael Lawson

We all know what they are. The team will just have to overcome them. And, they can, I believe. Here is some “big picture” stuff to serve as harbingers of future success: The last five National Champions (including the two UGA champions) had an offense that ranked top 30 nationally, with a scoring offense averaging (36-42) points per game. In 2025, the Dawgs were barely in the top 50 nationally, averaging (32.1) points per game. There were five games in which Georgia scored less than 30. That has to change. The last five National Champions featured a defense that ranked top 10 nationally in scoring defense, while giving up an average of (10-15) points per game with a turnover margin of (+8 to +15). The 2025 Bulldogs flexed a top 10 scoring defense. They gave up an average of (17.6) points per game with a basically neutral turnover mar-

gin for the year. That last one hurts. In summary, the offense has to be more consistent and score more and the defense needs to find more turnovers. Not only is that possible, but it could very well happen. So, as these Georgia Bulldogs begin their march towards a third straight SEC Championship, and a possible third National Championship in six years, we’ll watch them attempt to do it in a different way than others. No million-dollar transfer QBs. No \$40 million dollar teams with Lamborghinis. Just trusting the process and development that has been the hallmark of championship college football since 2010. Can Coach Smart reinvent and adapt to the new landscape, while adhering to his values of “trust the process” team buying? Can an old school coach win in a mercenary and free agent world? We’re about to find out starting Saturday.

From 1A

CASE

praising, assessing and equalizing the value of taxable real

and personal property in the county.

The county will monitor the criminal proceedings and follow state law and county procedures in the matter, the

statement said, and will not comment on the specific allegations, evidence or investigation.

“I think the statement speaks for itself,” Shalishali said.

From 1A

HVAC

at the facility.

The two large chillers that provide cooling date back to the opening of the facility 34 years ago. The system has been rebuilt once during that time.

Commissioner Victor Edwards, who joined Johnson and Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard in a vote to reject the \$43,050 request, said that rebuilding the current system would save approximately \$2 million and bring the project within months instead of the 2028 time frame for the plan that would replace the original chillers.

“The wise thing to do in this type of situation is to push the one that gets it across the finish line and does it faster,” Johnson said.

The county does not have the

personnel capable of some of the mechanical work involved in the project, Commissioner Ed Newsome said.

“We don’t have a mechanical engineer on staff,” he said. “This is for mechanical engineering, specs and everything.”

Separate motions to accept the proposal and to reject it both failed in a 3-3 tie, with Commissioner Gloria Gaines abstaining on each of the motions. She asked to table the issue so that she could learn more, a motion that also was rejected.

“I am not clear in my mind yet in the difference between the scope and what kind of warranties we have between the two options,” she said.

In a separate agenda item, the commission voted unanimously to impose a six-month moratorium on large-scale data center projects.

The commission had ear-

lier this year imposed a brief “pause” and extended it to allow for time to draft regulations for data center facilities in the event a developer proposes locating one in the county.

Commissioners also heard from one resident who had questions about the tax valuation notices that hit mailboxes last week.

The notices are not a tax bill, and residents’ final bills will depend on the millage rate set by commissioners. The revaluation of all properties in the county, the first performed in more than a decade, caused concern because some property values were more than double the amount from the previous year.

Commissioners will set the millage rate after all appeals are heard on the new property values, a process that could take a while as the number of appeals is expected to be large.

his mouth with tape in case he tried to bite us.

“Then we tried to pull him into the boat, and that just wasn’t working. We tried pulling him in by his head, by his tail. Grabbing a leg. After fighting that for a while, we tried to ease over to the bank and pull him in. We tied him to the side of the boat and headed for the boat ramp,”

There, it would take six men to load the gator into the boat to trailer it back to town. The Gator would measure an inch over 12 feet with a chunk of tail missing and weigh 659 pounds.

After the hunt ended, photos were taken by taxidermist Chris Leuke, who took the gator to his shop for processing. Presley headed to the emergency room to get a hook removed from the sole of his foot.

By sunrise he had helped land a gator and lost a Croc. However, the gator hide wallets and belts that Leuke will create will serve as reminders of the trio’s epic gator hunt.

other hook into the gator and got him pulled up to the side of the boat.”

Mathis said the trio attempted to harpoon the gator in an effort to attach a float to him so they could track him if their lines broke.

“When I hit him the first time in the back with the harpoon, the tip bent because his hide was so thick,” he said. “I got another tip and harpooned him by the back leg.”

At this point, the gator was tangled in the two lines, and they could only raise his tail.

They adventurers eventually got the lines untangled and were able to bring its head up and dispatch him with a shot from a bang stick.

“We got him up, and with a gator that big, we couldn’t tell if he was dead,” Mathis said.

“So, this being our first time ever doing this, we were a little skeptical, so I loaded the bang stick and hit him again on top of the head. We got his head up again and wrapped

From 2A

GATOR

Presley’s line.

“When Skylar braced himself and took a step back, he landed right on the treble hook we had just untangled,” Mathis said. “When that happened, I grabbed the rod and was trying to find something to cut the line with. I told him I’d cut the line, and we’d go to the hospital.”

Presley sat on the front deck of the boat and said, “No, we ain’t going to the hospital. We got him hooked. We’re catching him.”

So Mathis and Carder took the fight to the front of the boat while Presley took care of his foot in the back.

“Skyler wrapped the weight and shank of the hook up to his Croc so it wouldn’t bounce and snatch the hook in his foot when the boat bounced,” Mathis said. “We ended up getting an-

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT



Mrs. Marilyn Siprell Dye Smith

Marilyn Siprell Dye Smith, age 91, long term resident of Whitehall Lane, Albany, GA and current resident of Tallahassee, FL died peacefully August 25, 2026.

Mrs. Smith was born September 6, 1934 in West Elkton, OH and moved to Apalachicola, FL when she was 12 years old. She graduated high school in 1952. She enjoyed traveling the world as an Air Force wife and ensured her family actively participated in the culture of each community. She settled in Albany in 1971 and subsequently retired from U.S. Civil Service employment at the Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base. Mrs. Smith took great pleasure in her retirement and stayed busy with gardening, cooking, reading and volunteering. She was an active member of the National Association of Retired Federal

Employees (NARFE) holding various offices, the Golden Key Club and served numerous years as a volunteer at Phoebe Putney Hospital. She also found time to be a volunteer box office worker at Theater Albany. She devoted many hours to Morningside Methodist Church and her Anchor Sunday School class.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her children Donna J. Dye (Gary B. Sharpe) of Tallahassee, FL, Rhonda Dye McDougall (Martin Van Moss) of Greenville, SC, Kevin H. Dye (Sheila), nine grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren. She is also survived by sister Shirley Brown of Bristol, FL.

Mrs. Smith is preceded in death by her husbands, Thomas H. Dye and Alphaeus C. Smith, her long time companion, Lester B. Watson and her son Roy O. Dye and his wife Lori. She is also preceded in death by her parents, Howard O. and Nona Divine Siprell, sisters Marjorie Siprell Reed, Doris Siprell Lucas and brothers Kenneth R. Siprell, Gerald (Buck) Siprell, Robert (Bobby) Siprell and Howard L. Siprell as well as a grandson, Thomas R. Dye.

Whether she was called Mother, Mom, Granny, Marilyn or Mrs. Smith, she will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Memories of her generosity, good cooking, laughter and volunteering will be remembered by family, friends and her church community.

The funeral will be held Saturday, September 5, 2026 12:00PM at Kimbrell Stern Funeral Home, 1503 Dawson Rd, Albany, GA with interment to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. Morningside Methodist Church pastor Jan Masters will officiate.

The family will receive friends at Kimbrell Stern 11:00AM to 12:00PM prior to the funeral services. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Morningside Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 filling the suitcase (7)	_____
2 putting on different clothes (8)	_____
3 they've not been here before (9)	_____
4 royal states (8)	_____
5 "Spider-Man" star Tom (7)	_____
6 Italian sheep's milk cheese (8)	_____
7 without saying so (7)	_____

DO	WC	NG	PAC	GING
KI	KI	RINO	OM	MS
NE	HOL	NG	CHAN	ND
LA	ITLY	PECO	TAC	ERS

Tuesday's Answers: 1. BLANKETS 2. FATHERLY 3. WHISPER 4. MOSAICS 5. CORDON 6. INERT 7. HYDRATED 9/2

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 saucy (6)	_____
2 360-degree roll (10)	_____
3 older relative (11)	_____
4 Thousand Island, for one (8)	_____
5 equivocating (7)	_____
6 2X Tony winner Christine (8)	_____
7 "City of Light" dweller (8)	_____

PARI	CHEE	SOM	NG	NDFA
DR	DG	GRA	NSKI	ER
BARA	SAU	HE	KY	SI
LT	SIAN	ES	THER	ING

Wednesday's Answers: 1. PACKING 2. CHANGING 3. NEWCOMERS 4. KINGDOMS 5. HOLLAND 6. PECORINO 7. TACITLY 9/3

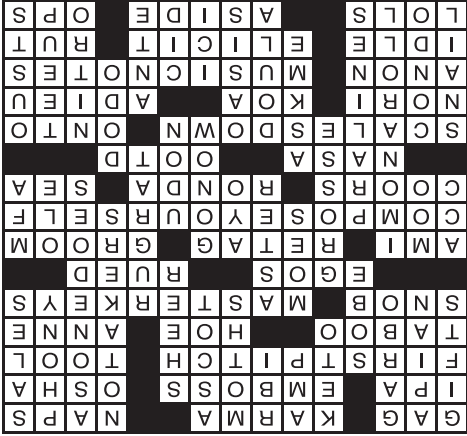
Release Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

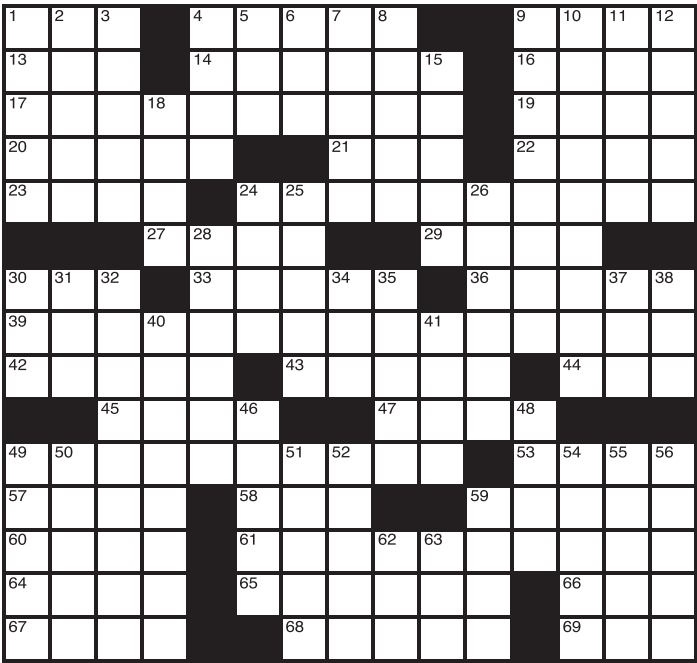
Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Word with order or reel	1 Talents
4 ___ farming: asking for upvotes on Reddit	2 Hive-minded?
9 Catches forty winks	3 Greta known as the "Swedish Sphinx"
13 Hazy brew, briefly	4 Diet with fat bombs
14 Raise in relief	5 Feedback provider, maybe
16 On-the-job protection org.	6 Triple Crown stat
17 "Step one: make sure everything is in tune"?	7 Fliers who are often light-headed?
19 Drill or clamp	8 Tie at a racetrack?
20 Party game with forbidden words	9 Zero interest
21 Origin of a plot hole?	10 "Sure, that's a very normal response ..."
22 Green Gables girl	11 Baloney descriptor
23 One with elitist tastes	12 Retail statistic
24 "Learn to recognize the pattern of sharps and flats"?	15 Like tulle
27 Big heads	18 Drink brand with lizards in its logo
29 Regretted	24 Springfield watering hole
30 Perpignan pal	25 Sunflower kin
33 Put a new price on	26 Tommy Pickles, for one
36 Wedding party member, perhaps	28 "___ Pointe Blank"
39 "Don't wait for anyone else, go ahead and write a song"?	30 Syracuse's gp.
42 Beer with the largest single-site brewery in the world	31 Sound from a pen
43 Olympic judo medalist Rousey	32 "My streak continues!"
44 Place for a tug	
45 Opportunity org.	
47 Mirror pic letters on social media	
49 "Now play C major and C minor descending"?	
53 Aware of	
57 Onigiri wrapper	
58 Tonewood used to make ukuleles	
59 Parting mot	
60 Shortly, quaintly	
61 Score symbols, or a description of 17-, 24-, 39-, and 49-Across	
64 Run while sitting	
65 Draw out	
66 Groove	
67 Yuks, online	
68 Short digression	
69 Photo ___	

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



09/03/26



By Kim Alswater & Zhou Zhang ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 09/03/26

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

“ B R L T ’ K G N K Q C A U N I F N Q E J . . .
B Z D T D O N U U I R L K C D J N S D K C B T Z
K N E D N H K D O K N E D . . . F D Q N P J D
B E T L G G C N K B G N T K K L R L . ”
— J N S P D U U . M N Q E J L T

Previous Solution: “I think that the way that you act ... always changes because your point of view as a person changes as you age.” — Keira Knightley

TODAY’S CLUE: E equals K

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CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

“ B I O A O A W C O C B T Y T A B O C N B I O C N
W Z P S B A P C N A . . . M P S ’ Y T E T K H O C N
O C B P A B S D D B I W B L W M Z T U P S K E Z T
E O D D O F S K B B P B W K G W Z P S B . ”
— J W S K L F F W Y B C T M

Previous Solution: “I don’t watch playbacks ... I generally do the same thing take after take ... because I know what I want to do.” — Samuel L. Jackson

TODAY’S CLUE: S equals V

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Dougherty Extension to present state Master Naturalist program

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- University of Georgia/Dougherty County Extension/4-H is collaborating with Chehaw Park & Zoo in Albany to bring the Georgia Master Naturalist Program for the first time in southwest Georgia.

The Georgia Master Naturalist Program is a popular adult education program developed by the UGA Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources and UGA Cooperative Extension offered through county extension offices and nature centers. This interactive training program is de-

signed for individuals who wish to be more informed about ecology, natural resources and the natural environments. This program is a hands-on environmental education course that aims to educate nature enthusiasts about natural resources, habitats and ecosystems in Georgia and human impacts on those environments.

This 50-hour training program is a weekly in-person educational series that combines lectures and outside hands-on learning experiences through field studies, trips and relevant resources. The program subject matter

follows a standard format but is adjusted to meet local issues drawing upon local expertise in the instructors. Each week, the participants explore specific environmental topics that may include geology, water quality, native plants, birding, urban forestry, wetlands, forests, identification of trees and other plants, insects, wildlife, etc.

The 2026 Southwest Georgia Master Naturalist Program will be hosted in the Creekside Center at Chehaw Park & Zoo in Albany. The participants will meet once a week on Wednesdays from Oct.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
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Dougherty County

Special Logo



Vivek Bist

14-Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. The cost for participation in this program is \$250 that will cover 50 hours of instruction, learning materials and handouts, a Georgia Master Naturalist T-shirt, a nametag and refreshments. Upon the successful completion of the program, participants will receive certificate

of completion through the UGA Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources. Applicants must complete their registration before 5 p.m., Oct. 9 to secure a spot in the class.

For more information, contact County Extension Coordinator Vivek Bist at (229) 436-7216 or vivek.bist@uga.edu.

The University of Georgia is an equal opportunity, veteran, disability institution. If you need reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the UGA Dougherty County Extension office at (229) 436-7216 or uge4095@uga.edu at least three weeks prior to a program date.

Georgia Southwestern breaks ground on new science building

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS -- Georgia Southwestern State University broke ground last week on a new natural sciences building that will expand and modernize science education on campus. During the ceremony, the university announced the facility will be named Jeanette C. Mix Hall in recognition of the lasting impact Jeanette C. Mix and the Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund have had on GSW and the Americus community.

The \$20.3 million project, which includes design, construction and equipment, is expected to be completed in fall 2027, with the first classes held in spring 2028.

At approximately 23,000 square feet, Jeanette C. Mix Hall will feature modern laboratories and instructional spaces designed to provide hands-on educational experiences for students in the sciences. The facility will be located adjacent to the Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex,

further strengthening GSW's growing academic corridor for science and health-related programs.

"Over the last eight years, we have invested over \$40 million in new construction and renovation projects on this campus with more to come from our new 10-year facilities master plan," GSW President Kerry Palmer said. "This is just the very first step of that."

The building's namesake, Jeannette C. Mix, came to Americus from Chicago in 1935 while traveling with her husband, Charles L. Mix. When he became ill during their travels, the couple stayed at the Windsor Hotel, where he later died of pneumonia. Moved by the kindness they received from the community, Mix made Americus her home and established the Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund in her husband's memory. Her legacy continues through the fund's long-standing support of GSW and the Americus community.

"We are very proud that this building will be named after



Special Photo: GSW

GSW, state and local officials took part in the recent groundbreaking of the university's new science building.

Jeannette C. Mix in recognition of everything that the money she left behind has done for this community," Rick Whaley, chairman of the Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, said. "This is a great way to pay tribute to the decision she made to use her estate for the betterment of this community."

The groundbreaking ceremony brought together university, state and community leaders. Speakers included Regent Chris Cannon of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents; state Sen. Freddie Powell Sims; and state Reps. Mike Cheokas and PattyMarie Stinson. Palmer recognized the many

partners who helped make the project possible, including the Mix Foundation, Phoebe Health System, the city of Americus, Sumter County, and state and federal leaders.

"All of us working together can really deliver on our mission to make this part of Georgia a better place to live and to work," Palmer said.

"As the four-year institution in this region, we have the ability to make a real difference in the lives of each individual student here and in the lives of all of the people who call this region home."

Jeanette C. Mix Hall will replace the aging Joseph C. Roney Building and Science Building, which have served generations of GSW students. The new facility will support programs in biology, chemistry and other science disciplines while providing students with enhanced opportunities for laboratory learning, research and preparation for graduate and professional programs.

GSW partnered with JMA Architecture on the building's design, with Allstate Construction serving as construction manager for the project.

The project represents another major investment in GSW's continued growth and its commitment to preparing students for careers and advanced study in STEM, health care and other science-related fields.



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Special Photo: Southwell

Taking part in the recent Southwell Physician Leadership Institute graduation celebration were, from left, Chief Transformation Officer Dr. Cameron Nixon, Southwell President/CEO Christopher Dorman, Chief Quality and Academic Affairs Officer Dr. Kimberly Megow, pediatrician Dr. Flavia Rossi, pulmonary medicine and critical care specialist Dr. Rubal Patel, OB/GYN Dr. Kristin Yates, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. David McEachin.

Southwell staff complete hospital's Physician Leadership Institute

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON -- Southwell recently presented certificates to medical staff physicians who completed a seven-month leadership training course at Tift Regional Medical Center. Chief Quality and Academic Affairs Officer Dr. Kimberly Megow said the Southwell Physician Leadership Institute is designed to enhance physicians' self-awareness and further develop a leadership mindset for greater impact.

"Each of these physicians was selected for the program because we believe they can help Southwell further drive healthcare transformation,

improve patient care, build a sustainable organization, and foster innovation," Megow said. "The course covered an overview of our system of care, hospital finance, regulatory issues, personal development and technical skills. Sessions were held in the evenings after clinic days. The classes included presentations from both internal and external subject matter experts."

The graduates of the Southwell Physician Leadership Institute's first class included orthopedist Dr. David Banks, pathologist Dr. Jessica Beier, emergency medicine specialist Dr. Christopher Edens, hospital medicine provider

Dr. Oladipo Fadayomi, cardiologist Dr. William Hancock, pulmonary medicine and critical care specialist Dr. Rubal Patel, anesthesiologist Dr. Ruben Ricardo, pediatrician Dr. Flavia Rossi, family physician Dr. Vincent Valencia, and OB/GYN specialist Dr. Kristin Yates.

"Physician leadership training is important because it bridges the gap between clinical care and administrative decision-making, leading to better patient outcomes and stronger healthcare systems," Megow said. "We are grateful to each of these doctors for participating in our inaugural program."