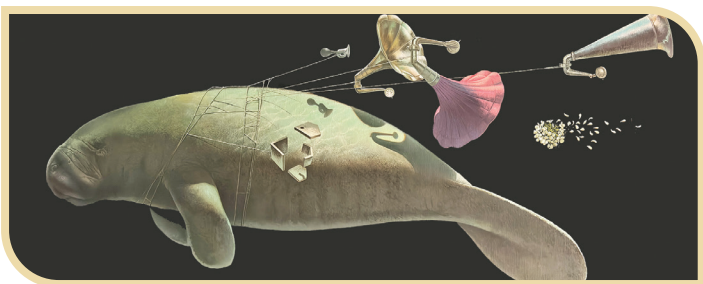




Perspectives
Marc Hyden
• Page 4A



New exhibits
AMA to host reception
• Page 12A



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ALBANYHERALD.COM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Seventh annual Recovery in the Streets brings Saturday celebration

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Organizers are hoping the seventh Recovery in the Streets will be the biggest and best ever, with another lineup of fun, music and resources lined up for the annual National Recovery Month celebration. The 2026 edition for Recovery in the Streets is slated for 2-6 p.m. on Saturday outside the Flint RiverQuarium located at the intersection of Pine Avenue and North Front Street. “Recovery is for every person, every family, every community,” Kathleen Bishop, program coordinator at the

Change Center, said. Albany’s Recovery Month event has become the largest in the state, and last year drew 1,012 attendees. It is sponsored by the Change Center, an Albany addiction recovery support center, Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services, and a number of sponsors in the community. “We’re hoping for bigger numbers this year,” Change Center Director Alesha Burgman said. “It’s grown every year. If we could get 1,500 or more out there, we would love it.” Saturday’s Recovery in the Streets will include four vendors, with 300 free food tickets

available. A free all-day raffle will have a prize drawing at 5 p.m. of a \$500 grocery card. A kid’s corner will feature a bounce house, game truck, face painting, treasure chest and games. “We’ll have live music and a DJ,” Burgman said. “There will be over 20 vendors (including) agencies from the community with resources. Several churches will be present.” The Change Center director invited individuals in recovery and their family members and the community at large to show up. Among the topics speakers will address are the state’s amnesty law that allows in-

dividuals who call for assistance for someone having an overdose to avoid prosecution for small amounts of illegal substances as well as Narcan training and free doses of Narcan. Narcan is the brand name for naloxone, a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. “We know that recovery is for the entire community,” Burgman said. “It affects us all, so we want to come together and celebrate. We hope every part of the community is there: parents, kids, not just individuals who may have challenges, but their loved ones.”



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
Change Center Director Alesha Burgman, left, and Program Coordinator Kathleen Bishop display the 2026 Recovery in the Streets T-shirt. The event is held each year as part of National Recovery Month.

Nationally honored MCLB-Albany Toys for Tots drive targets 18,000 toys



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

First Sgt. Paul Alejo Jr., center, speaks Tuesday as Salvation Army Maj. Albert Cancia looks on during the 2026 Toys for Tots campaign kickoff at Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany. The nationally recognized campaign aims to collect more than 18,000 toys for children across 13 southwest Georgia counties.

By Kathryn Crockett
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ALBANY – After nearly tripling the number of children it served and earning recognition as the nation’s top local campaign, Albany’s Toys for Tots program launched its 2026 drive Tuesday with a goal of collecting more than 18,000 toys for children across southwest Georgia. Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany and the Salvation Army are again partnering to collect and distribute toys in 13 counties. Families may begin applying Oct. 1, and the campaign will continue through Dec. 14, local coordinator 1st Sgt. Paul Alejo Jr. said during the kickoff. The Albany campaign served slightly less than 7,000 children in 2025 and was named the national winner during the Toys for Tots conference held

over the weekend, Alejo said. The base’s press release said the campaign outpaced every other region in the country. “Albany, Georgia, was No. 1 in the nation,” Alejo said. “It’s not so much the numbers, but the impact we had in the community.” Albany is considerably smaller than many of the cities operating Toys for Tots campaigns, Alejo said. He attributed the recognition to the local program’s rapid growth and the scale of its impact from one year to the next. “That’s what kind of set us apart this year, and we’re hoping to replicate it again this upcoming year,” he said. The Albany program covers Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Lee, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter and Worth counties. Families experiencing financial hardship may apply

through the Albany campaign website at Albany-GA.ToysforTots.org beginning Oct. 1. Alejo said parents, grandparents or other adults caring for children may register and that the program does not conduct an intrusive examination of a family’s finances. “There’s really no requirements if you have a financial hardship,” Alejo said. “We’re not going to dig.” Applicants should use the name shown on their identification because they must present valid identification when picking up toys, Alejo said. The Salvation Army will review the applications and assist families with registration Monday through Friday beginning in October. The partnership also seeks to reach children whose parents are incarcerated, Maj. Albert Cancia, corps officer

See TOYS, 2A

Dougherty County Commission moves closer to imposing curfew

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY– Looking to address the issues of youth crime and gang violence, the Dougherty County Commission on Monday solicited input on a potential curfew for youngsters 17 and younger. The commission heard from Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson and Albany Police Chief Michael Persley during its Monday work session. “The goal would be to lower crime, to lower gang activity,” Johnson said. “The reason I feel the county needs one is the things that happen in the city are likely to happen in the county. You have juveniles who can go right across the street (Gillionville Road) and go to McDonald’s and

do whatever they want. I feel like being proactive and having a countywide (curfew).” The city’s curfew is not meant to be strictly punitive, Persley told commissioners. It is also meant to be educational. Albany officers can give a warning for a first offense, issue citations to minors for a second offense and cite parents upon a third offense, the chief said. The city of Albany has had a curfew since September 2004, and city and county officials have been discussing the issue of broadening its reach to include the county. Under the city’s curfew, minors unaccompanied by an adult are prohibited from engaging in activities on streets and highways, playgrounds, and

See CURFEW 2A

National Trust for Local NEWS

National Trust for Local News expands to Vermont

Staff Reports
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STOWE, Vt. – The National Trust for Local News is expanding to a fourth state with the acquisition of the Vermont Community Newspaper Group, a family of award-winning weekly newspapers and digital platforms covering more than a dozen northern Vermont communities. Thanks to a community-first decision by VTCNG’s owners, the National Trust will acquire five weekly newspapers and their websites serving more than a dozen communities in Northern Vermont. The titles are: -- The Stowe Reporter -- News & Citizen (cover-

ing greater Lamoille County) -- The Other Paper (covering South Burlington) -- The Citizen (covering Charlotte/Hinesburg) -- Shelburne News The deal will close this month. The entire VTCNG team, which includes 15 full-time and two part-time employees, will be retained. The group’s office will remain at its current location on Mountain Road in Stowe. Citing increased financial stresses on their business, VTCNG majority owner Bob Miller and minority owners Judy Kearns and Bidle Duke earlier this year decided to establish non-profit ownership by the end

See VERMONT, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

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

FREE

HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

9 am – 12 pm

Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds

Free to the public!

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITES, SCREENINGS, RESOURCE VENDORS and much more!!

AAPHC
Albany Area Primary Health Care

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

CareSource

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LRA
CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

FYZICAL
Therapy & Balance Centers

Albany Tech, Powerhouse Automotive Group sign work-based learning agreement

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany Technical College and Powerhouse Automotive Group signed a memorandum of understanding Tuesday, establishing a three-year partnership that will expand work-based learning opportunities for students while strengthening connections between classroom instruction and the workplace.

The agreement provides apprenticeship, internship and occupation-based instruction opportunities for Albany Technical College students in Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology and Accounting.

Albany Tech and Powerhouse Automotive will work together to ensure that participating students receive educational and workplace experiences that meet applicable state standards. Participating students may earn a living wage and/or course credit toward a degree or diploma while gaining experience in their chosen field.

“This partnership gives our students another opportunity

to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it in an actual workplace,” ATC President Emmett Griswold said. “Employers need graduates who understand their field and are prepared to work effectively from Day 1. Partnerships like this help us connect education directly to workforce expectations while giving students valuable experience before they graduate.”

Under the agreement, Powerhouse Automotive will identify appropriate work experiences, designate workplace supervisors, provide assignments related to students’ occupational interests and evaluate student performance. Albany Technical College faculty will supervise the educational component, maintain communication with workplace supervisors and ensure the experience meets curriculum requirements.

“Our world needs all of us to take responsibility for making it a better place for future generations,” Fernando Arellano Geddes with Powerhouse Automotive said. “That’s not just



Special Photo: Albany Tech

Albany Technical College President Emmett Griswold, left, and Fernando Arellano Geddes with Powerhouse Automotive Group signed a three-year agreement Tuesday.

a business principle, it’s a personal one. This partnership with Albany Technical College is one of the ways PowerHouse contributes to that vision.

“I believe that maybe I’m late to ‘change the world,’ but perhaps we can inspire others to do it. By investing in Albany Tech students and giving them real opportunities to learn and grow, we’re planting seeds for a future we won’t fully see.”

Judy Jimmerson, associate vice president for Career Ser-

vices at Albany Tech, will coordinate the college’s responsibilities under the agreement, including student recommendations and communication with Powerhouse Automotive. The agreement is effective from Aug. 1 this year through Aug. 1, 2029. The partnership is intended to give students meaningful experience in professional work settings while helping employers connect with students preparing for careers in fields important to the regional workforce.”



From 1A CURFEW

restaurants and businesses between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on weekdays from midnight to 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

It includes exceptions for individuals traveling to and from work as well as for religious and other approved activities. It does not apply to private property where teenagers have permission to gather.

The curfew is a tool that al-

lows police to notify parents of where their children are, Persley said.

“From a law enforcement perspective, I believe the most important (element) is prevention, not enforcement and can also serve as an important tool for parents,” he said. “It should not be used as the sole solution for youth crime and gang activity.”

“Our goal should not be solely to tell juveniles where they should not be, but should be part of providing a safe place where they can be.”

Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Albany Police Chief Michael Persley, left, and Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson address the Dougherty County Commission on Monday during a discussion about the adoption of a countywide curfew.

From 1A TOYS

for the Salvation Army, said. “We’re also expanding the program to children whose parents are incarcerated,” Cancia said. “We reach out to them and provide for them.”

Cancia said the number of families served ultimately depends on the volume of donations, noting, “We could reach as high as we could, as long as we have toys to provide.”

Specific in-person registration hours and distribution instructions will be posted by

the local campaign. Families should check the website for current dates and details before visiting.

Residents may contribute toys or make monetary donations. Collection boxes will be placed at participating businesses and organizations, and businesses may ask to become a drop-off location through the local website.

“Even if we didn’t collect toys in a certain business, just having the Toys for Tots box kind of brought some awareness to the community,” Alejo said. “You see a box. It prompts you to think about donating.”

Cash donations may be made

through albany-ga.toysfortots.org or by scanning the QR code displayed on campaign collection boxes. The website also provides information about hosting a toy drive, volunteering and other ways to participate. An annual golf tournament at River Pointe Golf Club also supports the campaign.

The local drive is coordinated by Alejo and Gunnery Sgt. Clarissa Verastegui. Alejo credited businesses, individual donors, the city of Albany and other community partners with the campaign’s 2025 success.

Cancia said the Salvation

Army’s work with families continues beyond the Christmas campaign.

“During the holiday season and throughout the year,” he said, the organization also operates a weekly food pantry for people facing hardship. “We are open 365 days a year.”

Toys for Tots began in Los Angeles in 1947 after Diane Hendricks asked her husband, Marine Corps Reserve Maj. Bill Hendricks, to donate handcrafted dolls to children in need. When he could not find an organization to accept them, she urged him to cre-

Ward VI city commissioner to host town hall meeting

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany City Commissioner Diana Brown will hold a Saturday meeting to discuss voting issues and blight. The town hall meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at the Nativity Academy Learning Center, 2115 S. Madison St.

Personnel from the city’s Code Enforcement Department will be among the speakers.

For more information and accessibility accommodations, call the city clerk’s office at (229) 431-2161.



DIANA BROWN

SCAN CODE TO
VIEW SPORTS ONLINE



Cobb County defense attorney charged with pandering, sexual battery

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MARIETTA — Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr announced that his office has filed a formal accusation in Cobb County charging Roger L. Curry, 77, with pandering and sexual battery. Curry, who is an attorney with Roger L. Curry P.C. in Marietta, is alleged to have solicited sexual acts from a client.



CHRIS CARR

“These are serious allegations that will not be tolerated, no matter who is involved,” Carr said. “We’re proud to have worked with the GBI on this case, and we will ensure those responsible

are held fully accountable for their actions.”

This case was investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit.

“Our HEAT Unit works closely with our local, state and federal partners to investigate human trafficking and protect victims from further exploitation,” GBI Director Chris Hosey said. “Undercover operations are a critical

tool in these investigations, helping us expose those who abuse positions of trust and exploit vulnerable individuals. We will continue to pursue these offenders and hold them accountable.”

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

Albany Civil Rights Institute

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

Located in the heart of Albany, the Albany Civil Rights Institute preserves and shares the powerful history of the Civil Rights Movement in Southwest Georgia. Through exhibits, educational programs, historic collections, and community engagement, the Institute helps visitors understand the people, events, and stories that shaped our community and our nation.

The Institute plays an important role in preserving Albany's history while creating opportunities for future generations to learn, reflect, and continue meaningful conversations about equality, courage, and community.

We are proud to recognize the Albany Civil Rights Institute for its commitment to education, preservation, and our community. Thank you for helping ensure these important stories continue to be remembered and shared!

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

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Albany, GA 31701

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Special Illustration

From 1A
VERMONT

of 2026. They identified the National Trust, a nonprofit operating dozens of news organizations in three states, as the right home for VTCNG. They are selling the papers for a nominal fee. VTCNG also will continue to publish the biannual Stowe Guide & Magazine.

Under the National Trust, these publications will exist solely for public benefit. They will continue to operate under local leadership, ensuring continuity for readers, advertisers, employees and vendors.

“Establishing a sustainable future for our community newspapers has been our priority for several years,” the owners said. “By selling these publications to the National Trust, not only can they survive but there will be investment in expanding coverage to thrive in a climate where local news is so important and increasingly

difficult to find.”

The National Trust will preserve these well-known titles while providing the capital, expertise and infrastructure needed to unlock the group’s growth potential.

“These publications have a solid foundation from which a stronger future can be built,” Tom Wiley, the chief executive officer of the National Trust, said. “They are vital local news sources for Northern Vermont, led by an experienced team that has trusted relationships with readers, advertisers and a wide range of community partners.”

The acquisition ensures VTCNG publications continue to provide enterprising hyperlocal journalism for their communities, while benefiting from the National Trust’s model of investment in news innovation, audience growth and community engagement.

News industry veteran Bill Stille will immediately begin working with the VTCNG team as a transition and transformation adviser provided by the National Trust. Stille is

nearly 11 million children in 2025. Since 1947, the program has distributed 732 million toys to 325 million children, according to the foundation.

Alejo, who has children of his own, said helping another family provide Christmas gifts offers a reward that is difficult to duplicate.

“I’m a father of five, so I know what Christmas means for the kids. Now I’m able to do the same thing for more people in the community,” he said. “It’s a feeling you can’t replicate.”

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Wait until tomorrow for anything whose outcome matters, stars flip from poor to helpful overnight. Stick to known strategies to get things done — these same poor stars typically generate poor new ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There's a lot of hope queuing up for you in the financial realm but please don't act on anything until tomorrow or after. Starting when stars are below zero can often burn a bridge forever.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Problems seldom get worked out when stars are underwater, but it can be easy to make them worse. Tomorrow could provide the missing pieces from today's observations — with added clarity, much can improve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You could get a few hours of serendipity despite today's below-zero day score, especially in just taking care of daily basics. An idea could be brewing but today's not the day to present it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Creative juices could flow — work on passion projects which can take their own time. Avoid putting finishing touches on anything that has to be right, poor stars often mean something gets missed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be grateful for small wins, they're less common when strs are in darkness. Cocoon time at home could be just what's needed. Make no new beginnings today, tomorrow offers much better odds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hold that thought. Even if it looks like a true winner — actually, especially if it looks that way. Even little stuff benefits from better timing. For the big stuff, don't kill something awesome by timing it all wrong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect money matters to improve but don't start anything today. New ambitions coupled with resources

and the healing of blocks will all help going forward. Check in on a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): While the mood could strike for an appearance change, waiting for better stars will minimize potential regret. Risks get magnified when stars are below zero, and satisfaction becomes far less likely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A period of learning could soon pivot into putting that new knowledge or those new skills into action. Deep inner seeking could bring up buried treasure, making all of life easier.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Tread lightly today but by tomorrow, a little honesty could bring healing to a friendship. Cooperation could soon arrive in a shared situation or financial matter. Don't let anyone else dictate your values.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Today is a day to get through without trying to initiate anything — tomorrow could bring a breakthrough. Likewise, put a pin in a relationship discussion until tomorrow or after.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Take a breath, the rest of 2026 should be both easier and more helpful than the preceding months of the year. October could bring significant insights worth noting. At least one could become a real gamechanger for you. Later in the month a potential opportunity could roll in — be sure it's real and not just an illusion. If it's bonafide, it could bring in some nice income. A nice surprise could land in November, then a shower of gifts could arrive. Money, yes, but not only money — a lot of what you've been waiting for could come in then. Emotions around this could be big — don't be afraid, you're ready or the Universe wouldn't have brought it to you. The holiday season could bring important healing or resolution, and you could really step into your full potentials.



1849 - American abolitionist Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery
1862 - The Allegheny Arsenal explosion is the single largest civilian disaster during the American Civil War
1908 - The first airplane fatality is Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge when he was riding as a passenger on the Wright Flyer flown by Orville Wright
1914 - Andrew Fisher becomes the Prime Minister of Australia for the third time
1928 - The Okeechobee hurricane kills more than 2,500 people when it strikes southeastern Florida
1935 - A rockslide stops operations of the Niagara Gorge Railroad
1961 - The Civic Arena in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

opens with the worlds first retractable roof stadium
1976 - NASA unveils the Space Shuttle Enterprise
1983 - Vanessa Williams becomes the first black Miss America
1991 - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, North Korea, South Korea all join the United Nations
2001 - The New York Stock Exchange reopens for trading after the September 11 attacks
2006 - Fourpeaked Mountain in Alaska erupts for the first time in at least 10,000 years
2016 - Two bombs explode in Seaside Park, New Jersey and Manhattan with thirty one people injured in the Manhattan bombing.

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Citizenship Day
- Constitution Day
- Free Queso Day
- International Country Music Day
- International Day of Listening
- National Apple Dumping Day
- National PawPaw Day
- National Professional House Cleaners Day
- National Table Shuffleboard Day
- National Teach Ag Day
- Odd Socks Day
- Times Up Day
- VFW Ladies Auxiliary Day
- World Patient Safety Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Men are born to succeed, not fail."

Henry David Thoreau,
writer/philosopher (1817-1862)

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

Who is dougherty board of assessors member Larry Thomas?? i understand Je'Nita Lane is in jail, but who chose Larry Thomas to speak to the citizens group last Thursday? it is very evident he is not trained in any real estate matters. when he was speaking why did i get the feeling that preacher lorenzo heard was speaking? is Mr. Thomas a preacher also? since there are no qualifications to "ask" to serve on the board of assessors, why would Larry Thomas and Je'Nita Lane "ask" to be on the board?? strange! this county government is a stinking mess.

Do not fear Hamas or Hezbollah. You had better fear the Democratic Party and want they want to do to this country.

Everyone, including me, is upset on the new property values. but we must get back to how ridiculous property is taxed. property owners are being taxed on increase value of their homes, but those homeowners have not received a red penny of that value increase until they sell that property. we are being taxed on money we have not earned. we are being taxed on values that someone else says our property is worth. and non-profits are not taxed at all. the entire system is rotten to the core.

I didn't really understand Kathryn Crockett's column ... it was too disjointed to keep up with. Maybe stick to covering news in Dawson.

Carlton has many hidden talents; he just can't remember where he hid them.

What did Dougherty County Commissioners expect? Higher taxes. Mysteriously slow response times from police and fire fighters. Millions wasted on crooked apartment deals (and who knows what else). Childish yelling matches in public meetings. County employees with bad attitudes who do stare at their phones all day but still get huge paycheck. Zero action addressing crime. Do they really us expect taxpayers to be happy?

The Democratic Socialists are a liberal version of the Tea Party Crazies.

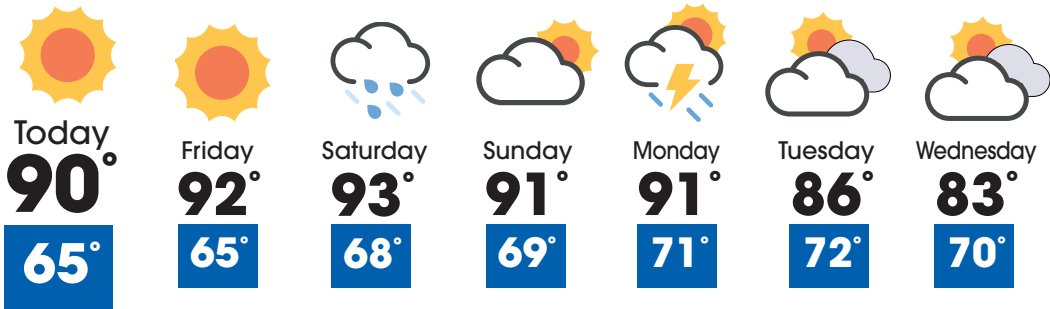
Albany is on the verge of becoming a wasteland. With crooked and incompetent politicians on the city and county commissions and the school board, the disintegration of a once-great community is speeding up every day, with each new crooked move by these leaders. Help is not coming from the state; we have to get rid of these crooks in positions of power.

Bow-tie Billy is at it again. Beware, Lee County.

"It is the duty of parents to maintain their children decently, and according to their circumstances; to protect them according to the dictates of prudence; and to educate them according to the suggestions of a judicious and zealous regard for their usefulness, their respectability and happiness." —James Wilson (1791)

The conservative clowns say we should be afraid if Democrats win the midterm elections. I can't help but wonder what their take is on the person who is running this country literally into the ground. Forget party politics for a moment -- I've always voted Republican -- how can anybody support this buffoon who is ruining our country?

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Going to Plan D

By Frank Stewart

Tribune Content Agency

Another sign standing guard beside a church in my town: "God doesn't have a Plan B."

At 3NT, declarer invoked the

NORTH			
♠ 5 3			
♥ A K J 10 5			
♦ 9 8 3			
♣ Q 5 2			
WEST			
♠ 10 8 6 4 2			
♥ 6 4			
♦ Q 7 6 2			
♣ 7 4			
EAST			
♠ K J 9 7			
♥ Q 9 7 2			
♦ 5			
♣ A 10 9 8			
SOUTH			
♠ A Q			
♥ 8 3			
♦ A K J 10 4			
♣ K J 6 3			
East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Dbl	Redbl	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Opening lead — ♠ 4			
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Frank Stewart

first three letters of the alphabet -- and still failed. Upon winning the opening lead, he tried a club to dummy's queen. East won and returned a spade.

South took his queen and next cashed the K-J of clubs, hoping for a 3-3 break, but West discarded (no surprise after East had doubled for takeout). South went to Plan B: He took the A-K of diamonds, hoping the queen would fall. When East discarded, South finessed with dummy's ten of hearts (Plan C). He went down three when East produced the queen.

ACE OF CLUBS

South should have tried Plan D. He leads a heart to dummy at Trick Two and returns a low club through East, who surely has the ace for his double. If

East grabs the ace, South has nine tricks: three clubs and two of everything else.

If instead East plays low, South wins and starts the diamonds. He wins four diamonds, two hearts, two spades and one club.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: SAQH83DAKJ104CKJ63. You open one diamond. Your partner bids one heart. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your hand is not quite strong enough for a jump-shift to three clubs, which would force to game opposite a minimum six-point response. You can bid two clubs, hoping partner won't pass with enough values to support a game contract. A reasonable option is an invitational jump to 2NT, suggesting a balanced 18 or 19 points.

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Parents want to be included in vacation activities despite mobility challenges

By Eric Thomas

Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My husband and I have had many wonderful trips with my parents over the years. We have always invited them on our family vacations with the kids and had a, generally, wonderful time.

They are both in their 80s. I'm grateful that they are still a big part of our lives and are both able to travel, but we have noticed significant changes in their behavior and mobility on the last couple of trips. Hyper-focusing on money, even though they are well-to-do and insisting they are fine to walk despite suggestions of taking Uber/Lyft or public transportation, making things uncomfortable for everyone.

I can only imagine how frustrating it would be to not be able to do the things you're used to doing, so I thought perhaps the solution was to plan "parent friendly" trips with them that take into account their slower pace. (They're not aware these trips are any different than our usual trips.)

But they still make comments about joining us on everything. My husband and I love to walk cities and routinely walk 10 to 12 miles a day on trips, so this is definitely not an option for my parents anymore.

I am ready to have trips with just my husband and our adult kids, but I dread the uncomfortable conversations that are to come. Any suggestions on how to make this easier for them and me?

— Trying Hard to be a Good Daughter

Dear Daughter: The impulse to create "parent friendly" trips is a kind one. And though it makes sense that you might not want

to let them know you're trying to plan around their changes in ability, talking openly about it and inviting them to be part of the planning itself might be a helpful next step.

As you plan your next trip, you may want to talk with your parents about your desire to do a day or two of 10- to 12-mile walks and suggest that they, and perhaps other members of the family, come up with a plan for those days that makes them happy and meets them where they are. This could mean they'd join you for part of the day and then linger at a museum or a park. Or it could mean they do their own thing and then meet up with you for dinner.

The hope is to empower everyone to have the vacation they want. It's totally fine for part of the group to split off for part of the time. And it makes it easier to do so if everyone is on the same page. This way, you're not having a conversation about limitations; you're having a conversation about what's possible and dreaming together.

Dear Eric: I have a question about social etiquette for how to handle my husband's small company work and/or holiday parties.

We have been together for 20 years, and his workplace is very aware of my shellfish allergy (which has become life-threatening). This became common knowledge the first time we were out together due to a simple mistake of cross-contamination in the kitchen and, thank goodness, it was a mild reaction (lips/tongue swelling), but it was still quite scary and embarrassing for me.

For years, the owner of the company and his wife (who



Eric Thomas

also works there) have made sure to keep shellfish off the menu. However, in the last three years, this has changed, and I'm seriously uncomfortable with this new situation.

Unfortunately, my husband is management, and his boss doesn't like it when people don't show up to his parties (he has been known to have drunken rants, a bad attitude, etc.), and neither of us wants to deal with this.

Yet, we don't drink alcohol, and neither of us can eat anything, so I sit there feeling awkward, especially when I'm being pushed to eat/drink. I don't want to be rude, but I am not about to go into anaphylactic shock just to make him or anyone else happy. Please help me before the next party.

— No Party For Me

Dear Party: It's a little odd that the owner and his wife would suddenly stop being conscientious of your allergy. There could be a number of reasons for this so it may be useful for you to ask them about it. Alternatively, your husband might bring it up, as he's the person with whom they interact on a regular basis. It's a simple request and surely, as the hosts, they'll understand the usefulness of making sure that everyone is able to enjoy the parties without fearing a medical emergency.

It's also possible that someone else has taken over party-planning duties. If you have a conversation with the owner, it's likely that this will come up and you can reach out to the new party planner with your concerns.

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

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—
LOCAL NEWS

**TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE**

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”
Ephesians 3:20

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Inflator-in-chief Trump keeps losing on affordability

President Trump warned in 2016 that he could ultimately prove too successful at solving America’s problems. “We’re gonna win so much,” he boasted, “you may even get tired of winning. And you’ll say, ‘Please, please. It’s too much winning. We can’t take it anymore, it’s too much.’”

Political campaigns rise and fall on kitchen table issues, like affordability, and Trump knows this. In response to Joe Biden’s inflation-plagued presidential term, he made a host of bold economic promises in 2024 and roared back into power as Americans awaited more winning. Unfortunately, they are now left to realize some campaign promises are as hollow and worthless as Trump’s Meme Coin, and the president continues to exacerbate and even embrace failure.

“Starting on day one,” Trump announced in 2024, “we will end inflation and make America affordable again, to bring down the prices of all goods.” While on the campaign trail, he specifically promised: “Your groceries will be cheaper.” “We will be slashing energy and electricity prices by half within 12 months, at a maximum 18 months.” He even campaigned on “getting gas under \$2 a gallon.”

This is exactly what Americans wanted to hear. Inflation under the Biden administration advanced at a break-neck rate, and Trump presented himself as a kind of economic savant who could reverse years of mismanagement. He is closing in on two years into his second term, and is starting to seem a lot like Biden – utterly incapable of stabilizing the situation and instead claiming all is well.

In January, Trump proclaimed, “inflation is defeated” – if only that statement was rooted in reality. The inflation rate in May was 4.2% and around 3.5% in June and July. While lower than the shocking inflation rates under the Biden administration, this still exceeds the Federal Reserve target of 2%, and proves inflation is not defeated. Rather it keeps growing faster than economists prefer and outpacing wage increases.

When you drill further down into the data, some other concerning trends appear that also undercut Trump’s victory lap. Beef prices are up 10% year over

year and coffee is hovering near record highs, and eating out costs 3.4% more than last year. While price inflation for groceries is up a more modest 2.7%, it still is not cheaper like Trump pledged, and it feels particularly painful for families.

Utility bills likewise have not been halved, like Trump promised. They are steadily increasing, but what about \$2 gas? Last I drove by the local QuickTrip, gas stood at nearly \$3.95 – close to double Trump’s goal. Meanwhile, oil is around \$100 a barrel.

Trump now even acknowledges all this. Earlier this summer, he said, “You know what I really love? I love the inflation.” He even went as far as to claim high gas prices are a win. “The United States is the largest oil producer in the world, by far, so when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money,” he wrote on Truth Social. Tell that to a single mother who has to fill up her tank.

Trump’s pivot to the supposed glories of inflation shouldn’t be a surprise. While many variables contributing to inflation are outside of his control, he has pulled several levers that directly increase costs on Americans. Waging war on Iran roiled oil markets, imposing broad tariffs increased consumer costs and perpetuating high federal government deficit spending is adding pressure to the economy.

It doesn’t take great wisdom to see this, but Trump has failed to learn his lesson. The Iran conflict has no end in sight, the feds don’t take budgets seriously and haven’t for decades, and Trump keeps picking tariff fights with allies. He most recently imposed tariffs against Canada, which threatens to make groceries even more costly, and he would love to do the same to other countries. Trump even asserted “tariff” is “the most beautiful word in the dictionary.”

What is Trump to do? When politicians are to blame for problems, they have a couple of options: They can either own it and fix it or claim the problems are good. In many ways, Trump is in a bind of his own making, and he has chosen the latter path in hopes Americans will believe him. When Trump persistently presents losses as wins, then his 2016 statement rings true: “Please, please. It’s too much winning. We can’t take it anymore, it’s too much.”



HYDEN

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

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

Who’s gonna fill Dolly’s shoes?

Two weeks ago, I asked if there are any celebrities who inspire people like Dolly Parton did. Could anyone else elicit such an outpouring of love? Today, I’ll share your thoughts, and mine.

Dolly is a tough act to follow. Her record of kindness and generosity may be impossible to replicate. According to the New York Times, 70% of Americans expressed a favorable view of Dolly in a Umass/YouGov poll in March 2026, the highest approval rate for any living person. I’d like to have a word with the other 30%, who probably also frown on puppies, homegrown tomatoes and a cool summer breeze.

Dolly had just turned 80 when she died, so I will spotlight other octogenarians, and a few folks in their 90s and beyond.

Cher was a frequently suggested name. She, too, is 80, and is among the few living ladies whose longevity as a hitmaker compares to Dolly’s. They have a lot in common. Both began making records in their teens, both were notable for their clothing, and both branched out into movies and television. I don’t think Cher will ever build amusement parks and convenience stores, but I do know she was one of Dolly’s most fervent admirers.

Diana Ross, at 82, is another national treasure who is still touring and drawing crowds more than 60 years after making her recording debut. Like Cher, she hasn’t been quite as accessible as Dolly in recent years, but she has certainly made a lasting mark on the world.

In the world of country music, if Dolly was the queen, Willie Nelson would certainly be the king. The 93-year-old “outlaw” is on the road, again. During a random week in September, he is doing two shows in Virginia, one in Connecticut, and another in Pennsylvania. Dolly attributed her eight-decade run of good health to “Southern comfort” food. Willie says his secret to a long life is a diet of “oatmeal in the morning, and bacon and eggs in the evening.” I know what you’re thinking. What about Willie’s well-earned reputation for marijuana use, around the clock? Willie told People magazine, “I can’t smoke weed anymore, but I do ingest some edibles.”

Plus, he has created a THC-infused drink called “Willie’s Remedy.” I can’t argue with the results, folks.

Many Americans are inspired by a quintet of well-preserved British rock stars: Rolling Stones Mick Jagger (83) and Keith Richards (82), former Beatles Paul McCartney (84) and Ringo Starr (86), and Elton John (almost 80).

All are still recording and performing. Jagger’s trademark energy is still on display at live shows, and as for Richards, as the joke goes, after a nuclear war, the only survivors will be cockroaches, Cher, and Keith Richards. Richards’ pharmaceutical history is legendary, but somehow it works for him.

McCartney doesn’t just put on a concert. He’s on stage singing dozens of his hits for a solid two hours and 40 minutes. As for Starr, I’ll be seeing him this month at his “All-Starr Band” show in Washington, D.C. He’s like the Energizer Bunny, doing calisthenics on stage. It will be an honor to see the world’s youngest 86-year-old drummer promoting his agenda of peace and love.

Elton John has “retired” more than once. But he’s still donning the outsized sunglasses and the colorful coats, giving audiences what they want.

Eighty-one-year-old Steve Martin is still one of the world’s sharpest comedy minds, and his shows with Martin Short (comedy tours around the nation and “Only Murders” on Hulu) are a testament to his creativity and energy.

Harrison Ford, at 84, has been a superstar since the days of “American Graffiti” and “Star Wars.” In recent years, he’s dominated in comedy too, in “Shrinking” on Apple TV.

I’m thankful that Barbra Streisand (84), Alan Alda (90), Carol Burnett (93), William Shatner (95), Mel Brooks (100), and Dick Van Dyke (100) are still among us. They entertained me when I was a kid. That was a long time ago.

Are any of them “the next Dolly?” That may be an impossible task. But each is a good example in his or her own way, and I’m thankful they are still setting the bar at a high level.



CARROLL

David Carroll is a Chattanooga, Tenn., news anchor. His latest book is “I Won’t Be Your Escape Goat,” available from his website, ChattanoogaRadioTV.com. You may contact him at RadioTV2020@yahoo.com.

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Is write-in candidacy right for the future?

I’ve not decided, OK? These kinds of decisions require time and a lot of thought. And I’m not talking about whether to eat my peas with a fork or a spoon or to not eat peas at all. I am talking about am I right in being a write-in candidate for governor of the great state of Georgia.

I need to make a decision soon. After having brought up the idea a few months back, I was surprised and humbled by the reaction I received from my fellow Georgians. Three readers immediately committed to support my candidacy. Within a month, that support reached double-digits (10) and has since doubled again (20). We are talking groundswell territory here. At this point, all I need is another 2,111,552 votes. Unfortunately, I can’t count on Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find them for me. That has already been tried, and we know how that turned out.

But I ask myself why would I want to be governor in the first place? I already have a pretty cushy job as it is. I get to use nouns, pronouns, subjunctive clauses, determiners, interjections, and a lot of other grammar stuff as well as having an endless supply of commas to throw in wherever I wish. I don’t want this to come across as bragging, but my intelligence was considered artificial long before AI.

There are a few perks that go with being governor. You get to live in a fancy house in Atlanta rent-free (thanks to taxpayers), you have your own airplane, (ditto), somebody lays out the clothes you are going to wear tomorrow, and you never have to open a door. That is what your staff is for. The downside is you have to deal with a bunch of fawning politicians for four years. Hmm. I need to think on that.

And then there are the two candidates who are currently seeking the job. Gazillionaire Rick Jackson is the Republican nominee, and Keisha Lance Bottoms is the choice of the Democrats. Jackson has already spent an amount equal to the Gross National Product of Burundi on TV ads around the

state but still looks like he swallowed a sour lemon. He always ends his commercials with, “I’ve got this.” When you spend the equivalent of the GNP of Burundi on ads, you should have this. Whatever “this” is.

How Keisha Lance Bottoms ever got to be the Democratic choice to run for governor escapes me. She couldn’t handle the job as mayor of Atlanta and now all of a sudden she is qualified to run the entire state? Oh, please. The frightening thing is that if the Republicans don’t stop all their infighting and figure out who the real enemy is, she just might get elected.

You have the right to ask me what I would do if I was governor of Georgia. A fair question. First off, I would not be Donald Trump’s favorite governor, like Jackson claims he will be. That’s because Trump doesn’t know who I am. He and I might have a problem, anyway. He is all about changing the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and Lake Ontario to Lake America and even New Mexico to New America. What is to keep him from coming after Athens, Bremen, Cairo, Damascus, Dublin, Manchester, Rome and Vienna? Make America Great Again by getting rid of these foreign sounding city names? Don’t worry. I’ve got this.

If I do run, like every candidate running for every office everywhere, I promise I will (inhale) lower our taxes, reduce crime, shrink the size of government, create jobs, stand up to powerful special interest groups, fight bureaucracy, secure our borders, take care of our veterans, improve education and fix Medicare (exhale).

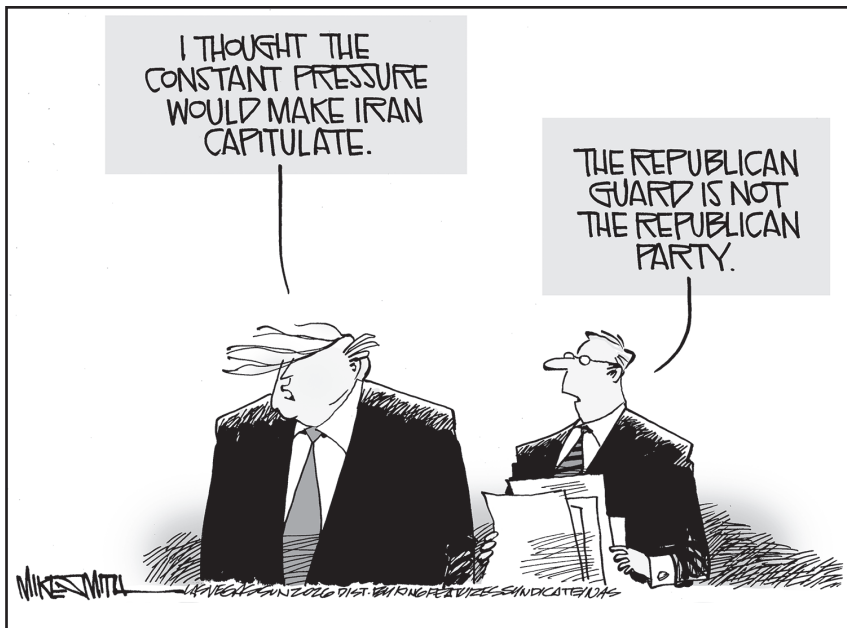
I will also introduce the Don’t Mine Me, I Just Live Here Act. Anybody who proposes mining the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for toothpaste whitener in the future will be slathered in barbecue sauce and handed over to Albert the Alligator and friends at supper time. They will take it from there.

To the 20 who have pledged their support for my candidacy, I thank you. To the other 2,111,552 of you out there, please don’t make me beg.

Contact Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Ga. 31139.

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What to watch THURSDAY

September 17, 2026

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

Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story

Netflix ■ **New Series**

This is the fourth installment of Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan's hit true-crime anthology series, which has explored Jeffrey Dahmer, Lyle and Erik Menendez, and Ed Gein. Here the eight-episode limited series looks at Lizzie Borden and what really happened to Andrew Borden and Abby Borden, who were found hacked to death in their Fall River, Massachusetts, home on Aug. 4, 1892. The series stars Ella Beatty, Charlie Hunnam, Rebecca Hall and Billie Lourd.

MLB Baseball

FOX, 7 p.m. Live

FOX's Thursday regional MLB primetime game offers either the Philadelphia Phillies at the N.Y. Mets or the Kansas City Royals at the Houston Astros.

College Football: Syracuse at Pittsburgh

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

Thursday night's ACC matchup on ESPN has the Syracuse Orange on the road to take on the Pittsburgh Panthers at Acrisure Stadium.

The Traitors: New Blood

NBC, 8 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Host Alan Cumming is opening the doors of his now-infamous castle in the Scottish Highlands to everyday Americans. From among them he will choose who will play as Traitors and who must survive as Faithfuls in this nail-biting psychological adventure competition series. Contestants work together on a series of exhilarating missions to build a prize fund worth up to \$250,000. If the Faithful are successful in identifying the Traitors, they split the money; however, if even one Traitor remains, the Traitors (or Traitor) get it all.



NFL Football: Detroit at Buffalo

Prime Video, 8:15 p.m. Live

Thursday Night Football kicks off its season in Week 2 with Jared Goff and the Detroit Lions on the road against Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills.

Adults

FX & FXX, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

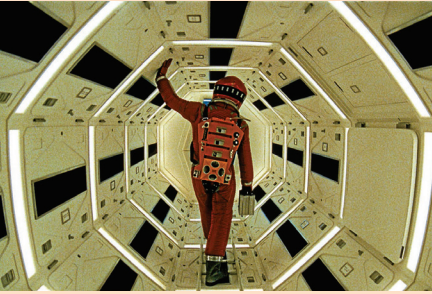
Season 2 concludes with two episodes. Anton (Owen Thiele) makes a rare mistake at work and Issa (Amita Rao) steps in to help fix it in "C Alert." In "Vote for Paul Baker," Paul Baker (Jack Inman) runs for president of the homeowners association.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Completely Kubrick

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Three visually unforgettable Stanley Kubrick films take over the night. **2001: A Space Odyssey (pictured)** opens the lineup with its mysterious journey through human evolution and space. Inspired by an Arthur C. Clarke story and featuring Oscar-winning special effects that still hold up, the 1968 film is astonishing, baffling and grand in its plot about a strange space mission to Jupiter, and famously mind-blowing — in other words, perfect sci-



ence fiction. **A Clockwork Orange** (1971) follows. Kubrick's surreal tale of a morally decaying England in the not-too-distant future follows the disturbingly quirky odyssey of sadistic hooligan Alex DeLarge (Malcolm McDowell). The evening concludes with the beautifully photographed period drama **Barry Lyndon** (1975).

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



CLAIRE FOLGER

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck **AMC, 6:30 p.m.**

American Gangster (2007, Crime drama) Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe **BBC America, 7 p.m.**

The Addams Family 2 (2021, Children) Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Beauty and the Beast (2017, Children) Emma Watson, Dan Stevens **Freeform, 8 p.m.**

Ten Thousand Reasons for Revenge (2026, Suspense) Meredith Riley Stewart, Addisyn Grace Cain **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Kill Bill: Vol. 2 (2004, Action) Uma Thurman, David Carradine **BET, 9 p.m.**

Knowing (2009, Science fiction) Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms **SHO, 9:40 p.m.**

Central Intelligence (2016, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart **TNT, 10 p.m.**

Spider-Man: Far From Home (2019, Action) Tom Holland, Samuel L. Jackson **FX, 10 p.m.**

Last Night in Soho (2021, Suspense) Anya Taylor-Joy, Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

The School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Jack Black, Joan Cusack **Paramount, 11 p.m.**

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

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What to watch FRIDAY

September 18, 2026

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

College Football

ESPN & FOX, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live

The Miami Hurricanes are in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to take on the Wake Forest Demon Deacons (ESPN) and the Houston Cougars visit Lubbock to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders (FOX).

Outlander: Blood of My Blood

Starz, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Season 1 concluded with Brian (Jamie Roy) and Ellen (Harriet Slater) running away together only to see the fiery cross lit, calling Brian into an impending battle. Meanwhile, Julia (Hermione Corfield) and Henry (Jeremy Irvine) had reunited and made an attempt to escape back to 1920s Scotland at the standing stones of Craigh na Dun. The catch? With only one gem in their possession, and their newborn son in tow, it was clear not all would make it through the stones as they were pursued by Arch Bug (Terence Rae).

Joffrey Ballet: The Next Movement

PBS, 9 p.m.

This special follows the 14th cohort of the Joffrey Ballet's Grainger Academy of Dance's Winning Works program, a groundbreaking initiative that supports choreographers of color in developing and debuting original work. Over the course of two pressure-filled weeks, five choreographers race against the clock to create world premieres for a prestigious stage.



Scariest House in America

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Retta is back on the search for the country's most spine-tingling properties in an expanded new season of the popular spinoff, which will feature six one-hour episodes. The actress, comedian and home design enthusiast will brave 20 tours of petrifyingly paranormal or horrifically hideous houses whose owners say are haunted by scary

stories and hair-raising sights. From the East to the Ozarks and New England to the Midwest, Retta will discover harrowing places like a centuries-old frightening farmhouse, an eerie former nursing home and a rotting 1800s jailer's house that abound with supernatural sites, ghostly apparitions and unearthly whispers. In each episode, Retta will share hilariously unfiltered views about each home's scary appearance, un-livability and fright factor.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Films on Film

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM's new Films on Film series marks Hispanic Heritage Month with the 2026 documentary **Beyond the Border: Latino Representation in Hollywood**. The film looks at the history of Latino characters and performers onscreen, setting up a night of movies that explores Latino identity and prejudice in different eras. The lineup continues late into the evening with **Mi Familia** (1995), 1956's **Giant (pictured)** and **Bordertown** (2007).



WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



STEPHEN VAUGHAN

Sense, Sensibility & Snowmen (2019, Romance) Erin Krakow, Luke MacFarlane **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall **IFC, 6:15 p.m.**

Blade Runner 2049 (2017, Science fiction) Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford **SHO, 7 p.m.**

The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (2021, Children) Alec Baldwin, James Marsden **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Knock at the Cabin (2023, Suspense) Dave Bautista, Jonathan Groff **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

Coco (2017, Family) Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Crowning at the Prom (2026, Drama) Danielle Panabaker, Anwen O'Driscoll **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lam p.m.an **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Love & Basketball (2000, Romance) Sanaa Lathan, Omar Epps **BET, 9 p.m.**

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo **Bravo, 9:15 p.m.**

Tombstone (1993, Western) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer **Sundance, 10 p.m.**

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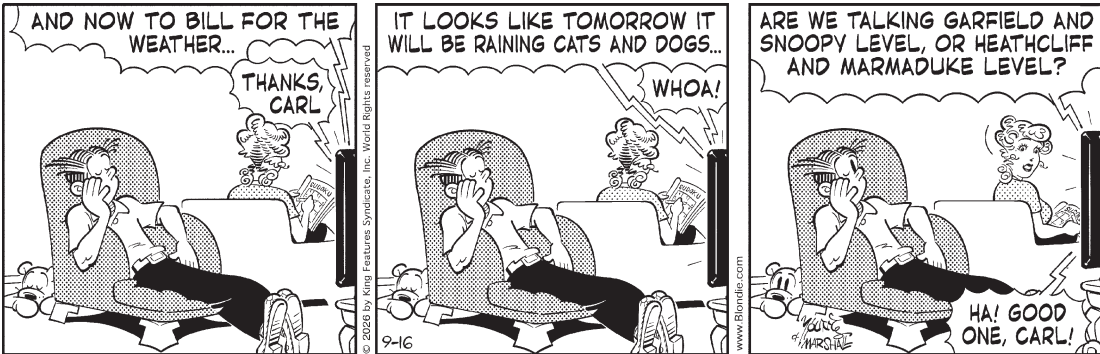
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



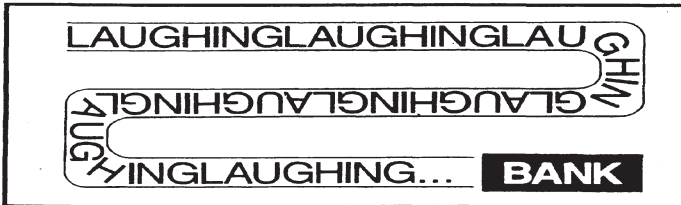
SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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	4	7	8	9	2			

WHATZIT?

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



SUDOKU INSTRUCTIONS:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Laughing all the way to the bank

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Image in a botanical print
 - 5 Feminist Frequency founder
 - 10 Sarkeesian
 - 14 Hardly hard
 - 14 Jessica of "Sin City"
 - 15 ___ New Year
 - 16 Wagon rod
 - 17 Prohibition of some single-use products
 - 20 ___ Domingo: Caribbean capital
 - 21 Permit
 - 22 Grinds to a halt
 - 23 German article
 - 24 Earth-friendly prefix
 - 25 Female moose
 - 26 Spiral burners that deter biting pests
 - 30 Bottled, as emotions
 - 31 Add to an email
 - 33 Subject of a miner dispute, maybe
 - 34 Shuns
 - 38 Splash of color in an ornamental pond
 - 39 Ties the knot
 - 41 Granola bar fleck
 - 42 Groks
 - 43 Liquid in a vampire slayer's vial
 - 48 Home of the College World Series
 - 50 Cover story
 - 53 "Later, chumps!," or what can be said while putting 17-, 26-, and 43-Across to good use?
 - 57 Actor James ___ Jones
 - 58 Liquid-Plumr rival
 - 59 Battery unit
 - 61 Distort
 - 62 Shoutout to a parent
 - 63 ___ out a living
 - 64 Like muted colors
 - 65 Ukrainian port on the Black Sea
- DOWN**
- 1 Track circuits
 - 2 Spanish pronoun
 - 3 Like ghost towns
 - 4 Like a race winner
 - 5 Boxer Muhammad
 - 6 Atomic centers
 - 7 Bug
 - 8 Bit of henna art
 - 9 Train board abbr.
 - 10 Took care of a situation
 - 11 U-shaped body formed by a river diversion
 - 12 Cardboard carton part
 - 13 Till stack
 - 18 Rotational force
 - 19 Broad neckties
 - 26 Trifling
 - 27 Company with brown trucks
 - 28 Cry from a crow's nest
 - 29 Glaswegian, e.g.
 - 30 "Ka-blamm!"
 - 32 The "H" of HMS
 - 35 Demure
 - 36 Hem and ___
 - 37 Greek vowel
 - 40 "Ready to get moving?"
 - 42 Mourns
 - 44 "Well, well, well!"
 - 45 Cry from a crow's nest
 - 46 Puget Sound city
 - 47 Large deer
 - 48 Financial center in Honshu
 - 49 Gourmet mushroom
 - 51 Insolvent
 - 52 Typically uninhabited key
 - 54 Sudoku diagram
 - 55 "I feel seen!"
 - 56 Chicago-style pizza chain, familiarly
 - 57 Seer's gift
 - 60 Scores equal to two FGs

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

S	I	E	S		V	S	E	D	O		E	T	V	d
D	E	K	E		W	O	W	I	H		M	E	K	S
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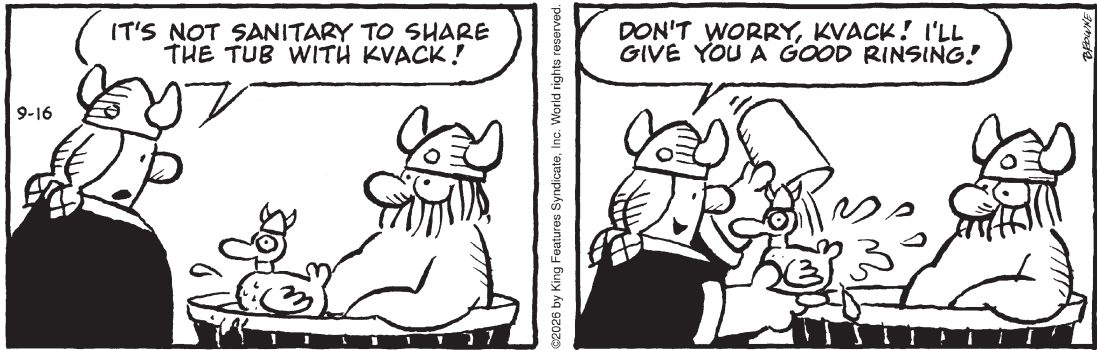
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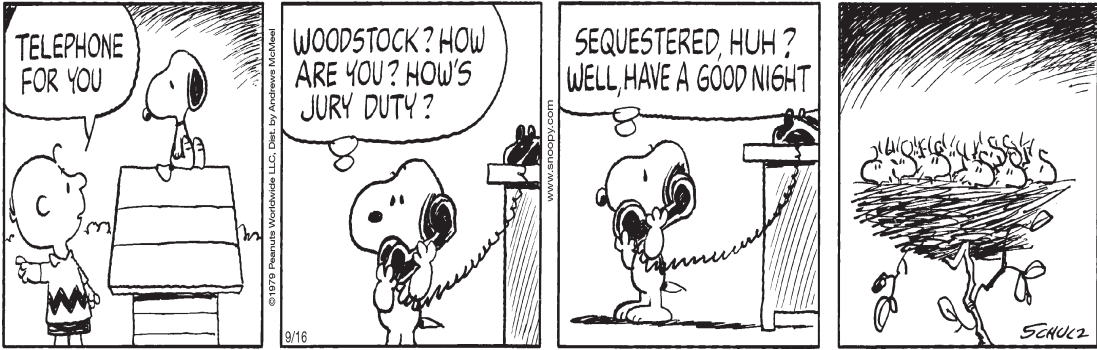
By Daniel Hryniak
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09/16/26

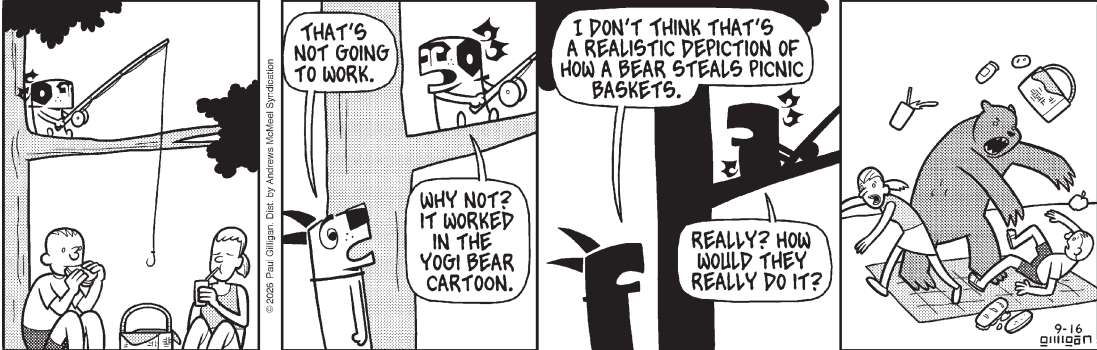
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

SECRETS OF THE OCTOPUS

Solution: 7 letters

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

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9/16

Aquanaut, Aquatic, Brain, Cephalopoda, Cirrata, Coral, Crawl, Cunning, Curiosity, Disguise, Evolution, Flexibility, Giant, Glass, Glow, Grip, Hunt, Intelligence, Mesmerizing, Mesopelagic, Murk, Nocturnal, Ocean, Octal, Octopus, Ornate, Puzzle, Seafloor, Secretive, Shape-shifter, Silent, Soft, Squeeze, Tactile, Tentacle, Watchful

TODAY'S ANSWER: Suction

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



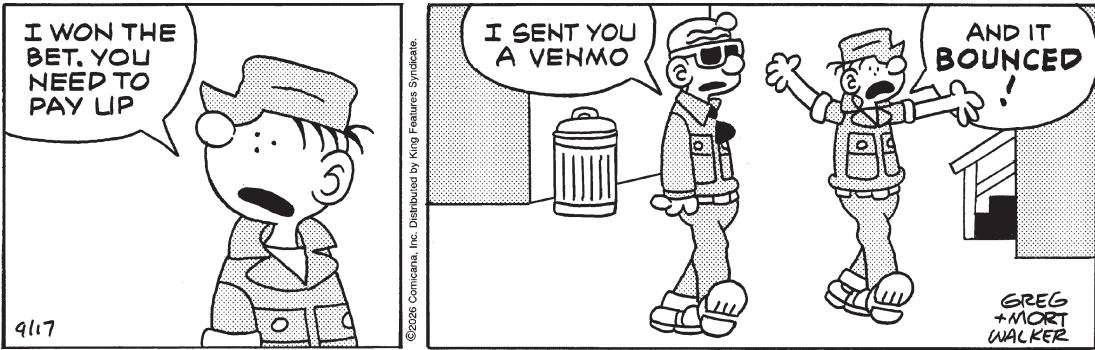
9-17
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



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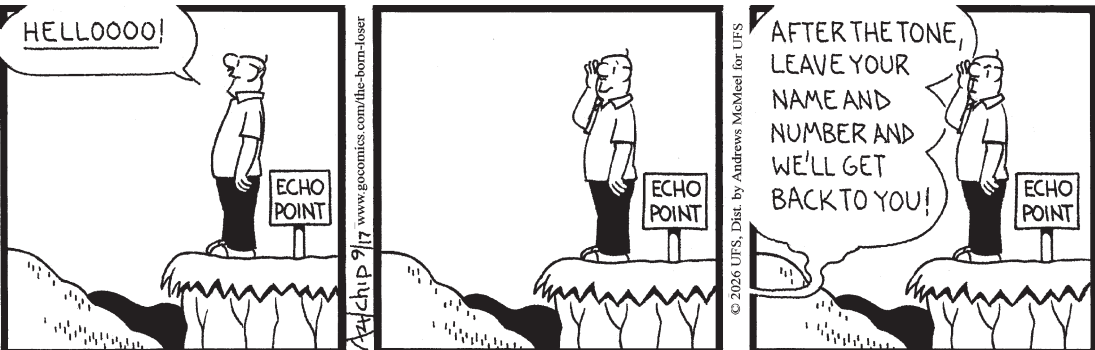
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



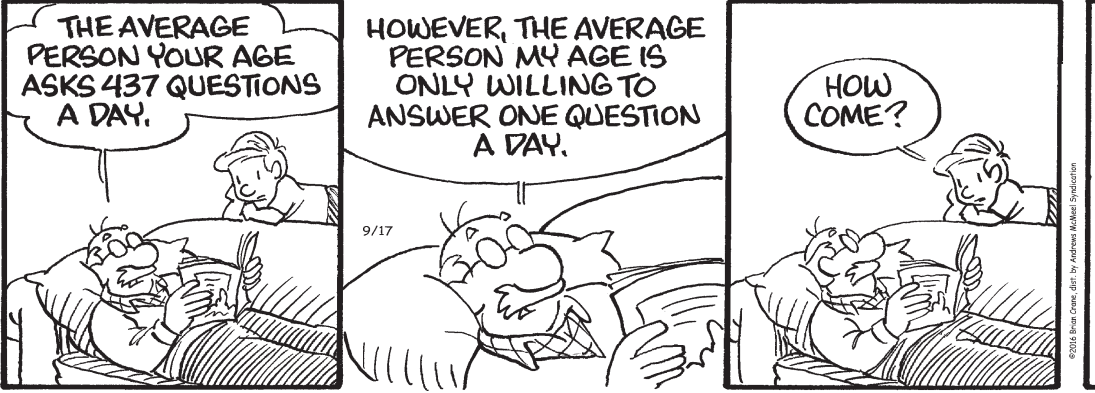
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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WHATZIT?

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

ego ace

Self-Service

WHATZIT? SOLUTION: ego ace

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "— the Builder"

4 Heart of the matter

8 "— Framed Roger Rabbit"

11 Candle count

12 Region

13 Burn

14 Grassy expanse

15 Bring up

16 Put on the payroll

17 Army doc

19 Magical creatures

21 Yank's foe

23 Rink surface

24 Praise

29 Distress signal

32 Maize

33 Aquarium

34 Fitting

35 Physicians' org.

36 Quiet

37 Toward shelter

38 Wee dollop

39 Brainpower

41 Say further

43 Floor covering

44 Wise

48 Costly fur

52 Matterhorn's range

53 Family member

55 Pinna

56 Gossip

57 About (2 wds.)

58 Poli —

59 Language suffix

60 Nonsense poet

61 Golf peg

DOWN

1 Ointment

2 Gothic arch

3 Droplet

4 Package

5 Wrath

6 Light meals

7 Instrument that is plucked

8 Store event (2 wds.)

9 Rabbit

10 Raw minerals

13 Fashionable

18 Remove wrinkles from

20 Hazard

22 — Rouge, Louisiana

24 Military sch.

25 Unconscious state

26 Sour fruit (2 wds.)

27 Foolish

28 Door sign

30 Oil cartel letters

31 "Let it stand!"

36 Faction

37 Seaweed

40 Shine

42 Auto brake part

44 Satisfy

45 Word of woe

46 Brad

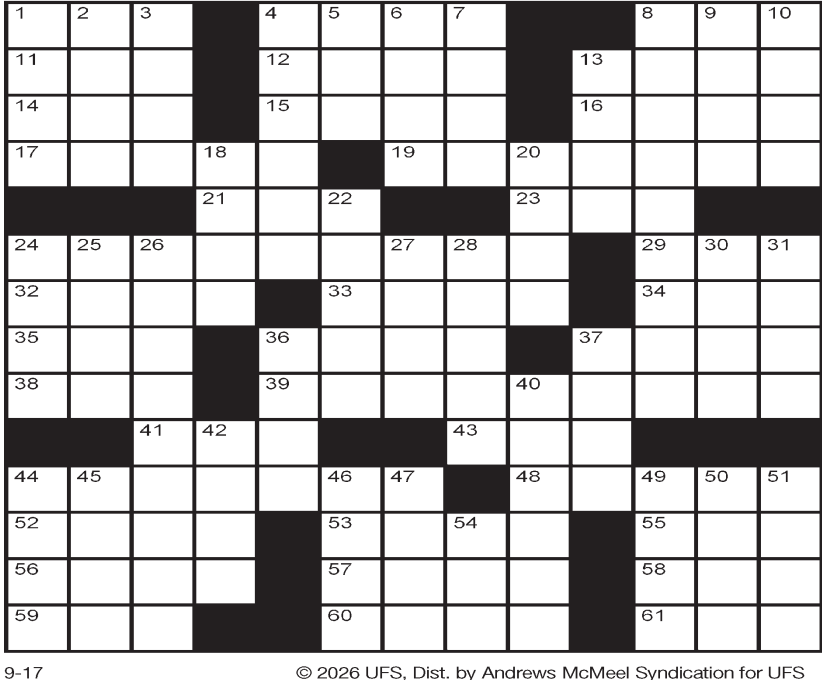
47 Melody

49 Finest

50 "Arsenic and Old —"

51 Cleveland's lake

54 Gun lobby org.



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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

PLAYGROUNDS ARE FUN

Solution: 5 letters

X Y G R E N E P O R P M U J E

S O E S I C R E X E S G O D S

M J B I S S E L B B U B I S R

I N A D G P I C N I C R O E E

L E C E N C O U R T E C F S T

E T K W I A P R S T C A W M S

N R Y A R A S R T E S I A A A

I E A L R L E O R S N Z T L O

L E R K I N T O E G C E E A C

O H D D N R B C S S S H R I R

P O E I E H E D L I U B O C E

M U P T G R A S S L A M P O L

A S E I B M I L C I S U M S L

R E E S P R I N G H O R S E O

T N E M E S U M A C T I V E R

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Active, Amusement, Backyard, Bubbles, Build, Climb, Court, Dogs, Energy, Enjoy, Exercise, Grass, Jump Rope, Lamp, Music, Neighbor, Park, Picnic, Recess, Ride, Rings, Roller Coasters, Safe, Sandbox, School, Sidewalk, Slide, Smile, Soccer, Social, Spinners, Sports, Spring Horse, Summer, Swings, Teeter-totter, Trampoline, Treehouse, Water

TODAY'S ANSWER: Mazes

New NICU mural at Phoebe will help celebrate babies’ journey home

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital will soon have a special new way to celebrate one of life’s most meaningful milestones: bringing their baby home.

Thanks to a partnership between the Junior League of Albany and the Phoebe Foundation, a new interactive mural was recently unveiled in the NICU. The mural will give families the opportunity to add their baby’s name and share details of their unique journey, including birth date, length of NICU stay, birth weight, current weight and discharge date.

The mural provides a location for a photo opportunity

and is designed to celebrate the strength and resilience of NICU babies while creating a lasting tribute to the families who have walked beside them every step of the way. The mural serves as a beautiful reminder of hope and perseverance and honors the hundreds of babies who graduate from the NICU and go home each year.

Sponsored by the Junior League of Albany, the project was inspired by the organization’s “Find the Good Day” initiative and the belief that even during the most challenging days, families deserve moments to celebrate, reflect and find joy. The mural recognizes the incredible journeys of Phoebe’s NICU graduates while encouraging families who are still walking that path.



Special Photo: Phoebe
Families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital will soon have a special new way to celebrate one of life’s most meaningful milestones: bringing their baby home.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Junior League of Albany for recognizing that caring for families can take many forms and for choos-

ing to create something that will bring encouragement to this space for years to come,” Parker Douglas, director of the Phoebe Foundation, said.

“This mural is about celebrating victories, both big and small. The NICU journey can be filled with uncertainty, challenges, and long days, but every family looks forward to the moment they get to take their baby home.

“We hope this mural becomes a meaningful way for parents to reflect on how far their child has come and to inspire other families.”

The project also builds on the Junior League’s ongoing support of Phoebe’s NICU. Last year, the organization donated books to help create a special library space for NICU families, offering a comforting place adjacent to the mural where families can read, bond and find moments of peace during their hospital stay.

“The Junior League of Al-

bany has always believed in finding meaningful ways to serve our community, and this project gave us an opportunity to support families during some of their most emotional moments,” Elise Cotten, president of the Junior League of Albany, said.

“Every family who takes a picture in front of this mural shares a story of courage, love and hope. We hope parents will look at it and feel proud of how far their little one has come, while knowing an entire community is cheering them on.”

Other community service organizations interested in taking on a project or providing donations to support Phoebe patients can reach out to the Phoebe Foundation at (229) 312-4483.

Albany Area Chamber Biz Expo returns Sept. 23

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the return of its annual Biz Expo, taking place Sept. 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the Albany Civic Center. The event is open to the public and will bring local businesses and community members together for an evening of connection, discovery and support for the southwest Georgia business community.

Biz Expo provides an opportunity for businesses from across the area to showcase their products, services and organizations while connecting with fellow businesses and members of the community. Before opening to the public, exhibitors will have the opportunity to participate in a dedicated Business-to-Business Connections period from 4-5 p.m.

“Biz Expo is a great opportunity to bring our business community together under one roof,” Matt Reed, interim president & CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce,



Special Photo: Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the return of its annual Biz Expo, taking place Sept. 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the Albany Civic Center.

said. “We look forward to providing our exhibitors with an opportunity to make valuable connections while inviting the community to come out, learn more about local businesses and support the organizations that make southwest Georgia such a great place to live and work.”

Attendees will have the chance to visit exhibitors, learn more about local businesses and organizations, make connections, and discover the many products and services available throughout the community.

This year’s Biz Expo is also

part of a two-day partnership with the Albany Economic Development Commission, which will host the SWGA Career Expo on Sept. 24, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Civic Center. The Career Expo will provide businesses with an additional opportunity to connect with job seekers and showcase career opportunities throughout southwest Georgia.

The Albany Area Chamber encourages residents to bring their friends, families and coworkers and experience all that the local business community has to offer.

State voter registration deadline approaching: Five things voters need to know

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- The mid-term elections are less than two months away, which means now is the time for Georgia residents to register to vote or ensure that an existing voter registration is up to date.

A number of competitive seats are up for grabs this year, including one of Georgia’s two U.S. Senate seats, the governorship and numerous other state and local races.

Georgia’s voter registration deadline is Oct. 5, according to the secretary of state’s office. Here’s what you need to know to ensure that you’re prepared.

I’m not sure if I’m registered. Where can I go to find out?

-- The secretary of state’s My Voter Page is a good place to start. The one-stop portal can help you check your voter registration status, as well as preview sample ballots, check your voting history and locate your nearest early voting location or election-day polling place.

Where do I go to register to vote or update my registration?

-- Georgia residents have a few different options when it comes to registering to vote for the first time.

The secretary of state’s office allows Georgia residents to register to vote online or by mailing a completed paper application to the secretary of state’s office. A valid Georgia driver’s license is required to complete the online application, but residents who don’t have a driver’s license can complete a paper application using the last four digits of their social security number.

Georgia’s Department of Driver Services also allows voters to automatically register to vote whenever they apply for a new driver’s license or state ID card. Any time you update the address that appears on your ID card, you can automatically update your voter registration as well.

Voters can update an existing voter registration at the secretary of state’s My Voter Page. You can also reach out to your county registrar for their assistance.

How do I know if I need to update my voter registration?

-- Georgia law requires voters to be registered at



Special Photo: Alander Rocha/Georgia Recorder
Tiffany Barkley, a 28-year-old nurse, said she would like the Public Service Commission to be more accountable to energy consumers while showing off her “I’m a Georgia voter” sticker.

their current home address, meaning that if you have moved since the last time you cast a ballot, it’s time to update your voter registration.

Voters who are registered at a nonresidential address, such as a P.O. box, a church, a business or a homeless shelter will also need to update their registration under a 2024 election law known as Senate Bill 189.

Voters who are experiencing homelessness should register to vote at their county registrar’s office under the new law.

Voter registration data, including residents’ addresses, are public and are available for purchase on the secretary of state’s website. Georgia residents who have been the victim of stalking and domestic violence may be eligible for Georgia’s Vote-Safe program, which allows participants to register to vote while ensuring that their addresses are kept confidential.

My voter status is marked as “inactive.” What should I do?

-- The short answer for voters who’ve been designated as “inactive” is to vote.

Registered voters are sorted into two categories, “active” and “inactive,” as part of standard voter list maintenance practices. Marking voters as “inactive” is the first step election officials must take in order to remove voters who they suspect have moved away, died, or otherwise become ineligible to vote.

However, federal law restricts how quickly states can remove voters from the rolls and how close to an election officials can conduct routine voter list maintenance, meaning that states must wait years before removing most inactive voters

from the rolls. There are some exceptions, such as if a county registrar receives proof that a voter has died, or if a voter reaches out and requests that their registration be removed from the rolls. But in most cases, it takes about eight years for a voter to go from actively registered to eligible for removal.

If you haven’t voted in two consecutive federal elections (such as presidential or midterm elections), you may be moved to inactive status. Once a voter is marked as inactive, they aren’t eligible to be removed from the voter rolls unless they do not vote for the next two federal election cycles.

However, inactive voters are still registered and are therefore eligible to cast a ballot. Showing up to a polling place and voting will automatically restore an inactive voter to active status.

My voter status is marked as “challenged.” What should I do?

In addition to conducting routine voter list maintenance, state law also allows individuals to contest the voter registration status of individual Georgians if they have evidence that someone is improperly registered.

Any registered Georgia voter can challenge an unlimited number of voters who live in their county, and digital tools like EagleAI and ELLY make it easier for users to browse through a wide range of publicly available databases and lodge challenges against voters they believe to be ineligible. Over 63,000 voters were challenged within the span of a few months during the 2024 election cycle, according to an investigation from the Associated Press.

State inmate with child sex abuse material faces 20 years in prison

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MACON — A former inmate at Central State Prison in Macon, who was serving a sentence for child molestation, is facing up to 20 years in federal prison for possessing child sexual abuse material on an altered J-pay tablet while behind bars.

Timothy Jock Knight, 45, formerly of Central State Prison, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography before U.S. District Judge Mark Treadwell. Knight faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years up to a maximum of 20 years in prison to be followed by a maximum lifetime of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. There is no parole in the federal system.

“It is deeply troubling that, even while serving time for child molestation, this individual continued to seek out and view child sexual abuse material and research ways to harm children,” U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. “Thanks to the coordinated efforts of state and federal authorities, the defendant was identified and will be held accountable.”

“Child sexual abuse material is a horrific form of exploitation that continues to victimize children long after the abuse itself occurs. Those responsible must be held accountable,” GBI Director Chris Hosey said. “The GBI will never back down in the fight against this crime and remains committed to working with our local, state and federal partners to protect our children and hold criminals accountable.”

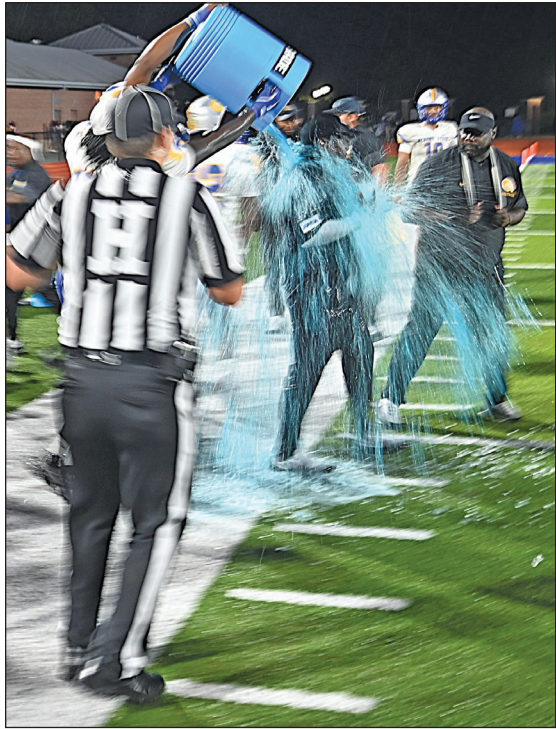
According to court documents and statements referenced in court, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation received a Cyber-tip generated by Instagram in reference to the distribution of child sexual abuse material in 2021. Instagram reported that a subject account named “timknight444,” uploaded two images depicting CSAM. The tip included Knight’s profile picture and his driver’s license. GBI found Knight was serving a state sentence for attempted child molestation out of the Superior Court of Columbia County and was housed at Central State Prison, scheduled for release in January 2027.

The GBI obtained search warrant results for Knight’s



Special Logo
Instagram account and collected two J-Pay tablets at Central State Prison. One tablet was found in Knight’s locker and had been altered but did not contain CSAM. Investigators found the second tablet with Knight when they confiscated it. Investigators confirmed that the tablet was altered and that it contained CSAM. Also, the device contained Google search histories for information on abusing, trafficking, and raping children.

The GBI, the Georgia Department of Corrections, and the United States Secret Service are investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Monica Brown and Julius Jefferson are prosecuting the case for the government.



Special Photo: Reginald Christian, ASU

Albany State head coach David Bowser gets a Gatorade bath courtesy of some of his players after the Golden Rams beat Savannah State Saturday, recording Bowser’s first win as the new head coach at Albany State.

Bowser’s changes spark Golden Rams

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — David Bowser figured if he wanted something different, he had better do something different.

So he did. Albany State was 0-2, but those two losses had come against quality opponents in Florida A&M and Johnson C. Smith. Bowser wasn’t ready to scrap what the Golden Rams were doing.

He was ready to change how they were doing it.

That meant changing practice. Changing the pace. Changing the way things were taught. Even changing the way Albany State approached things offensively.

Then came Saturday.

The Golden Rams rolled into Savannah and rolled over Savannah State, winning 49-17 in

a game they controlled from beginning to end. They didn’t punt. Their defense allowed 19 rushing yards. And Bowser walked away with his first victory as Albany State’s head coach.

Coincidence?

Bowser doesn’t think so.

“Every team is different, and though you might have been doing it one way for 30 years or whatever, sometimes you just have to make some changes,” Bowser said Monday. “And that’s what we did last week.”

One of the biggest changes actually involved slowing things down.

Bowser added a 15-minute pre-practice period that gave coaches and players time to talk through what they were seeing. Albany State spent more time in walk-throughs against the scout team. Coaches slowed the teaching

process and gave players more opportunities to see situations before confronting them at full speed.

Slow down during the week, Bowser figured, and maybe the Golden Rams could play faster on Saturday.

They did.

Bowser also went against some of his own instincts.

A defensive-minded coach, he readily admits his preferred formula isn’t complicated: Run the football and play good defense.

Against Savannah State, the Golden Rams came out throwing.

That helped loosen the Tigers’ defense and eventually opened the running game. By the time it was over, Albany State had controlled the football so thoroughly that its punter never stepped onto the field to do his primary job.

Meanwhile, the “Dirty Blue”

defense looked the part.

The return of sophomore linebacker Jimmy Dawson was a big reason why.

Dawson, a Thomasville native, was injured against FAMU and missed the Johnson C. Smith game. He wasn’t completely healthy Saturday — Bowser estimated him at about 80 percent — but his presence mattered.

Bowser calls Dawson the “heart and soul” of the defense.

Some teammates, he said, simply play differently when Dawson is beside them. That includes roommate and Dougherty graduate Chaunce Brown, one of several Golden Rams who feed off the linebacker’s energy.

Albany State also moved Cam Watts around more, and Bowser believes Watts is beginning

See **ASU**, 10A

Growing pains test Deerfield-Windsor

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Jake McCrae has seen this Deerfield-Windsor team before.

Not these players, exactly. Not this schedule. Not these particular mistakes.

But he recognizes the growing pains.

The Knights are 1-3 after Friday night’s 48-7 loss to Southwest Georgia Academy in Damascus. A talented Pacelli team comes to Albany this Friday, followed by a Lakeland Christian program so loaded with college prospects that McCrae jokingly described it as “the Green Bay Packers.”

This is not the start Deerfield-Windsor wanted.

It also isn’t completely unfamiliar.

Three years ago, the Knights were coming off a state championship-game loss to John Milledge Academy and had graduated a large, accomplished senior class. What remained was a talented but inexperienced group that stumbled through a 1-9 season.

“We’re seeing a lot of the same things we saw in that 1-9 season,” McCrae said.

The encouraging part of the comparison came later.

Those young players grew up. Deer-



Special Photo: Jim Griffith

Sophomore quarterback Maddox Skipper leads a young Deerfield-Windsor team working through early-season growing pains. The Knights host Pacelli on Friday night.

field-Windsor won a state championship the following season and returned to the championship game as that group matured into seniors.

Now the Knights are starting over

again.

The senior class that powered the program’s most recent championship run is gone. In its place is a roster filled with players learning varsity football while playing it.

“We have a lot of young, inexperienced players who are having to learn how to play in tough environments,” McCrae said. “They’re learning how to react when teams are bigger and faster than you and how to react when you shoot yourself in the foot. We’ve got some really good seniors, too. They are just few and far between.”

Those lessons arrived harshly in Damascus.

Southwest Georgia Academy handed Deerfield-Windsor its third loss in four games and left the Knights trying to rebuild their confidence during a schedule that offers little time to catch their breath.

Pacelli enters Friday’s game with a 3-1 record. Then comes Lakeland Christian, a Florida program McCrae said features at least four players with Division I offers. Its starting quarterback

has committed to South Florida.

“We’ve got the Green Bay Packers coming to town next week,” McCrae said.

See **TEST** 10A



Special Photo: Submitted

Lee County running back Quay Sheard earned the Player of the Week honors after stepping in for injured running backs Jordan Bush and Dominique Ball. The junior backup ran for 202 yards and four touchdowns to help the No. 2-ranked Trojans beat the Packers 48-30 in Moultrie.

Friday Night Five

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Player of the Week: Quay Sheard, Lee County

Lee County needed somebody to carry the football Friday night in Moultrie.

Junior backup running back Quay Sheard carried the Trojans.

Pressed into an expanded role with starting running backs Dominique Ball and Jordan Bush sidelined by injuries, Sheard rushed for 202 yards and four touchdowns on 23 carries in Lee County’s 48-30 victory over Colquitt County.

His biggest run came on the first play of the second half. With the score tied 21-21, Sheard burst free for an 80-yard touchdown that put the No. 2 Trojans ahead to stay.

For stepping into the lineup and delivering the biggest performance of his young career, Sheard is the Albany Herald’s Friday Night Five Player of the Week.

Passing

Micah Joyner, Dougherty: 14 of 21, 231 yards, 3 TDs
Cohen Lawson, Lee County: 13 of 20, 186 yards
Lyndon Worthy, Worth County: 12 of 25, 153 yards, TD
Chuck LaGrange, Sherwood Christian: 6 of 16, 97 yards, TD
Jacorey Williams, Terrell County: 7 of 14, 66 yards

Rushing

Quay Sheard, Lee County: 23 carries, 202 yards, 4 TDs
Braylen Hundley, Baconton Charter: 17 carries, 97 yards
Jaden Upshaw, Lee County: 7 carries, 78 yards, 2 TDs
Kody Crutchfield, Worth County: 19 carries, 65 yards, TD
Micah Joyner, Dougherty: 7 carries, 62 yards, TD

Receiving

Jaden Upshaw, Lee County: 6 catches, 86 yards
Dyson Harris, Sherwood Christian: 3 catches, 81 yards, TD
Keaton Tucker, Worth County: 4 catches, 80 yards
Alonzo Hammond, Dougherty: 2 catches, 78 yards, TD
David Burgess, Dougherty: 4 catches, 56 yards, TD

No. 2 Georgia leaves comfort behind at Arkansas

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Georgia’s first two games answered plenty of questions about how talented the Bulldogs might be.

They revealed almost nothing about how this team will respond when things go wrong.

There hasn’t been much adversity to measure. Georgia scored touchdowns on its first five possessions against Tennessee State and its first seven against Western Kentucky. The No. 2 Bulldogs have outscored their opponents 133-23, amassed 1,153 yards and spent most of both second halves emptying the bench.

Saturday should feel different.

Georgia opens Southeastern Conference play at Arkansas, where a rebuilt Razorbacks team and a restless crowd will try to turn the Bulldogs’ first road game into something

considerably less comfortable.

“Humility is always a week away,” Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. “There are no bad environments in the SEC. There are only raucous environments in the SEC.”

Kickoff is scheduled for noon at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville.

Georgia is 2-0 after beating Tennessee State 63-3 and Western Kentucky 70-20. Arkansas is 1-1 under first-year coach Ryan Silverfield and is coming off a 43-10 loss at No. 17 Utah.

The numbers suggest a mismatch. Georgia averages 66.5 points and 576.5 yards per game while allowing just 167 yards. Arkansas averages 20.5 points and 360 yards.

Smart knows those numbers can be misleading.

The Razorbacks are still putting together a roster with numerous newcomers, including several who followed Silver-



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia running back Chauncey Bowens leaps over a defender from Western Kentucky during Saturday’s 70-20 win at Sanford Stadium in Athens. Coach Kirby Smart expects the road game at Arkansas Saturday to be much more of a test for the No. 2-ranked Bulldogs.

field from Memphis. Georgia has two games of Arkansas film to study, but Smart said the Bulldogs’ greater concern is correcting their own mistakes.

“You spend too much time worrying about their team, and you won’t have a good team,” Smart said. “I’m a lot more worried about what we

See **GEORGIA**, 10A

Braves’ Reynaldo Lopez headed to injured list

By Mark Bowman,
Braves.com

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves have spent most of the season finding ways to patch holes in their starting rotation.

Now they have another one to fill just as October approaches.

Reynaldo López’s return to the 15-day injured list with right shoulder discomfort has further thinned a rotation already battered by injuries and left the Braves relying on their depth to navigate the final days of the regular season.

López’s latest setback came after he allowed five runs and six hits in three innings against the Chicago Cubs. Manager Walt Weiss said afterward that the right-hander had been dealing with an inconsistent shoulder throughout the season.

“He said he’s had some good days and bad days throughout the year,” Weiss said. “Sometimes he hasn’t felt it at all, and then sometimes he does. So we’ve got to change course here.”

Changing course has become a familiar exercise for the Braves.

Spencer Schwellenbach and Hurston Waldrep were lost to elbow injuries during the first week of spring training. Spencer Strider suffered a season-ending elbow injury in June. Now López, who underwent shoulder surgery last year, is sidelined again.

The good news for Atlanta is that its postseason rotation is beginning to look more settled than its regular-season depth chart.

Chris Sale and Tyler Mahle



File Photo

Braves right-hander Reynaldo López is headed back to the injured list with right shoulder discomfort, adding another challenge to Atlanta’s starting rotation as the post-season approaches.

are positioned to head the rotation in October, with Grant Holmes and Martín Pérez also expected to factor into the postseason plans.

Getting through the remainder of September is another matter.

“Luckily we have options,” Weiss said. “We have guys stretched out. We have some guys we can go to.”

Two of those options are young right-handers JR Ritchie and AJ Smith-Shawver.

Ritchie was summoned from Triple-A Gwinnett following López’s injury, while Smith-Shawver suddenly finds himself straddling two possible roles.

The Braves recently moved Smith-Shawver to the bullpen after he posted a 7.71 ERA in five starts. The 23-year-old returned to the majors in late July, just more than 13 months

removed from Tommy John surgery, and hasn’t developed quickly enough to earn consideration for the postseason rotation.

But his arm could still be valuable in October.

Smith-Shawver provided a glimpse of that potential when he replaced López against Chicago and retired eight of the first nine batters he faced. He ultimately covered five innings, allowing two runs on four hits with two strikeouts and three walks.

“AJ did exactly what we needed him to do,” Weiss said. “He covered the rest of the game and did it competitively.”

The Braves had hoped to use the final weeks of the season to evaluate Smith-Shawver as a multi-inning reliever. López’s injury could complicate that plan by forcing Smith-Shawver

back into the rotation for at least one start.

Smith-Shawver doesn’t seem concerned about which role he fills.

“The way some of my starts have been going, I think it’s good to just get a little different feel, a little different look at it,” he said. “I’ve done it before, so I’m comfortable with it. At the end of the day, I’m just here to try to put the team in a good position and just try to win games.”

López had been trying to do the same while pitching through a shoulder that hasn’t consistently cooperated.

His arm problems date to the latter portion of the 2024 season, and he made only one start in 2025 before undergoing season-ending shoulder surgery. He has worked 79 1/3 innings this season with a 4.54 ERA.

“It’s not really pain so much,” López said. “It’s just something that doesn’t feel great.”

For the Braves, the immediate concern is getting through the remainder of the regular season without asking too much of the pitchers they expect to rely upon in October.

After a season filled with injuries, Atlanta’s postseason rotation is taking shape.

The challenge now is getting it there intact.

From 9A GEORGIA

do than what they do.”

That includes cleaning up 15 penalties for 151 yards through two games. Those mistakes have been largely harmless during a pair of blowouts. They could become drive-killers — or crowd-starters — in an SEC road game.

Georgia has won its first conference road game in each of Smart’s first 10 seasons, including a 37-10 victory at Arkansas in 2020. Last season, the Bulldogs needed overtime to escape Tennessee with a 44-41 win.

Quarterback Gunner Stockton’s experience in that game — and in another difficult road victory at Auburn — gives Georgia some reassurance.

Asked how valuable Stockton’s SEC road experience will be Saturday, Smart needed only five words.

“It’s more valuable than not.”

Stockton has been nearly flawless this season, completing 28 of 32 passes for 436 yards and eight touchdowns without an interception. He tied a school record with five touchdown passes against Western Kentucky, all before halftime.

His next challenge is maintaining that efficiency when communication becomes more difficult and a mistake might actually matter.

“You have to as a coach anticipate adversity,” Smart said. “I don’t know when it’s coming, and I have no control over when it’s coming. ... To not anticipate it would be failure.”

Arkansas quarterback KJ Jackson gives the Razorbacks a chance to create some of it.

Jackson has the arm strength to push the ball downfield and the mobility to extend plays when protection breaks down. Arkansas averages 255.5 passing yards per game, although its offense struggled to finish drives at Utah.

“Very accurate passer,” Smart said. “He throws a great ball. Anticipates timing of throws. He’s got a really strong, live arm. ... He’s got size that makes him hard to tackle, but he eludes and scrambles and makes some plays.”

Georgia’s defense has allowed just 60 rushing yards and 107 passing yards per game, but the starting unit hasn’t been forced to play deep into a competitive game.

“Great effort when you play four series or five series,” Smart said. “I think it’s still to be seen.”

Freshman safety and return specialist Tyriq Green’s availability is uncertain. Green returned a kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown against Western Kentucky and also scored after recovering a fumble in the end zone.

Saturday begins a nine-game SEC grind for the two-time defending conference champions. Oklahoma visits Athens next week, followed later by road trips to Alabama and Ole Miss.

Before any of that, Georgia must leave the comfort of Sanford Stadium and discover what happens when an opponent — and 76,000 people in the stands — pushes back.

“You’ll learn a lot about them if they have adversity,” Smart said. “Maybe we get in one of those hornet-nest games and you have to fight your way out of it.

“It just depends on how the game goes.”

Sankey pumps brakes on CFP expansion

Field Level Media

SEC commissioner Greg Sankey said that opening a negotiating window to discuss College Football Playoff expansion does not guarantee a larger field.

Sankey spoke to the Monday Morning Quarterback Club in Birmingham, Ala., amid a hectic start to the college football season, more for off-the-field reasons than for football itself.

Sankey would not comment on the SEC’s lawsuit against LSU in which it sought to affirm it had the authority to expel the Tigers from the conference amid their desire to add former NFL players to their football program.

LSU has since backed off those plans, and its president called the issue “moot.” The SEC has not yet dropped its lawsuit, though a hearing has been postponed.

“I’m happy to talk about football,” Sankey said when asked about a resolution with LSU.

Then there was the topic of CFP expansion, which gained steam again last week when playoff executives agreed to open a 30-day negotiating window with broadcast partner ESPN to explore a 24-team field.

“We’ve participated in that conversation,” Sankey said Monday. “That doesn’t mean expansion will happen. There’s a media negotiation opportunity, which is an important piece of information, and then we’ll have an opportunity, it would appear, later in the fall to make a decision about the future form.”

Sankey added that conference stakeholders met last month to discuss “strategic issues” surrounding the postseason.

“And then we refine — issues around schedule, issues around what might be the economics, issues around the regular season and having common expectations,” he added.

The SEC has been a pro-

ponent of a 16-team field in the past, but Sankey sent a memo to the CFP management committee earlier this month outlining what he’d need to see in a 24-team format in order for his league to compromise. Those included an assurance that the CFP would make up for the revenue the SEC would lose by canceling its conference championship game. He also wants an agreement that Power 4 conference teams would have to play 10 games against fellow P4 programs or Notre Dame to be play-off-eligible.

The Big Ten and SEC have the final say on playoff format changes, and they must agree by Dec. 1 for the expansion to take effect for the 2027 season.

Sankey further alluded to the strength-of-schedule sticking point by highlighting the SEC’s top performances over the weekend, which featured Texas taking down then-No. 1 Ohio State and Texas A&M



Special Photo: Imagn Images

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said the opening of negotiations with ESPN does not guarantee that the College Football Playoffs will expand to 24 teams.

knocking off Arizona State.

“We look at some of (other teams’) schedules. There are a lot of question marks,” he said. “And so having that answer, you know, some better expectation of how we engage in nonconference schedules is important.”

Ole Miss coach reminds fans to maintain image

Field Level Media

Ole Miss football coach Pete Golding is doing his best to keep the flames of a potential inferno under control.

Golding’s eighth-ranked Rebels host No. 7 LSU on Saturday evening in a game and atmosphere that will not only intrigue college football fans, but also those of high drama.

Lane Kiffin coaches the Tigers. He coached the Rebels until the 2025-26 College Football Playoff, when he bolted for LSU.

Golding was Kiffin’s defensive coordinator and took the reins of a shaken program, but one that was experiencing historic success.

Golding guided Ole Miss to CFP wins over Tulane and Georgia before falling to national runner-up Miami in the semifinals.

Kiffin procured the services of Ole Miss offensive coordinator Charlie Weis Jr. and quarterbacks coach Dane Stevens for similar roles at LSU. He also snatched

up edge rusher Princewill Umanmielen, linebacker TJ Dottery, interior offensive lineman Devin Harper and receiver Winston Watkins Jr. in the transfer portal.

All of these factors add up to a possible hailstorm of vitriol directed at Kiffin and the Tigers as the teams prepare to meet this weekend at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in Oxford, Miss.

Golding used his press availability on Monday to implore Rebel fans to use restraint and show proper respect to their SEC rival.

“To me, what this place has always been about and why so many people love coming here and respect this place, is because of the people that are here,” Golding said. “And how they make them feel when they come here. That’s always been something for me. When you come here and meet Ole Miss alumni and all that, they are so respectful.

“Let’s not lose that (image) over a game, over a person,



Special Photo:Petre Thomas-Imagn Images

Ole Miss coach Pete Golding has urged Rebels fans to remain respectful when former coach Lane Kiffin returns to Oxford with No. 7 LSU for Saturday’s showdown against No. 8 Ole Miss.

over anyone else like that,” Golding said. “There’s nothing wrong with being competitive and being in the moment and being really loud and being an unbelievable fan ... but at the end of the day don’t lose what we have created and what they have created for so long, which is a really unique place with really good people that’s really hard to play.”

Both teams are 2-0 early in

the campaign. LSU has won home games against Clemson (51-10) and Louisiana Tech (45-14), while Ole Miss has edged then-No. 24 Louisville (41-38) in Nashville, Tenn., and routed Charlotte (41-9) in Oxford.

The Rebels won last year’s game 24-19, also at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. Ole Miss was ranked No. 13 at the time, while LSU was No. 4

From 9A TEST

It was a joke, but only partly.

The coming games will place Deerfield-Windsor’s young players in exactly the situations that have troubled them—facing teams with more size, speed and experience.

McCrae understands why his players are struggling.

At a smaller school, building a full junior varsity schedule isn’t always possible. Some of his players are taking their first meaningful snaps in varsity games rather than developing against players their own age.

“I’ve got a lot of good kids who have no real football experience,” McCrae said. “At a small school, they didn’t have the opportunity for a JV schedule. This is the first time they’re really getting to play.”

That changes how progress must be measured.

For an experienced team, success is counted in victories, championships and playoff rounds. For these Knights, it sometimes means executing an assignment correctly, responding to a mistake or continuing to compete when the

scoreboard turns ugly.

“You have to take little wins wherever you can find them,” McCrae said.

That doesn’t mean Deerfield-Windsor is conceding the season.

The Knights still have time to develop before the games that will determine their postseason chances. McCrae’s objective is to use the demanding early schedule as preparation, absorb the lessons and have a different football team ready when region play arrives.

Then, perhaps, the little victories can become bigger ones.

“You hope by the time you get to region play, you can make some noise in the region, get in the playoffs and make some noise in the playoffs,” McCrae said.

There are no guarantees this group will follow the path of its predecessors. The 1-9 season did not automatically produce a championship. The work done during and after it did.

That is the part McCrae wants these Knights to understand.

They are young. They are hurting. And they are learning.

Deerfield-Windsor has seen that story before, too.

From 9A ASU

to hit his stride. He praised defensive ends Drayton and Weeks as playing “lights out” and said Evan Wynn continues to perform at a high level.

Then there were those 14 fourth-quarter points Savannah State scored.

Bowser isn’t losing much sleep over them.

By then, the outcome had been decided and many of Albany State’s young defenders were on the field. Bowser wanted them there.

The Golden Rams need more depth, particularly in the secondary, and there is only one way for young players to get real game experience.

Play them in a real game. Some received roughly 20

snaps Saturday. Bowser knows there may come a Saturday later this season when Albany State needs those players with something much more important than a comfortable lead on the line.

So, yes, Savannah State scored twice late.

Bowser got something he wanted in return.

Experience.

And after two weeks of doing things one way and coming away without a victory, Bowser learned something about this Albany State team, too.

Sometimes a coach has to slow his team down before it can speed up.

And sometimes, even after 30 years, the first adjustment a coach has to make is his own.

Obituary announcements



William “Bill” D. Gardner

William “Bill” D. Gardner, age 85, passed away on Friday, September 11, 2026.

Bill, the son of Milton and Kathleen Gardner was born on June 20, 1941, in Ocala, Fl.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Milton Gardner, Jr.; brother-in-law, Charles S. Williams; sister-in-law, Diana Bryan Hoopes.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Susan Bryan Gardner; daughter and son-in-law, Gina and Jeff Davis of Dalton; son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Ashley Gardner of Fayetteville; grandsons, Dylan and Drew Davis of Dalton and Jaxon and Sawyer Gardner of Fayetteville; sisters and brothers-in-law, Wilma and Melvin Kinslow of Americus and Dot and Bill Jordan of Rome; sister-in-law, Nancy Gardner of Thomasville; brother-in-law, Al Hoopes of Canton, TX; many nieces and nephews.

Bill graduated from Americus High School and served as president of his senior class. He graduated from Stetson University, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and president of Men’s Executive Counsel.

Following his graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator. He served in southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Navy Air Medal.

Bill began teaching in 1968 in Jacksonville, Fl. He received his master’s degree from the University of Florida in 1970 and his doctorate in educational leadership in 1974. He subsequently served 20 years as superintendent of schools in Okeechobee, FL and Baldwin and Dougherty counties in Georgia. While superintendent of schools in Dougherty County he served as the Southwest Georgia United Way campaign chairman, and on the board of directors for Albany Rotary Club, Salvation Army, Red Cross and the Albany Art Museum. While in Baldwin County he served as president of the Milledgeville Kiwanis Club.

He and Susan frequently traveled overseas during their retirement. In addition to traveling Bill enjoyed golf, hiking, reading and taking care of his yard, which he and Susan turned into a beautiful garden.

Bill had an outgoing personality and cared deeply about the feelings of others and particularly about the wellbeing of his family.

A memorial service will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Dalton. The family will receive friends prior to the service in the Atrium of the church from 1 until 3 PM.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Dalton, First Foundation, 311 N. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720.

Ruth Idol Money

Ruth Idol Money, of Gainesville, Georgia, passed away at the age of 94. Born September 24, 1931, Ruth lived a rich and meaningful life centered around family, service, the arts, and a deep concern for the well-being of others.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Nell Pegg and Ben J. Idol, and by her beloved husband, Jack Wiley Money, with whom she shared more than seven decades of marriage and family life.

She is survived by her daughter, Ann Money Goble (Hank) of Gainesville, Georgia, and her son, John Money (Carol) of Chattanooga, Tennessee; her grandchildren, Ava Goble Reeves (Harrison) of Atlanta, GA, and Jackson Archer Goble of Sandy Springs, GA; and her great-grandson, Walton Harrison Reeves IV.

Born in Kernersville, North Carolina, Ruth attended Sedge Garden School and later graduated with honors in Social Sciences from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, then known as Women’s College. During her time there, she was inducted into the Golden Chain Honor Society. In 1953, Ruth married Jack Money, and the couple moved to Atlanta, where she worked for the Department of Welfare and later the Department of Guidance at Georgia Tech. Ruth and Jack eventually made their home in Albany, Georgia, where they raised their children. There, Ruth pursued a teaching degree and devoted herself to serving others through numerous nonprofit organizations and as a member of Porterfield Methodist Church.

The family later moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where Ruth and Jack lived for 28 years. Ruth continued her commitment to education and community service, serving as the Hospice Board Chair and as a READ board member. She focused particularly on teaching GED preparation and providing job counseling, always finding ways to help people discover new possibilities for their lives. She was a member of First Centenary Methodist Church where she served on several committees and sang in the choir for 27 years.

In 2005, Ruth and Jack moved to Lanier Village Estates, where Ruth entered a new and creative chapter of her life. She developed a passion for art and became a founding member of The Gallery on the Square. She was also deeply involved in her faith communities, first as a member of First Presbyterian Church and later Grace Episcopal Church. She served as a Stephen Minister at Lanier Village. An avid reader, Ruth was a member of several book clubs and treasured the friendships and conversations they brought into her life.

Throughout her life, Ruth was known for her passion for social issues, her love of the arts, and her creative energy. She had an uncommon ability to become fully engaged in the people, causes, and communities around her. She cared deeply about making a difference and was never afraid to lend her time, her voice, or her heart to something she believed in. Most of all, Ruth cherished her family and her many close friends. She brought curiosity, warmth, intelligence, creativity, and compassion to the lives of those around her. Her legacy lives on in the family she loved the people she encouraged, the communities she served, and the many lives she touched along the way.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Kathleen Carlton Strom

Kathleen Carlton “Kay” Strom, 86, of Albany, Georgia, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 11, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Kay was born in Albany, Georgia, on January 6, 1940, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital to the late O.D. Carlton and Kathleen Carlton. She graduated from Albany High School in 1958 and attended Pine Manor College before marrying the love of her life, Dr. Walter W. Strom, in 1959.

The Stroms lived in Atlanta while Walter attended dental school at Emory University, returning home to Albany in 1965 following his service in the U.S. Navy. Together, they spent the rest of their lives in Albany raising their family and sharing 59 wonderful years of marriage.

Kay was a faithful member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia, and the Palmyra Heights Garden Club. She was a special friend, mentor, and confidante to many. Her smile was always engaging, and her laugh was truly infectious.

An avid gardener and lover of art, music, and design, Kay lived her life by one of her favorite quotes by Elsie de Wolfe: “I am going to make everything around me beautiful—that will be my life.” And indeed, that was Kay’s life. She loved all creatures great and small, caring for many over her lifetime. She was an exceptional steward of the land, forever grateful for the bountiful gifts the Lord bestowed upon her family, a generous benefactor to many charities in the Albany area, and someone who always took pure joy in doing for others.

Most of all, Kay was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She adored her sisters, nieces, nephews, and extended family members, and was happiest when kept abreast of the day-to-day activities of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In addition to all of her wonderful attributes, she was, in her children’s words, “The Best Mama Ever!”

In addition to her parents, Kay was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Dr. Walter Whitman Strom, Sr., and an infant brother, Ogden Dunaway Carlton Jr.

Survivors include her children, Ivy Strom Lane and her husband, John, of Albany, GA; her son, Walter Whitman “Brother” Strom II of Lee County, GA; and her daughter, Pier Strom Huber and her husband, Paul, of Salt Lake City, UT. She is also survived by her sisters, Corrine “Sister” Martin and her husband, Joe, of Ponte Vedra, FL, and Colleen Yarborough and her husband, Sam, of Inlet Beach, FL; her grandchildren, John Matthew Lane, Jr. and his wife, Hayley, Dr. Morgan Lane Gillam and her husband, Jimmy, Tyler Ray Strom and his wife, Mackenzie, Bailey Strom Travis and her husband, Nate, Jones Hewitt Strom, Walter Whitman “Watt” Strom III, John Paul Huber, and Strom Dunaway Huber; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 11:00 AM at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, with the Rev. Stephen Norris officiating. The family will receive friends in the Church Parlor immediately following the service. A private committal service will be held at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Columbarium.

To sign our online registry, or to send condolences to the family, you may visit Mathews’ website at www.mathewsfuneralhome.com.

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Release Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1

Necklace clasp spot

5

Rather peculiar

11

Implore

14

Tandoor, for one

15

Sub

16

Credit card fig.

17

Reporter's approach to a story about a bracelet?

19

Game cube

20

"Cheap Thrills" singer

21

Lowe's purchase

22

Lariat

23

Reporter's approach to a story about a doppelgänger?

26

Workers featured in the opening scenes of "Frozen"

28

Greet someone from a distance

29

Gets a rise out of, in a way

30

Spanish "Listen!"

31

Soy block

34

Phoenix team

35

Reporter's approach to a story about a male duck?

DOWN

1

San Francisco's Hill

2

Janelle's "Abbott Elementary" role

3

Deep in thought

4

Tuneup target

5

"__ sells seashells..."

6

Tropical ring-tailed mammal

7

Built one's campaign around

8

Breakfast brand

9

Country great Nelson

10

"__-haw!"

11

Sign of trouble

12

Camp nurse's supply

13

Salad leaves

14

Mascara target

22

Variety show

23

Wee hour

24

Modus operandi

25

53-Across bread

27

Champagne barrel

29

Mandolin kin

32

"... Fine."

33

Shortest mo.

35

"Dinner is served!"

36

Some big hoppers

37

Fighting

38

Small quakes

39

Took deep pleasure (in)

41

Three-time Best Actress Oscar winner McDormand

42

Driver's "Star Wars" role

43

Up to today

44

Rough road surface

45

Fix, as a tennis racket or golf club

47

"Yeah, right!"

48

Down in the dumps

50

Like an eyebrow

51

Pointless

54

Asana expert

57

LP successors

58

Farm pen

59

Great Basin native

60

Georgia, once: Abbr.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

H	E	S	A			E	D	I	P	S			D	S	T
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09/17/2024

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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09/17/26

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By Katy Steinmetz
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09/17/26

What you'll do as a caregiver for my MOTHER
Foster relationships with HER through companionship and compassionate caregiving. Assist with light meal preparation & perform light housekeeping duties. Provide personal care services, including assistance with grooming. Transportation to appointments. Medication reminders and managing incontinence. The Job is 5 hours/day, 5 days a week & the pay is \$35 per hour. You can email me via lawrenceeejob@gmail.com for more info.

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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 scheduled events (10) _____
- 2 nut hoarder (8) _____
- 3 tiramisu ingredient (8) _____
- 4 watched from the sidelines (9) _____
- 5 truffle maker (11) _____
- 6 2025 Taylor Swift “sparkler” (7) _____
- 7 “unionized,” say (6) _____

ED	ESPR	IT	ACT	SQUI
IV	EC	WE	ESSO	CHOC
RREL	OLAT	TAT	IES	OPA
IER	ED	LITE	DD	SP

Tuesday's Answers: 1. HANGING 2. GOVERNMENT 3. FABRICATION 4. EXCLUSIVE 5. CHARMING 6. PASTEBOARD 7. MONDAY 9/16

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 sapphires and diamonds (9) _____
- 2 Demi and Mandy (6) _____
- 3 birth certificate blank (4) _____
- 4 state of uncertainty (8) _____
- 5 transferred property (6) _____
- 6 Warren Buffett's hometown (5) _____
- 7 forest giraffe (5) _____

OK	GE	TO	RY	NA
QU	ED	ES	AHA	NES
OM	MO	DE	MS	DA
OR	API	AN	ME	ED

Wednesday's Answers: 1. ACTIVITIES 2. SQUIRREL 3. ESPRESSO 4. SPECTATED 5. CHOCOLATIER 6. OPALITE 7. WEDDED 9/17

Albany Museum of Art to host Thursday reception for fall exhibits

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Paintings by O.M. Norling that invite viewers into a world where memory, instinct and imagination co-exist headline the exhibitions this fall at the Albany Museum of Art. Four exhibitions, including three comprising works from the museum’s permanent collection, debut at an opening reception on Thursday.

“O.M. Norling’s ‘Artifacts of a Fate That Never Was’ uncovers the mysterious exchange between our waking and dreaming selves,” AMA Executive Director Andrew James Wulf said. “Our collection also will be on the center stage this season. ‘New York Origins’ will remind us how boldly this museum began, and the stories in our African textiles will speak through material and skill in ‘Woven, Dyed, Sewn.’ Finally, ‘Twenty Portraits’ will present a selection of works from the 19th and 20th centuries.”

The reception starts at 5:30 p.m. Admission to the reception is free for AMA donors at the reciprocal level or higher, \$10 for artist guild donors,

and \$15 for the general public. Tickets are available online at www.albanymuseum.com/event/fall-2026-reception/.

Jay Wilson, the self-taught Decatur artist who paints under the name O.M. Norling — a tribute to his great-great-grandfather Olaf Magnus Norling — is scheduled to attend the reception, Director of Curatorial Affairs Katie Dillard said.

“His meticulously rendered compositions appear to belong to the tradition of still life, yet they resist conventions of the genre,” Dillard said. “Tigers recline on silk Victorian settees, dueling ibex are ensnared with teapots and bicycles, a moose balances atop a delicate Regency-era bench, while wolves, manatees, foxes, rhinoceroses, and mallards occupy carefully staged environments filled with furniture, domestic objects and relics from another era.

“These elements combine to form visual riddles that ask not to be solved, but experienced. Rather than illustrating a singular narrative, each painting becomes an open-ended meditation on the complexity of being human.”

“Artifacts of a Fate That Never Was” will be in the East and Hodges Galleries, while “New York Origins” will be on display in the Haley Gallery. That exhibition focuses on the ambitious efforts in the 1980s and 1990s to build the AMA permanent collection.

“Long before these artworks found a home here in southwest Georgia, they were part of the vibrant ecosystem of New York galleries that shaped contemporary American art,” Dillard said. “‘New York Origins: Building a Collection’ tells the story of a formative chapter in the AMA’s history that connected this institution to the center of the contemporary art world. These acquisitions reflected the belief that a regional museum could participate in conversations taking place on a national stage.”

The upstairs McCormack Gallery will host “Woven, Dyed, Sewn: Textiles from the Sub-Saharan African Collection.”

“Textiles are more than objects of adornment,” Dillard said. “They are records of knowledge, identity, history and cultural expression. This exhibition explores the

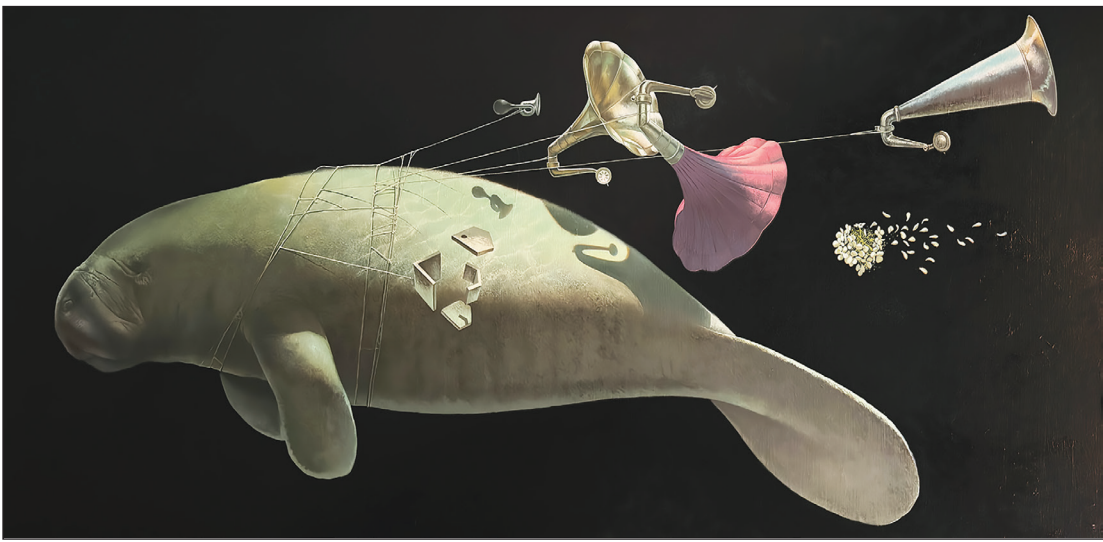


Photo courtesy of the artist

O.M. Norling’s 2026 painting “Sacred Lives in the Mundane” is one of the works that will be on view Thursday evening when the Albany Museum of Art hosts an opening reception for four new fall exhibitions.

remarkable diversity of textile traditions represented within the collection, highlighting the artistry, labor, and technical expertise required to transform natural fibers into works of visual and cultural significance. Spanning regions including Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, and Ethiopia, it reveals the many ways textiles communicate social status, community identity, spirituality and artistic innovation.”

“Twenty Portraits” in the

West Gallery reveals the many ways artists have interpreted the people around them, Dillard said, noting they range from realistic depictions to expressive works that approach abstraction.

“A portrait reflects a relationship between artist and subject, between observation and interpretation,” she said. “It can reveal how individuals wished to be seen, how artists perceived their subjects, and how viewers connect with the images before them. They invite us to con-

sider not only who is represented, but what these images reveal about identity, perspective, and the ways we see ourselves and others.”

The exhibitions “Artifacts of a Fate That Never Was,” “New York Origins,” and “Woven, Dyed, Sewn” will be open through Jan. 2. “Twenty Portraits” in the West Gallery will close earlier on Oct. 24 to make way for the third annual Southwest Georgia “Student Art Exhibition,” which opens on Oct. 30 and continues through Jan. 2.

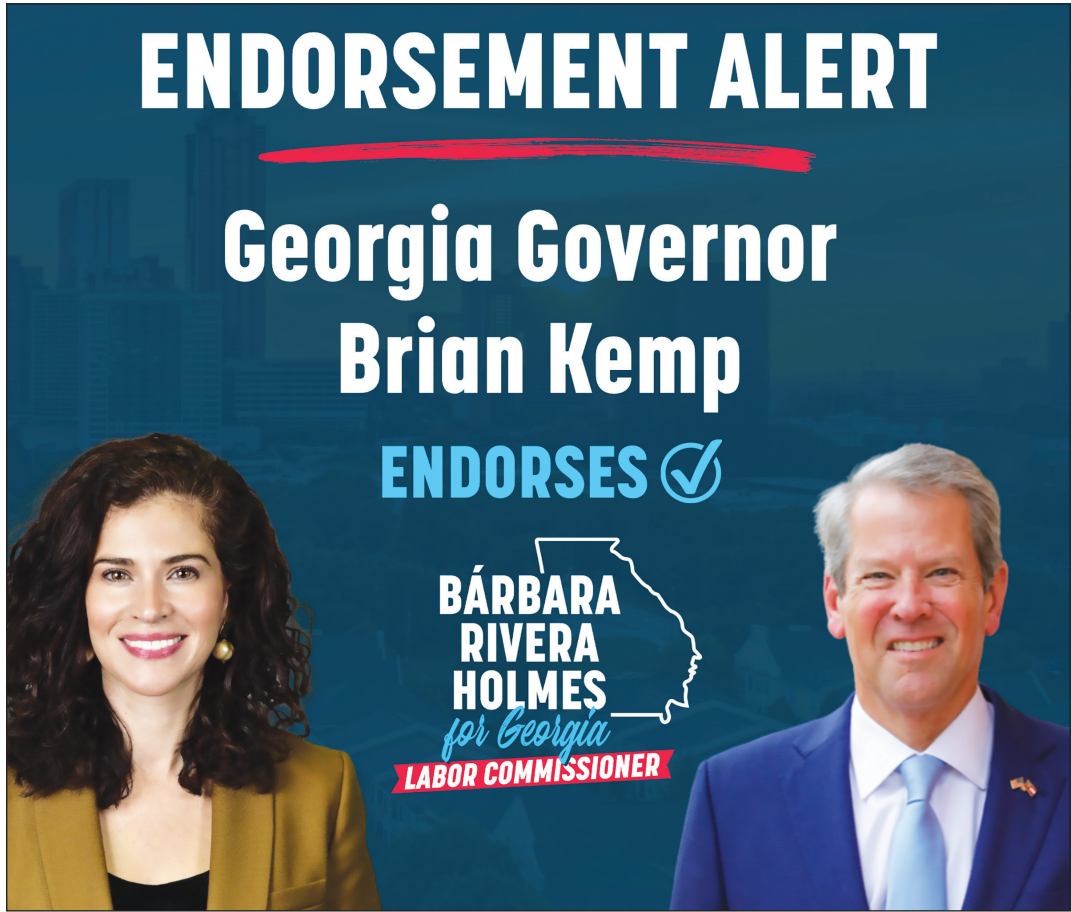
Kemp endorses Holmes in Labor campaign

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp has announced his endorsement and full support of Bárbara Rivera Holmes in her campaign for Georgia Labor Commissioner. The endorsement comes as Holmes continues touring the state every week and bringing her message of economic opportunity to all four corners of the Peach State.

“Bárbara is a superb commissioner and is absolutely the right person to lead our Labor Department for the next four years,” Kemp said. “She has the background and experience for the mission, and has delivered tremendous results already in her efforts on behalf of hard-working Georgians. She’s a great conservative leader, and Marty, the girls, and I are proud to give her our full support.”

Holmes is a first-generation American and was appointed by Kemp to lead the Georgia Department of Labor in the spring of 2025. Since then, she has been focused on transforming the department into an engine of economic opportunity for all Georgians, working tirelessly



Special Illustration

Gov. Brian Kemp has announced his endorsement of Bárbara Rivera Holmes in her campaign for Georgia Labor Commissioner.

to connect hard-working families to high-demand careers, her campaign said.

“I could not be prouder to receive the endorsement from Gov. Kemp and to have his support and trust,” Holmes said. “It’s been the honor of

a lifetime to work alongside him and his team as he’s led our state. He’s been an incredible leader for Georgia, and I’m committed to building on his great work and continuing our mission of connecting hard-working Georgians

with mortgage-paying jobs.”

Holmes is a veteran economic developer who previously served as the President & CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit BarbaraForGA.com.

NOTICE								
The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Commissioners' Office, 28007 Main St., Morgan, GA on September 28, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.								
CURRENT PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY								
UNINCORPORATED AREA	UNINCORPORATED		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	VALU	Real & Personal	141,421,228	146,469,700	150,394,674	152,345,449	151,173,014	157,014,419
		Motor Vehicles	1,517,620	1,411,550	1,598,650	1,449,860	1,497,690	1,284,480
		Mobile Homes	861,107	959,559	946,530	994,807	1,064,236	1,097,418
		Timber - 100%	1,438,829	1,500,878	7,540,152	2,466,399	915,314	2,774,717
		Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Gross Digest	145,238,784	150,341,687	160,480,006	157,256,515	154,650,254	162,171,034
		Less Exemptions	50,982,285	49,690,406	48,957,720	47,118,463	45,850,554	44,530,646
	NET DIGEST VALUE		94,256,499	100,651,281	111,522,286	110,138,052	108,799,700	117,640,388
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	18.5630	18.1240	17.4010	17.7870	17.9060	20.4400
		Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax, Insurance Premium)	2.9780	2.7770	2.1110	2.5030	2.6310	2.9340
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	15.5850	15.3470	15.2900	15.2840	15.2750	17.5060
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$1,468,988	\$1,544,695	\$1,705,176	\$1,683,350	\$1,661,915	\$2,059,413
INCORPORATED AREA	INCORPORATED		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	VALU	Real & Personal	33,972,905	36,229,846	38,190,639	38,478,273	38,537,239	38,607,851
		Motor Vehicles	1,121,310	751,530	752,200	638,500	564,220	502,300
		Mobile Homes	674,542	793,137	735,407	746,758	779,429	786,487
		Timber - 100%	48,039	111,752	0	0	16,364	0
		Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Gross Digest	35,816,796	37,886,265	39,678,246	39,863,531	39,897,252	39,896,638
		Less Exemptions	3,340,470	2,488,240	2,542,333	2,528,457	2,724,488	2,840,384
	NET DIGEST VALUE		32,476,326	35,398,025	37,135,913	37,335,074	37,172,764	37,056,254
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	18.5630	18.1240	17.4010	17.7870	17.9060	20.4400
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	2.0630	2.3290	1.9940	2.4040	2.5300	1.9510
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	16.5000	15.7950	15.4070	15.3830	15.3760	18.4890
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$535,859	\$559,112	\$572,153	\$574,325	\$571,568	\$685,133
TOTAL COUNTY	TOTAL COUNTY		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	TOTAL DIGEST VALUE		126,732,825	136,049,306	148,658,199	147,473,126	145,972,464	154,696,642
	OTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$2,004,847	\$2,103,807	\$2,277,329	\$2,257,675	\$2,233,484	\$2,744,546
	Net Tax \$ Increase		(\$68,750)	\$98,960	\$173,522	(\$19,653)	(\$24,192)	\$511,062
	Net Tax % Increase		-3.32%	4.94%	8.25%	-0.86%	-1.07%	22.88%



Statewide high school construction competition showcases students’ skills

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Associated General Contractors of Georgia has announced dates for the 2026 Skills Challenge Series, a premier workforce development event designed to showcase the skills and talents of construction students from high schools across Georgia.

Taking place in eight regions throughout the state, this series provides students with opportunities to compete in core construction trades while demonstrating their abilities to industry professionals.

The 2026 AGC Georgia Skills Challenge Series dates and locations include:

- Oct. 21 – Northeast Georgia Skills Challenge | Gainesville
- Oct. 22 – Northwest Georgia Skills Challenge | Rome
- Oct. 29 – Central Georgia Skills Challenge | Perry
- Nov. 4 – West Georgia Skills Challenge | Columbus
- Nov. 5 – South + Southwest Georgia Skills Challenge | Moultrie
- Nov. 10 – Metro Atlanta Skills Challenge | Marietta
- Nov. 11 – Southeast Georgia Skills Challenge | Statesboro
- Nov. 19 – East Georgia Skills Challenge | Augusta

The 2026 Skills Challenge Series features competitions in blueprint reading, cabinet-making, carpentry, electrical, masonry, plumbing, teamworks, welding and welding fabrication. Additional categories such as broadcast news production, heavy equipment operations, HVAC, metal studs/drywall, roofing and sheet metal are offered at select locations.

These events provide students with valuable hands-on experiences, opportunities to test their skills against their peers, and direct engagement with industry professionals who volunteer their time to mentor and inspire Georgia’s future construction workforce.

“The Skills Challenge Series is more than a competition, it is an investment in the future of Georgia’s construction workforce,” AGC Georgia CEO Zach Fields said in a news release. “Each year, students demonstrate an impressive level of dedication and professionalism while gaining exposure to

rewarding, high-paying construction careers that can be entered without the burden of student debt. Their participation highlights the strength of Georgia’s emerging talent pipeline and the vital role skilled trades will continue to play in supporting our state’s growth and prosperity.”

In 2025, the AGC Georgia Skills Challenge Series welcomed more than 2,300 student competitors and observers representing 108 schools, along with nearly 350 industry firms. The strong turnout reflects growing interest in construction careers among young people, particularly among members of what many call “Generation Toolbelt,” a new wave of students seeking hands-on learning experiences.

As awareness continues to grow about the strong earning potential in high-demand skilled trades, the construction industry’s commitment to workforce development is helping drive increased enrollment in apprenticeships and career and technical education programs.

These workforce development events are made possible through the support of industry leaders and the dedication of regional contractor champions who contribute countless volunteer hours to their success. This year’s host contractors include Ace Electric, Inc., Batson-Cook Construction, Brasfield & Gorrie, Carroll Daniel, Choate Construction Company, Dabbs Williams, Duffey Southeast Inc., Freeman & Associates, GoldMech, JCI Contractors, MetroPower, Parrish Construction Group Inc., R.W. Allen Construction, RaLin, Silver Sheet Metal Inc. and West Construction Company.

In addition to the competitions, the AGC Georgia Skills Challenge Series attracts a wide range of influential stakeholders including state legislators, school superintendents, high school counselors, mayors, school board members and leaders from the Georgia Department of Education, Technical College System of Georgia, SkillsUSA Georgia and workforce development industry partner Construction Ready.