



Perspectives
Marc Hyden
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No-hitter
Worth County gem
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

State superintendent: Lee County High firefighter certification program a model for Georgia

By **Kathryn Crockett**
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LEESBURG -- Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods said Thursday that a new partnership training Lee County High School seniors to become certified firefighters could serve as a blueprint for school districts across the state.

Woods visited the high school for a student showcase of the program, a Career, Technical and Agricultural Education pathway taught on campus by Lee County Fire and Emergency Services. Seven seniors are enrolled in its first year. When they finish high school, they can test to become state-certified firefighters.

Woods said the state's CTAE priorities center on growing opportunities in fields where workers are needed most.

"Really, we're looking at how do we expand opportunities for kids in high-demand areas," Woods said. "For a lot of communities, we have a shortage of firefighters."

He said Lee County "is kind of laying the groundwork" for expanding that type of program, and the state wants to help other districts copy it.

"How do we replicate this?" Woods said. "This is one of the ways in which we at the state department can come in, look at what's going on in an existing school system, and share with others and say this is the point of contact."

Woods said the partnership also solves a cost problem that could keep a small program from ever getting started.

See **FIREFIGHTER**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods said Thursday that a new partnership training Lee County High School seniors to become certified firefighters could serve as a blueprint for school districts across the state.

'Tell them ordinary Americans did extraordinary things'

By **Kathryn Crockett**
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ALBANY — Twenty-five years to the day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, veterans and their families gathered Friday at Veterans Park here to dedicate a monument to those who served in the Global War on Terror.

The monument, sponsored by American Legion Post 30 and the Exchange Club of Albany, joins the park's World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials. Its inscription reads: "Dedicated to those who fought and sacrificed for the freedom of others, having been led by love of country."

Retired Army Lt. Col. Ed Northrop, who led the project

for the post, served 20 years as an infantry officer, including two combat tours in Vietnam — first as an infantry company commander, then as an advisor to the South Vietnamese military. The deployments kept him from his wife and two children for 24 months.

"I knew what I was doing. I may not have been doing everything just right, but I knew what I was, where I was, and what I was doing," Northrop said. "But my wife did not know. My parents did not."

His father served in World War II, and his brother spent 30 years in the Army.

See **AMERICANS**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Members of the Young Marines unveil Albany's Global War on Terror monument Friday at Veterans Park. The memorial chronicles the conflicts and events that led to and defined U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Elephant statue at Colquitt County cemetery is an unexpected sight

By **Alan Mauldin**
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MOULTRIE — Watching over a grave at a country church in Colquitt County, a life-sized marble baby elephant stands silent and eternally keeping its eyes on a former circus owner who had a connection to Colquitt County.

The elephant, Nancy, is said to be based on a baby pachyderm who was part of an animal exhibit that circus owner William F. Duggan Sr. purchased in the 1940s.

The 5-foot-10-inch statue stands on top of Duggan's gravestone at the Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church about 4 miles outside the city of Moultrie, at the grave next to Duggan's father, George Duggan. The circus owner's connection to Moultrie came from his father, who married a woman from the area and settled in Colquitt County.

The lore about Duggan's life is that he left home at the age of 12 to join the Sparks Circus and gained a lifelong love of

See **STATUE**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

A statue of an elephant that is located at a cemetery near Moultrie was carved based on a photo of Nancy, a circus elephant purchased by circus owner William F. Duggan, who purchased the pachyderm for his animal exhibition in the 1940s. The elephant was placed at Duggan's grave as a memorial.

Lee County orders Winifred Road speed study as growth raises safety concerns

By **Kathryn Crockett**
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LEESBURG — Lee County will study traffic speeds along Winifred Road and consider lowering the posted speed limit following residential growth and the resurfacing of the increasingly traveled corridor.

The Lee County Board of Commissioners approved a \$14,750 agreement Tuesday with Foresite Group LLC to collect traffic data, analyze driving speeds and recommend potential traffic-calming

measures between Old Dawson Road and U.S. Highway 82.

Commission Chairman Luke Singletary said the improved road surface has made it easier for motorists to travel faster even as new development has placed more homes along the road.

"I travel that road a good bit, and with it being resurfaced, it's a lot more comfortable going fast," Singletary said. "There are a lot of houses that weren't there before."

County Manager Scott Addison said an earlier speed study

was completed, but the Georgia Department of Transportation now requires the information to be submitted electronically and collected at several locations along the road.

The county also waited until students returned to school so engineers could measure traffic under more typical conditions, Addison said.

The new study will divide Winifred Road into four sections:

Old Dawson Road to Wad-

See **SPEED**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Lee County commissioners have authorized a \$14,750 traffic study on Winifred Road to evaluate vehicle speeds, the posted speed limit and possible safety improvements between Old Dawson Road and U.S. Highway 82.

Periodical — Mail Label

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): While Universal stars are on the upswing today, an impulse financial move is never recommended, especially if other people are currently involved. Focus on handling daily business.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love-bombing is a technique to be aware of if you're single and dating. It can precipitate intimacy and connection quickly, not allowing sufficient time to observe whether someone is a good person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You might have to push hard to get something up a steep metaphorical incline, then energies could suddenly reach critical mass and flow as rapidly as the downward side of a roller coaster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Getting a project going could take some effort, but at some point, your muse should awaken and make your creativity flow almost effortlessly. Ask yourself if it's time to say what you've been waiting to say.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The energies of control and escape from control could show up in some form in your living space. The best resolution could be to find a balance between helpful unity and freedom for individual expression.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If a communiqué makes sense and flows naturally it could be fine, if you get a sudden impulse to push the envelope, you could come across as too reactive. Be authentic but also keep goals at the forefront.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If they want money as proof of belief, don't get sucked in, that's a huge red flag. Belief without facts isn't a way to choose investments or a major purchase. Give yourself another week or so for this round of inner work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spontaneity can be a lot of fun but not every impulse brings a positive outcome. Weigh it before you do it, even under today's relatively

benevolent stars. Time with true friends is golden.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't jump just because a little gremlin on your shoulder whispered to do it. Tune in to subconscious urges before they push you into choices and actions that may not align with long-term objectives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Friends don't let friends make major blunders. Help a friend avoid a problem or listen seriously to advice if you're about to take a leap. Expand your awareness through learning or travel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be intentional, not sudden or reactive, in the workplace regardless of recent pressures. Long-term goals need to trump momentary urges, that's how you build a disciplined life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Something surprising could grab your attention but don't jump in until you've done some homework. Partnership works best when both people are able to leave their egos at the door.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: After what may have been a somewhat harrowing 2026 so far, the remainder of the year looks to be both easier and more profitable. There's a lot of productive thinking that can happen late this month and into October. Note down valuable insights for the future. An opportunity that emerges later in the month could be amazing but look past what you want to see to be certain before you jump. If it's a bonafide opening, expect improved cash flow and greater artistry, too. In November, follow your intuition, you could hit a little jackpot with some luck. Later in the month, many needed resources could begin to arrive—they could be ideas, support and assistance, tangible items, and still more money. In December, a needed conversation could bring healing, and you could get recognition for your top-tier talents.



1862 - During the American Civil War, Confederate forces capture Harpers Ferry in Virginia
1916 - Tanks are used for the first time in battle at the Battle of the Somme during World War I
1935 - The Nuremberg Laws deprive German Jews of citizenship. Nazi Germany adopts a new national flag bearing the swastika
1942 - U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Wasp is sunk by Japanese torpedoes at Guadalcanal during World War II
1958 - A Central Railroad of New Jersey commuter trains runs through an open

drawbridge at the Newark Bay, killing 48
1974 - Air Vietnam Flight 706 is hijacked and while attempting to land, crashes with 75 on board
1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor is unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee to become the first female justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
2008 - Lehman Brothers files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with the largest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history
2017 - The Parsons Green bombing takes place in London

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- 8-Track Tape Day
- Butterscotch Cinnamon Pie Day
- Get Ready Day
- Google . com Day
- Greenpeace Day
- Make a Hat Day
- National Caregivers Day
- National Cheese Toast Day
- National Day of the Cowgirl
- National Double Cheeseburger Day
- National IT Professionals Day
- National Linguine Day
- National Neonatal Nurses Day
- National On-Line Learning Day
- National Thank You Day
- Tackle Kids Cancer Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.

Robert Louis Stevenson,
author (1850-1894)

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

Every time I drive into the Meredyth recycling center and there are no other cars, everyone is sitting around. Why can't they spend some time sorting materials that have been brought in? Aren't they there to work and receive a paycheck? So many people in Albany don't have pride in themselves and their surroundings. Just look at the litter all over town.

I am still waiting on my DOGE refund check Trump promised. When will I get a Trump Dividend check?

With the uproar over ridiculous property tax increases in Dougherty County, citizens should address the nonprofits and their free ride. Albany citizens have long known that we have hundreds, maybe thousands, of nonprofit tax free properties. Hundreds of rentals in Albany are owned by churches. It is a double steal; pay no taxes on the property but collect taxpayer dollars for Section 8 rent. Not only are the churches not paying taxes, they are getting our tax money. Talk about a complete free ride.

If the Democrats win the midterm elections, it is the end of the United States. No matter how things look now, you cannot believe the lies from the Democrats.

Good article debunking the feelings that Albany is riddled with crime. No matter where you live, a little common sense goes a long way: Lock your doors, always be aware of your surroundings, carry your keys in your hand when approaching your car, know your neighbors and their cars, keep your garage door closed. Most crime happens at night, so go shopping etc. during the day. This is not being paranoid; it's preventing you from becoming a crime statistic anywhere in the U.S.

The "Pretty Boy" political ad about Ossoff makes me wonder: Did the same agency come up with Loeffler's disastrous "Attila the Hun" ad years ago? Both have the same vibes, as in, who thought this was a good idea?

That lady whose picture is with the "Into the Woods" story is really spooky looking. I found out she is playing a witch. Perfect. It's obvious this young lady really got into her part. Can't wait to see the show.

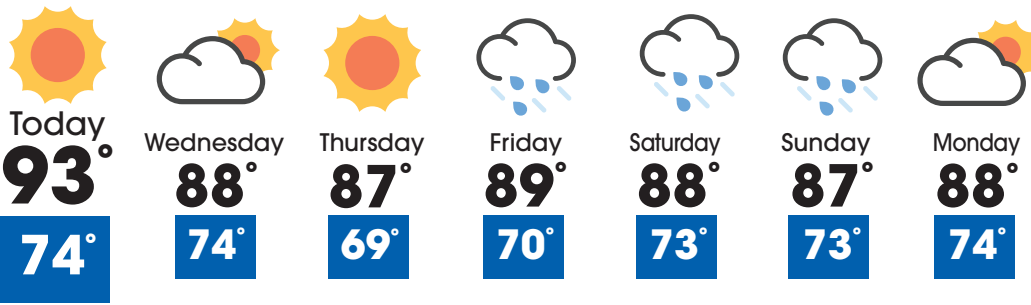
I tried to tell you, did the math, the demographics and statical analysis, provided historical leadership issues, yet you ignored and voted the ad valorem/sales tax swap. Now comes reassessment, a vague "promise" of "some" rate that meets an out-of-control budget and, behold, landlords are passing down property taxes to renters that can't afford to live. Surprise!

Does anyone really believe Big Pharma, making billions, is working on a cure for their money-makers?

Social media post of the day is from a woman who told her daughter to "fix her attitude." The girl responded, "For technical support, contact the manufacturer." Sounds like I still may have some family out there that I didn't know about. The Man Without a Family

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Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Reporting the play

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic observes that the wages of sin wouldn't be as desirable if they were paid immediately. At least that's the

NORTH ▲ K 9 8 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ 9			
WEST ▲ None ♥ Q J 10 9 4 2 ♦ K 8 7 4 ♣ K Q 6	EAST ▲ 6 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 8 7 5 4 3 2	SOUTH ▲ A Q J 10 7 4 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ A J 10	
South 1 ♠ 6 ♣	West 2 ♣ All Pass	North 4 ♠	East Pass
Opening lead – ♣ Q			
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case in my club's daily penny games: You lose, you settle up when the game ends.

Cy was today's North, and when he jumped to four spades, South boldly bid six. West was Ed, my club's best player, and he led the queen of hearts. South took the ace, drew the missing trump with dummy's king and next led a diamond: jack, queen, king. Ed returned a diamond, and East got a diamond trick at the end. Down one.

12TH TRICK

"You booted it," Cy growled at his partner. "Ruff a heart at Trick Two, lead a trump to dummy and ruff the last heart. Then lead a trump to dummy, return the nine of clubs and follow with your ten. When West wins, any-



Frank Stewart

thing he returns gives you a 12th trick."

When the game ended, Ed was the big winner, as usual, and Cy had to pay off.

"The wages of sin probably go unreported," the Cynic grumbled. At least I reported this deal in my column.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S K 9 8 5 3 2 H A 7 3 D 6 5 2 C 9. Your partner opens 1NT. The next player passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: I can't imagine how players handled this hand before the advent of "transfer" responses; presumably, they bid four spades (an overbid) or two spades (an underbid). Bid two hearts, a transfer. When partner bids two spades, raise to three, suggesting a six-card suit and seven or eight high-card points, and let him judge.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Newly sober friend won't make amends

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My friend, "Jac" had a very public "meltdown" and was ordered to inpatient rehabilitation for his 20-year-long drug addiction. One year after his treatment, he has not changed and continues to hurt others and blame others for his many shortcomings. This is called being a "dry drunk," when a sober person still behaves like someone in active addiction.

My friend thinks everyone should be very proud of him for "getting clean" but he is still the same person he has always been. How can his friends tell Jac that he needs to make major changes before we will "re-friend" him? He is working a 12-step program.

– *Patiently Waiting for Steps 8 and 9*

Dear Patiently: After 20 years of active addiction, it may take more than a year for Jac to put his life back together or to look at his behavior and his circumstances with true clarity. Sobriety is a journey that happens one day at a time, and it seems that he's still working through some of the old behaviors that have caused him and others pain in the past.

It's fine for you to set a boundary with Jac by telling him that you are proud of him for getting clean but that there are still issues between you that you need to work out before you can fully come back into his life. But it's not your or your other friends' responsibility to hold a friend-tervention of sorts. Jac needs to work on these challenges and shortcomings with his sponsor.

He may not understand the boundary that you're setting at

first. You can convey your pride, and support him as you're able, while also keeping the distance that you need until he's able to make amends.

Dear Eric: When I was a younger woman, I was in an abusive relationship. Out of it came one son, who is now over 50.

He is abusive, also. In his younger days, while still living at home, he attempted to hit me. Now that he is grown up, he says abusive things to me on our phone calls. The last time he expressed this behavior, I asked him not to call me.

He annoys me. I don't miss the phone calls. However, I do wish him well.

Did I do the right thing? Please advise.

– *No Calls*

Dear No Calls: I'm sorry you experienced abusive mistreatment from your son and his father. It can be so hard to remove oneself from these situations, especially because abusers don't respect boundaries.

It was right of you to ask your son not to call you. Through his actions he was showing an unwillingness or an inability to treat you with respect. A boundary like the one you put in place can often help to preserve the relationship, at a healthy distance. He now has the responsibility to address his abusive tendencies and then to make amends to you, should you be open to it.

That process would be harder, if not impossible, if you still had to put up with abusive phone calls from him. You can wish him well from afar while preserving your peace.

Dear Eric: I can identify with the letter writer who is un-



Eric Thomas

happy after 40 years of marriage ("On the Cusp"). I have been married 62 years and though I truly love my spouse, retirement has brought out some negatives that were easier to overlook when we were both out of the house.

We have found that joining groups with different activities, volunteering and even working part time has helped us better prioritize our time and leaves less time for negativity.

We have more to talk about at the end of the day instead of focusing on each other and what makes us unhappy. The friendships we have developed over the years would truly be a huge loss if we were to separate and if On The Cusp finds some outside interests to involve both of them they can keep this marriage going through the rough patch.

– *Been There, Done More*

Dear Been There: Thank you for this great perspective. Marriages can be completely different in retirement, just as they're completely different when raising children, or caregiving, or in many other phases of life. It can be helpful for couples to make a concerted effort to get to know each other again and to get to know themselves. I love that you and your spouse worked on enriching your lives and let that enrichment spill over into your union.

One other note on the original letter. A few people suggested that if the letter writer's husband's behavior has changed dramatically, the cause may be more complex than simply retirement. It may be worth getting a medical evaluation to rule out something more serious.

The Albany Herald

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CLASSIFIED, DISPLAY OR ONLINE

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

Matthew 5:11

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

A tale of two states shows dangers of overregulation

In a perfect world, state and local governments wouldn't be powerful enough to devastate communities and leave them in ruin. Governments would be limited, and free markets would largely rule. Unfortunately, we do not live in this utopia.

We live in the real world in which many state officials love to grow government to their own detriment. Time and again, governments interfere with private markets and institute community-killing policies, although one state's economy-busting policy is another state's boon. A New York versus Georgia comparison provides an excellent case study, and I saw this firsthand on a recent trip to Utica, N.Y., to visit my wife's family.

Utica and its environs peaked, in many ways, in the 1950s and 1960s when its population was around 100,000. Now, fewer than 63,000 people live there. In its heyday, the city was a thriving textile center, but the boom times went bust. As the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica notes, "After World War II, the local economy collapsed as mill after mill shut down," but the city served as a technology base, too. General Electric opened a factory in Utica and expanded operations in the 1940s and 1950s. By 1993, General Electric had shuttered its business in the city.

Similarly, Griffiss Air Force Base, which was located nearby, ceased operations in 1995, and Ilion's gun-maker Remington Arms formally relocated in 2024. Myriad other employers have closed up shop, moved elsewhere or deserted the Empire State. In short, the modern story of Utica is one of employers fleeing. But why did they leave and where did they go?

That isn't terribly hard to figure out: The Tax Foundation found that New York has the 16th-highest corporate income taxes; the Cato Institute ranked New York the 48th-worst for regulatory freedom; and New York has some of the strongest union protections, which burden businesses. New York also has one of the country's highest individual income tax rates.

While post-war industrial restructuring and offshoring are a large part of Utica's sad equation, New York's tax, regulatory and pro-union environment has made it harder for businesses to thrive and forces entrepreneurs to seek greener pastures. They found them in Southern states, like Georgia, which are more likely to espouse a laissez-faire public policy approach.

The results speak volumes. The Peach State has the 31st-lowest corporate income taxes; ranks 11th for regulatory freedom; is decidedly less favorable to unions; has one of the lower individual income tax rates; and has been ranked the best place for

business 12 years running. Companies have long taken note.



HYDEN

After World War II, Utica's textile mills migrated to the South thanks to cheaper labor and laws that don't compel workers to join unions. Remington Arms moved operations to pro-gun, anti-union Georgia. Not every closing was necessarily related to failed public policy. Griffiss Air Force Base, for instance, was considered redundant after the Cold War.

Similarly, General Electric no longer needed the manufacturing operations located in Utica, but it is unclear whether it might have remained under a less oppressive tax, regulatory and labor environment.

The result has left Utica and its surroundings struggling as it followed a predictable sequence of events: Government chases businesses out of state and residents follow employment opportunities elsewhere. Then tax revenue evaporates, and government officials act shocked.

In a way, that is the Utica experience where local tax revenues have plummeted, but the costs of maintaining infrastructure remain – meaning much of it is in sad shape. The blight of abandoned homes and businesses also conspicuously marks the area.

Georgia has its fair share of blight, too, but the state is developing and growing rapidly – due to a business-friendly climate. The Peach State ranks seventh for incoming state-to-state migration. Thousands of these migrants hail from New York.

While Georgia is enjoying a bit of a renaissance, Utica – and much of New York – is attempting to figure out how to revitalize its once-proud communities. Unfortunately, New York's government has shown little willingness to do what is needed most: get out of the way.

Even small wins for the region are in question. A company acquired the vacant Remington Arms campus to redevelop it into an artificial intelligence data center. This would create jobs and provide a cash injection from property taxes into the economically depressed town. However, local residents have protested this development, and Gov. Kathy Hochul signed an executive order placing a moratorium on new data center construction.

Under its gritty exterior, visitors can easily see that the metro Utica area was once vibrant, but its glory days feel an eternity away. Until New York follows Georgia's lead and learns that bigger government won't solve its problems, its decline may very well continue.

This is not just a lesson for New York. Georgia's officials should also take note and stay the course.

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

The true identity of two young men

Oh, to be 17 again. No longer a child, yet filled with wonder and questions about life as an adult: Who am I and how will I live?

One young man invested himself in sports. His identity was "athlete." He played quarterback on his high school team until suffering a knee injury. The devastation was not just physical.

"What I thought was going to be my life -- sports," he said, "I felt like was being stripped away from me."

Who was he, if not an athlete?

One following Sunday in church with his family, he listened carefully to the sermon. "The Lord is looking for a few good men," the pastor said, "to live the life that He had planned for them."

In that moment of challenge, the young man received Jesus Christ as his Savior, realizing, "There was something bigger planned for me than just sports."

Another young man had no plans for what was next in life. It made him touchy and irritable. A friend urged him to attend meetings led by the colorful preacher Mordecai Ham. At one of those meet-

ings, the young man prayed to receive Christ.

"I had little inkling of what I might do with my life," he wrote. "But down inside, I knew something was different."



FOWLER

Both of these young men were turning 17 when they began their life with Christ. The first is Drew Brees, who found his calling as an NFL quarterback. He proclaimed his identity and purpose in Christ during his recent hall of fame speech.

The second is Billy Graham, called by God to proclaim the gospel of Christ around the world.

"If we don't know who we are," he wrote, "we'll never know how we ought to live."

In other words, your identity and purpose are linked. Whether you are 17 or 67, what you do next is grounded in who you are. To identify with Christ is to find your purpose here: "He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." (2 Cor. 5:15)

COLUMNIST ■ SCOTT LUDWIG

Looking back on a year of freshman failures

For the most part, high school was, with the possible exception of chemistry and climbing that darn knotted rope in P.E., relatively easy. I didn't expect things would be much different when I got to college. Little did I know that success in high school didn't necessarily mean success in college. As it turns out, that was like believing I could become a doctor simply because I'd seen every episode of "Marcus Welby, M.D."



LUDWIG

In my first year of college, most of my classes were early in the morning. That wasn't by choice; it was only because the more desirable afternoon ones were taken by juniors and seniors who got to pick first. That's why I ended up taking calculus my freshman year. Class met at 8 a.m. every Monday through Friday. Since I always did well in math in high school, I didn't anticipate any problems with calculus.

The Titanic didn't anticipate hitting an iceberg, either. Since the instructor never took attendance, I seldom attended class. More accurately, aside from the first day, I was never there. In my defense, waking up in time for first period in the same year the state's legal drinking age was lowered from 21 to the age I happened to be at the time – 18 – was asking a bit much.

The only requirement for calculus was passing the midterm and final exams. I don't remember there ever being any homework. Then again, I never went to class so I can't say for sure. Final calculus grade: my first-ever F. Off to a rousing start. My second class was biology. Since I never did particularly well in any course in high school that ended in OGY -- ecology, ecology, zoology -- I dreaded taking any class in science, which happened to be a requirement for all first-year students. When it came time to register for a science course, the pickings were slim. Regardless of which one I took, unlike calculus, I knew for a fact that science would be a problem. It came down to a choice between biology or meteorology. Since I never could remember the difference between cumulus and cirrus clouds, I opted for the lesser of two evils and chose biology.

Let me just say that biology was, well, incomprehensible. The only thing I learned the entire semester is that I didn't want to see the inside of a frog ever again. Final biology grade: my second F.

Now let me explain how the grading system worked in determining a student's grade-point average (GPA): -- A's were worth 4 points; B's were 3; C's were 2; and D's were

1. F's, of course, weren't worth the report card they were printed on.

-- For each course, the credit hours for the course were multiplied by the numerical value of the grade.

-- The sum total of these calculations were then divided by the total number of credit hours to calculate a student's grade-point average.

Now for a real life example (name withheld by request):

-- Calculus – 5 credit hours X 0 (the grade was F) = 0.

-- Biology – 3 credit hours X 0 (another F) = 0.

-- English – 3 credit hours X 3 (B!) = 9.

-- Economics – 3 credit hours X 3 (another B) = 9.

-- P.E. – 1 credit hour X 4 (A) = 4. (There were no knotted ropes.)

-- 0 + 0 + 9 + 9 + 4 = 22 points.

-- 22 points divided by 15 credit hours = 1.45 GPA, below 2.0 which was low enough to be placed on academic probation.

The university had a forgiveness policy that allowed students to retake as many as 10 credit-hours to improve their GPA. So the aforementioned anonymous student retook those two classes to earn 8 hours of forgiveness: calculus (via the pass/fail option; he passed) and biology (he passed with a B).

My mom was thrilled that I didn't flunk out of college. Eventually this particular student worked his way off of academic probation and graduated in four years. After that, he spent another year in college so he could put off getting a real job for another 12 months to earn a master's degree.

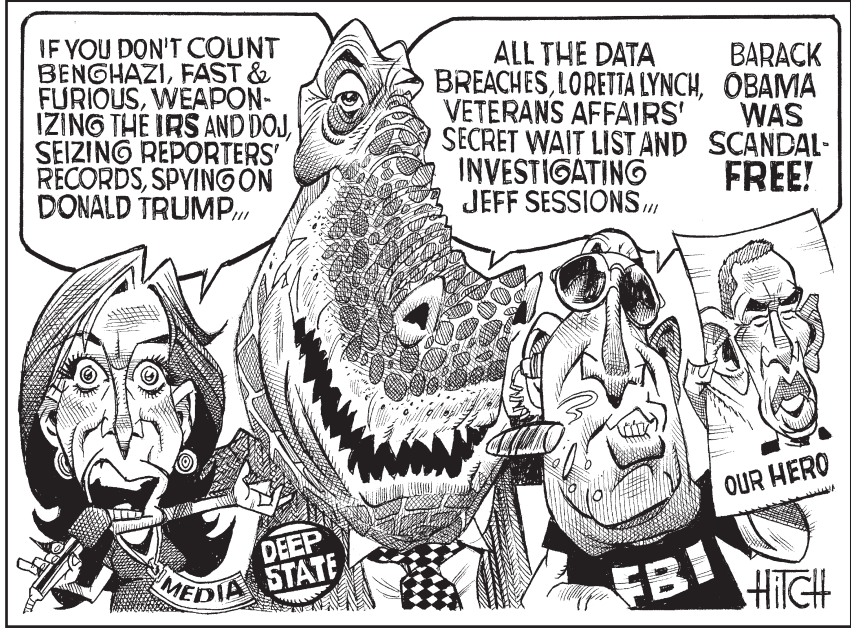
The point I'm trying to make with all of this is that college today doesn't appear to be anything like it was back then. For one thing, just getting accepted into college appears to be a lot harder. I did a practice SAT with my grandson since he'll be graduating from high school soon. We scored 300 points less than I did when I took the SAT back in high school – a score my grandson probably would have exceeded had I not pitched in to help.

In my defense, however, there seemed to be an overwhelming amount of calculus. At least too much for a practice exam. And for another thing, the legal drinking age isn't 18 anymore. It's now 21 which, according to a mathematical computation I did in my head without the use of any calculus whatsoever, is three years older than it was when I was in school. I trust 8 a.m. classes are a lot easier to make without a hangover.

One last thing and I'll stop. Take this one any way you see fit: In all my years since I graduated from college, not once have I ever needed to dissect a frog.

SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS:

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



What to watch TUESDAY

September 15, 2026

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

America’s Got Talent

NBC, 8 p.m. Live

In the semifinals, 12 acts compete live for America’s votes and the chance to advance to the finale.

Dancing With the Stars

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The two-night Season 35 premiere looks promising, with 16 new celebs – including *Summer House* star Ciara Miller, *The Traitors* breakout Maura Higgins, Savannah Bananas second baseman Jackson Olson and Guillermo Rodríguez (Jimmy Kimmel’s sidekick and comedy partner) – looking for their shot at the Mirrorball. The other competitors are Sarah Jane Nader, Harry Shum Jr., Conner Leavitt, Taylor Hanson, Amber Glenn, Ezra Frech, Connor Wood, Julia Stiles, Tatyana Ali, Tyler Cameron, Jenna Dewan and Giada De Laurentiis.

Kitchen Nightmares

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Gordon Ramsay helps eatery owners turn around their failing businesses in the two-part season finale “Wick ‘n Ore Kitchen & Tap” and “Firenze Restaurant & Pizzeria.”



‘Dancing With the Stars’

DISNEY

A Very Haunted Renovation

HGTV, 8 p.m. ■ New Series

This new nightmarish competition series follows six brave renovators and designers who will stay at one of the most haunted houses in America for 31 days with only one mission: completing the renovations. The spooky six episodes, hosted by actress Anna Camp (*Scream 7*), will follow the contestants as they face off to transform the home into a fully livable masterpiece while facing elimination challenges and competing for a \$50,000 grand prize.

R.J. Decker

ABC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama starring Scott Speedman as the titular disgraced newspaper photographer and ex-con who starts over as a private investigator in South Florida returns for Season 2. A reunion with an old prison acquaintance pulls R.J. into a string of daring bank heists.

Password

NBC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Jimmy Fallon and celebrity guest Alan Cumming pair up with contestants and face off over two “Traitorous” games in the season finale.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Swashbucklers

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Errol Flynn and Maureen O’Hara lead 1952’s **Against All Flags (pictured)**, while Burt Lancaster gets to show off his athletic side in the playful adventure **The Crimson Pirate** (1952). With the advent of TV in the 1950s, nervous studios began to shy away from costly historical epics, but there were exceptions – none more enjoyable than

1952’s jocular **The Crimson Pirate**, with Lancaster as the most agile of scalawags, often boldly bare-chested and always flashing a dazzling smile as he soars from mast to mast. In one unforgettable scene, he drops down long enough to plant a kiss on a jaded lass who has just declared, “If only there was something to break up the monotony of this voyage.” Never a dull moment in the life of a swashbuckler. The mood turns darker with Fritz Lang’s **Moonfleet** (1955), starring Stewart Granger. These films share the genre’s love of action and romance, but each brings a very different style to the adventure.

TV REIMAGINED What to Watch Now!

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

What to watch WEDNESDAY

September 16, 2026

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

MasterChef

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

With the competition nearing an end, every detail matters as the chefs craft their most remarkable dishes in a last bid to impress the judges in “Finale Part 2.”

The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City

Bravo, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

This season the ladies celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in San Francisco and get some much-needed sunshine in Hawaii. Though they agree to set aside their differences and come together, nothing in Salt Lake City lasts forever as enduring bonds are tested and surprising new relationships are formed. Returning this season are Housewives Lisa Barlow, Mary Cosby, Heather Gay, Angie Katsanevas, Meredith Marks, Bronwyn Newport, Whitney Rose and friend Britani Bateman. Friend Ashley Quai also enters the mix.

Forged in Fire

History, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

A two-hour season finale marks the end of Season 11, which was filled with plenty of home builds and special blade challenges.

Nation’s Dumbest

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

It’s “The Finals!,” the episode that none of the celebrities wanted to reach. The last two celebs go head-to-head, each desperate to avoid being crowned “The Nation’s Dumbest.” Jack Whitehall hosts.

NOVA

PBS, 9 p.m.

The new episode “The Battle to Breathe” looks at the fight against cystic fibrosis, and how a combination of three drugs is improving symptoms and slowing the progression of the disease in patients.



‘Ages of Ice’

NIKLAS MARC HEINECKE

Ages of Ice

PBS, 10 p.m. ■ New Series

This series is a high-stakes journey into the heart of our planet’s frozen wilderness, following researchers as they push the boundaries of exploration. Each mission is a step toward understanding how glaciers move, how oceans rise and how the rhythms of the past compare to the quickening tempo of today. In “The Frozen Heart,” scientists scale jagged peaks and descend the ice sheet to determine how the polar world is transforming.

South Park

Comedy Central, 10 p.m. ■

Season Premiere

Trey Parker and Matt Stone bring the adventures of Stan, Kyle, Cartman and many more beloved characters back for the animated comedy’s 29th season. Following tonight’s premiere, new episodes will follow every other Wednesday through Nov. 25. Stone and Parker announced that the show is jokingly changing its name to *South America* for the new season in a satirical political stunt.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Anne Bancroft Birthday Tribute

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM celebrates Anne Bancroft one night before what would have been her 95th birthday. Bancroft died of cancer at just 73. The tribute opens with one of her most famous roles as Mrs. Robinson in 1967’s **The Graduate (pictured)**, followed by her Oscar-winning performance as teacher



AVCO EMBASSY PICTURES

Annie Sullivan in **The Miracle Worker** (1962). Later films include **The Pumpkin Eater** (1964) and **The Prisoner of Second Avenue** (1975).

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



‘Ocean’s 8’

BARRY WETCHER

In Love With My Partner’s Wife (2022, Suspense) Gina Vitori, Andrew Spach **LMN, 6 p.m.**

F9 The Fast Saga (2021, Action) Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

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

Falling into Place (2026, Romance) Alvina August, Nathan Witte **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018, Children) John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman **Freeform, 8:25 p.m.**

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003, Romance-comedy) Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey **E!, 9 p.m.**

In the Grey (2026, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Henry Cavill **Starz, 9 p.m.**

The Bear Lake Murders (2025, Suspense) Mercedes de la Zorda, Tom Stevens **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Jurassic Park III (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill, William H. Macy **AMC, 10:30 p.m.**

It Follows (2014, Horror) Maika Monroe, Keir Gilchrist **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

Ocean’s 8 (2018, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett **HBO, 11 p.m.**

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

TV REIMAGINED What to Watch Now!

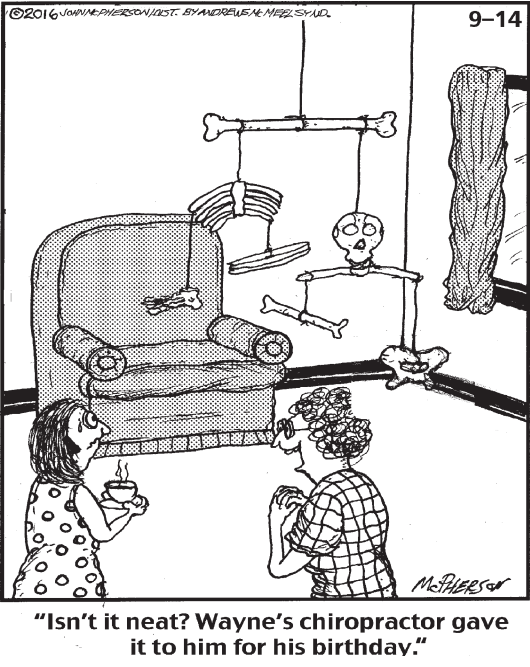
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TV - What to watch

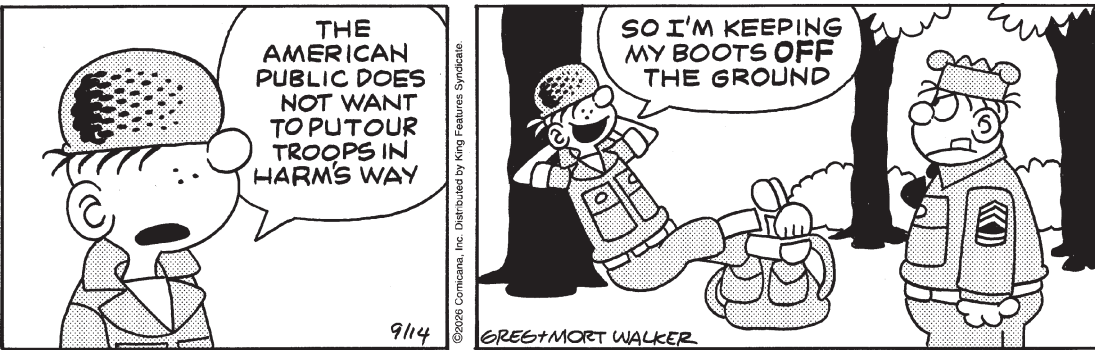
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



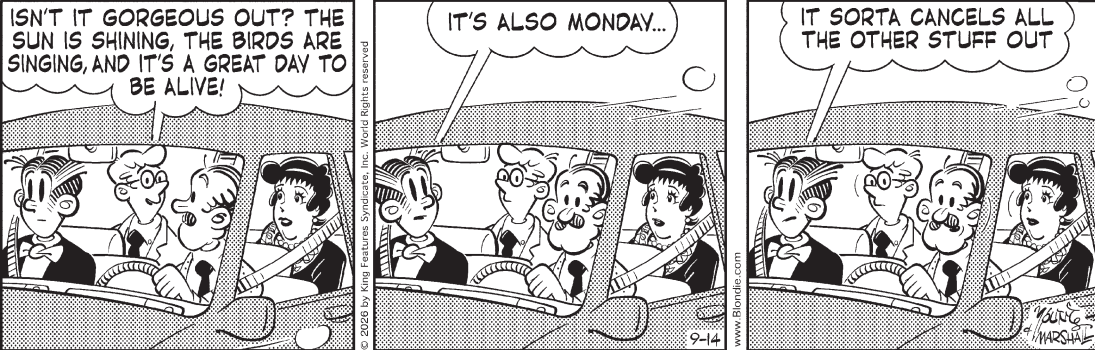
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



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: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

BUTTER

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: Butterscotch

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Highly skilled
5 Mop (up), as gravy
8 Valuable item
13 Spring
14 Perlman of "Cheers"
15 "Hello," in Mandarin
16 Star of "Ghost" and "The Substance"
18 Believe without questioning
19 Former
20 Chemical in oven cleaners
22 "New" prefix
23 "I'm ___ roll!"
24 Informal lingo
26 "For Whom the Bell Tolls," for one
32 Supergirl accessory
33 Actor's prompt
34 One-named singer whose studio albums have numerical titles
35 Braying pack animal
36 Thawing of diplomatic tensions
39 Digital collectible: Abbr.
40 Tale
42 Fruit-filled pastry
43 French friends
44 Indigenous people of Oklahoma who originated in Florida
48 Stately home in the country
49 Wheels
50 No. 1 pal
53 Cow sound
54 French island near Sardinia
58 Perp's excuse
60 Game division, or what can be found in 16-, 26-, and 44-Across
62 Ancient artifact
63 "Up, up, and ___!"
64 Dr. Frankenstein's assistant
65 Maroon vegetables
66 Pig heavier than 120 pounds
67 ___ stick

DOWN

1 Gucci of fashion
2 "We've all ___ there"
3 Gold fabric
4 Perfect example
5 Jimmy Choo creation
6 Above, poetically
7 Spanish rice dish seasoned with saffron
8 Insect feelers
9 Knight's title
10 Exclude
11 Smooth sailing
12 Dog who visits Oz
14 Nora Roberts genre
17 Short skirt
21 "Yippee!"
24 Center defender in soccer
25 Immortal being
26 Speed
27 ___ salts:
bathwater additive
28 Belly
29 Mobile payment app
30 Small and pointy-eared, perhaps
31 Tennis do-overs
32 Elliot of the Mamas and the Papas

36 Branch of mechanics
37 Diarist Anais
38 Pot insulator, in England
41 Part of a basketball hoop
43 Blimp, for one
45 Peace activist
46 Exfoliating scrubber
47 Fruit-filled pastry

50 Spike on a dragon's tail
51 Make a run for it
52 Nail salon tool
54 Jagged rock
55 "Aladdin" parrot named for a Shakespeare villain
56 Plumbing problem
57 Natural hairstyle
59 Drill insert
61 ___ Jima

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

09/14/26

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

By Brian Keller
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09/14/26

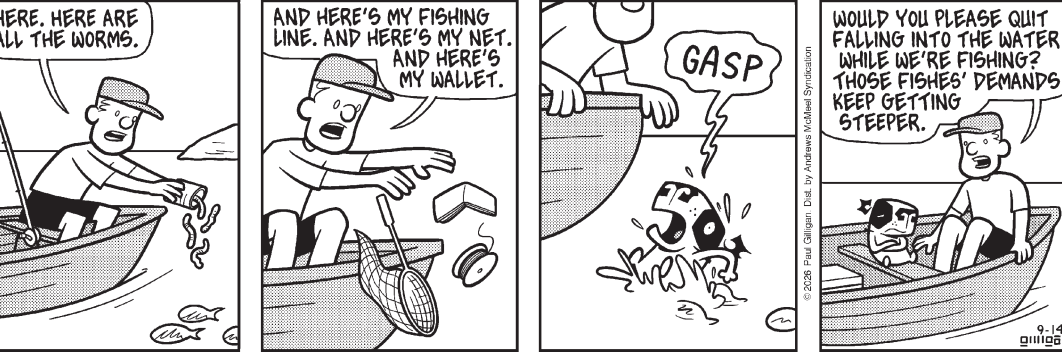
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

HANDWRITTEN LETTERS

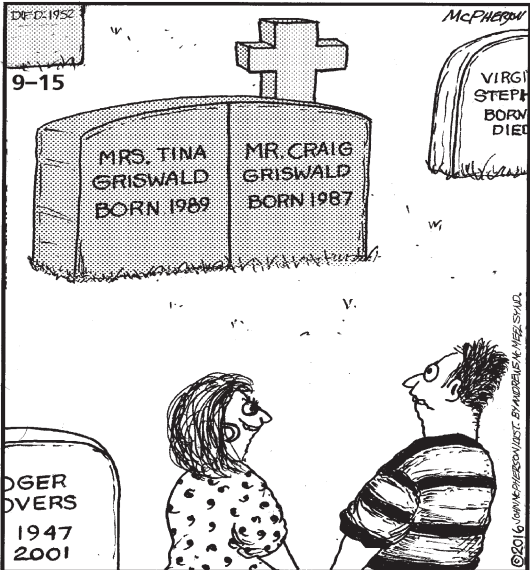
L	I	A	M	A	R	K	E	R	E	V	I	L	E	D
A	I	M	P	A	P	E	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C
N	N	C	R	E	D	R	O	B	O	O	K	A	U	S
O	V	M	N	E	S	S	A	Y	M	E	R	R	N	T
S	I	V	O	E	H	D	W	A	S	Y	S	S	O	O
R	T	I	W	T	P	C	R	O	R	I	T	S	T	R
E	A	N	O	A	S	G	A	A	V	R	P	P	E	Y
P	T	T	R	G	I	U	S	E	W	A	I	E	C	L
S	I	A	D	N	F	R	C	E	T	E	R	C	N	E
S	O	G	S	R	E	U	E	V	O	L	C	I	E	R
E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

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Address, Anniversary, Antique, Book, Border, Class, Clear, Cursive, Custom, Cute, Date, Deliver, Diary, Draw, Emotion, Essay, Friend, Invitation, Love, Mail, Margin, Marker, Note, Paper, Pencil, Personal, Reflect, Ribbon, Romantic, Save, School, Script, Scroll, Send, Sentence, Signature, Sincerely, Special, Story, Teacher, Vintage, Vows, Words

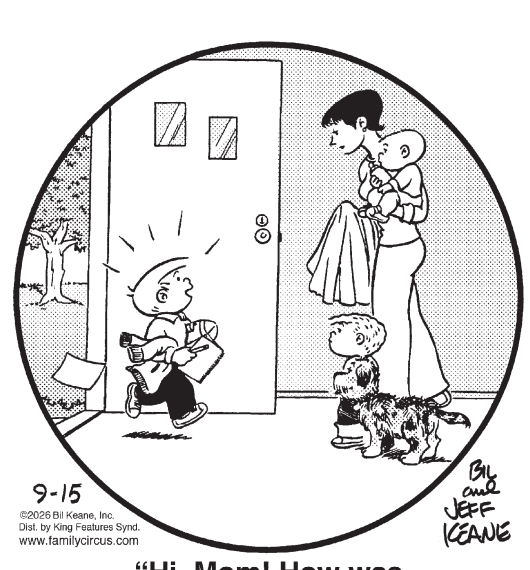
TODAY'S ANSWER: Message

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



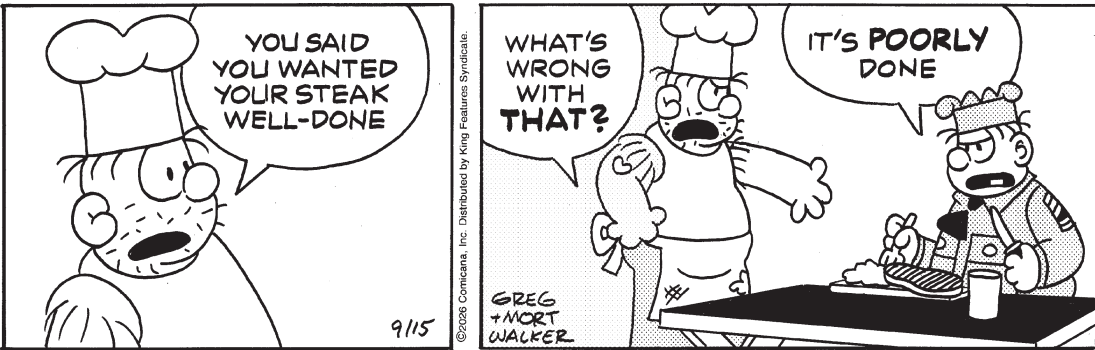
Craig sensed that Tina was taking things a bit too seriously when, on their third date, she bought them adjoining burial plots.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Hi, Mom! How was home today?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



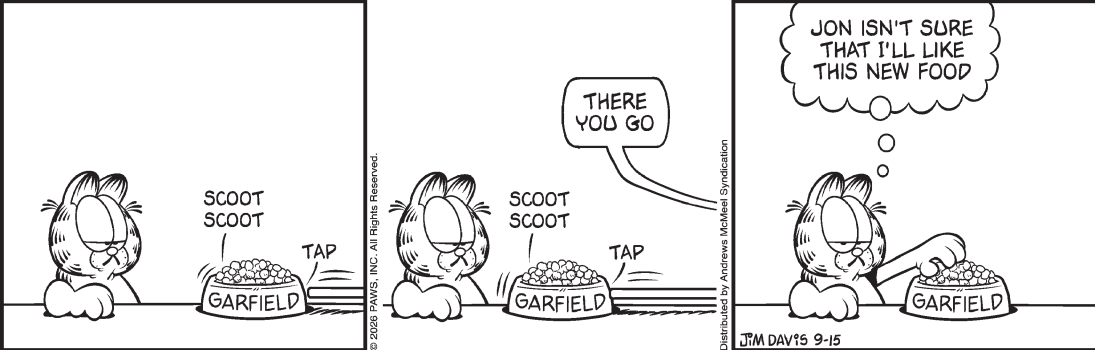
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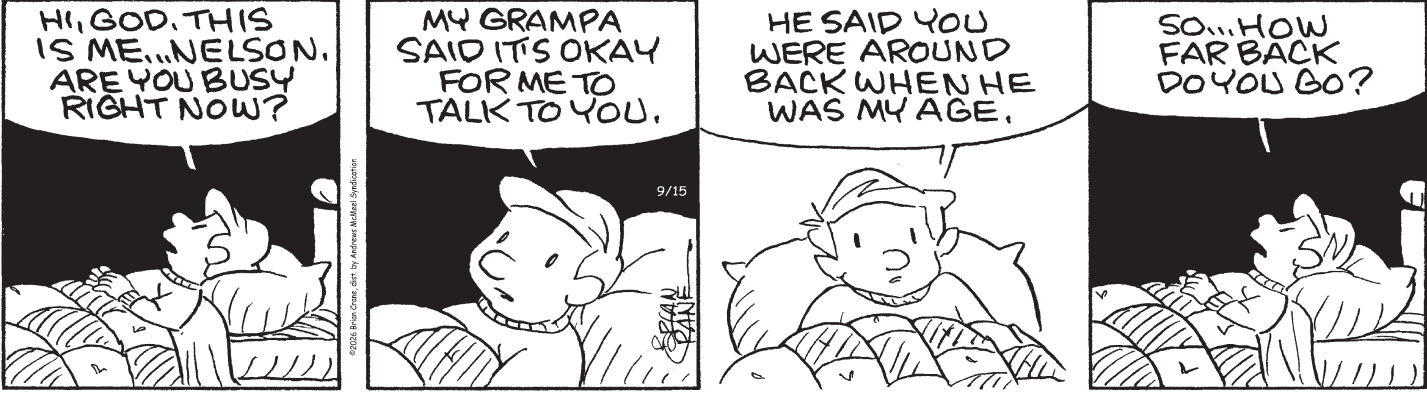
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

cogitate

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:

Think it over

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Actress — MacGraw
4 "Begone!"
8 Tattered
12 In favor of
13 Party garment
14 Prima donna's song
15 Sailor
16 MP's quarry
17 Increase (with "up")
18 Stunt
20 Eat eagerly
22 Wildebeest
23 Zero
24 Give guidance
28 Discern
31 "— was I ere ..."
32 Links cry
34 Where Lux. is
36 Feather scarf
37 Collar insert

DOWN

1 Fore-and- —
2 Bread mass
3 Unconventional
4 Standing

38 Monster
39 Humorist — Bombeck
41 Commanded
43 Frequently, poetically
45 Farm bird
46 Harsh
49 Went on horseback
51 "La Boheme" role
52 Therefore
54 Skill
56 Actress — Falco
57 Fundamental (Abbr.)
58 Narrow inlet
59 Allows
60 Strike out
61 Desire

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

5 Intimidate
6 Eager
7 Claw
8 Sing with trills
9 Spoken
10 Hoarfrost
11 Get some rest

19 English queen
21 Mouthful
24 Car with a meter
25 Woodwind instrument
26 Newt
27 Put cargo on board
29 Fabled
30 Cheese in a trap
33 Cereal plant
35 Scarlet
37 Umpire's cry
38 Black-and-white cookie
40 Films
42 Shiny plated metal
44 Brought to bay
46 Facet
47 Release
48 — Stanley Gardner
50 Pennsylvania port city
51 Author — Robbins
53 Solidify
55 Beige

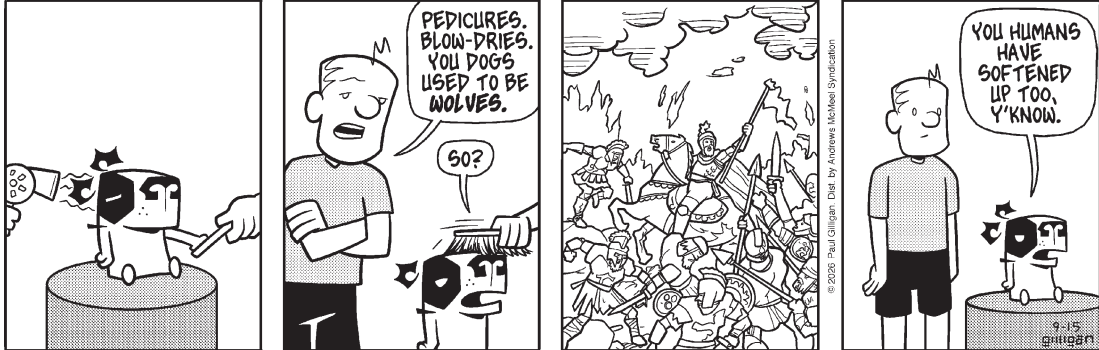
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PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



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.

CHALK STREAMS

Solution: 6 letters

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

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Abstraction, Algae, Aquatic, Bank, Baseflow, Biotope, Brook, Channel, Cold, Cool, Deposition, Erosion, Filtration, Flint, Glide, Habitat, Headcut, Heron, Invertebrates, Karst, Minnow, Moss, Nitrogen, Percolation, Permeable, Phosphate, Pollution, Pool, Riparian, Riprap, Silt, Spawning, Stickleback, Substrate, Transparent, Vole

TODAY'S ANSWER: Runoff



Ja-Rod Holsey

Special Albany-Dougherty unit arrests murder suspect

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany-Dougherty Special Investigative Unit, working with the U.S. Marshals Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force, apprehended 25-year-old Ja-Rod Jaheem Holsey recently on outstanding warrants related to a June 1 homicide at 1016 N. Slappey Blvd.

Holsey was apprehended at 525 Don Cutler Apartment 60.

According to the Special Investigative Unit, Holsey was wanted on the following charges:

- Murder
- Four counts of aggravated assault
- Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute
- Possession of drug-related objects
- Possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime
- Fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer

Failure to appear for a fingerprintable charge
Probation violation

Authorities reported that Holsey was in possession of approximately 568.8 grams of marijuana and a firearm at the time of his arrest. He was additionally charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of drug-related objects.

During the operation, authorities also arrested 26-year-old Kawaiya Mills. Mills was charged with possession of marijuana less than 1 ounce and hindering the apprehension of a fugitive.

The Albany-Dougherty Special Investigative Unit includes personnel from the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office, Albany Police Department and Dougherty County Police Department.

Phoebe welcomes internal medicine specialist Dylan Hewlett

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Phoebe Physicians has welcomed Dr. Dylan Hewlett to its growing team of internal medicine specialists at Phoebe Primary Care at Laurel Place in Lee County. Phoebe is continuing to recruit additional internists for the clinic, establishing Laurel Place as the central location for its outpatient internal medicine specialists.

Hewlett earned his medical degree from the University of Ghana Medical School in Accra, Ghana, and completed his internal medicine residency at Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital in Athens.

Patients have already praised Hewlett for listening carefully, explaining care clearly and providing a calm, compassionate experience, hospital officials said. They have also highlighted the convenience of same-day appointments and his attention to comfort and pain management.

Internists specialize in adult medicine and are trained to provide preventive care while diagnosing and managing complex conditions that may involve multiple organ systems. Their expertise is especially valuable for adults managing several chronic health concerns and coordinating care across specialties. Phoebe employs internists as hospitalists for patients admitted to the hospital and is now expanding its outpatient



Dr. Dylan Hewlett

internal medicine team at Laurel Place.

The expansion is supported by a newly renovated facility. Located on U.S. Highway 19 in Lee County, the Laurel Place clinic recently added treatment space and refreshed patient care areas, giving the growing team room to serve more patients while maintaining high-quality, efficient care.

At Laurel Place, Hewlett joins internal

medicine specialist Dr. Karen Campbell; family medicine physician Dr. Patrina Lockette, who will continue providing comprehensive primary care; and advanced practice providers Emily Burford and Steven Stocking. Phoebe expects additional internists to join the team in the near future.

“We have an excellent team of family medicine physicians serving primary care clinics across southwest Georgia, and we know some patients prefer or require a physician with specialized training in adult medicine and complex disease management,” Dr. Estrellita Redmon, the president of Phoebe Physicians, said. “Expanding our team at Laurel Place brings those specialists together in one location, united by a shared understanding of the community they serve.”

Redmon added that the renovated space was designed with that long-term vision in mind.

“We didn’t renovate Laurel Place simply to make it bigger; we designed it to become the home of internal medicine at Phoebe,” she added. “As we continue adding physicians to this team, patients will know exactly where to turn for expert, connected adult care.”

Patients can schedule an appointment at Phoebe Primary Care at Laurel Place by calling (229) 312-7490 or visiting www.choosephoebe.com.

Hospice of Tift Area earns fifth consecutive 5-star rating

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON — Hospice of Tift Area has earned a 5-star rating for the fifth consecutive refresh period.

“This accomplishment further recognizes our team’s continued commitment to quality, compassionate care,” Tressie

Mathis, director of Hospice of Tift Area and Southwell Palliative Care Services, said in a news release.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires surveys to measure and assess the experiences of hospice patients and their caregivers. CMS publicly releases survey results and star ratings

quarterly, with 5-stars being the highest rating. This recent recognition encompasses 12 quarters of CMS rolling data.

“We celebrated this accomplishment with lunch and dessert,” Mathis said. “It is important to recognize and celebrate the dedicated team members who work every day to provide high-quality care to our

patients and their families.”

A service of Southwell, Hospice of Tift Area provides specialized care and support for people with a limited life expectancy and their families.

For more information, call (229) 353-6330 or visit mysouthwell.com/hospice.

Public Notice

Opportunity for Public Hearing for Section 5307 Capital Projects and

Operating Assistance for the City of Albany, Transit Department under the Federal Transit Administration

Notice is hereby given affording an opportunity for a public hearing for the purpose of coordination of Section 5307 for public transportation services assisted with Federal sources and financial assistance is being sought from the Federal Transit Administration.

The proposed project application is for Section 5307 capital assistance and operating assistance for FY 2028. Under Section 5307 a capital request for federal dollars in the amount of **\$5,908,182.00**, for express purchase of:

Operating expenses, bus shelter accessory equipment, transit security for administrative and transportation facilities, preventative maintenance of fleet and facilities, AVL software, employee training and development, and other associated capital items.

The capital funding requested will be federal assistance in the amount of **\$1,777,088** (80% Federal); State assistance in the amount of **\$222,136** (10% match); and Local assistance (10% match) in the amount of **\$222,136**. Operating assistance from the Federal Transit Administration will be in the amount of **\$1,843,411** (50%) toward the cost of transit operations with **\$1,843,411** (50% local match).

This proposed project is consistent with the areas Long Range Plan and conforms to joint Metropolitan Planning Regulations issued by FTA and FHWA. No persons, families or businesses will be displaced by this project. This project is in conformance with the comprehensive land use and transportation planning in this area.

The **City of Albany** is affording an opportunity for interested persons, agencies, private transportation providers, human service organizations or transit operators representing the employment-related transportation needs of welfare recipients and low-income individuals to respond with respect to social, economic, and environmental aspects of the project.

A copy of the grant application is available for public inspection in the office of the

City of Albany at 712 Flint Ave, Albany, GA 31701.

Any person interested in a public hearing being held should submit a written request by **9/30/2026** to the **City of Albany at 712 Flint Ave., Albany, GA 31701**, to the attention of **David Hamilton**.

City of Albany

Aviso público

Oportunidad de audiencia pública para proyectos de capital de la Sección 5307 y

Asistencia Operativa para la Ciudad de Albany, Departamento de Transporte bajo la Administración Federal de Tránsito

Se da un aviso que ofrece la oportunidad de una audiencia pública con el propósito de coordinar la Sección 5307 para servicios de transporte público, asistida por fuentes federales y se solicita asistencia financiera a la Administración Federal de Tránsito.

La solicitud propuesta de proyecto es para la asistencia de capital y la asistencia operativa de la Sección 5307 para el año fiscal 2028. Según la Sección 5307, una solicitud de capital para dólares federales por un importe de **\$5,908,182,00**, para la compra expresa de:

Gastos operativos, equipos accesorios para refugios de autobús, seguridad del transporte para instalaciones administrativas y de transporte, mantenimiento preventivo de flotas e instalaciones, software AVL, formación y desarrollo de empleados, y otros elementos de capital asociados.

La financiación de capital solicitada será asistencia federal por un importe de **1.777.088 dólares** (80% federal); asistencia estatal por un importe de **222.136 dólares** (10% de igualación); y asistencia local (10% de contrapartida) por un importe de **222.136 dólares**. La asistencia operativa de la Administración Federal de Tránsito será de **1.843.411 dólares** (50%) para el coste de las operaciones de transporte, con **1.843.411 dólares** (50% de contrapartida local).

Este proyecto propuesto es coherente con el Plan a Largo Plazo de la zona y cumple con las Regulaciones Metropolitanas Conjuntas de Planificación emitidas por la FTA y la FHWA. Ninguna persona, familia ni empresa será desplazada por este proyecto. Este proyecto está en conformidad con la planificación integral del uso del suelo y transporte en esta zona.

La ciudad de Albany ofrece una oportunidad para que personas interesadas, agencias, proveedores privados de transporte, organizaciones de servicios humanos o operadores de transporte que representen las necesidades laborales de transporte de beneficiarios de ayudas sociales y personas de bajos ingresos puedan responder en relación con los aspectos sociales, económicos y medioambientales del proyecto.

Una copia de la solicitud de subvención está disponible para su inspección pública en la oficina de la

Ciudad de Albany en 712 Flint Ave, Albany, GA 31701.

Cualquier persona interesada en que se celebre una audiencia pública debe presentar una solicitud por escrito antes del **30/9/2026** a la **ciudad de Albany en 712 Flint Ave., Albany, GA 31701**, para que **David Hamilton** lo haga.

Ciudad de Albany

Cairo shuts down Westover, 25-0

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — It wasn't a beatdown. It wasn't a runaway. It just wasn't Westover's night.

No. 4-ranked Cairo controlled the line of scrimmage, capitalized on two costly Westover mistakes and handed the No. 9 Patriots a 25-0 loss Thursday night at Hugh Mills Stadium in a Region 1-4A matchup.

The Syrupmakers produced two sustained touchdown drives. Their other two scores came courtesy of their defense and special teams — a blocked punt that set up a touchdown from the 3-yard line and a pick-six that put

the game away.

For Westover coach Corey Joyner and the Patriots, those were the kinds of breaks that turned a competitive game into a lopsided score.

Early, it looked more like a chess match.

On Westover's first offensive snap, Joyner sent his offense to the line, saw how Cairo had aligned defensively and immediately called timeout to change the play. Both teams spent much of the opening quarter adjusting formations and personnel, looking for an advantage.

Cairo eventually found its advantage up front.

The Syrupmakers harassed

Westover quarterback Gabriel Hopper throughout the night, sacking him four times and rarely allowing him time to settle into the pocket. Running back Malik Young was bottled up for most of the game, breaking loose only a couple of times.

Hopper created a few plays with his legs, but Cairo's pressure never went away.

It made an impact almost immediately.

After the Patriots failed to move the ball on their opening possession, Cairo blocked Westover's punt and recovered at the Patriots' 3. On the next play, running back Bryan Duncan vaulted over the

line and into the end zone for a touchdown.

Westover responded with what became its best offensive possession of the night.

A facemask penalty helped move the Patriots to the Cairo 36 before Hopper scrambled around the right side to the 21. He then connected with Mikhail Simmons for a completion to the 12, and Westover eventually reached the 7.

Facing third and fourth down, Hopper twice looked for 6-foot-8 tight end Josiah Daniels in the end zone. Cairo defenders broke up both

See **WESTOVER**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Westover quarterback Gabriel Hopper scrambles away from Cairo defenders during Thursday night's game at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany. The Cairo defense kept Hopper and the Patriots bottled up most of the night and took the win, 25-0.

Softball roundup:

Pritchard pitches no-hitter; Lee County, Dougherty sweep

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Laurie Pritchard didn't allow a hit. Worth County hasn't allowed a run in five games.

And Lee County apparently has forgotten how to lose.

It was another dominant Thursday for some of Southwest Georgia's top softball teams as Worth County extended its winning streak to eight games with an 8-0 victory over Colquitt County, No. 3 Lee County swept Tift County for its 14th and 15th consecutive victories, and Dougherty took both games of an Albany rivalry doubleheader against Monroe.

Worth County 8, Colquitt County 0

SYLVESTER — At this point, scoring against Worth County has become an accomplishment.

Getting a hit Thursday was impossible.

Pritchard fired a complete-game no-hitter as the Lady Rams blanked Colquitt County, extending one of the most dominant stretches of softball in Southwest Georgia.

Worth County has won eight consecutive games, improved to 17-1 and recorded five straight shutouts. Even more remarkable, the Lady Rams have allowed runs in only four of their 18 games this season.

"We are playing good softball right now," Worth County coach Zach Mauldin said. "These girls are playing together and playing with a lot of confidence."

Pritchard was nearly untouchable, allowing no hits over six innings while



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Worth County's Laurie Pritchard pitched a complete-game no-hitter Thursday in Sylvester as the Lady Rams improved their season record to 17-1 and have recorded shutouts in all but four games this season.

striking out seven and walking just one. Worth County backed her with 11 hits.

The Lady Rams struck immediately when Ellasyn Gandy delivered a two-run single in the first.

They put the game away with five runs in the fifth. Pritchard helped herself with a two-run double, Kayelee Mathews added an RBI single, Ansley Bartley brought home a run with a sacrifice fly and Karmyn Kendrick added an RBI single.

Mathews, Pritchard, Isabelle Hancock and Gandy had two hits apiece. Mathews, Pritchard and Gandy each drove in two runs.

Worth County also played error-free defense.

Now comes a game the Lady Rams have had circled. Worth County hosts Cook on Wednesday in a rematch with

See **ROUNDUP**, 10A



Special Photo: Stephen Lew

LSU coach Lane Kiffin works the sideline during a game. SEC presidents and chancellors met Thursday but took no immediate action against LSU amid a dispute over the Tigers' pursuit of players who had signed with NFL teams.

SEC holds off on LSU punishment

Field Level Media

The presidents and chancellors of Southeastern Conference member institutions concluded a virtual meeting Thursday without deciding on any sanctions against LSU.

The SEC threatened LSU with outright expulsion from the league earlier this week as tensions mounted over coach Lane Kiffin's pursuit of players who were cut from NFL teams during training camp.

The conference had filed suit against the university in the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Alabama, and it amended the complaint Tuesday as it sought authority to expel LSU.

Later Tuesday, the Tigers reached their 105-man football roster limit for the season without adding tight end Dae'Quan Wright or defensive lineman Zxavian Harris, which LSU president Wade Rouse later said should render the SEC's case "moot."

The SEC released a statement Thursday evening that did not mention any punitive action toward LSU — nor did it rule out taking action in the future.

"The presidents and chancellors of the Southeastern Conference met Thursday by videoconference to discuss recent matters involving conference expectations and responsibilities," the statement said. "Those discussions will continue as the

conference and its member universities work toward an appropriate resolution."

Wright had spent time with the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns this summer after going undrafted. Harris signed an undrafted free agent contract with the New Orleans Saints but was waived in early August. Both Wright and Harris played for Kiffin at Ole Miss last season.

A Louisiana judge ruled that the players were free to return to college to utilize a fifth year of eligibility. The SEC and the other three power conferences introduced bans on adding football and basketball players who had any professional contract or appeared on a roster, but LSU didn't back down.

SEC presidents authorized commissioner Greg Sankey to impose penalties on programs that break that rule, which included a half-season suspension for the head coach, a fine equal to 50% of its operating budget and the revocation of conference voting rights.

Established rules of the conference require a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of all university presidents to terminate a school's membership from the SEC.

Hurricanes blow away FAMU, 77-7

Field Level Media

Darian Mensah and Luke Nickel each threw three touchdown passes while Javian Mallory and Mark Fletcher Jr. each ran for two touchdowns, leading No. 7 Miami to a 77-7 rout of Florida A&M on Thursday night in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Miami matched a school record for points in a game, equaling its output in a pair of victories against Savannah State in 2013 and 2018. The Hurricanes also broke a school record with 856 total yards.



Special Photo: Sam Navarro, Imagn Images

Miami quarterback Darian Mensah carries the ball against Florida A&M on Thursday night. Mensah threw three touchdown passes as the No. 7 Hurricanes tied a school scoring record and set a program record with 856 yards in a 77-7 rout.

The Hurricanes (2-0) won their 12th consecutive game against the Rattlers (1-2).

Three Hurricanes quarterbacks combined to complete 27 of 29 passes for 426 yards with no interceptions.

Mensah and Nickel became the first quarterback pair to each throw for three TDs while completing at least 90% of their passes in the past 30 years, according to Opta Stats.

Mensah followed up his stellar team debut last week vs. Stanford by completing 14 of 15 passes for 252 yards.

See **FAMU** 10A

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From 9A

ROUNDUP

the only team to beat the Lady Rams this season.

Lee County sweeps Tift County

LEESBURG — Lee County’s winning streak keeps growing.

The No. 3-ranked Lady Trojans swept a Region 2-6A doubleheader from Tift County, rolling to 16-3 and 10-2 victories to improve to 15-1 with 15 consecutive wins.

Lee County piled up 26 runs and 23 hits in the two games.

The Lady Trojans broke open the opener with eight runs in the second inning. Makinley Duke delivered a three-run double before Kennedy Patrick launched a grand slam for a 10-0 advantage.

Porter Butler went 3-for-3 and capped the 16-3 victory with a three-run homer in the fourth. Patrick and Duke drove in four runs apiece, while Tina Benton earned the win in the circle.

The second game was much closer until another offensive explosion.

Lee County led 3-1 before scoring seven times in the fifth. Patrick delivered a two-run homer, while Jaylyn Purvis and Butler had run-scoring doubles and Mac Davis added an RBI single.

Patrick, Davis, Purvis and Aubree Spencer each had two hits. Reese Watkins earned the win, allowing two runs — one earned — over five innings.

Now comes a pivotal stretch in the Region 2-6A race.

Lee County travels to defending region champion Houston County on Tuesday before hosting the Lady Bears for a doubleheader Thursday in Leesburg.

Dougherty sweeps Monroe

ALBANY — Dougherty

needed a big fifth inning to put away Monroe in the first game.

Then the Lady Trojans did it again.

Dougherty swept its city rival 12-4 and 15-7 Thursday, scoring a combined 16 runs in the fifth innings of the two games.

Jazlyn Turner powered Dougherty in the opener, going 3-for-3 with five RBIs. Her two-run triple in the fourth helped the Lady Trojans regain the lead before she delivered a three-run inside-the-park homer during a seven-run fifth.

Sorai Hamilton also had three hits, while Jalexli Thomas went 2-for-2 and earned the pitching victory with eight strikeouts over five innings.

Monroe had taken a 4-2 lead before Dougherty answered with three runs in the fourth and seven in the fifth.

The second game followed a similar script.

Monroe led 7-6 entering the bottom of the fifth before Dougherty erupted for nine runs.

Hamilton started the barrage with an RBI single. Dariona Simmons and Turner each delivered two-run doubles, Sasha Hill tripled home a run, and Deriyah Gibbs, Madison Zachery and London Harris followed with RBI singles.

Gibbs finished with three hits, while Turner, Thomas, Simmons, Hill and Gibbs each drove in two runs. Alona Harris earned the pitching victory, striking out eight.

For Monroe, Glendalys Harvey and Jamiya Duhart each drove in two runs.

Dougherty travels to Bainbridge on Tuesday.

From 9A

FAMU

Nickel relieved Mensah in the second half and completed all eight of his passes for 144 yards. True freshman Dereon Coleman connected on 5 of 6 passes for 30 yards.

Mallory ran for 142 yards on 10 carries while Fletcher Jr. had 105 yards on seven carries as Miami amassed 430 yards and five touchdowns rushing.

Miami’s Malachi Toney caught all four of his targets for 96 yards and a touchdown.

The teams agreed to play a 10-minute fourth quarter with Miami leading 77-0. Florida

A&M finally broke the shut-out bid when Miami native Caleb McKenzie recovered a fumble by Brennan Burton and returned it 72 yards for a touchdown.

Miami scored on every drive except for kneel-downs at the end of each half, its fourth-quarter turnover and its final full drive of the game. The Hurricanes only had three third down plays in the game, converting one for a first down.

The Rattlers were held to 107 total yards and just four first downs (to the Hurricanes’ 42). Quarterback Dustin Fletcher completed 8 of 17 passes for 33 yards and ran for 24 yards on eight carries.

From 9A

WESTOVER

passes, ending the threat. Westover never got that close again.

The Patriots’ defense kept them within striking distance through most of the first half despite both teams battling penalties.

Late in the second quarter, however, Cairo took possession at the Westover 36 following a punt and drove inside the 10. The Patriots forced fourth-and-6 from the 7 with only 37 seconds remaining.

Quarterback Bryce Puckett delivered.

Puckett fired a slant to Ladererrick Persons, who caught the ball in traffic and carried Westover defenders across the goal line. The extra point was no good, but Cairo went to halftime with a 13-0 lead.

If Westover had designs on a second-half comeback, Cairo quickly made the task much more difficult.

The Syrupmakers received the second-half kickoff and methodically marched 85 yards, draining approximately seven minutes off the third-

quarter clock. Duncan, Perkins and Xiaquavian Teal churned out yards on the ground while Puckett mixed in short completions.

By the time Cairo reached the end zone, most of the third quarter was gone and the lead had grown to 19-0.

Westover spent much of the remainder of the game backed up in its own territory, unable to escape a Cairo defense that continued bringing pressure.

Then came the final blow. With Hopper attempting to throw from near his own goal line, Cairo’s Kelverrick Greene intercepted the pass and raced into the end zone for a pick-six and a 25-0 advantage.

The final score looked decisive.

For Westover, though, the difference was a handful of costly plays combined with one problem the Patriots could never solve: Cairo’s defensive front.

On this night, the Syrupmakers owned the line of scrimmage — and eventually, the game.

Monroe, Dougherty score \$5,000 awards

By Joe Whiffield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Friday night football has paid off in a different way for two Albany high schools.

Monroe and Dougherty have each won \$5,000 through T-Mobile’s Friday Night 5G Lights program, putting a combined \$10,000 into the two local football programs — and keeping both in contention for considerably larger prizes.

The Albany schools are among 1,000 high schools nationwide being awarded \$5,000 through T-Mobile’s “\$5K Fridays” sweepstakes this year.

At Monroe, athletic director Michael Hoffpauir said the money will go directly back into the Tornadoes’ program.

“Our plan is to put the \$5,000 right back into the program and use it where it will have the biggest impact on our players — equipment,

resources, and opportunities that will help us continue to build our program the right way,” Hoffpauir said.

Monroe principal Dr. Lavana Johnson said the award means more than an unexpected addition to the athletic department’s budget.

“We’re extremely grateful to T-Mobile for choosing Monroe and for making this investment in our football program,” Johnson said. “Their Friday Night Lights initiative is a great way to give back to high school football and support the kids who put so much time and effort into representing their school and community.”

Dougherty athletic director Jessica Thomas already has specific plans for the Trojans’ winnings.

“With the recent \$5K T-Mobile winning, we are excited about the opportunity to enhance the appearance and game day operations of our sideline during football

games,” Thomas said.

Thomas said Dougherty plans to update its team tents and replace one of its sideline televisions.

“These upgrades will help improve the functionality, appearance and overall game-day experience while representing Dougherty Athletics with pride,” she said.

Monroe and Dougherty are two of four South Georgia schools reported among the latest \$5,000 winners, joining Cook and Berrien.

But \$5,000 might only be the beginning.

T-Mobile’s Friday Night 5G Lights program is offering more than \$8.4 million in prizes nationwide, culminating with a \$1 million football field upgrade for one school.

A panel of judges will select 40 division finalists — 10 each from the South, East, Midwest and West. Each will receive \$25,000 and a T-Mobile-hosted home game celebration.

Public voting will then

help determine four division champions. Each will receive \$250,000, a Gronk Fitness gym valued at \$90,000 and a \$5,000 student leadership award before advancing to the final round for the \$1 million field upgrade.

Public voting for the division finalists is scheduled for Oct. 8-25, followed by voting for the final four from Oct. 29-Nov. 8. The grand prize winner will be announced Nov. 12.

For Monroe and Dougherty, though, the first prize can make an immediate difference.

At Monroe, it means more resources for players and the football program. At Dougherty, it means improvements that fans could see on the Trojans’ sideline this season.

And both schools still have an opportunity to turn that first \$5,000 into considerably more.

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — With October approaching, the Atlanta Braves’ postseason pitching picture is beginning to come into focus.

There are still questions to answer.

But one of the biggest may have finally been settled.

Tyler Mahle has emerged as the likely No. 2 starter behind Chris Sale after posting a 1.24 ERA through his first six starts with Atlanta. His latest outing provided perhaps the strongest evidence yet, as Mahle threw six scoreless innings against Philadelphia in an atmosphere resembling what the Braves could encounter in October.

If Sale and Mahle aren’t needed during the final weekend of the regular season, the Braves could line them up to start the first two games of a best-of-three National League Wild Card Series.

After that, things become less certain.

Grant Holmes strengthened his case by throwing six scoreless innings with six strikeouts against Philadelphia on Monday. With Bryce Elder recovering from knee surgery, Atlanta could potentially use Holmes along with Martín Pérez in a piggyback arrangement if a third Wild Card game is necessary.

Reynaldo López is another

possibility, but his performance over the final weeks could determine whether he earns a significant postseason role.

Then there is AJ Smith-Shawver.

The 23-year-old right-hander entered September as a potential candidate for Atlanta’s postseason rotation but has yet to establish himself as a dependable starter. Smith-Shawver has made only 20 major league starts in his career and five this season while still working his way back from Tommy John surgery.

His numbers, however, suggest he could be useful in a different role.

Opponents facing Smith-Shawver for the first time in a game have batted just .162 with a .608 OPS. He has a 1.80 ERA in the first inning of his five starts, and opponents have missed on 31.6% of their swings against him in those opening frames.

That could make his four-seam fastball and splitter combination an intriguing weapon for one-inning appearances out of the bullpen.

Atlanta could use the remaining weeks of the regular season to give Smith-Shawver relief opportunities and determine whether he could bolster an already deep postseason bullpen.

Robert Suarez is another important piece.

The Braves hope Suarez can return to the bullpen before



File Photo

The Atlanta Braves hope third baseman Austin Riley gets hot in their race to the playoffs.

the end of the regular season. If healthy, he could join Raisel Iglesias, Dylan Lee and Didier Fuentes to give Atlanta four potentially formidable late-inning options.

Smith-Shawver could provide additional depth while also easing Lee’s workload. Dylan Dodd gives Atlanta another potential postseason weapon despite allowing two home runs in his most recent outing.

The bullpen could be especially important because of the Wild Card Series format. Atlanta entered Thursday four games behind Los Angeles in the race for the National League’s second postseason bye, increasing the possibility the Braves will have to play a best-of-three opening-round series.

Pitching, however, isn’t Atlanta’s only October concern.

The offense has struggled recently, particularly Matt Olson.

Olson had a .900 OPS following an Aug. 7 loss at Yankee Stadium but has hit .167 with a .533 OPS and 30% strikeout rate over the 29 games since.

Ozzie Albies and Mauricio Dubón have also posted an OPS below .600 during that span.

There are encouraging signs. Ronald Acuña Jr. has begun looking more like himself and has produced a .774 OPS during the same stretch, while rookie Drake Baldwin is at .754.

Atlanta still has time to get its offense straightened out.

Its pitching plans for October, meanwhile, are starting to take shape.

Clippers’ troubles deepen with federal probe

Field Level Media

The Los Angeles Clippers, severely punished last week by the NBA for what the league said, are under criminal investigation by federal prosecutors, the New York Times reported Thursday evening.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn is conducting the investigation, which is in early stages, per the report, which cited sources briefed on the matter. It reportedly was unclear whether the investigation would lead to criminal charges or the presentation of evidence to a grand jury.

The Times reported that prosecutors have issued at least one subpoena as part of the investigation, which began before the NBA announced its conclusions after an independent, yearlong probe into the Clippers’ dealings related to Leonard.

A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney’s office declined to comment, and spokespeople for the Clippers and the NBA did not respond to messages seeking comment, the Times reported. ESPN also reported on Thursday night that it had not gotten responses from representatives of those organizations.

The NBA fined the Clippers \$30 million and stripped away five first-round draft picks to punish the franchise for circumventing salary cap rules involving Leonard, who was ordered to pay \$700,000, the league announced on Sept. 2.

The NBA’s investigation “found a pattern of misconduct and multiple significant rules violations by the Clippers or-

ganization, a prior offender of the salary cap circumvention rules,” the league said in a statement.

The heart of the issue was the team introducing Leonard to club sponsors for off-court income opportunities and endorsement agreements, offering the companies business from the team as inducements and paying personal expenses for Leonard and his representatives, among other violations, according to the report commissioned by the NBA.

The businesses identified were Bongo Wireless, Daktronics, Lockton Insurance and Aspiration Partners, the latter a financial technology firm that went bankrupt last year. Aspiration allegedly signed Leonard to a \$28 million endorsement deal and had a 23-year, \$300 million sponsorship deal with the Clippers.

An executive for Daktronics announced to investors on Sept. 2 that the scoreboard company had been contacted by the Securities and Exchange Commission about dealings with Leonard. The executive said the company was cooperating.

The NBA’s investigators said the Clippers directed a kickback from a scoreboard contract for the team’s home arena, Intuit Dome in Inglewood, Calif., to Leonard in an endorsement deal.

The league said the Clippers must forfeit a first-round pick in each draft from 2029 to 2033. Team owner Steve Ballmer and two executives received suspensions.

The NBA gave owner Steve Ballmer a one-year suspension from all league

and team activities “for knowingly seeking to help Mr. Leonard obtain off-court income opportunities, for approving a business deal that he knew was a precondition for Aspiration to enter into an endorsement agreement with Mr. Leonard, and for his failure to create conditions under which his organization abided by the NBA’s circumvention rules,” the league stated.

The Clippers issued a statement on Sept. 2 disputing the league’s conclusions and the validity of the investigation. The team and Ballmer have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing related to Leonard’s contract.

The Times reported that Ballmer and the Clippers are considering suing the NBA and asking a judge to issue a restraining order, according to sources.

Leonard, through new agent Harrison Gaines, issued a statement saying he had “no knowledge of any intent on anyone’s part to circumvent the salary cap.”

The NBA said the Clippers failed to report improper solicitations for off-court income made on Leonard’s behalf by Dennis Robertson, his uncle and then-business manager. Robertson was banned by the NBA for five years from doing business or engaging with league teams and their affiliates.

The Toronto Raptors, who lost Leonard to the Clippers via free agency after winning the 2019 NBA championship, agreed in principle to a trade on June 30 to bring him back. The deal has yet to be executed as the teams waited for the league’s investigation to be completed.



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

Twenty-five years after 9-11, the surveillance infrastructure built and expanded in its aftermath has become part of a far larger digital ecosystem — producing tools that can collect and analyze information on a scale unimaginable in 2001.

How 9-11 changed the way America surveils its citizens

By Amanda Wafford
Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON -- Twenty-five years after 9-11, the surveillance infrastructure built and expanded in its aftermath has become part of a far larger digital ecosystem — producing tools that can collect and analyze information on a scale unimaginable in 2001.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, did more than reshape the nation's approach to terrorism. They changed the architecture of American intelligence and policing. They expanded how government agencies collect, share and analyze information, and brought national security tools deeper into ordinary law enforcement.

The infrastructure built in the attacks' aftermath has proved remarkably durable. Joint terrorism task forces and fusion centers brought federal, state and local agencies into closer intelligence-sharing networks. New laws expanded the government's ability to obtain information. And police departments acquired technologies that once belonged largely to the realm of national security.

But the expansion of surveillance did not go uncontested. Civil liberties groups warned that the new powers could erode Americans' privacy and constitutional protections, while many Americans accepted expanded government surveillance as a necessary tradeoff for safety in the aftermath of the attacks.

The country also entered a period of heightened scrutiny for people perceived as foreign or potentially threatening — with American Muslims and immigrant communities bearing a particularly heavy burden.

Then came the digital revolution.

Americans began carrying smartphones, broadcasting their lives on social media and generating enormous amounts of commercially collected data. Police gained access to license

plate readers, networks of cameras, cellphone location information and other technologies capable of tracking people and mapping their movements.

Now, artificial intelligence is adding another layer: systems that can sift through those vast stores of information, connect previously separate databases and generate analyses in seconds.

Some surveillance and privacy experts say that the amount of information available to the government — and its ability to make sense of it — has fundamentally changed since 9-11.

That has taken on new urgency as surveillance systems have moved further into everyday life. Automated license plate readers can track where people drive. Facial recognition can help identify people in crowds. Commercial data can reveal where and how people live and travel. And increasingly, artificial intelligence can analyze and connect these streams of information at a speed no human investigator could match.

Those capabilities have raised concerns among some experts and advocates about how surveillance could be used to monitor protests, track immigrants and identify people seeking reproductive healthcare.

Gregory Nojeim, senior counsel and director of the security and surveillance project at the Center for Democracy & Technology, described the post-9-11 era as a "perfect storm."

"That storm is both the expansion of the legal powers that have been conferred on the government to collect and share information, combined with the advance of technology, which has given the government more tools to collect information from more people in more contexts," Nojeim said.

In the months after 9-11, officials sought to fix a critical weakness exposed by the attacks: Intelligence that could have helped uncover the plot was held across government

agencies that failed to connect or share it effectively. The response was a sweeping effort to tear down those silos and build a more integrated intelligence network.

Federal, state and local agencies quickly expanded intelligence-sharing, and the government established and expanded networks designed to move information across traditional institutional boundaries. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces brought together federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence personnel.

Fusion centers, generally run by state and local governments with federal support, became another part of the post-9-11 intelligence architecture, with at least one operating in every state. The centers serve as intelligence hubs where law enforcement agencies can share information, analyze data and flag potential threats across jurisdictions.

Katie Kinsey, chief of staff and tech policy counsel at the Policing Project at the NYU School of Law, said the original goal was straightforward: prevent another terrorist attack.

Over time, some fusion centers began supporting investigations and enforcement involving lower-level crimes, Kinsey said. Local police departments also developed their own versions of centralized intelligence hubs, often called real-time crime centers, that can integrate information from cameras, automated license plate readers and other surveillance systems.

David Viola, an adjunct professor at the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and author of "You Have Unleashed a Storm: New York City's Descent into Chaos During America's Most Explosive Era of Radical Violence," said the post-9-11 period also marked a major shift in the kind of information available to investigators.

Before the attacks, he said, intelligence work relied heavily on traditional investigative techniques. Today, digital records can provide information about where people go, with whom they communicate, what they purchase and what they post online.

But technology is only part of the transformation. Viola said the institutional relationships forged among local, state and federal authorities after 9-11 are among the period's most lasting legacies.

"These are institutions that have cemented the close coordination between state, local, federal, tribal authorities in the past 25 years, and they're going nowhere, for better or worse," he said.

In the aftermath, he said, civil liberties advocates understood that decisions made in response to the attacks could extend far beyond the immediate crisis.

The growth of surveillance after 9-11 also coincided with a separate transformation that would make those systems far more powerful.

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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 for the dogs (6)	_____
2 asking on bended knee (9)	_____
3 where judges preside (5)	_____
4 jeans, in the olden days (9)	_____
5 accurate statements (6)	_____
6 no-nonsense quality (10)	_____
7 pie server, perhaps (8)	_____

INE	CAN	POS	DU	CO
ING	NGA	RIC	ESS	TRU
TRE	WAI	PRO	RE	THS
SS	ST	TN	ES	URT

Saturday's Answers: 1. TWOSOME 2. HOURGLASS 3. PECULIAR 4. CLAUDE 5. CHATELAINE 6. POTSDAM 7. SKYWRITING 9/14

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 suspended like a mobile (7)	_____
2 UN constituent (10)	_____
3 lie (11)	_____
4 like a scoop (9)	_____
5 prince in "Shrek 2" (8)	_____
6 ticket, in old slang (10)	_____
7 manic day for Bangles (6)	_____

PAST	RNM	HANG	BRI	GO
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OARD	DAY	MING	LUS	CAT

Monday's Answers: 1. CANINE 2. PROPOSING 3. COURT 4. DUNGAREES 5. TRUTHS 6. STRICTNESS 7. WAITRESS 9/15

Release Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Prepare, as avocados for guacamole

5 When nothing seems to go right

11 Org. now known as Scouting America

14 Director Premiering

15 Bubble tea balls

16 Duolingo bird

17 Including every flaw

19 Short swim

20 Muse of poetry

21 Trial version

22 Old-school cool

23 Ceremonial act

25 Like serrated knives

28 Country singer Paisley

30 Like the African dish bariis iskukaris

31 Yaps

34 Catch a ride to the beach?

37 More pleasant

38 Green prefix

39 Safe bets, or a phonetic hint to the circled elements of this puzzle?

41 Toward a boat's rudder

42 University of _____ Dame

44 Meh

45 Teeny-tiny

46 Consume more than

48 Mia in the Soccer Hall of Fame

50 In the past few days

53 Laundry container

57 "Pls stop sharing!"

58 Second to none

60 Ish

61 Opposite of trans

62 Radio format likely to appeal to baby boomers

64 Post-OR area

65 Sentence ender

66 Arthur in the International Tennis Hall of Fame

67 Egyptian viper

68 Evaluate

69 Starring role

DOWN

1 Grass-cutting machine

2 Video game pioneer

3 Fender guitar, familiarly

4 Jacuzzis

5 Happy Greek cry

6 _____ for oneself

7 Tapered haircuts

8 Serious genre

9 Green-lights

10 Fashion monogram

11 Feline that helps control pests in a store

12 Express disinterest on a dating app

13 Mont Blanc, e.g.

18 Fly like a dragon

22 TV cable letters

24 Eyelid hair

26 Years and years

27 Like clothes in a 53-Across, probably

29 Couples

31 Italian city known for salami

32 Science of sound

33 "Here's mud in your eye!"

35 Hopping pal of Piglet

36 Herring, but not a red herring

39 Make airtight

40 "Stranger Things" actor Schnapp

43 Loan adjustment, for short

45 Sinful

47 Pool hall fixtures

49 Like some lesbians, slangily

51 Signs of sorrow or joy

52 Nail salon brand

54 Ordinary writing

55 _____ Sketch: drawing toy

56 Made a leaf pile, perhaps

59 General _____ chicken

61 Spy-fi org.

62 Tax prep pro

63 Cards with pics

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

D	V	E	L	S	S	E	S	S	V	A	S	P	S	V		
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09/15/26

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By Faren Roth
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09/15/26

Plug pulled on EVs, Georgia manufacturers adapting and forging ahead

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist

A year ago this month, federal immigration agents raided an electric vehicle battery plant in coastal Georgia and arrested more than 400 people, most of them South Korean workers there to help get the new factory off the ground. It was a grim moment in what has been a challenging year-and-a-half for the industry in Georgia.

But EV-makers are still forging ahead, even if that means making some adjustments.

For years, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has been working to make the state a welcoming home for clean-energy manufacturing, including EVs, solar panels and batteries. Georgia went all out with tax breaks and a worker training program to attract EV and battery makers — and it’s worked.

Georgia-based bus manufacturer Blue Bird started selling electric buses commercially in 2018 and built an expanded factory for electric buses in 2023. In 2022, Hyundai built a plant near Savannah that it said would be dedicated to making EVs. In 2024, Kia started making EVs at its West Point plant. And in 2025, Rivian broke ground on its manufacturing plant near Atlanta.

The Hyundai and Rivian operations are two of the biggest economic development projects in Georgia history. The state also has worked to attract other parts of the EV

and clean energy manufacturing sector, including battery makers and recyclers and solar panel companies.

Under the second Trump administration, the economic outlook for these companies has been destabilized. In addition to ending federal EV tax credits for car buyers, the Trump administration has imposed tariffs on battery packs, charger hardware and other components; loosened rules around emissions from gas-powered cars; and ended the Biden administration’s push to make government vehicle fleets electric.

Factories adjust

At Kia’s plant in West Point, a long and constantly varied line of vehicles moves steadily forward on the assembly line, step by step gaining all the trimmings that turn metal shells into driveable cars. This plant functions more like a short-order cook than a traditional assembly line. Instead of producing big, uniform batches, Kia has designed the plant to manufacture cars according to unique specifications — each one a different model, color or trim.

There are gas-powered, hybrid and electric cars rolling off the line here. Kia says it has done this to make more of the cars people most want to buy at any given moment. Right now, that means hybrids. “What we’ve seen is a transition back away from maybe



File Photo

After the administration pulled the plug on electric vehicles, Georgia manufacturers are adapting to new realities.

full EV vehicle building to this kind of a middle-of-the-road opportunity,” factory CEO Stuart Countess said.

Electric cars are still the future, he said. But for several reasons, including price and charging access, consumers just aren’t there yet. Changes to federal policy are a major factor, too.

“We had a tax incentive credit that did go away,” Countess said. “Sales were really moving in the right direction, but once it went away, it became a much different environment.”

Just as Kia has ramped up hybrid production, its sister company, Hyundai, has added hybrid production to the lineup produced at its massive plant near Savannah, which was originally built to make EVs.

“It’s kind of a messy period we’re in right now,” Stephanie Valdez-Streaty, the director of industry insights at Cox Auto-

motive, said. “But I think the manufacturers are adjusting.”

At the same time, battery-makers throughout the state have started shifting to producing storage batteries for electricity storage in addition to ones made to power vehicles.

“The state continues to have a lot riding on the success of both the electric vehicle but also the battery market,” Stan Cross of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, or SACE, said.

Georgia leads the region in EV and battery manufacturing, but the growth has stumbled, with layoffs at SK Battery earlier this year. More than \$4 billion in investment has been canceled or scaled back in the last year across the Southeast, according to SACE — though that’s dwarfed by the nearly \$74 billion in manufacturing investment that’s moving ahead.

Making vs. buying EVs

One open question, Cross

said, is whether Georgians will buy the hybrids and EVs being made in the state. Despite actively pursuing EV manufacturing, Georgia doesn’t have incentives to encourage EV adoption like some other states. In fact, there’s an extra registration fee designed to make up for lost gas taxes.

“When it comes to electric vehicles, Georgia politics remains utterly confused,” Cross said.

Private investment continues, though, including in charging infrastructure — a key missing piece for many car buyers considering going electric. Kia and Hyundai are part of a charging consortium called IONNA that has installed several charging stations around the state, including one at the Kia factory site in West Point. Electric utilities are investing more in vehicle charging, too.

Across the region, EV-related investment by utilities increased by 14% this year, according to SACE.

“Though we’re not seeing a lot of activity on the legislative side, we do see potential on the regulatory side and really are encouraging Georgia Power to step up and help kind of fill the void that policymakers in the state are creating,” Cross said.

Valdez-Streaty said she believes that, over time, making EVs in Georgia will likely lead to more people in Georgia buying them.

“It’s like that familiarity, right?” she said. “People have jobs at those companies and familiarity with those products.”

Though shaky for the last 18 months or so, she said the EV market is starting to stabilize — and the auto industry is still going electric. It’s just taking a little longer.

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



Southern AG Carriers to celebrate new headquarters with ribbon-cutting, open house

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Southern AG Carriers will celebrate the opening of its new headquarters with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on Tuesday at 11 a.m. The event will take place at 705 McCollum Drive in Albany.

The celebration will bring together employees, customers, community leaders and friends of the company to commemorate this important milestone in Southern AG Carriers’ continued growth.

“For more than 30 years, Southern AG Carriers has been built on hard work, strong relationships and a commitment to serving our customers,” Lem Goodpasture, CEO of Southern AG Holdings, said in a news release. “This new headquarters represents an investment in our people, our community and the future of our company.

“We are proud to call Albany home and look forward to continuing to grow from the strong foundation established here.”

The new facility is designed to support Southern AG Carriers’ expanding operations while creating a welcoming and collaborative environment for its employees, drivers, customers and partners. Although the building is new, officials said, the values behind the company remain unchanged: dependable service, a strong work ethic and a commitment to the people and industries it serves.

The program will include remarks from company and community leaders, special employee recognitions and an official ribbon-cutting. Guests also will have an opportunity to tour the new headquarters and learn more about Southern AG Carriers and its operations.

Georgia Power plans drawdown of Lake Worth/Chehaw

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Georgia Power is notifying residents and recreational users of a planned drawdown at Lake Worth/Chehaw in Albany beginning Sept. 21.

The drawdown is part of routine lake management activities and will lower the reservoir to a target elevation of 176.3 feet on Sept. 30. Refill of the lake is scheduled to begin Nov. 1. During the drawdown period, homeowners and lake users should be aware that daily reservoir fluctuations are expected as the dam passes incoming flows from upstream Crisp County releases.

Important safety and property reminders:

Do not leave equipment, personal property, or materials in exposed lakebed areas during the drawdown period.



Georgia Power

Special Logo

All construction and maintenance activities, including dredging, within the project boundary require approval from Georgia Power Lake Management.

Property owners should review shoreline management guidelines before submitting permit requests.

Shoreline management information is available at <https://www.georgiapower.com/our-impact/lakes-rivers/shoreline-management.html>.



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Foundation donors have helped the foundation provide more than \$170,000 in Labor & Delivery and the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Phoebe Foundation invests \$170,000-plus in care for mothers and babies

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — From welcoming a new baby into the world to providing specialized care when a newborn needs additional support, the teams at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital are there for families during some of life’s most meaningful moments.

Thanks to the generosity of Phoebe Foundation donors, more than \$170,000 is being invested in Labor & Delivery and the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, helping provide important resources for mothers, babies and families throughout their care experience.

The Phoebe Foundation recently provided approximately \$140,000 to the NICU and \$32,000 to Labor & Delivery. The NICU provides special-

ized care for premature and critically ill newborns, while the Labor & Delivery team supports mothers and babies throughout childbirth and those first important moments together.

“As a mom, I know what it means to have the very best care available close to home, during pregnancy, throughout childbirth and beyond,” Parker Douglas, director of the Phoebe Foundation, said. “My children were born at Phoebe Putney, and I was born here, too, so this gift is especially meaningful to me.

“I’m proud to be part of a Foundation and hospital that care so deeply for mothers, babies and families in our community, and I’m equally grateful to our donors who make investments like this

possible.”

Among the resources made possible through this funding is a Sentec TCOM+, a specialized monitoring system for the NICU that allows the care team to continuously and non-invasively monitor important respiratory information for newborns. For Phoebe’s tiniest and most vulnerable patients, the technology allows caregivers to closely monitor their needs while minimizing unnecessary disruptions.

“For the families we care for, these are moments they will remember for the rest of their lives, and we want them to feel supported and cared for every step of the way,” RN Jennifer Heleski, director of Women’s and Children’s Services at Phoebe, said. “This generous support from the

Phoebe Foundation helps give our teams the resources they need to provide exceptional care for mothers and babies, while also creating a comforting and reassuring experience for the entire family. We are incredibly grateful to the foundation and its donors for investing in the families we are so privileged to serve.”

For families welcoming a new baby, having exceptional care close to home can bring comfort during joyful moments and reassurance when the unexpected happens. Through the generosity of Phoebe Foundation donors, investments like these help ensure mothers, babies and families can receive the care and support they need right here in the community they call home.